



Everybody Welcome

www.cospdiversityforum.org

COLORADO SPRINGS
diversity forum

PO Box 904, Colorado Springs, CO 80901
www.cospdiversityforum.org



EVERYBODY WELCOME: A Celebration of Culture and Diversity Week 50th Sister City Anniversary Fire Festival 2012 MEDIA KIT

VISION

EVERYBODY WELCOME

MISSION

connect include engage

Obtained goal of National recognition for Colorado Springs as an inclusive community by 2010

First Place Winner of the National League of Cities 2010 NBC-LEO City Cultural Diversity Award

PO Box 904, Colorado Springs, CO 80901 www.cospdiversityforum.org info@cospdiversityforum.org

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CSDF Background

CSDF was founded in 2005 by a small group of civic leaders who came together to explore the contribution diversity and inclusion can make to our community.

Our strategy is to build on the positive work and influence of the diverse cultures that contribute to the social and business structure of our city. We recognize that positive diversity practices enhance economic vitality, promote business success, and improve the quality of life for current and future citizens of Colorado Springs.

The membership of CSDF is comprised of representatives from public, private, nonprofit, and education sectors. Members of the Forum actively support the mission of the organization financially, with volunteer hours and in action. Our meetings and events are open to all those interested in participating.

CSDF promotes the practice of inclusivity through education programs and networking opportunities. We recognize successful diversity practices with awards and we host an annual celebration of diversity and inclusion.

We educate our community on a variety of current diversity and inclusion topics at general membership meetings, quarterly workshops, seminars and speakers and conferences. We coordinate roundtables and dialogue with diverse populations to develop a strong membership network of relevant institutional, educational and community organizations with a common purpose surrounding issues of diversity and inclusion. We offer a free Resource Guide for Small to Mid-Sized Businesses. CSDF builds relationships, communicates with, researches and aids in improving and promoting healthy diversity and inclusion practices within and related to our local government.

Each August the Colorado Springs Diversity Forum, along with a multitude of community partners, hosts *Everybody Welcome: a Celebration of Culture and Diversity Week*. This celebration connects our community to the area's historic champions of diversity and inclusion; includes education on best practices and celebrates businesses and organizations demonstrating and promoting diversity and inclusion in internal operations and civic engagement; and engages the community by showcasing the diversity of area performers, artisans, cultural craftsmen through distinct activities and exhibits, educating the community wherein difference is looked upon as an asset and where curiosity and a desire to engage are the first response to difference.

In 2007, Colorado Springs Diversity Forum set a goal to achieve National recognition of Colorado Springs as an inclusive community by 2010. We set the National League of Cities, City Cultural Diversity Award as the measurement for that goal. In March of 2010 the City of Colorado Springs won First Place, National League of Cities NBC-LEO 2010 City Cultural Diversity Award for the 2009 Everybody Welcome: A Celebration of Culture and Diversity!

In March of 2010, Colorado Springs Diversity Forum was selected as a partner in Sister City 50th Anniversary Celebration! In August 2012, the Colorado Springs Diversity Forum will partner with the City of Fujiyoshida, City of Colorado Springs, Japan America Society of Southern Colorado, and Colorado Springs Sister City Committee to celebrate 50 years of friendship and collaboration. The 2012 Everybody Welcome: a Celebration of Culture and Diversity will feature a re-creation of the Yoshida (Fire) Himatsuri Festival, considered one of Japan's most unique historical commemorations.

Diversity is Good Business. Diversity is its Own Reward

Connect: Individual Membership in Colorado Springs Diversity Forum is a powerful experience, one we can share with others. CSDF provides opportunities for its members to develop interpersonal skills, express their individuality, and support one another's unique contributions to our community. Becoming an individual member of CSDF makes a statement about the strength of your values and the importance of having a voice. Every achievement and celebration becomes a personal accomplishment. Each challenge becomes a personal investment in our communal future.

Include: Business Membership in Colorado Springs Diversity Forum provides many rich rewards. Every business in the Pikes Peak region shares the same talent pool, the same benefits and concerns, the same cultural landscape. CSDF provides a forum for discussion and a platform for community dialog on diversity. On this basis, Forum members are better able to plan the human and financial resources necessary to reach their goals and objectives. The stronger CSDF is the stronger our community is, and the better positioned to compete in the global marketplace.

