



For Immediate Release

CDBF invites public input for interactive art *imaginAsian Mural Collaboration to feature four live art projects during 2011 festival*

WHAT: 11th Annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, the largest celebration of pan-Asian culture in Colorado

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, July 30-31, 2011

WHERE: Sloan's Lake Park, 25th Ave. & Sheridan Blvd, Denver

HOW MUCH: Free admission!

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The Colorado Dragon Boat Festival is pleased to introduce a brand-new element to our cultural palette this year: The **imaginAsian Mural Collaboration**. It's a showcase of artists working with the public to illustrate a theme for each year.

This year's theme is "Ode to Japan," and we'll have four separate art projects by different organizations being created during the festival. Some of the mural panels from the imaginAsian Collaboration will be auctioned at the annual Fall CDBF Gala as a fundraiser for next year's festival.

Here are the four groups and their projects:

Tell us what YOU think should be in the mural!

Arts Street, a non-profit organization that mentors and trains underserved youth to learn skills so they can enter careers in the arts. Arts Street's "Ode to Japan" project will be based on YOUR suggestions on what represents Japanese culture and art. What springs to mind when you think of Japan? Sushi? Anime? Cool gadgets and video games? We're inviting the public to let us know by sending an email to imaginAsian@cdbf.org, and the Arts Street teachers will incorporate the suggestions. People can send words, sketches or diagrams — the teachers will merge the images into two murals, outline them on the board, and work on the painting on site with help of the public. www.arts-street.org

Watch cool comic artists make art!

Festival-goers can watch the creative artists from Squid Works create a three-sided mural with the "Ode to Japan" theme! Squid Works is a Colorado-based comic book creator's cooperative. Their members consist of independent cartoonists, artists, and writers. While the styles and types of offerings are varied at Squid Works, there is a unifying level of passion and originality provided by its members. Squid Works is actively involved in local comic events and annually administrates events such as the 24-Hour Comic Challenge where participants challenge themselves to draw a 24 page comic book in 24 continuous hours. Check Squid Works out online at www.squidworks.com

Contribute to an urban graffiti-art mural!

Rawh Expressions is a Denver-based mural and clothing company that pushes freedom of expression for youth. Through painting, poetry, photography, fashion, and other innovative forms of art, they create work that is authentic and unexpected. They work with the community to spark creativity and collaborate with local artists to produce diverse and unique designs. Their creativity comes straight from their sketchbook, served RAWH. You can help three Rawh artists, Ratha Sok, Khundy Son and Jin Oh with their CDBF project and maybe even get to spray paint a bit of graffiti on the mural panels. www.be2kool.com

Attach notes, comments, art, crafts, fabric to multimedia artwork!

This will be a multimedia collaboration with your contributions attached along with crocheted flowers and other Japan-themed items, to a piece constructed by the Ladies Fancywork Society. Festival guests can even bring over origami cranes and other pieces they've folded from the Dragonland kids' area and attach them to the mural. The Ladies Fancywork Society began in 2007 as an underground crochet street-art crew bent on spreading fiber art throughout Denver and has grown into an artist collective capable of putting together large-scale projects, international art shows, and installations. People may have seen the LFS's crocheted handiwork on area construction site fences, or on the giant blue bear at the Colorado Convention Center. www.ladiesfancyworksociety.com

ABOUT THE COLORADO DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

Established in 2001, the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival has drawn over 100,000 visitors annually to celebrate Colorado's diverse Asian Pacific American (APA) communities. The Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, has become the region's fastest growing, family-friendly summer festival. CDBF offers festival-goers the opportunity to explore APA culture through performances, educational programs, arts and crafts, shopping, dining and the exciting athletic competition of dragon boat racing.

The 11th Annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival will be held at Denver's Sloan's Lake Park on July 30-31, 2011.

It's your weekend passport to Asia and the Pacific!

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