



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

EVERYBODY WELCOME: A Celebration of Culture and Diversity Week MEDIA KIT

VISION

EVERYBODY WELCOME

MISSION

connect include engage

VALUES

Integrity, Justness, Individuality, Courage, Perseverance, Teamwork

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

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.

2010 Schedule of Events

August 7th-15th, 2010

Details and ticket information for all events can be found at www.cospdiversityforum.org

The Cotton Club

Saturday, August 7th

7:30 - 10:30 p.m.

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

10 S. Parkside Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Featuring: [The Sheryl Renee Band](#)

FREE – Donations welcomed

The Cotton Club recreates and celebrates a vibrant slice of Colorado Springs history, [Fannie Mae Duncan's](#) Cotton Club. Attendee's are encouraged to take a step back in time, don their Zoot-suits, hats and Cat-eye glasses, step into their dancing shoes and join in the fun...

2010 Cotton Club honoree, **Peggy Marshall**, was selected for her nationally recognized, progressive work as a proponent of diversity and inclusion. From her work in integrating developmentally disabled persons into society, founding [Cheyenne Village](#), to the founding of the [Tactile Gallery in the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center](#), to her recognition by the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Gardens for her work on wheelchair-accessible gardens. Join us in Celebrating Peggy Marshall's exemplary contribution to our community! Past honorees include Fannie Mae Duncan and Lee Duran.

Kick up your heels into the night with [Sheryl Renee](#) along with a three piece rhythm section of seasoned professionals. Bringing you "THE PARTY" featuring the best in R&B, Motown, Pop, Rock and Jazz & standards.



Sheryl Renee is a 2nd generation performer, who has been entertaining audiences since she was a child. Sheryl enjoys a versatile career which includes some impressive career highlights, such as performance with the Sheryl Renee band, Salute to the Legends tribute shows, work with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, the Broadmoor Pops Orchestra, and singing the National Anthem, when President Barack Obama, signed the Economic Stimulus bill on February 17, 2009. She produced her first solo project Sheryl Renee and her Salute to the Legends and the acapella Gospel CD, One Voice. In June she received an award from the African-American Voice Newspaper for Entertainer of the Year!

Providing volunteers [Club of Arts](#), [Dragon Theatre Productions](#) and [Cheyenne Village](#)

Artwork for sale by Lanke Adeoye

Voices of Harmony Choir Celebration

Sunday, August 8th

5 – 8 p.m.

Armstrong Theatre, [Colorado College](#)

14 E. Cache La Poudre St., Colorado Springs, CO 80903

*Performers are subject to change without notice

Enjoy a FREE night of music songs and dance with positive and energizing performances from Colorado Springs choirs and other performance groups.

Dalo and Friends

Colorado Springs Conservatory Jazz Trio

The Colorado Springs Conservatory inspires, motivates and challenges all students to aspire to their highest potential as artists and as human beings through arts immersion studies and community arts advocacy participation. Tonight' trio is comprised of drummer, Devin Malloy. Conservatory alumni and student in the Jazz Performance program at UNC in Greeley. Kenny Martinez is a Conservatory alumni who is currently attending the Jazz Study Program at the Lamont School of Music in Denver. And, rounding out the trio is Michael Hawkins, piano player and alumni, currently attending the Jazz Program at Berklee School of Music in Boston.

Phone: 719-577-4556

Email: csc@coloradospringsconservatory.org

Website: <http://www.coloradospringsconservatory.org/>

Contact: Linda Weise

David Dance Ensemble

Crystal and the Curious

Crystal Bliss and Bob Tudor of the band Crystal and the Curious have contributed their creative talents as artists and educators in our Colorado Springs community for many years. they bring you an eclectic mix of Mexican, Cuban and Brazilian music for your listening and dancing pleasure!

Email: purljazz@yahoo.com

Phone: 719-337-9592

Contact: Crystal Bliss Brandl

The Smith Daughters



The **JLT Dance Ensemble** features liturgical dancers. Their physical expression is an interpretation of gospel music and song praising the Lord through movement. JLT was created in January 2000 at the United Church of Montbello, Denver, Colorado, under Pastor John L. Thompson, hence our name, JLT. Our Mission is to increase community awareness and spread the word of Jesus Christ; to help people to grow and learn through mutual support and care; to be a good neighbor to people in need and to encourage more followers.

Phone: (303) 303-333-3436

Email: JLTDanceEnsemble@yahoo.com

Website: <http://jltdanceensemble.com/about.html>

Contact: Gwedolyn Brown

Samoan Ministry Praise Team from the Colorado Springs Samoan Church of the Nazarene



Shuggie and the "B" presents popular Jazz Standards from the Great American Songbook of the 40s and 50s and a variety of contemporary music of the 60s and 70s.