Engage: Sponsorship of Colorado Springs Diversity Forum initiatives underscores the importance of what CSDF brings to the region. Large and small entities alike make powerful allies for diversity in every aspect of community life and in every enterprise. CSDF initiatives reach into all parts of the community, drawing participation across social, cultural, and generational lines. Individuals come to know your organization through the CSDF lens, improving their understanding of your commitment to the community: we lift each other up when we partner to discover and celebrate our diversity. Every cent of your sponsorship is invested in doing just that.

2012 Schedule of Events

Details and ticket information for all events can be found at WWW.CSFIREFESTIVAL.COM

Everybody Welcome: A Celebration of Culture and Diversity connects the Colorado Springs community to our history of inclusivity, includes the many facets of our community to engage in dialogue, education and celebration of the rich diversity in our community

Everybody Welcome™: A Celebration of Culture and Diversity, first place National League of Cities, 2010 NBC-LEO City Cultural Diversity Award, will host an international celebration in honor of the 50th Anniversary of our Sister City relationship with Fujiyoshida, Japan in August of 2012. The City of Colorado Springs and the City of Fujiyoshida selected Colorado Springs Diversity Forum to lead a partnership with the Sister Cities International and the Japan America Society of Southern Colorado to feature a replication of the Yoshida Fire Festival at Everybody Welcome™: A Celebration of Culture and Diversity.



Everybody Welcome™: A Celebration of Culture and Diversity August 4th – 11th 2012

**Featuring
Fire Festival
50th Anniversary Sister Cities Celebration
with Fujiyoshida, Japan**

FUJIYOSHIDA SISTER CITY EXHIBIT AT THE PIONEERS MUSEUM
Opened March 23, 2012 – Expands August 1, 2012 – August 5, 2012

August 3, 2012 1-3pm **Fujiyoshida, Local Museum of History Lecture & Workshop** Presented by Museum Curator, Mitsutoshi Fuse and Museum Assistant Section Chief, Kaneko Akaike. Age: Junior High School – space is limited <http://www.cspm.org/>



HYAKKIMARU's WORLD OF KIRIE Traditional Japanese Paper Cutting Art

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center July 28 - Sept 15, 2012



Featuring Fujiyoshida, native and internationally recognized artist Hyakkimaru. Exhibit will include the Takeda Collection, the Warrior Collection (3-D), Kirie Design to Product – work presented in 3 Stages: sketches, finished Kirie and incorporated into book covers and life sized Kirie. (pictured here) Hyakkimaru will perform several demonstrations of the technique and a lead a workshop at Bemis School of Art.

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center
30 W Dale St Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3249
(719) 634-5581 <http://www.csfineartscenter.org/>
www.hyakkimaru.com



FESTIVAL

August 4th, Noon-11 p.m.

America the Beautiful Park

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy this showcase of the diversity of talented local performers, artisans, cultural craftsmen through distinct activities & exhibits, to educate the community wherein difference is looked upon as an asset & where curiosity & a desire to engage are the first response to difference.



NOON-6 p.m.

PERFORMANCES ON TWO STAGES!

Enjoy entertainment by local cultural performers and bands: Panamanian dance, Country Line Dancing, Colorado Country Band, Native American drummers & dancers, East Indian dancers & band, Hawaiian and Polynesian dancers, Polka dancers & band, Mexican dancers, African dance & drummers, Brazilian dancers, Break dancers, Celtic Dancers, Belly dance, Dragon Theater Productions, CS Chikldren's Chorale, Reggae band, Latin band and more

CULTURAL VILLAGES Discover the communities representing the continents of the world right here in Colorado Springs in our **cultural villages**. Villages will feature food, native arts and crafts, games, story-telling traditional and cultural activities, music and dance, unique to the individual cultures represented in each continent. Villages from every continent will be featured!

CHILDREN'S PASSPORTS: take a FREE trip around the world and get your passport stamped for completing cultural activities at each continent. Enter a drawing for PRIZES! (up to age 16)

ETHNIC FOOD representing a variety of cultures - available for purchase.
SOME VENDORS ACCEPT CASH ONLY



FESTIVAL BOOTHS a variety of organizations which support the values of diversity and inclusion, support diverse populations and provides services for diverse populations. **apply today!** [DOWNLOAD APPLICATION](#)



6p.m. CULTURAL DRUMMING PERFORMANCE representing the cultures of Colorado Springs: Tahitian, African, Military, Taiko, Native American, Brazilian, Indian.

