

The global community came to the banks of the Spokane River for Expo '74 to celebrate the first environmental worlds fair. The following words opened this international celebration at Spokane Falls:

**We believe ...**

that the universe is a grand design in which man and nature are one.

That planet earth, a small part of the universe, is the residence of mortal man whose needs and aspirations are limited by the finite resources of planet earth and man's own finite existence.

That man is the custodian of his environment as the environment is the custodian of man.

That man, in his growing wisdom, will renounce the age-old boast of conquering nature, lest nature conquer man.

That the skies and the seas and the bountiful earth from which man draws his sustenance are the preserves of all mankind and that in the brotherhood they derive from nature, the nations of the earth will join together in the preservation of the fragile natural heritage of our planet.

**We believe –**

In the restoration of the reverence of nature which once filled our own land where the American Indian roamed in respectful concert with his environment.

**We believe –**

That the human spirit itself must set its own limitations to achieve a beauty and order and the diversity that will fill the hearts of the children of the world with a new and happier vision of their destiny.

That from this City of Spokane there goes forth today to the world the message and challenge that the time of great environmental awakening is at hand.

All this we believe.

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Delivered by actor Danny Kaye, May 4, 1974, before 85,000 people gathered at Spokane Falls. [William T. Youngs, *The Fair and the Falls: Spokane's Expo '74*, EWU Press, 1996