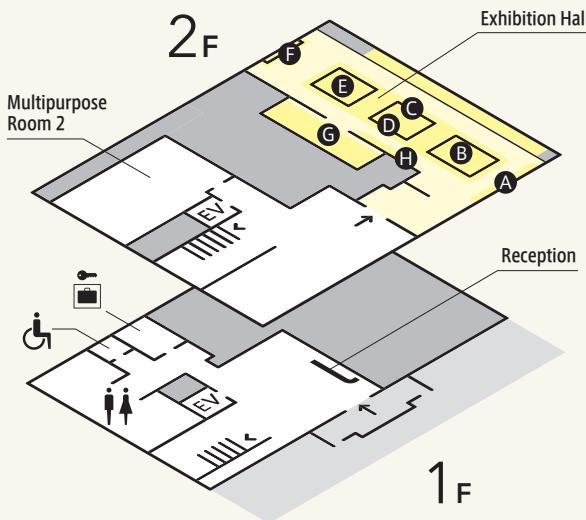


Exhibition Hall

EN



Here you can learn about the many things Ishibashi Shojiro did to make life happy and fun for people.

There are photos and newspapers from long ago, and even models that teach about Shojiro and his Ishibashi Cultural Center.

In one area, you can touch a screen to find out more about Shojiro.

As you look at the displays, try asking yourself: "How did Shojiro feel when he did this?"



ISHIBASHI Shojiro (1889-1976)



石橋正二郎記念館

ISHIBASHI SHOJIRO MEMORIAL MUSEUM

石橋正二郎記念館

ISHIBASHI SHOJIRO MEMORIAL MUSEUM

1015, Nonaka-machi, Kurume-shi, Fukuoka-ken 839-0862, Japan

TEL 0942-39-1131



The Life of Ishibashi Shojiro

Youth

A Hard Worker Who Kept Trying



Shojiro was born in the Kyushu city of Kurume. From childhood, he carried through on the things he believed to be right. He thought studying was important to become a great adult. Because he believed this, he studied harder than anyone else. He continued to study every day even as a grown-up.

The Hope of Ishibashi Shojiro

The front gate of the Ishibashi Cultural Center in Kurume City is carved with these words in Shojiro's handwriting:

"For the Welfare and Happiness of All Mankind"

Shojiro built the Ishibashi Cultural Center in 1956 with the hope of helping people everywhere live enjoyable and happy lives.

Let's experience the hope of Shojiro here at his museum.

Age 17

Japan's Best Tabi Sock Shop



After graduating high school, Shojiro took over a shop run by his father called Shimaya that made split-toe *tabi* socks. He thought to add rubber to the bottoms of the *tabi*, creating *jikatabi* work shoes. With original ideas like this and using an automobile to promote the shoes at a time when not a single car was driven in Kyushu, Shimaya became the top *tabi* maker in Japan.

Age 68

"I Want to Help People Have Fun and Feel Happy"



As his company grew, Shojiro kept thinking about how to help everyone around the world live happily and enjoy their lives. He built swimming pools at 21 elementary and junior high schools in his hometown of Kurume and created the Ishibashi Cultural Center. In these ways, he continued to bring a lot of fun and joy into people's lives.

Age 42

Aiming to be the World's #1 Tire Maker



Using the skills for making *jikatabi*, Shojiro created Japan's first car tire in 1930. Later, he started a company called Bridgestone Tire. Just like with the *tabi* socks, sales of his tires became number one in Japan. Next, he decided to sell his tires in other countries and aimed to be the best in the world!



Age 61

Building Art Museums in Japan and Abroad



When Shojiro visited the U.S.A. for work, he went to see many famous art museums. On these trips, he realized that for people to live happily and enjoy life, they needed places that make the heart feel good and strong—like art museums. So, he built a total of four art museums in Kurume, Tokyo, and overseas.