8p.m CELEBRATION OF OUR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY WITH FUJIYOSHIDA, JAPAN

History of our relationship, custom and history of the Fire Festival, presented by Mayor Bach, Mayor Horiuchi, Consul General Ono from Japan at Denver and other government officials.

8:20p.m. LIGHTING THE TAIMATSU

The Yoshida Fire Festival is one of Japan's three most unique festivals. It is executed through citizen volunteers and exhibits the skills and talents of their community while honoring the natural world and asking for another year of protection from volcanic eruption.

This festival is said to have originated wherein the enshrined deity of Sengen shrine, Konohana-sakuya-hime, gave birth to an emperor within a fierce fire. It also marks the close of the climbing season for Mnt. Fuji. Once a year Konohana-sakuya-hime is invited to move into a portable shine (Omykoshi) and is carried through the town along with a shrine replicating Mnt. Fuji (Oyama) to allow an opportunity for the people to pay respect and ask protection from volcanic eruption and fire. The portable shrine is enshrined for the evening at the Otabisho. 80+ Taimatsu (pyres) are burned simultaneously creating a sea of fire.

8:30p.m. FUJISAN KAEN TAIKO featuring the community, Taiko drumming group from Fujiyoshida, Japan.

9:30p.m. CHORALE MUSIC featuring Fujiyoshida Jr. High Students, Colorado Springs Conservatory and Colorado Springs Children's Chorale.

FESTIVAL BOOTH [DOWNLOAD APPLICATION](#) **VOLUNTEER** [DOWNLOAD SIGN-UP FORM](#)

SAMPLE OF FESTIVAL PERFORMERS:



Conjunto Folkloricos Aire de Mi Tierra, Panama

Panamanian Folkloric Dance, deeply rooted in the lives of the people. Conjunto Folkloricos Aire de Mi Tierra, Panama joins us to Perform Panamanian Folkloric Dance the tamborito. the female dancers are wearing the "panama pollera" which originated in the Spanish dress of the 16th and 17th centuries. the men are wearing "montuno" believed to be inspired by the Indian natives from Panama.

Email: beitia37@aol.com; Phone: 719-382-8399; Contact: Dalys Sanchez

The Indian Community of Colorado Springs will take the audience to India, where dance and music pervade all aspects of life and bring color, joy and gaiety to a number of festivals and ceremonies. In fact, dance and music are tied inextricably to festivity of any kind.

Website: www.cosindia.com; Email: jayson1inc@hotmail.com ; Phone: 719-440-0675;

Contact: Jay Patel



Cowboy Steve the Trick Roper

Steve Cassat aka CowBoy Steve is a Colorado native. He is keeping alive a western art form which was made popular in the old time Wild West Shows by famous Trick Ropers like Will Rogers and Montie Montana. At the 2004 Wild West Arts Club Convention in Las Vegas Steve won The Will Rogers Award for Trick Roper of the year.

Website: www.cowboystevetrickroper.net; Email: cowboysteve@sysmatrix.net; Phone: 719-488-2626;

Contact: Steve Cassat



SADOSA Samoan Folkloric Dance. SADOSA was founded in October 2009 with a mission to encourage Samoan history and culture through inclusion by participating in events such as the Colorado Springs Diversity Festival, as well as, volunteering time to the community wherever needed. SADOSA is a small nonprofit organization that is still in the making and is based in Colorado Springs, CO. Part of SADOSA's social mission is to educate the community about the Samoan people, demographically and culturally, to instill in them that "We are Samoa".