Phone: 719-597-8912

Email: bgussin@comcast.net

Website: www.brendamiles.com

Contact: Brenda Miles



As One Choir has a vision - to spread the true word of God, not religion, to the world and allow God to make a change in everyone's lives through teaching and music. Our mission is to bring all believers together and form an Outreach Ministry that will teach the word of God, not by force, but through Love and Kindness. To have a professional ministry and operate in the spirit of excellence in all we do to show that doing positive things for God is successful in every area of our lives.

Conjunto Tropical

Everybody Welcome: Sky Sox take on the Oklahoma Redhawks

Monday, August 9th at [Security Service Field](#)

Gates open: 6pm, Game Time: 7:05p, featuring kids 12 and under eat free! [Tickets](#) are \$9 each and \$5 goes to support the Everybody Welcome Festival.

Colorado Springs Diversity Forum Diversity & Inclusion Awards Luncheon

Hosted by [Colorado Springs Business Journal](#) and Presented by [Adams Bank & Trust](#)

Tuesday, August 10th at [UCCS Conference and Event Center](#) at 11:30 a.m.

Tickets available at www.csbj.com

CSDF Diversity and Inclusion Awards recognize businesses and organizations in the Pikes Peak Region demonstrating and promoting diversity and inclusion in internal operations and civic engagement. Inclusive organizational policies and benefits, commitment to diversity training, education, and volunteerism at all operational levels will be considered.

CSDF Diversity and Inclusion Awards will be given at the luncheon presented by the Colorado Springs Business Journal for diversity and inclusion programming in three areas: 1.) Daring to Dream of Diversity & Inclusion - Organizations beginning their journey - initiating diversity programming. 2.) Steady and Strong in Diversity & Inclusion - Organizations who are established advocates for diversity & inclusion. 3.) Raising the Bar on Diversity & Inclusion - Organizations implementing cutting-edge programming exemplifying inclusive greatness.

2010 Nominees

[AAA](#), [CASA \(2 nominations\)](#), [Cheyenne Village](#), [Citizens Project](#), [Colorado Technical University](#), [Comcast](#), [CSLI](#), [Delta Sigma Theta Sorority](#), [Goodwill Industries](#), [Greenberg Center for Learning and Tolerance](#), [The Home Depot](#), [Jan Pro of Southern Colorado](#), [Kenneth M. Valdez Insurance](#), [Leadership Pikes Peak](#), [Matrix Center for Advancement of Social Equity and Inclusion](#), [SODEXO](#), [Stargazer's Theatre and Events Center](#), [University of Colorado at Colorado Springs](#), [University of the Rockies](#)

Past Diversity Award Winners:

The Pikes Peak Coalition of Chambers has presented these awards from 2002 through 2007. Beginning in 2008 Colorado Springs Diversity Forum (CSDF) began honoring organizations representing different business and organizational segments. Contact CSDF for award process information.

2002 Kaiser Permanente, Colorado Springs Utilities, Aspen Diversified Industries

2003 Checks Unlimited, American Facility Maintenance Group, Devereaux Cleo Wallace

2004 Intel, Pikes Peak Community College

2005 Peak Vista Community Health Centers, Agilent Technologies, Colorado Springs Utilities

2006 Booz Allen Hamilton, Memorial Health System

2007 Kennedy Center Imagination Celebration, Aeroflex Inc., Wells Fargo Equity Direct

2008 T. Rowe Price



Community Roundtables One for Women & One for Men

Wednesday, August 11th

5:15 – 6:45 p.m.

Colorado Springs Utilities, Mesa Conference Room, 2855 Mesa Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80904

In our effort to move our community toward CSDF's vision of "Everybody Welcome" we have set a goal to partner in facilitated roundtable dialogue with diverse populations represented in our community. Share ideas, explore commonalities, develop relationships and discover partnership opportunities at a collaborative roundtable focused on uncovering and recognizing and issues related to being either male or female in our community at one of these two roundtables.





“Step Up Your Game!” Diversity Conference

In partnership with [Colorado Springs Society for Human Resource Management](http://www.csshrm.org)

August 11 - 12, 2010

Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2886 South Circle Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Register online at www.csshrm.org

Today's world of diversity and inclusion addresses many issues that we may not have even considered a few years ago. Once focused on racial and gender disparities, we are now faced with handling other differences such as discrimination based on genetics, immigrant status, perceptions about who is responsible for terrorism and complaints about the “accents” of off-shore customer service representatives. With these changes in our local, national and global relationships, human relations professionals are being asked to Step Up our game to help our organizations successfully handle these new challenges.

The goal is to provide a quality, affordable conference that educates and provides timely and practical information while, at the same time, giving participants an opportunity to network with other human relations professionals and have a little fun.

Come and meet the challenge of taking a longer, broader view of the work to be done in our ever more diverse world.

