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**VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON, BECOMES MECCA FOR ANIME ENTHUSIASTS OVER
LABOR DAY WEEKEND**
More than 4,000 to attend ninth-annual Kumoricon convention

VANCOUVER, Wash. — During the last weekend before school starts and autumn sets in, thousands of anime fans will be gathering in downtown Vancouver dressed up in elaborate costumes for Kumoricon, a regional convention in its ninth year. Attendees dressed up as characters ranging from animated icons to science fiction mainstays will be gathering at the Red Lion at the Quay and Hilton Vancouver Washington hotels enjoying everything from gaming and dancing to exhibits, panel presentations and workshops.

“We’re excited to welcome back such a fun special-interest group to Vancouver,” said Kim Bennett, president and CEO of Vancouver USA Regional Tourism Office. “The city is the perfect setting for large conventions such as Kumoricon because we have so much to offer when attendees are not participating in meetings and planned activities. There are great restaurants and bars, theaters, shops, trails, and Esther Short Park all within walking distance of the Hilton and the Red Lion at the Quay.”

Kumoricon was last held in Vancouver in 2007 at the Hilton. Because convention organizers are anticipating more than 4,000 attendees this year, approximately 1,000 more than attended in 2007, the event has grown to occupy two host hotels.

For those who are unfamiliar, anime and manga refer to illustrated books and TV shows or movies that gained popularity in Japan and have spread throughout the world. There are stories and characters that appeal to all ages and genders. Kumoricon is a convention where those who enjoy the anime and manga culture come to: attend games, dances, and panel presentations; meet special guests including voice actors; engage in cosplay, a practice in which players dress up as characters; purchase items from vendors or sell their own wares; and get to know other local and regional enthusiasts. For more information on Kumoricon, please visit www.kumoricon.com.

About Vancouver USA Regional Tourism Office

Vancouver USA Regional Tourism Office (formerly Southwest Washington Convention & Visitors Bureau) is an economic development organization responsible for competitively marketing Vancouver and the surrounding area as a destination for meetings, conventions, and group and leisure travelers. The organization's mission is to promote Vancouver and Clark County by increasing convention and visitor business. For more information call 877-224-4214, or log on to www.VisitVancouverUSA.com.

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