Email: tmsadosa@yahoo.com Phone: 719-432-9395; Contact: Tasi Mafo'e

BANDS

Splitt Personality

Splitt Personality is a young, high-energy hip-hop/reggae artist based in Colorado Springs, CO. His novel style of mixing modern hip-hop and dub beats with his St Croix, Virgin Island accent is creating a new vibe that hip-hop, rap, reggae and dub-step fans of all ages can easily relate to. Splitt's rich, deep vocals have been compared to the voice of a Jamaican artist, Bounty Kill. [More...](#)

Contact: C Joseph Phone: 646-228-8079 Email: vcr9382@hotmail.com

Latigo, CCMA Best New Band Award – [Check them out](#)

The Legacy Band – [hear them play](#)

Contact: Zach Bernal Phone: 719.510.9646 Website: <http://thelegacy-band.com>

Mariachi America de Jesus Diaz – [What is the Mariachi?](#)

Phone: (303) 980-4216 Email: LITTLEDIAZ@HOTMAIL.COM



BRIDGING MILITARY TO COMMUNITY

Presented in partnership with:

USAA, Colorado Technical University, Colorado Springs Independent and Memorial Health System

Tuesday, August 7th from 2-4PM, [East Library](#)

Explore the history and contributions of diversity in the military, how the local military installations have contributed to the way this community has evolved as it relates to diversity, and current trends in military families. Initiatives focusing on how private, public and non-profit organizations can work together to provide support to our military families and their transitioning veterans.

LATINO COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, August 8th from 11:30AM – 1PM

[Crowne Plaza Colorado Springs](#)

[Keynote speaker](#) Lt. Governor Joseph A. Garcia, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education.

\$18 pre-pay / \$23 day of event

[Details and Reservations](#)



“FINDING OUR VOICES, ASIAN AMERICAN’S IN THE MEDIA”

Asian Community Luncheon

Thursday, August 9th from 11:30AM – 1PM

Local media personalities representing different Asian communities will present about their experiences.

IMMIGRATION SYMPOSIUM

Friday, August 10th from 1-3PM

[CS Fine Arts Center](#)

History of Immigration in Colorado Springs. How did our community evolve, how did immigrants contribute to how it shaped and what are the current and future trends?



THE COTTON CLUB

Saturday, August 11

[Stargazer's Theatre and Event Center](#)

8 p.m. to Midnight

FREE! Drinks & Snacks available for purchase!

Space is limited to the first 400 RSVP

info@cospdiversityforum.org

Take a step back in time, don your Zoot-suit, hat and Cat-eye glasses, step into your dancing shoes and join in the fun at a celebration of our City's vibrant history of inclusion, a reenactment of Fannie Mae Duncan's Cotton Club.

Featuring [Suga Bear and the Showtime Band](#)

Get your photo taken in period costume!

Honoring William and Ruth Vandell, first Chairs of the Sister City program in Colorado Springs.

GENERAL AND DAY OF EVENT INFORMATION CONTACTS:

Robert Stein *CSPDF Communications and Media Relations Chair*

Univision 48 KVSN

Telefutera 27 KGHB

Colorado Springs/Pueblo

Office: 719-632-7426

Mobile: 719-649-8858

Fax: 719-632-8220

rstein@entravision.com

www.somosnoticiascolorado.com

Dee Vazquez Sabol

Pikes Peak Library District

Community Engagement and Outreach Officer

5550 N. Union Blvd.

Colorado Springs CO 80918

719.531.6333, x1200

Dsabold@ppld.org

ppld.org

MEDIA CHECK-IN AT INFORMATION BOOTH AT FESTIVAL ENTRANCE

Contacts for Stories / Story Ideas

History of Sister City Relationship

[Fujiyoshida, Japan](#) & [Colorado Springs, CO Sister Cities](#) since 1962

The sister city idea developed from the Civic Committee. Envisioned by President Eisenhower as the 'main cog' for citizen diplomacy, the sister city program grew throughout the 1950's and 1960's. The Civic Committee and the National League of Cities provided joint administrative support for the fledgling sister city movement until 1973.

Mrs. Rose, then chairperson of Denver Sister Cities, was part of a cultural delegation that passed through the foothills of Mt. Fuji. When she returned to Colorado she spoke with then Mayor Henderson of Colorado Springs about the similarities in scenery between Fujiyoshida and the Springs. A group of local citizens, headed by Bill and Ruth Vandell, pursued the sister city idea and within a year the two cities were linked with the Vandells serving as co-chairs of the first Colorado Springs-Fujiyoshida Committee.

How our relationship has developed over the past 50 years?

What is the student exchange program?

