

# Community Ofrendas

October - November 2, 2017

Greetings from the Notre Dame Center for Arts & Culture (NDCAC) and the Indiana University South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center (CRHC). For many years the University of Notre Dame has been hosting an art exhibit showcasing altars created by artists to remember those who are no longer living among us. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year that the annual celebration will take place at the NDCAC and CRHC. We are extending an invitation to members of the South Bend community who would like to participate in the 2017 celebration by creating their own *altars*.

*Ofrendas* (offerings) or *Altars* (altars) are made in memory of the deceased and are a good example of the cultural hybridity of this holiday. These *altars/ofrendas* are either built at the gravesite or in the home, and include offerings of food, water, and personal possessions of the deceased. Oftentimes photographs of the deceased are placed within the *ofrenda*, usually a three-tier pyramid type structure. The bottom level representing Mitlan the underworld, the middle section representing earth and the top representing the heavens. A traditional ofrenda includes the four elements of wind, fire, water and earth, represented through papel picado (wind), candles (fire), beverages (water) and flowers (earth). Other elements included in a traditional altar are personal belongings or any items that honor your loved one.

This year we are inviting community members to create their own *ofrendas* dedicated to a deceased loved one in the Crossroads Gallery at the NDCAC or at the CRHC. These ofrendas are the focus of the Día de los Muertos event being held on Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ofrendas are to be installed in the gallery during September 2017 for display through the month of October and removed immediately at the end of the November 2<sup>nd</sup> celebration. If you are interested in participating in the creation of a community ofrenda, please fill out the form attached. All participants must comply with the requirements listed below upon entering.

## Guidelines for Ofrendas

- The ofrenda must be based on the Mexican tradition of Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), but can be contemporary in nature.
- Ofrendas at the NDCAC will be built from September 26 – 30, on display through October, and will be taken down after the November 2<sup>nd</sup> celebration. Ofrenda items may be taken home immediately after the event ends at 7:30<sub>PM</sub> or during NDCAC business hours through November 3, 2017.
- At the NDCAC a 7' x 5.5' x 3' (H X W X D) plot of space will be allocated per ofrenda. Tables and platforms used must be no larger than the 5' W x 3' D and no taller than 6 ft.
- Ofrendas at the CRHC will be built from October 2 – 6, on display through October, and will be taken down after the November 2<sup>nd</sup> celebration. Ofrenda items may be taken home immediately after the event ends at 7:30<sub>PM</sub> or during CRHC business hours through November 3, 2017.
- At the CRHC a 7' x 1' x 3' plot of space will be allocated per ofrenda. This space would be best for non-traditional ofrendas or those that are more two-dimensional. Everything installed here must use temporary hanging methods (poster putty, command hooks/strips, or the provided hanging system).
- Each participant is responsible for delivery, supplies, setup and takedown of their altar.
- The NDCAC & CRHC will monitor decorative items used for ofrendas within reason. We

ask that ofrendas do not contain items of irreplaceable personal value.

- Battery operated candles are okay. Candles with open flames will be NOT be allowed.
- Altars cannot include fire, smoke, perishable items or anything that may cause harm or a threat to the surrounding area and guests.
- NDCAC/CRHC staff reserve the right to ask that any restricted items be removed immediately.
- Be creative and practical, think about how you can carry all the supplies you will need and how much time it will take to set up and take down.
- Set up begins on September 26<sup>th</sup>. You must contact Alex Schaufele to find your designated area and coordinate installation times.
- Breakdown will begin at 7:30<sup>PM</sup> on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and your designated area must be clear of your items. We are not responsible for the loss of any altar items.
- Feel free to use the space provided as you see fit to create your altar. (See example below courtesy of the National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago)

Below are suggestions and photographs for an easy way to bring and build your altar. This website also has excellent information on how to build an altar:

<http://www.art-is-fun.com/dia-de-los-muertos-altar>. Once your proposal has been approved, the Art Coordinator from the Notre Dame Center for Arts & Culture will contact you to discuss the details and location of your ofrenda.

If you are interested in building an *ofrenda* and participate in our festival see instructions below.

1. Download and fill out page 3.
2. Email it to Alex Schaufele at [aschaufe@nd.edu](mailto:aschaufe@nd.edu) or drop off at the Notre Dame Center for Arts & Culture at 1045 W. Washington Street, South Bend.
3. Proposals are due by 4:30PM September 19, 2017.

Thank you!



# Community Ofrenda Participation Form

\*Please print legibly.

**Organization Name:**

**Main Contact Name:**

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**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Name of Honored:**

**Date Deceased:**

**Date Born:**

**Ofrenda Description:**

**List of items:**

I will need a table to be provided

I have read and understood the requirements/restrictions:

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Signature

Date