Social Networking Reception

Wednesday, August 11th, 5pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2886 South Circle Drive 80906

Salsa lessons with James & Victoria Stowell of [BallroomLife](http://BallroomLife.com)

Followed by:

Live, soulful duet, featuring the rich vocals of [Ron Ivory](http://RonIvory.com) and Darla King bringing to life many of your favorite contemporary Jazz, Jazz and Pop Standards, Light R&B, and Dance music.

Conference Seminars and Workshops

Thursday, August 12th 7am – 5pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2886 South Circle Drive 80906

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. *Registration*

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. *Networking and Hot Breakfast*

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. *Exhibits Open.*

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. *Welcome/Opening Remarks*

Keynote Speaker:

[Craig Clayton](http://www.craigclayton.com), University of Houston's Director and Diversity strategist

Since 1999, Craig B. Clayton has been the Director & Diversity Strategist with the University of Houston's - International Institute for Diversity & Cross Cultural Management. In that capacity he has conducted research linking the level of derailing behaviors in the workplace and the amount of effort given at work on a regular basis. As a keynote speaker, conference speaker facilitator and corporate trainer; he has a unique knack for combining analytic information in an engaging and motivational manner

9:10 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. *Concurrent Sessions*

Session A - Mentoring Circles

Session B – ADA Panel of professionals ([EEOC](http://www.eeoc.gov), [MSEC](http://www.msec.org), [DBTAC Rocky Mountain ADA Center](http://www.dbtac.com))

Session C – Wage and Compensation

10:40 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. *Refreshment Break*

10:50 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. *Concurrent Sessions*

Session A - [OFCCP](http://www.ofccp.gov) - Robert Boehm

Session B – Work Place Violence (Bullying)

Session C – Get in the Game: Getting Off the Bench to Become an Active Social Network Player - [Angela Hamilton, SPHR](http://www.spshr.org)

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Luncheon

Keynote:

[Craig Zablocki](#), speaker and author using humor to get to the heart of the issue—and get results!

A nationally known speaker and consultant, Craig has spoken to over 600,000 people internationally and in all 50 states. Craig has shared the platform with Al Gore, and Tom Peters. He was the first outside speaker to address the student body of Columbine High School after its tragedy.

Craig presents to Fortune 500 companies, legislators, public service and healthcare professionals, college campuses, non-profit service organizations, and victim rights groups. He has authored *Improv 101, Unleash Your Creative Spirit* and co-authored the book, *Humor Me* as well as authored many articles for major publications. He has appeared on countless radio and television programs, including National Public Radio which gives practical tools to loosen up, become more creative, and live in the moment.

A background in business, teaching in an inner-city school, and performing in a professional improvisational comedy troupe allows Craig to speak from a unique perspective. His unscripted style has been compared to a hybrid of Robin Williams and Wayne Dyer. One participant wrote, "We should harness his energy - it could power a small city. His passion and commitment to making a difference is contagious!"

Special award presentation by Dana Batey, US Census Bureau for CSSHRM

2:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

Session A – [Romero Troupe](#)

Session B - Why Every Organization Must Care About Workforce Diversity - [Robert J. Greene, Reward Systems, Inc.](#)

Session C - Medical Marijuana

Register online at www.csshrm.org

Contact: Shirley Martinez, 719.233.1465, smartinez@csu.org

HRCI RECERTIFICATION: Pre-approval for 2010 pending. HRCI awarded 10 total credits in 2009.

Public Issues Forum

Thursday, August 12th 5 – 8 p.m.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2886 South Circle Drive 80906

5-6 p.m. Cash bar and entertainment by [Colorado Springs Conservatory](#)

6 – 8 p.m. Panel of experts present information on November Ballot issues impacting diverse populations followed by audience Q&A.

FREE and open to the public

Moderated by: [Gazette](#) and the [CS Independent](#)

Panelists:

Wade Buchanan

President, [Bell Policy Center](#)



Wade Buchanan has been president of the Bell Policy Center and the Bell Action Network since 2001. Under Wade's tenure, the Bell has grown from a start-up organization to become one of the premier progressive policy organizations in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain West. Wade pulled together a veteran professional staff that has played a major role in fiscal reform, education policy, economic security and other key issues that affect the well-being of working families in Colorado.

From 1999-2001, Wade was executive director of Colorado Conservation Voters, the nonpartisan political voice of Colorado's conservation community. Prior to that he was senior advisor, policy director and chief speech writer to former Colorado Governor Roy Romer. He also served as acting executive director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, director of the Colorado Office of Energy Conservation, and chair of the Regional Air Quality Council, the lead air quality agency for metro Denver.

