



Preserving the Past, Enriching the Future

For Immediate Release
Contact: Kurt Zwolfer, 334-2120
kurt.zwolfer@ishs.idaho.gov
www.history.idaho.gov/museum.html

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Dia de los Muertos Brings Life to the Museum

BOISE, IDAHO: Dia de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead), is a traditional Mexican holiday that is celebrated on November 2, the day after All Saints Day. On this day, many believe that a deceased person's soul returns to be with their family and friends. In honor of the holiday, the Idaho State Historical Museum will host an exciting exhibit that runs for two weeks, October 25-November 5th. The museum will be transformed by local artist and schoolchildren who will create elaborate traditional and contemporary altars and art throughout the building. On Wednesday, November 2, from 5:00 – 9:00 pm, the museum will host a grand celebration with food, music, and kid's activities. This evening event is free to the public. Regular admission fees apply during the rest of the exhibit.

According to Kurt Zwolfer, education specialist at the Museum, "This celebration is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the traditions and culture of Mexico and other Central American countries." The spirits that come to visit are received with elaborate altars covered with food, photographs, flowers, and family heirlooms for them to enjoy. The altars also contain traditional folk art with colorful perforated paper designs (papel picado), decorated candles, and skulls (calaveras) made out of sugar or paper mache. In some regions of Mexico, family members travel to cemeteries to decorate their loved one's graves and share a meal with the deceased. Unlike

Halloween, which comes a few days before and shares some of the skeletal imagery, the holiday is not meant to be scary. Instead it is a celebration of life, death, and family memory. The exhibit runs from October 25, 2011 through November 5, 2011. (Regular admission fees apply)

The Dia de los Muertos exhibit is sponsored by The Friends of the Museum, the Mexican Consulate in Boise, The Boise Department of Arts and History, The Idaho Arts Commission, Zamzows, and the Idaho State Historical Society. For more information contact (208) 334-2120 or visit www.history.idaho.gov.

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The Idaho State Historical Society is an extraordinary system of cultural and historic resources comprised of the Idaho State Historical Museum, State Archives, State Historic Preservation Office, and Historic Sites Program. We seek to inspire, enrich and engage all Idahoans by leading the state in preserving, sharing, and using history and cultural resources relevant to today to inform and influence the future. Learn more about ISHS at www.history.idaho.gov.