What are some of the different exchanges that have taken place between our two cities?

Colorado Springs Sister Cities International

David Jenkins, President

PHONE (719) 385-5453

FAX (719) 385-5495

David Jenkins davidpjenk@hotmail.com

Warren Hill - whbjh@msn.com

Coordinator for International Affairs

PHONE (+81) 555.24.1236

FAX (+81) 555.22.0703

iadfujii@city.fujiyoshida.lg.jp

Fujiyoshida City Hall

Robin Lawrentz

Japan America Society of Southern Colorado

Paul Maruyama, President

PHONE: (719) 440-0599

pmaruyama@earthlink.net

History of Yoshida Fire Festival

The Yoshida Fire Festival or "Yoshida no Himatsuri" is held every year on August 26th to appease the goddess of Mt. Fuji and to keep the volcano from erupting for another year. Yoshida no Himatsuri also serves as the closing ceremony of the Fuji climbing season. For this lively two day festival, named one of Japan's three most unique festivals and celebrated for over 500 years, the entire community comes out to watch the burning of large "taimatsu" torches and the parade of two large Omikoshi (portable shrines) through the streets. The Fire Festival is one of Fujiyoshida's most prized cultural possessions!

City of Fujiyoshida website: <http://www.city.fujiyoshida.yamanashi.jp/div/english/html/firefest.html>

Fujiyoshida City Hall

Robin Lawrentz

Coordinator for International Affairs

PHONE (+81) 555.24.1236

FAX (+81) 555.22.0703

iadfujii@city.fujiyoshida.lg.jp

Japan America Society of Southern Colorado

Paul Maruyama, President

PHONE: (719) 440-0599

pmaruyama@earthlink.net

Latino Community Luncheon

- Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept 15 to Oct 15
- "Latino" term more encompassing, inclusive than Hispanic
- Latino Health issues, diabetes on the rise
- Latinos in the military
- Latino population growth: births overtake immigration
- Dream Act, what's its status? lots of wasted talent as young Latinos cannot apply for student aid, etc.
- Hispanic county of origin counts, top metro areas; where is Colorado?
- How do we make Latinos feel welcome in El Paso county?
- How can we encourage young Latinos to stay in school?

Latino Community Luncheon Contact

Carmen Abeyta, Co-Chair

PHONE: (719) 305-3111
c.abeyta@live.com

“Finding our Voices, Asian American’s in the Media”

Asian Community Luncheon

- Will this event launch a regular luncheon for the local Asian Community?
- Why did you select this topic for the luncheon?

Asian Community Luncheon Contact
Dennis Apuan,
Founding Director, [Colorado Media Justice Foundation](http://www.coloradomediajusticefoundation.org)
PHONE/FAX: (719) 291-9898
repdennisapuan@gmail.com

Immigration Symposium

Dee Vazquez Sabol
Pikes Peak Library District
Community Engagement and Outreach Officer
PHONE: 719.531.6333, x1200
Dsabol@ppld.org
ppld.org

Fujiyoshida, Sister City Exhibit: The Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum and the, spurred by the impending 50th Anniversary of the Sister City relationship with Fujiyoshida are working with the City of Fujiyoshida to develop a cultural exchange both to mark the event and as an on-going relationship to share the culture of our regions. This type of exchange goes to the heart of the reason for formation of a Sister City relationship.

Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum
Matt Mayberry, Executive Director
PHONE: (719) 385-5990
Email: MMayberry@springsgov.com

Hyakkimaru Exhibit: Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center

What is / history of the Kirie art form?
Who is Hyakkimaru?
Charlie Snyder
Community Relations
Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center
Email: csnyder@csfineartscenter.org

Cotton Club Background

Janice Jones performed in the Cotton Club at just 17 years of age, she sang with the house band, Jimmy Jules and the Diamonds from 1972-73. Original band members included Charles Julien (keyboards), Horace Butler (guitar), Micky White (bass) and Jimmy Jones (drums). Janice, now known as JJ Frazier, still lives in Colorado Springs.
JJ Frazier
Email: frazijj@d11.org
Phone: 719-520-2001