Wade holds a bachelor of arts in history from Colorado College and a master's of philosophy in international relations from Oxford University in England, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

**Carol Hedges**Senior fiscal analyst, [Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute](#)

Carol Hedges is a recognized expert on the effects of Colorado's TABOR amendment. Her current research explores spending and taxation in Colorado in light of fairness, efficiency and adequacy. Her most recent report is entitled, *Aiming for the Middle, Benchmarks for Colorado's Future*. Carol is the primary author of the Bell Policy Center publication, *Ten Years of TABOR: A Study of Colorado's Taxpayer's Bill of Rights*, a comprehensive study of Colorado's fiscal and budget situation in light of the TABOR constitutional amendment. Carol has experience in the philanthropic sector and in political service with Governor Roy Romer of Colorado, the National Governors' Association and with Governor John Carlin of Kansas. Carol has a BS in Public Administration from Emporia State University and a JD from the University of Kansas. Carol is currently a Board member for the Front Range Economic Strategies Center in Denver. She is a member of the Colorado Nonprofit Association's Leadership Advisory Committee and a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for Governor Ritter's Blue Ribbon Transportation

**Cody Blezley**Vice President, [Colorado Children's Campaign](#)

Cody Blezley serves as the Vice President of the Colorado Children's Campaign, the leading non-partisan, non-profit advocacy organization for Colorado's 1.2 million children. In this capacity, she leads the organization's policy, legislative and communications efforts. Prior to joining the Children's Campaign, Cody served as Senior Health Policy Analyst for Colorado Governor Bill Ritter Jr. Cody has also worked on state and federal government affairs for a major safety net health system and as a political and policy communications consultant. Cody was integrally involved in the successful 2009 legislation to provide health insurance to more than 100,000 uninsured Coloradans, the 2006 Denver ballot campaign to make preschool accessible for all Denver four-year-olds and the 2004 statewide tobacco tax initiative that is generating over \$170 million annually for health programs in Colorado. Cody and her family live in northeast Denver and enjoy hiking and traveling.

**John Morse**[Colorado Senator](#)

Senator John Morse was elected in November 2006 as the first Democratic Senator from El Paso County since 1974. It is a tremendous honor that humbles him greatly while he also understands it entails hard work! He serves as the Senate Majority Leader and Chair of Legal Services. He is a member of the Finance and the Health and Human Services Committees as well. About being involved with the civil service, John says: "I really love it. It brings me back to my early ambulance days when I used to bounce out of bed every morning and feel 'I get to go to work today.' I love to learn and there is so much to learn. I really think listening is a critical skill in public policy and I have always viewed that as one of my strengths."

This is not John's only experience serving the public. He honorably served over 9 years with the Colorado Springs Police Department and as Chief of Police in Fountain for two years. The consummate diplomat, Senator Morse truly believes that the art of compromise and building relationships is the way to lead Colorado to a rich and prosperous future.

**Immigration Symposium**

In partnership with:

[Pikes Peak Immigrant & Refugee Collaborative](#)[Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center](#)[Anti Defamation League Mountain States](#)Friday, August 13th, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center from 1-4 p.m.**1-2 p.m. Understanding the US/Mexico Border: A Human Perspective**

The Pikes Peak Immigrant and Refugee Collaborative and delegates from six different Colorado Springs churches traveled to witness the realities of the US/Mexico border. Experience their reactions and in an historical and socio-economic context for understanding the current crisis at the border.

Presenters:

Corey Almond has worked in human services helping vulnerable populations for nine years in the areas of international development, homelessness prevention and child protection. He is currently the Vice President of Family Immigration Services and Parish Social Ministries at Catholic Charities, which is the only organization that is Board of

Immigration Appeals accredited in the Colorado Springs area. Corey has been the Director of the Pikes Peak Immigrant and Refugee Collaborative which was a grant funded effort to strengthen integration between immigrants and the receiving community in Colorado Springs. In addition, Corey has lived and worked in Haiti on a development project helping poor rural families.

Clare Twomey, M.Div., M.S. is a minister with the United Church of Christ and serves in the Manitou Congregational Church where she is responsible for Adult and Children's Christian education. She is also a registered Psychotherapist and has a private practice in the same church. Clare has visited the Border twice and is planning another eight day humanitarian visit in August with the group No More Deaths. She has been actively involved in providing Immigration education and raising awareness for a variety of groups including ministers, congregations and seminary students. She is in the process of writing a book "Living in the Present Tense", documenting her experiences on the border and the historical, economic and justice oriented facts which are often ignored in this complicated discussion.

2 – 3 p.m. **Custom Tour of [CS Fine Arts Center](#) Immigrant Artwork**

3 -4 p.m. **Hateful Rhetoric Surrounding the Debate on Immigration Reform**

Shayna Alexander, Associate Regional Director, [Anti Defamation League of the Mountain States](#)

Information regarding the increase in hateful rhetoric in the debate on immigration reform, including the use of such rhetoric in mainstream media and by hate groups followed by question and answer session

Festival

August 15, 2010

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

America the Beautiful Park

126 Cimino Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

A **FREE** family event showcasing the diversity of talented local 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.

