

# *Kunming, China*

## DENVER'S SISTER CITY

Relationship Established 1986



## In Denver ...

Visit Kunming's two major gifts to our City



**The Denver Zoo** is home to the Bronze Peacock sculpture signifying the people of Kunming's wish for "Eternal Good Fortune" for the people of Denver. It sits on the edge of Carousel Meadow.



**Kunming Park** (Grant and Harvard) has several large stones from the Stone Forest—a major geological tourist destination near the City of Kunming

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

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## About Kunming

Kunming is the capital of Yunnan Province in Southwest China. Yunnan borders Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and the Tibet Autonomous Region. Similar to its mile-high sister city it is 6,235 feet above sea level. However, its unusually temperate climate and year-round flowers have earned it the nickname "The City of Eternal Spring". Kunming is one of China's most culturally diverse cities and is home to over two dozen ethnic minorities. Its major attractions include Green Lake Park, Dianchi Lake (6th largest lake in China), the Western Hills and the nearby Stone Forest. With a population of over 8 million, Kunming is rapidly growing and proud of its leadership in sustainability.



## Kunming's Past

- ✓ Kunming has a 2000+-year history and was once known as the "Gateway" to the Southern Silk Road to India.
- ✓ In the 13th Century Marco Polo visited Kunming and, according to local residents, "discovered" pizza.
- ✓ In the 19th Century it was an important sphere of influence for the French who built a rail line between Kunming and Hanoi.
- ✓ During WWII Kunming was essential to the American war effort. It was the transport terminus for the Burma Road and the Hump. It became the headquarters for the famous Flying Tigers and later for U.S. pilots who "flew the hump" at great risk.

## Committee Purpose and Activities

The Denver-Kunming Committee leads a wide range of cultural, educational and humanitarian events to promote peace and build bridges between our sister cities. Recent activities include:

- ✓ Student exchanges and adult trips to Kunming
- ✓ Annual Chinese New Year Banquet and Celebration
- ✓ Annual Mid-Autumn Festival Picnic in Kunming Park
- ✓ Art exchanges
- ✓ Sports exchanges
- ✓ Through a Sister Cities International grant, Denver, Kunming and Nairobi collaborated on a humanitarian project for a Nairobi school.
- ✓ Reciprocal trade delegations



### John H. Yee Scholarship Fund for Student Exchanges

John H. Yee was a principal founder of the Kunming-Denver relationship. Born and raised near Kunming, he served as a translator for the Flying Tigers during World War II. Mr. Yee moved to the Denver area shortly after the war to teach and was an ongoing leader and inspiration for many Denver-Kunming Committee activities until his death in 2019. In honor of his memory and love for students, the Committee established the John H. Yee Scholarship to fund student trips to Kunming.