

## COLORADO SPRINGS DIVERSITY FORUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2010

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### **Diversity Forum selected as partner in Sister City 50<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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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