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!

Pick-up your **children's activity passport** at the information booth, complete the activity and collect stamps in your passport at the identified children's booths to enter a prize drawing! There will be arts, science, games, dancing, and more for kids of all ages.

Entertainment by local, diverse and cultural performers representing cultures from around the world, from Celtic dance to African drums and all stops in between.

Festival Performers

*Performers and vendors are subject to change without notice

10:00 a.m. **Event Opening**

Welcome – Paula Miller and Shirley Martinez, CSDF Co-Chairs and Vice Mayor Small



10:00 AM Skylark Rhythms with the Djembe Cowboys

John "Skylark" Skirvan is an amazing didgeridoo player, storyteller who brings sound, vibration, and movement to the rhythms. Ben Fontes and Tony Kisling are drummers who play the hand drums and percussion. They combine their talents and sounds together giving the African, Mid Eastern, and Original rhythms their interesting and beautiful flair.

Phone: 719-471-1422

Contact: Johnny Skirvan

10:20 a.m. Southern Willow Creek Native American Drummers



10:40 AM Crystal and the Curious

Crystal Bliss and Bob Tudor of the band Crystal and the Curious have contributed their creative talents as artists and educators in our Colorado Springs community for many years. they bring you an eclectic mix of Mexican, Cuban and Brazilian music for your listening and dancing pleasure!

Email: purljazz@yahoo.com

Phone: 719-337-9592

Contact: Crystal Bliss Brandl



11:00 a.m. "How I Found Out I Was Black" Vanessa Roberts

In May of 2009 Vanessa Roberts received her Master of Arts in Performance Studies from the Tisch School of Arts at New York University. She also holds a Bachelors of Liberal Arts and Sciences from Colorado College where she designed her own major, "Critical Race Theory; Emphasis Performance Comedy", and minored in American Cultural Studies. Vanessa believes in the power of theatre as a tool for producing transformative social change. Bringing together her strengths in the theory, performance, and facilitation, Vanessa strives in her art and presentations to establish our personal connections to difference and other-ness. Combining theory and humorous autobiographical tales of growing up German and Black, Vanessa seeks to inspire reflections, introspection and personal growth.

"How I Found Out I Was Black" is a one-woman performance piece addressing various issues surrounding identity, assumptions, stereotypes and self-affirmation. Fusing together humor and reflections pulled from stories of life as mixed girl, Vanessa highlights in this piece the necessity of revisiting the generalizations we take for granted about others. It is a refreshingly personal approach to starting a conversation about difference and how it affects our lives.

Website: <http://www.vanessaroberts.com/>

Email: vanessa@vanessaroberts.com

Phone:

Contact: Vanessa Roberts



11:20 a.m. Magic of the Pacific Island Dancers

Website: www.hawaii alohahale.com

Email: halaukailima@yahoo.com

Phone: 719-282-1930

Contact: Maila Guitierrez



11:40 a.m. Mizmar Madness is a professional American Tribal Style Belly Dance troupe founded in 2005 and based in Colorado Springs. Their performance is a dynamic mix of dances styles from various regions and cultures. The eclectic costuming is a similar mix of styles. The troupe celebrates the joy of women who make dance an integral part of their lives. Mizmar Madness is joined today by dancers from the Springs Oasis Dance Troupe.

Website: www.mizmarmadness.com

Email: DTDiva555@aol.com

Contact: Deb Nejteck

12:00 p.m. Children's Passport Prize Drawing



12:10 p.m. Ne Kamali'i O'Hawai'i Hula and Hawaiian Music

Na Kamali'i O' Hawai'i and the musicians of Hawaiian Harmony are a performing Hawaiian Polynesian group here in Colorado Springs that has performed here in Colorado, New Mexico, California and Hawai'i. This group is 22 years old and many of the original dancers have children and grandchildren performing now. Hula is a way of expressing your aloha, love for all things around you. We dance our hula to perpetuate our culture and where our families our Ohana originated from.

Email: jkama12@hotmail.com

Phone: 719-232-3448/ 719-660-7413

Contact: Jeana Kama



12:30 p.m. Oluwaseyi is an up and coming, Colorado Springs based dance and drum company, whose Yoruban name means, "God made this". Oluwaseyi teach and perform. traditional rhythms from Senegal, Senegambia, Mali, Ivory Coast and Guinea West Africa.
 Website: www.odade.com
 Email: oluwaseyi08@yahoo.com
 Contact: Angela Boyce



12:50 p.m. US Taekwondo Center has been educating people of all ages in Colorado Springs since 1986. Their friendly and experienced instructors teach so much more than just kicking and punching. Taekwondo improves minds and bodies by building confidence through knowledge. A better working body, a sharper, more focused mind, a stronger sense of self-confidence, more self-discipline and the ability to physically defend yourself are just some of the cornerstones the U.S Taekwondo Center instills. There are 3 locations serving the Colorado Springs area.
 Website: <http://martialartscoloradosprings.com/>
 Email: masterlee@familyblackbelt.com
 Phone: 719-488-4321