Cotton Club Honoree’s

2008 Honoree - Fannie Mae Duncan
Kay Esmiol, Biographer
Phone: 719-265-8132

2009 Honoree - Lee Duran
Dee Vazquez Sabol
Pikes Peak Library District
Community Engagement and Outreach Officer
PHONE: 719.531.6333, x1200
Dsabol@ppld.org

- Born in Trinidad, Colorado
- Raised in poverty
- US Marine
- Business leader
- Mentor
- Member of the Colorado Springs Civil Service Commission
- Founding member, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Founding member, Chicano Unity Council
- Colorado Springs first Hispanic City Council member
- Executive Board Member, Boy Scouts of America
- Vice President, League of Latin American Citizens
- Member of the GI Forum
- Board member, Operation S.E.R
- Believed in a strong and supportive relationship between City and County Governments
- Fought for growth planning rather than resistance
- Pushed for greater attention to infrastructure
- Active in fighting for implementation of ERA
- Sought ways to improve effectiveness of criminal and correctional services
- Strove against reactionary nature of government
- Urged community to provide better services to indigent

2010 Honoree: Peggy Marshall

1913 – 2006

- Peggy attended Smith College in Massachusetts.
- Peggy and first-husband, Ford Sayre ran the hundred-room Hanover Inn, owned by Dartmouth College.
- Peggy's first husband Ford Sayre, is killed when Peggy is 31 and Peggy continued to run the Hanover Inn for the next three years.
- Peggy married Andrew Marshall in 1946, and moved to Colorado Springs in 1950
- 1967 Founder, Cheyenne Village – nationally recognized program for integrating developmentally disabled persons into society
- Founder, Villagers Antiques and Collectibles
- Founder of the Tactile Gallery, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center
- Fostered the development of TheatreWorks, UCCS
- Named to the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Gardens for work on wheelchair-accessible garden
- Cheyenne Village – nationally recognized program for integrating developmentally disabled persons into society
- In September of 1972, Peggy and Cheyenne Village are featured in a multi-page article in Woman's Day magazine.
- Andrew Marshall became a member of the Colorado Springs City council and later Mayor of Colorado Springs from 1973 to 1975.

2011 Cotton Club Honoree - Henry Sachs

October 6, 1862 – April 13, 1952

- Moved to Colorado Springs because he contracted tuberculosis
- Philanthropic endeavors that make him an impressive citizen of Colorado Springs
- Responsible for the creation of a foundation that gave millions of dollars to African-Americans for higher education
- Lulu Stroud Pollard remembered in an article in The Gazette Telegraph that her sister Effie, an honor student at Colorado Springs High School received a scholarship to attend Colorado College that didn't cover tuition.
- Henry decided to pay her tuition at CC provided she maintained a 'B' average.
- The Sachs Foundation was incorporated in 1931
- The mission of the Foundation was to provide assistance for black Colorado Springs residents to attend college and to help blacks who contracted TB
- It was determined that the existing medical facilities could handle the low incidence of TB among African-Americans
- Focus of the Sachs Foundation has been on scholarship
- The Sachs Foundation has helped over 7,200 Black, Colorado residents obtain a college education.

“There’s no question that without the scholarship, I would not have been able to go to college. I don’t think there’s a better way to spend money than investing in people. If you want to be successful, contribute in some way to society, education is the key.” (Gazette Telegraph)

Contact:
Vikki Phillips
Business Sales and Service Advisor
vphillips@ent.com
719-550-6782



2012 Honorees: Ruth and William (Bill) Vandel, Founding Chairs of the Sister Cities International program in Colorado Springs.

- Served from April 6, 1962-1975
- First official visitor to Fujiyoshida was Zonta Club representative Mrs. Winifred McBroom
- In 1962 Parks and Recreation of Colorado Springs installed two special Japanese style gardens. One contains a large locally made Japanese lantern the other contains a Torii Gate – these can be seen today in the median at Bijou and Nevada.
- In 1963 Prof. and Mrs. Carlton Gamer visited Fujiyoshida and brought back a gift of 1,000 paper cranes made by students in Fujiyoshida for presentation to the Mayor of Colorado Springs which was then displayed in City Hall.
- First visitor from Fujiyoshida was Dr. Furukoshi, a nuclear scientist and forestry expert. The City planned an elaborate program for his stay in Colorado Springs. He carried back to the Mayor of Fujiyoshida a gift of a “Deed to one square foot of Pikes Peak” along with many other gifts representing our culture and community.
- Ruth and William Vandel began a pen-pal program between Jr. High and High School students in both communities in 1963.
- 1963 Also, saw the start of an art exchange program between high school students in both cities.
- In 1964 an exchange of educational materials began between elementary schools in both towns. And Palmer HS adopted Kita Fuji Technical HS as a Sister City School and Wasson HS exchanged gifts with the Fujiyoshida HS

