

Axum, Ethiopia

DENVER'S SISTER CITY

Relationship Established 1995



In Denver ...

Visit a piece of Axum in our City



City of Axum Park you'll find murals on building walls and basketball court. You will also find replicas of the Obelisk of Axum and the toppled obelisk on the children's playground commissioned by the City of Denver as reminders for the close relationship built between the two cities.



A Dress from Axum and a Bronze Sculpture The Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library museum displays a Tigrayan dress given to Mayor Wellington Webb's wife Wilma Webb during their visit to Axum for the inauguration of the Denver-Axum Sister Cities partnership. Denver City Hall also has a 3-foot bronze replica of the Obelisk of Axum on the third floor as part of the sister cities exhibit.

For more Information, news of upcoming events, or to get involved with the Committee, contact:

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About Axum

Axum is a historic city located in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. It holds a prominent place in Ethiopian history and culture, known for its ancient origins and rich heritage. Axum's significance extends from its role as a major trading hub to its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Situated at an elevation of about 6,235 feet above sea level, Axum boasts a history that dates back thousands of years. Its historical importance has earned it the reputation of being the "Cradle of Ethiopian Civilization".



Axum's Past

- ✓ Axum has a storied history dating back over 2,000 years and was a pivotal center for trade along ancient routes, including the fabled route to the Red Sea.
- ✓ In the 4th century AD, Axum was a major player in the world, with its kingdom extending from the Nile to southern Arabia.
- ✓ Axum's towering obelisks, some of which remain to this day, are a testament to its advanced architecture and culture.
- ✓ One obelisk, removed from the site and taken to Rome as a war trophy during the Italian occupation, was returned to Axum in 2005 and re-erected in 2008, necessitating the construction of the airport.

Committee Purpose and Activities

The Denver-Axum Committee spearheads a diverse array of cultural, educational, and humanitarian initiatives, fostering peace and nurturing connections between our sister cities. Recent endeavors encompass:

- ✓ Annual Ashenda Festival at City of Axum Park in partnership with Tigray Community Colorado
- ✓ Mural by Jack Price II and Park Hill Financial District on the City of Axum Park's basketball court commemorates Denver's Sister City.
- ✓ In response to the conflict in Tigray, the Axum Committee collaborated with the Tigray Community of Colorado by co-sponsoring the documentary "Fight for Tigray", speaking at virtual prayer vigils and in-person protests, and meeting with Colorado's congressional representatives concerning the conflict.
- ✓ Recent humanitarian efforts include over \$20,000 in donations for Kidiste Mariam General Hospital in Axum for medical equipment and supplies.
- ✓ Members of the Axum and Nairobi Committees attended and held leadership roles in the 2023 Sister Cities International Africa Summit held in Cape Town in February 2023. Tsegaye Hailu and Daniel Yohannes, founders of the Axum Committee, were honored as Elders during the Summit.



Denver Street in Axum

A Symbol of Unity
and Friendship

Established in 1995, the Sister City connection between Denver, Colorado and Axum, Ethiopia embodies a story of solidarity and friendship. Crafted by visionaries including Daniel Yohannes, Councilman Hiawatha Davis, and Tsegaye Hailu, with the official seal of approval from Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, the partnership bloomed in the wake of Axum's challenges with civil strife and recurring droughts. Serving as a beacon of unity, this alliance underscores the spirit of the Sister Cities movement, uniting cities for mutual growth and support. Evolving into a vibrant platform for cultural exchange, cooperative projects, and enduring bonds, the relationship mirrors the movement's core ideals of global harmony and collaboration.