Contact: Jay Lee



1:10 p.m. 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



1:30 p.m. Zaneta Hadley is the founder of ZHT Entertainment and she has been performing and bringing performers to the area for well over 9 years. She is a positive influence to the Colorado Springs community and will continue to bring young entertainers to the forefront of our community. ZHT presents a gospel hip hop performance and includes the audience in an urban line-dance hustle!
 Email: ZHTEntertainment@gmail.com
 Phone: 719-321-9260
 Contact: Zaneta Hadley



1:50 p.m. Pacific Pride and Island Hearts
 We are Pacific Island Dancers of Colorado Springs. We promote unity among the different cultures through dance, music, and public education activities. We provide a network for ongoing information and activities which assist in encouraging ethnic diversity. This year we will perform Tahitian Folkloric Dance
 Email: ppih@hotmail.com
 Phone: 719-573-1830



2:10 p.m. Conjunto Folkloricos Aire de Mi Tierra, Panama
 Panamanian Folkloric Dance
 Email: beitia37@aol.com
 Phone: 719-382-8399
 Contact: Dalys Sanchez



2:30 p.m. 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.

Steve has been Trick Roping since 1989. He learned the basic rope spinning tricks from the "Will Rogers Rope Tricks" book and he later joined the Wild West Arts Club and attended the annual roping convention for the next 12 years. At these conventions he learned from some of the world's top rope spinners. At the 2004 Wild West Arts Club Convention in Las Vegas Steve won The Will Rogers Award for Trick Roper of

the year.

He has appeared at: The Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs, World Forum, Vail Colorado, The Terry Bison Ranch, Cheyenne, Wyoming, Opening act for Rick Trevino, Colorado, Music Hall, Colorado Springs, Opening act for The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Colorado Music Hall, The T-Fox Lounge Show, Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, Bally's, Las Vegas, Nevada; Michael Martin Murphey's WestFest; Buffalo Bill Days, Golden Colorado

Website: www.cowboystevetrickroper.net

Email: cowboysteve@sysmatrix.net

Phone: 719-488-2626

Contact: Steve Cassat



2:50 p.m. 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

3:10 p.m Children's Passport Prize Drawing

3:20 p.m Klez Shalom

Klezmer: Hebrew Kele: Voice & Zemer: Instrument

Think of Klezmer as Robin Bashevis Hood with Jewish Minstrels. This is how it began; travelling from one city to the next in Eastern Europe playing for Weddings, Bar Mitzvahs and so on. Klezmer is traditionally of eastern European descent. It is a compilation and integration of Jewish music from celebrations, from the coffee houses, and from the synagogues.

Klezmer music captivates with sounds of solemnity and celebration sometimes within the same song. And why not? This is a mirror of our history. The words to these songs are written in Yiddish, Hebrew, and of course now English. Words are sung and singers are a part of Klezmer.

Klezmer was nearly struck a fatal blow during the holocaust, but as with all things Jewish, an ember remained and became a flame. Many Europeans realized the loss they had suffered in those who were missing and non Jews took up their instruments and began to play. In Krakow, for instance, there is an annual celebration of Jewish culture where dozens of Klezmerim — largely non Jews — perform to the delight of many. As with many art forms, Klezmer is now on the rise all over the world.

From a historical perspective one learns that even in suffering, the Jewish people get down to business. In every city, in every ghetto, in every camp, they take every opportunity to set up schools for their children, industry, music, theatre, and time and places for prayer. This is what I hear in Klezmer. Even in suffering, the richness of Jewish life is so strong that it has made its way, into every stream of life.

While the Jewish people have suffered from many atrocities and near annihilations, one truth remains: our culture, our religion, and our music have remained untouched.

Email: sussertown@comcast.net

Phone: 719-532-1576

Contact: Herman Susser

3:40 p.m Brad Bearsheart Native American PowWow



Project Lighthouse Dancers from Monument/ Colorado Springs/Fountain area. We have young children to adults performing their dance styles and showing their regalia. We will have spectator participations song, and promote our non-profit group "Project Lighthouse". President Brad Bearsheart and dancers from all tribes around the area.

Email: bgbearshrt022@msn.com

Phone: 719-488-1775

Contact: Brad Bearsheart

Working throughout the event:



Fantasy Forest Entertainment

Stories with puppets and songs and lots of audience participation

Email: mgoose52@yahoo.com

Phone: 719-687-8054

Contact: Cathy Kelsay

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 Activities Children can obtain their "Everybody Welcome: Passport" at the Colorado Springs Diversity Forum Information Booth or from one of the event mascots. Children can collect stamps in their passports at each of the identified Children's Activity Booths located throughout the event for entry in a prize drawings.