Contact:
Dee Vazquez Sabol
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Community Engagement and Outreach Officer
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Press Releases

News from the National League of Cities

www.nlc.org

www.nlctv.org

www.citiesspeak.org

www.twitter.com/leagueofcities

www.facebook.com/nationalleagueofcities

For Immediate Release

March 15, 2010

Contact

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NBC-LEO Honors City Programs which Enhance, Promote Cultural Diversity

Cities from Across the Nation Receive City Cultural Diversity Awards

Washington, DC – Four cities were honored this morning for implementing quality and innovative programs in communities to enhance and promote cultural diversity. Each year, the City Cultural Diversity Awards recognize city programs which encourage citizen involvement and show an appreciation of cultural diversity. The awards are sponsored by the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO), a constituency group of the National League of Cities (NLC).

Cities honored for 2010 are **Enterprise, Ala.; Woodridge, Ill.; Colorado Springs, Colo.; and Milwaukee, Wis.** Cities chosen as runners-up include **Las Cruces, NM; Gainesville, Fla.; and Fort Worth, Texas.**

Each city was celebrated this morning at NBC-LEO's annual Celebrate Diversity Breakfast during NLC's Congressional City Conference in Washington, DC. Adolfo Carrion, Director of the White House Office of Urban Affairs, addressed attendees at this morning's breakfast.

For more information on the Congressional City Conference, visit <http://www.nlccongressionalcityconference.org/>.

Award-winning city programs:

- **Enterprise, Ala.**, hosted the **Aviation Expo** highlighting American, German and Russian military history, culture and traditions, including aircraft and food from different cultures. The event drew more than 5,000 people, including international flight students from South America and the Middle East stationed at Fort Rucker, Ala. *For more information, contact Rachel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator, 334-348-2603, rdavis@cityofenterprise.net.*
- The Woodridge Diversity Committee in **Woodridge, Ill.**, worked with youth to coordinate the development of the **Woodridge Diversity Quilt** to celebrate and educate on the benefits of a diverse community. The finished quilt will be on permanent display at the Woodridge Public Library. *For more information, contact Melissa Bohse, Management Analyst, 630-719-4709, mbohse@vil.woodridge.il.us.*
- **Everybody Welcome: A Celebration of Culture and Diversity** is a festival in **Colorado Springs, Colo.**, where attendees enjoy dance, poetry and singing from various African, Native American, Indian, Asian and Caribbean cultures. The city, as well as the Colorado Springs Diversity Forum and other community partners, make this festival possible each summer. *For more information, contact Sue Skiffington Blumberg, Director of Public Communications, 719-385-5254, sskiffington-blumberg@springsgov.com or Shirley Martinez, co-chair, Colorado Springs Diversity Forum, 719-440-0675, smartinez@csu.org.*
- The **Emerging Business Enterprise Program** and **Milwaukee Opportunities for Restoring Employment** ordinance in **Milwaukee, Wis.**, strive to attract and maintain minority businesses throughout the city. The ordinance requires city contracts to engage emerging businesses, incorporate a prevailing wage requirement, provide apprenticeship training and employment opportunities for low income residents and operate a trades

employment pool to be tapped by contractors. *For more information, contact Sharon Robinson, Director, Department of Administration, 414-286-3828, srobins@milwaukee.gov.*

Runner-up programs:

