



REMEMBER, HONOR, CELEBRATE: ALTAR EXHIBITION

Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is considered one of the most important cultural celebrations in Latin America. With ancient roots in Mesoamerica, the celebration as we know it today is largely a combination of indigenous and European cultural practices that demonstrates the culture's strong sense of love and respect for one's ancestors, while celebrating the continuance of life. At the heart of the celebration of Día de los Muertos is the altar—a multi-tiered, ritual platform where offerings, or *ofrendas*, for the dead are placed.

In conjunction with Denver Botanic Gardens' annual celebration of Día de los Muertos, we have expanded into a month-long Days of the Dead event with two exhibits and related programs in an effort to further educate and inspire our diverse community as well as create connections to a shared past.

Denver Botanic Gardens invites artists, community groups, and individuals to create and display an *ofrenda* (altar or shrine) inside a large—scale *nicho* -- to pay homage to someone special, a group of people, or a cause – that will be displayed in the first annual outdoor Days of the Dead exhibition.

WHAT IS A NICHOS?



Dating back to the Spanish Colonial period, the tradition of creating ornately decorated tin plate frames, or *nichos*, has come to define Mexican folk art. *Nichos* are small, hand-made tin boxes constructed to display lovingly crafted scenarios.

Many Day of the Dead altars will include *nichos* as a way of rendering tribute to a person of great significance to the artist. This 3-dimensional box is often decorated by a variety of images or objects and can be accentuated with bright colors. Each is unique, acting as a showcase for that artist's character – containing political themes, images of saints or other deities, even depictions of everyday life. The *nicho* is a statement that demonstrates that which is important to the creator.



OVERVIEW

<p>2016 Important Dates</p>	<p>September 30: Deadline to register October 7 & 8: Installation of altars October 10: Exhibit opens November 5: Día de los Muertos celebration 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. November 6 : Last day of exhibit November 7 & 8: Remove altar items</p> <p>Mark your calendars! As a thank you for creating your altar, you/your group will be invited to a special opening reception on Sunday, October 9 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.</p>
<p>Project Description</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denver Botanic Gardens will provide each individual, or group, one <i>nicho</i> to create their <i>ofrenda</i>. • Each <i>nicho</i> is made from milled steel with a removable Plexiglas front (with hardware). • Dimensions of nichos are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Large-scale <i>nichos</i>: 8'h x 4'w x 1.5'd ○ Small-scale <i>nichos</i>: 5' h x 3'w x 1. 5'd
<p>What to Bring</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Necessary items for creating your <i>ofrendas</i> such as photos, flowers (preferably fake), and any personal items belonging to your loved ones. • Unopened bottles of drinks • Hooks for hanging your items within your <i>nicho</i> • Tablecloths • LED candles • Unopened items of food <p>NO ALCOHOL or REAL FOOD!</p>

See FAQs on page 5 for more information.

DENVER BOTANIC
GARDENS

DAYS OF THE DEAD

OCT. 10 – NOV. 6 REMEMBER, HONOR, CELEBRATE



REGISTRATION FORM

Complete this form and submit it electronically in a PDF to: dia@botanicgardens.org.

Or mail to:

Denver Botanic Gardens
Attn.: Yvonne Garcia-Bardwell
909 York Street
Denver, Co 80206

Contact name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

To whom are you dedicating the altar: _____

SETTING UP YOUR ALTAR

Please check the time you will arrive at Denver Botanic Gardens to set up your altar.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

- 8 – 10 a.m.
- 10 a.m. – Noon
- 1 – 3 p.m.
- 3 – 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

- 8 – 10 a.m.
- 10 a.m. – Noon
- 1 – 3 p.m.
- 3 – 5 p.m.

You may take as long as you need to set up on either both days. **NO ALTAR SETUP IS ALLOWED AFTER OCTOBER 9** as the Gardens' staff needs to finish the exhibit before the opening reception.

TEAR-DOWN: All materials received will be available for pick up from Denver Botanic Gardens **no later than Wednesday, November 9 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.** After that time they may be thrown away.

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INDEMNIFICATION

HOLD HARMLESS FROM LIABILITY: I hereby hold harmless and release Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG) (the staff or any representative) from any and all, loss, theft or damage to my altar, sustained by my participation in Denver Botanic Gardens Days of the Dead Exhibition.

Signature

By typing your name on this line, it denotes an authorized signature.

Date

Print Name

Date

PHOTO RELEASE: I hereby authorize Denver Botanic Gardens to film or photograph my altar. I further understand and acknowledge that any video, photographic or other images obtained of my altar through participation in the Denver Botanic Gardens Days of the Dead Exhibition are the property of Denver Botanic Gardens and may be used for publicity and educational purposes.

Signature

By typing your name on this line, it denotes an authorized signature.

Date

Print Name

Date

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FAQs

Is there a fee to participate?

There is no cost to participate in the exhibit.

What type of media/materials can I use for my *ofrenda*? Does it have to be traditional?

We encourage participants to interpret the idea of the *nicho* in any way they wish. Denver Botanic Gardens will provide ready-made structures for the participants, however artists must provide all other materials and equipment, including photos and glue, if applicable. Organic materials, including plants and food, are not allowed in the structures.

When is the installation and de-installation of *nichos*?

Installation takes place October 7 and 8 during regular business hours (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.). De-installation must take place either on Monday, November 7 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. or Tuesday, November 8, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. *Ofrendas* not dismantled by 5 p.m. on November 9 will be dismantled and disposed of.

Will I be able to add items to my altar once the exhibit opens?

No. Once the exhibit opens, you will not be allowed to access your *ofrenda*. We encourage you to bring all necessary items for display during installation times.