African Drumming - Oluwaseyi Drumming and Dance
Art Project - Community Partnership for Child Development / Head Start
Art Project - COPPeR
Art Project - Imagination Celebration
Children's Activity - Pikes Peak Library District
Children's Activity - Colorado Springs Utilities- DELTA Team
Construction Project -Home Depot
Cultural Dance - Conjunto Folkloricos Aire de Mi Tierra, Panama
Cultural Dance and Drum - Na Kamali'i O' Hawai'i
Cultural Art Project - El Cinco de Mayo, Inc.
Fire Truck - CS Fire Department
Games - Japan America Society Southern Colorado
Games - YMCA
Gender Activity - Inside/Out Youth Services

Hawaiian and Polynesian Dance - Magic of the Pacific Ilander Dancers
History of Klemer Music - Klez Shalom
Hula Hoop - New Vue Productions, Inc.
Martial Arts - Brazillian Capoeira
Martial Arts - US Taekwondo Center
Native American Culture - CS Indian Center
Native American Dance - Darrell & Leo Pino – Native American
Olympic Athletes sign autographs and Olympic trivia contests – with prizes - United States Olympic Committee
Police Cruiser - Colorado Springs Police Department
Polynesian Dance - Pacific Pride
Putting Green - 2011 U.S. Women's Open
Science Experiments – Cool Science
Sox the Fox - Sky Sox
Tie dyed filter butterflies - Art Teachers

Food

Authentic African - Dalo
American - Cornmasters
BBQ - Glads
Caribbean - Caribbean Blend
Jamaican – Island Grill
Mexican - Karla's Tamales

Native American - Pueblo Friendship PowWow Association
Popcorn – Frontrange Kettle Corn
Hawaiian Ice - David and Michelle's Hawaiian Shaved Ice
Ice-Cream – Peak Treats

Booths

50 AAA - California State Auto Assoc
86 ACLU
99 Addison Avenue Federal Credit Union
44 Anabela's Dolls & Things
80 Art Teachers
24 Avon
38 Bonfils Colorado Marrow Donor Program
75 Brazillian Capoeira
40 Cancer Awareness
9 Caribbean Blend
51 Colorado College
29 Center for Aikido & Tang Soo Do Studies/US Judo Assn.
76 Centro de la Familia
91 Cheyenne Village
28 Chiropractic Lifestyles
27 Citizens Project
52 City of Colorado Springs/CSPD/CSFD
52 City of Colorado Springs/CSPD/CSFD
52 City of Colorado Springs/CSPD/CSFD
41 Colorado Springs Branch NAACP
54 Colorado Springs Utilities- DELTA Team
1 Colorado's Best Tamale
92 Community Partnership for Child Development / Head Start
8 Conjunto Folkloricos Aire de Mi Tierra, Panama
77 Cool Science
90 COPPeR
10 Commasters
72 Cowboy Steve - Trick Roper
7 David and Michelle's Hawaiian Shaved Ice
33 El Cinco de Mayo, Inc.
87 El Paso County Democratic Party
84 ERA Herman Group Real Estate
64 Everyday Democracy
81 Everyday Living
84 Farmers Insurance
15 Freethinkers of Colorado Springs
53 Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado
2 Glads BBQ
84 Goalview Advisors
59 Goodwill Industries
48 Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce
74 Heuser Chiropractic
82 Imagination Celebration
22 Inside/Out Youth Services
96 Integrity USA
4 Island Grill
83 Jan-Pro of Southern Colorado
31 Japan America Society Southern Colorado
5 Karla's Tamales
98 Life Skills Center
3 Madia's
37 Magic of the Pacific Islander Dancers
88 Mary Kay
72 Mothergoose - Storytelling
36 Na Kamali'i O' Hawai'i
14 Naral Pro-Choice Colorado Foundation
73 New Vue Productions, Inc.
43 Oluwaseyi Drumming and Dance
45 Omo's Essence of Africa
35 One Nation Walking Together
34 Pacific Pride and Island Hearts
11 Peak Treats
97 PFLAG
19 Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging
65 Pikes Peak Arts Council
47 Pikes Peak Behavioral Health Group
20 Pikes Peak Community College
23 Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center
26 Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission
56 Pikes Peak Library District
60 Pikes Peak Workforce Center
39 Progressive Insurance
6 Pueblo Friendship PowWow Association
62 Rocky Mountain Health Services
46 Southern Colorado Aids Project
79 Special Olympics
58 Stargazer's Theatre and Event Center
25 Susan G Komen Race for the Cure - SouthEastern Affiliate
78 Temple Beit Torah
12 Temple Shalom
55 The Gazette
93 The Greenberg Center for Learning and Tolerance
95 The Home Depot
85 The Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival
49 The Resource Exchange
21 Tomboy Tools/Hasty's Homefront Connections
42 Trends of Africa and Alterations
61 United States Olympic Committee
63 University of Colorado at Colorado Springs
57 University of the Rockies
89 Urban Peak
30 US Taekwondo Center
94 Women's Resource Agency
13 YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region

