



The Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership



Participates in the Gateway to the Rockies Parade, Aurora, September 17, 2005



Above: Several members of the Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership and Friends of the Partnership gather at Havana Park just prior to the Gateway to the Rockies Parade, 2005.

Below: The Thai contingency.



Above: In the foreground, Eed Cefkin, left, and Patty Coumts pose in front of the MLK Library and Municipal Services Center, where a festival of food and music, including children's activities, followed the parade at Fletcher Plaza.

A Multiplicity of Asian Pacific American Cultures

Aurora's Gateway to the Rockies Parade theme this year was "Celebrating Cultural Diversity", and the Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership decided, naturally, to enter the parade--10 years after winning our first of 10 trophies and awards. The judges enjoyed the diversity and the colorful attire and beautiful umbrellas of the walking unit. Two awards were given to the entry: Second Place for Non-Performance Walking and Third Place for Novelty. Perhaps the children made us a 'novelty' this year. They were so adorable passing out Asian candies to the crowd!

Congratulations to our parade co-chairs **Eed Cefkin**, President of the Thai Cultural Connection, and **Edith Pasion**, President of the Philippine American Society of Colorado. Other participants included past Partnership Co-Chairs, **Chris Wanifuchi**, who brought her darling granddaughter, **Lauren Sanchez**, and **Patty Coumts**, as well as Steering Committee members **Harvey Lee** of Raytheon and his two daughters **Sophie** and **Charlotte**, **Batbayar Yanjiv**, who carried the Partnership banner with her husband, **Khurelbaatar Dorjpalam**, and **George and Helen Yoshida**, the Partnership's most faithful volunteers. Also, walking with colorful umbrellas were Edith Pasion's sister, **Elisa Ayo**, and two beautiful Filipino young ladies **Anna Perez** and **Crystal Dominguez**. Members of the **Thai community** rounded out the participation, including several young and handsome Thai classical musicians. Although we missed **Nestor and Nora Mercado**, editors of the *Asian Pacific American Times*, as it turns out, they walked, too--with **Sum Nguyen**, candidate for the Aurora City Council. **Pim Fitt** of the Colorado Thai Heritage Preservation Association entered separately from the Partnership this year and won a first place trophy. Congratulations, Pim! Past Co-Chair **Jeff Seifried** brought water for everyone on this perfect day for a parade.

The Gateway to the Rockies Parade is an annual event hosted by the Northern Aurora Business Association in cooperation with the City of Aurora and several corporate sponsors. Thanks to everyone who participated!



Children always steal the show! Harvey Lee's daughters, Sophie and Charlotte, changed their minds about riding in the wagon and enjoyed the walk, the crowd and the camera. Next year, we'll have them singing and dancing!



Above clockwise from top left: four PASCO beauties, Naliya Sanithkhum and Lauren Sanchez, Helen & George Yoshida, Khurelbaatar Dorjpalam and Batbayar Yanjiv.