

## COLORADO SPRINGS DIVERSITY FORUM 2012 Accomplishments

We hosted *eight educational workshops and presentations* on a wide variety of subject matter serving *eight hundred and twenty-eight participants* and we have one more planned. You afforded *one hundred and eleven* individuals the opportunity to form *eight Food for Thought* groups to hold dialogue in one another's homes. We trained *fourteen new facilitators* to moderate these groups. You helped to provide *nineteen* organizations the tools to review and demonstrate diversity and inclusion practices in their businesses and organizations. This produced *ten award nominations* and *three Colorado Springs Diversity Forum, Diversity and Inclusion Award* winners.

Your support allowed us to provide the County Clerk's office with a researched and vetted list of **alternative polling places**, ones which are friendly and accessible to diverse communities. We **surveyed our 25-44 year old population** about how they feel about our community and what they would most want in an ideal community – results will be shared with the public for use in planning. We supported **PPRTA's ballot issue** fund transportation improvements impacting communities throughout the city. You helped us to prepare and present the City Clerk an **alternative Council redistricting map**, one which both meets the chartered guidelines and includes consideration of neighborhoods, socio-economic status and minority communities. And, in December, together we will offer a public town hall meeting with the new **City Clerk**.

In 2010 The City of Colorado Springs and the City of Fujiyoshida selected Colorado Springs Diversity Forum to lead a partnership with the Japan America Society of Southern Colorado and Colorado Springs Sister Cities International to feature a replication of the Yoshida Fire Festival at Everybody Welcome™: A Celebration of Culture and Diversity in honor of the 50th Anniversary of our Sister City relationship with Fujiyoshida, Japan. Over the course of the past two years we engaged a coalition of community and international partners to plan and execute the three goals for this cultural exchange.

1. Celebrate the history of our Sister City relationship
2. Expand awareness and create a common knowledge of our Sister City relationship
3. Demonstrate the culture of Fujiyoshida, Japan.

To accomplish these goals we presented the City of Colorado Springs with a tapestry gifted by the City of Fujiyoshida as the centerpiece for a **Sister City display at the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum**. We partnered with the Pioneers Museum to host a presentation by the Curator and Assistant Section Chief of the Fujiyoshida Museum of Local History as well as a presentation by the Fire Festival Association from Fujiyoshida. We participated in the centennial celebration of the gift of cherry trees to Washington DC. We worked with the Consulate General of Japan at Denver to plant four centennial trees at the **Japan-US Cherry Blossom Centennial & Fujiyoshida-Colorado Springs Sister City Golden Anniversary** celebration attended by ninety-eight community members. We had a community art project – the **Kimono project** and partnered with UCCS Visual and Performing Arts Department to in their presentation of **Seven Veils** featuring eight weeks of Asian themed educational and celebratory arts. We coordinated and hosted Fujiyoshida native and Kirie artist **Hyakkimaru in partnership with Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center** to have a nine week Kirie Exhibit featuring live demonstrations and workshops as well as performances throughout the community. We hosted the **Golden Anniversary Welcome Reception** in partnership with El Pomar. And of course we hosted a special edition of the annual **Everybody Welcome: Mountain Festival**. The event entertained approximately **twenty thousand attendees, was staffed by ninety-seven volunteers, supported by forty-eight sponsors, had twenty-eight Children's Activities, showcased twenty performance groups – 2 of which were from Japan, offered a sampling of eleven ethnic food vendors and 109 vendors. We hosted seventy Japanese delegates including Government officials, Taiko drummers, Jr. High School Students, Fire Festival Association, Bonn Dancers from Fujiyoshida Japan**

The week continued with **Bridging Military to Community** an interactive event for fifty, held in partnership with Pikes Peak Library District examined the military presence in Colorado Springs and the impact of the demographics in our Community. A panel of representatives explored and discussed resources in our community to help service members

and their families assimilate in our community. PPLD hosted an exhibit on loan from USAFA in conjunction with this event.

We partnered with Dennis Apuan, Cynthia Aki and the Golden Lotus Foundation to hold the first **Asian Community Luncheon featuring keynote KKTU-11 Reporter Alyssa Chin.**

We continued our partnership with Carmen Abeyta and Anna Marie Ortiz of the **Latino Community Luncheon** to feature keynote Lt. Governor Joseph Garcia. The event saw a growth of 34% on its first anniversary of the very successful monthly luncheon.

This year's **Immigration Symposium** was held in partnership with an old partner on a new project the Justice and Peace Commission and presented a history of Immigration in Colorado Springs followed by a panel of experts in a round table discussion with experts in the current trends in immigration in our region.

The week's celebration concluded with our annual re-enactment of Fannie Mae Duncan's contribution to our community at the **Cotton Club**. This year we recognized founding chairs of the Sister City program William and Ruth Vandel.

The organization brought on 12 new board members and, is working on up-dating governance and strategic planning.