- In a partnership between the city of **Las Cruces, NM**, and New Mexico State University's International Programs, the **World Culture in the Courtyard at Brannigan Cultural Center** program highlights countries from around the world represented by the international students who attend the University and reside in Las Cruces. The program showcases the diversity and customs of more than 75 countries, including India, China, Mexico, Korea, Chile, Cameroon and Germany through food, song, dance and other cultural traditions. *For more information, contact Trey Williams, Policy Analyst, 575-541-2192, trwilliams@las-cruces.org.*
- The city of **Gainesville, Fla.**, recently adopted a **Dismantling Racism Initiative** which raises awareness about race-relations and racism. The city sponsors a film festival where citizens watch films dealing with race-related issues and then participate in open discussions regarding various incidents in the film. *For more information, contact Cecil E. Howard, Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, 352-334-5051, equalopp@cityofgainesville.org.*
- **Fort Worth, Texas**, created a **Diversity Task Force** in July 2009 to advise the City Manager on issues affecting the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community in Fort Worth. Specific areas of attention for the task force include employee training, increased awareness of the city's non-discrimination ordinance and improved communication between the city and its LGBT residents. *For more information, contact Fernando Costa, Assistant City Manager, 817-392-6122, Fernando.costa@fortworthgov.org.*

The City Cultural Diversity Awards program was established in 1995 by NLC's NBC-LEO constituency group to promote cultural diversity in community governance through citizen and community participation. Winning cities are selected from a pool of applicants and are grouped according to population.

NBC-LEO President-Elect Charleta B. Tavares, Councilmember, Columbus, Ohio, chaired this year's awards competition. Judges included Louvenia Mathison, Councilmember, Berkeley, Mo.; Lavonta Williams, Councilmember, Wichita, Kan.; Helen Kawagoe, City Clerk, Carson, Calif.; Greg Pettis, Councilmember, Cathedral City, Calif.; Marie Lopez Rogers, Mayor, Avondale, Ariz.; Carlos Silva, President Pro Tempore, Bridgeport, Conn.; and Edna Branch Jackson, Mayor Pro Tem, Savannah, Ga.

For more information on the City Cultural Diversity Awards, visit NBC-LEO's website at www.nbc-leo.org.

The National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials was established in 1970. A constituency group of the National League of Cities, NBC-LEO advocates for the interests of African-American local elected officials. Its mission is to provide African-American municipal officials and their colleagues with forums to share ideas, discussion groups to develop strategies for improving municipal governance, debates on policy issues and programs that contribute to the success of America's cities and towns.

The National League of Cities is the nation's oldest and largest organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Diversity Forum selected as partner in Sister City 50th Anniversary Celebration

(Colorado Springs, Colo.) The City of Fujiyoshida nestles against the base of Mount Fuji in Japan much as Colorado Springs hugs Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain. The two cities also share a more formal relationship, acting as Sister Cities since 1962.

In August 2012, the Colorado Springs Diversity Forum will partner with the City of Fujiyoshida, City of Colorado Springs, Japan America Society of Southern Colorado, and Colorado Springs Sister City Committee to celebrate 50 years of friendship and collaboration. The celebration will feature a re-creation of the Yoshida (Fire) Himatsuri Festival, considered one of Japan’s most unique historical commemorations.

The Fire Celebration, which honors Mt. Fuji, has been held in Fujiyoshida for 600 years. It will take a new form as part of the Everybody Welcome Festival hosted annually by Colorado Springs Diversity Forum. Traditional performances of Taiko, spectacular fire shrines, and other Japanese cultural offerings will enrich the local festival and offer numerous opportunities for community engagement and education.

Colorado Springs Sister Cities International founded and maintains relationships with six communities around the globe to promote “cultural, educational, humanitarian, and economic” exchanges that enrich local understanding of global life. Four decades of fruitful interaction with Fujiyoshida support the importance of such relationships. For additional information on the Sister Cities program, visit www.sistercitycs.us.

Colorado Springs Diversity Forum, founded in 2005 to underscore the economic and social importance of diversity, was selected as a partnering organization because of its success in hosting a community-wide cultural event. In its fourth year, the Everybody Welcome Festival has become a signature celebration for Colorado Springs. An entire week in August 2010 will be dedicated to showcasing and exploring the depth of cultural variety found in the Pikes Peak region. Information about this year’s festival can be found at www.cospdiversityforum.org. There are numerous opportunities to participate and support the festival.

The Yoshida Himatsuri Celebration in 2012 will also bring a group of Japanese junior high school students and a singing group to our community. A delegation from Colorado Springs will attend Fujiyoshida’s Fire Festival in 2011 in preparation for hosting the prestigious event.

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

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