



Community Ofrendas

October 29th, 2017

3-8 p.m.

Greetings from the National Museum of Mexican Art. This year marks the Museum's 31st annual *Día de los Muertos* celebration. Each year the Museum hosts an international art exhibit showcasing altars created by artists to remember those who are no longer living among us. This year we are extending this invitation to members of the Chicago community who would like to participate in this year's celebration by creating their own altars.

Ofrendas (offerings) or *altares* (altars) are made in honor of the deceased and are a good example of the cultural hybridity of this holiday. These *altares/ofrendas* are either built at the gravesite or in the home and incorporate offerings of food, water, and personal possessions of the deceased. Often a photograph of the deceased is placed within the *ofrenda*. Usually a three-tier pyramid type structure is built. The bottom level represents Mictlan, the underworld, the middle section represents earth, and the top represents 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 loved one who is no longer with us. The NMMA is utilizing the Harrison Park Soccer Field that is directly behind the Museum for an outdoor festival held on Sunday, October 29th. If you are interested in participating in the creation of a community ofrenda, please fill out the form below. All participants must comply with the requirements listed below upon entering.

There is a \$15.00 reservation fee per ofrenda space. Please visit

<https://co.clickandpledge.com/advanced/default.aspx?wid=129883> to reserve your space. All proceeds will support Dia de los Muertos Xicago. We thank you and look forward to celebrating this special day with you and your loved ones.

Guidelines for Ofrendas

- The ofrenda must be based on a Mexican tradition of Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), but can be contemporary in nature.
- Ofrendas will be built on October 29th and will be taken down immediately after the evening's celebration, which ends at 8 p.m.
- Each participant is responsible for delivery, supplies, set-up and take-down of their ofrenda.
- A 6' x 5' x 7' (H X W X D) plot of space will be allocated per ofrenda.
- Tables and platforms used must be no larger than 5' W x 7' D and no taller than 6 ft.
- The National Museum of Mexican Art is not responsible for monitoring decorative items used for ofrendas. We ask that ofrendas be supervised at all times.
- Altars will be created rain or shine.
- There will be no tent covering this area so please plan accordingly in case of rain.
- 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.
- NMMA 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 at 1 p.m. and you must check-in with Eric Garcia or Carina Yopez to find your designated area.
- Break-down will begin at 8 p.m. and your designated area must be clean from your items or we are not responsible for the loss of any supplies.
- Feel free to use the space provided as you see fit to create your altar. (see example below)
- Please stay until the end of the celebration to share the story of your loved one and for all to have the opportunity to see your ofrenda.

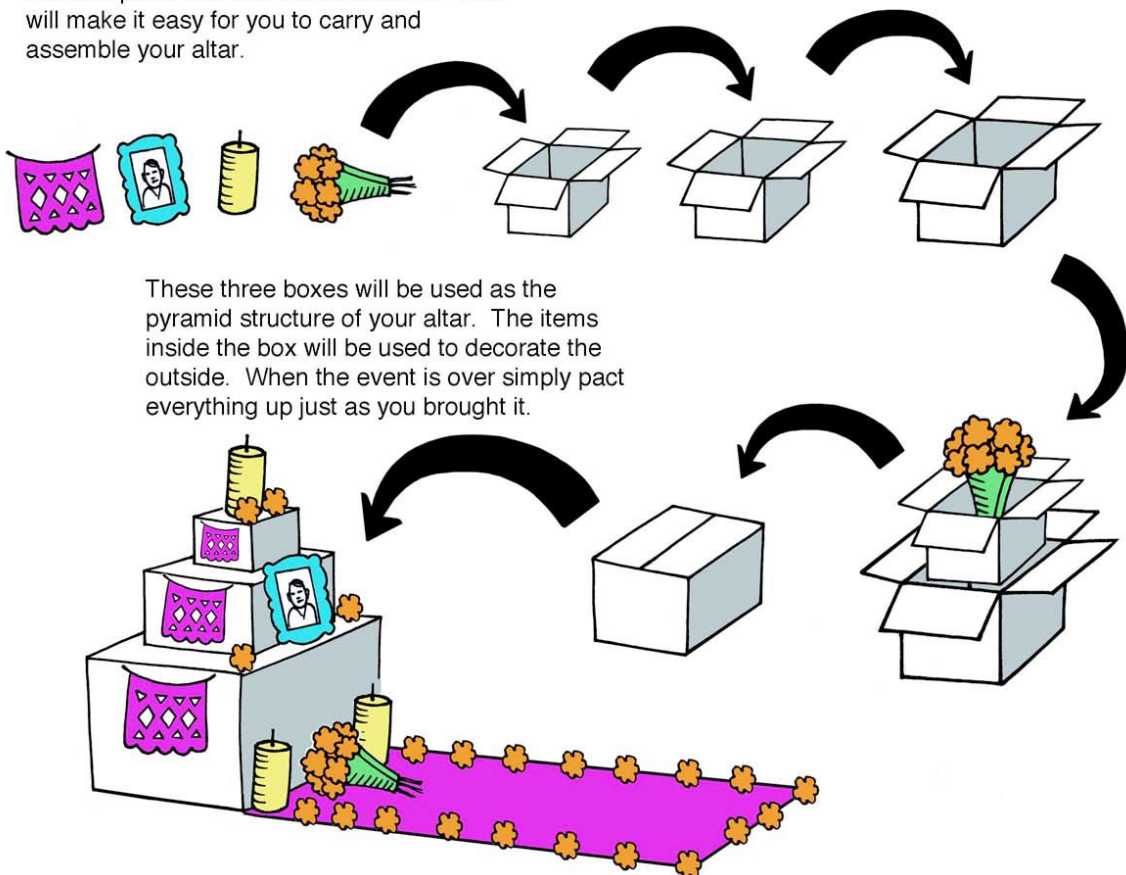
Below are suggestions for one way to bring and build your altar. Once your proposal has been approved, someone from the National Museum of Mexican Art will contact you to discuss the details and location of your ofrenda.

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

1. Download and fill out page 4.
2. Email to Carina Yopez at cyepez@nationalmuseumofmexicanart or Eric Garcia at eric.garcia@nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org or drop off at National Museum of Mexican Art at 1852 W. 19th Street, Chicago.
3. Visit <https://co.clickandpledge.com/advanced/default.aspx?wid=129883> to pay your \$15.00 reservation fee online.

Thank you!

Place photographs, flowers and decorations inside a box. Place this box into a bigger box and place that one inside another. This will make it easy for you to carry and assemble your altar.



These three boxes will be used as the pyramid structure of your altar. The items inside the box will be used to decorate the outside. When the event is over simply pack everything up just as you brought it.

**National Museum of Mexican Art
Community Ofrenda Participation Form**

Full Name: _____

Phone: _____ **City:** _____

Email: _____

Name of Deceased: _____

Date Deceased: _____ **Date Born:** _____

Ofrenda Description:

List of items:

I have read and understood the requirements/restrictions:

Signature **Date**