Contacts for information:

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Jeanne Cotter

Public Information Officer

Pikes Peak Workforce Center

2306 E. Pikes Peak Avenue

Colorado Springs, CO 80909

719.667.3730

719.499.0642 (cell)

www.ppwfc.org

Contacts for Stories

Many organizations have supported the efforts of CSDF year after year – find out why they invest in our community this way and what represents a successful return on that investment from one of those supporters.

Diversity at The Home Depot

The Home Depot seeks to build a workforce and partnerships that reflect our customers' communities. We believe that diversity is the catalyst for innovative thinking, entrepreneurial spirit and new ways of building our communities. The greater the diversity of our people, the greater our ability to serve our customers and communities. As a sign of our commitment, The Home Depot has joined forces with national nonprofit diversity organizations and government agencies to develop key hiring and supplier diversity initiatives. Locally, The Home Depot has been a key supporter of the Colorado Springs Diversity Forum since its inception.

For more information on the benefits of supporting CSDF and participating in its programs contact:

Kimberly Ardo, SPHR

District Human Resources Manager Colorado - Dist. 253/210

The Home Depot

Blackberry (720) 323-0043

E-Fax (877) 959-0278

Festival-goers request and look forward to the annual, colorful, traditional performances by cultural organizations represented in our community. Why one of those communities annually demonstrates the culture they celebrate every day?

The Colorado Springs Indian community was delighted to accept an invitation from the Diversity Forum to perform in their inaugural "Everybody Welcome" festival at Acacia Park as traditionally there were very few opportunities to showcase cultural programs in the city. At that and subsequent shows our costumes, music and performances were received very warmly by the family audiences in attendance. Our group was just as pleasantly astounded by the rich cultural talent that made up the rest of the shows.

This event that has grown significantly over the years, with children's activities, booths, food vendors and the awesome local cultural talent that is shared with all. We are very proud to associate our organization with the Colorado Springs Diversity Forum who has provided the leadership in uniting our wonderfully diverse community.

Contact: Jay Patel

Colorado Springs Indian Community Organizer

440-0675 cell

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: fraziji@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

Community Relations Officer

Pikes Peak Library District

dvazquez@ppld.org

719-533-6333x1200

2010 Honoree – Peggy Marshall

Peggy Marshall, best known as the motivating force behind the founding of Cheyenne Village, a non-profit organization serving individuals with developmental disabilities, had many talents and was a true Pioneer in Colorado Springs.

Marshall was born in [Westbrook, Maine](#), in 1913 and attended [Smith College](#) in Northampton, Massachusetts. She and her first husband, [Ford Syre](#), had three children. When Peggy was 31, Ford was killed in [World War II](#). For seven years she and Ford had run the hundred-room Hanover Inn, owned by Dartmouth College. Peggy continued to run it for the next three years while raising three small children.

Not far from the Hanover Inn lived Andrew Marshall, a Boston businessman whose wife had died a few years before leaving him with two small children. She married Andrew Marshall in 1946, and the combined family moved to [Colorado Springs](#) in 1950.

Andrew Marshall served as mayor of Colorado Springs from 1973 to 1975 and he and Peggy had one child together. As a newborn, Ellen suffered an illness that left her with mental and physical disabilities. Peggy wanted Ellen to enjoy an independent lifestyle, which led the couple to join with other parents in 1971 and found Cheyenne Village.

Integrating disabled people into society was unheard of then, and Cheyenne Village became a nationally recognized program.

"Woman's Day" Magazine featured Cheyenne Village in 1972 as a revolutionary program for people with developmental disabilities, where the word "institution" is never heard. Nor is anyone referred to as anything except a human being. There are no cells or locked doors, but there is respect and hope for those who have never had it before. People enrolled in Cheyenne Village go to jobs, movies, church and hair appointments.

Peggy founded the Tactile Gallery at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Theaterworks at UCCS and was a member of the Horticultural Art Society and the Broadmoor Garden Club. Peggy was also a master gardener who designed a wheelchair-accessible garden named to the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Gardens.

Jeannie Porter

Senior Manager - Fund Development

Cheyenne Village

(719) 592-0200 x143

jporter@cheyennevillage.org

Everybody Welcome expansion to a week-long event – **Shirley Martinez**

New groups – **Jeanne Cotter**

Why Festival is held on Sunday this year – **Dee Vazquez**

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

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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
March 3, 2010

Media contact: Dee Vazquez, Communications
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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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