



Celebrate Día de los Muertos in the Downtown Arts District

EL PASO, Texas – The Downtown Arts District invites the public to celebrate Día de los Muertos starting Saturday, October 27, through Saturday, November 4, with festivities taking place at the El Paso Museum of History (EPMH), the El Paso Museum of Art (EPMA), the Downtown Art and Farmers Market and the El Paso Public Library.

“The Downtown Arts District is the epicenter for us to celebrate El Paso’s border culture and heritage,” said Museums and Cultural Affairs Department Director Tracey Jerome. “We are excited to collaborate among our museums and the library to bring a true celebration of Día de los Muertos to downtown El Paso.”

Starting at noon on October 27, visitors to the EPMH can learn about the traditions and symbols of Día de los Muertos. Dr. Yolanda Leyva, associate professor of History at UTEP, will discuss the indigenous roots of Día de los Muertos and how the celebration is continued today. In 2008, UNESCO recognized the importance of Día de los Muertos by adding the holiday to its list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

EPMA will once again collaborate with the Mexican Consulate to host Altar de Muertos at 6 p.m. Thursday, November 1. The altar is dedicated to the works of art by featured exhibition artist Jose Guadalupe Posada whose imagery was key to the initial popularization of the calavera figure in Mexico. The altar will be on view from November 1 to November 4.

The festivities will conclude on Saturday, November 3, with an afternoon of activities. Starting at 2 p.m., the EPMA will host Fiesta de Muertos with a variety of activities including a photography workshop as well as a hands-on mask and headpiece-decorating workshop. Docents will be leading tours of the exhibition *After Posada: Revolution* and El Paso artists Francisco Delgado and Manuel Guerra will also be available during a printmaking workshop.

Cleveland Square Park will transform into a Día de los Muertos market hosted by the Downtown Art and Farmers Market from 4 p.m. to 8 pm. Visitors can make their own alebrije inside the EPMH and help decorate the community altar. Visitors to the El Paso Public Library’s Main branch can make Día de los Muertos themed crafts to help celebrate the day.

EPMA will host a Noche de Calaveras Parade at 5 p.m. with mariachis, dancers, marching bands, catrinas, calavera masks and large-scale marionettes designed by Mexico City artist collective Colectivo Ultima Hora. The collective is featured every year during Mexico City’s Day of the Dead festivities and are known for their marionettes’ cameo in the James Bond Film: *Spectre*.

Visitors to the Día de los Muertos celebrations are encouraged to bring candles, LED lights, flowers, and remembrances of loved ones as well as to dress up and wear Day of the Dead costumes. For more information please visit, EPMA.art, or history.elpasotexas.gov.

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