



# FALL IN LOVE

FORT LAUDERDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Fran Folic  
GPR | Goodman Public Relations  
(954) 446-0807  
[fran@goodmanpr.com](mailto:fran@goodmanpr.com)

**For Immediate Release**

**CELEBRATE THE COLORFUL TRADITIONS OF MEXICO'S  
DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS (DAY OF THE DEAD) DURING "OFRENDAS,"  
A CULTURAL IMMERSION EXHIBIT, ON DISPLAY FROM OCTOBER 7  
– NOVEMBER 2 AT FORT LAUDERDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.** (September 14, 2018) – Celebrate the colorful traditions and heritage of Mexico's Día de los Muertos, this fall, during "Ofrendas," a cultural immersion exhibit, opening Sunday, October 7 at [Fort Lauderdale Historical Society](#). The History Museum housed in the New River Inn on the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society campus will be awash in bold hues and imaginative decor as it showcases both fine art and creative community memorial altars or "ofrendas," covered in photographs, flowers and favorite items of the dearly departed. Associated activities will include family fun on opening day, a Community Conversation about Day of the Dead with an artifact repatriation ceremony and a closing evening of parades, costumes and revelry on Friday, November 2.

"For the past five years, the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society has worked closely with cultural organizations, artists and the city to bring residents and visitors an authentic 'Ofrendas' Day of the Dead experience," said Patricia Zeiler, executive director of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society. "Our month-long celebration of Mexico will feature a curated display of artful community 'Ofrendas,' family fun activities and an opportunity to participate in merriment through the streets of Downtown."

**Activities and events for this year's "Ofrendas" are as follows:**

**Family Fun Day Exhibit Opening on Sunday, October 7, from noon – 4 p.m.; Free**  
Share your love of Fort Lauderdale History and culture and learn about Mexico's favorite public holiday - Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). Family Fun Day is a free public event featuring a shadow puppet show, art activities, a craft sale and a curator's tour of the community "Ofrendas" and art exhibition.

**Community Conversation and Artifact Repatriation Ceremony with Dr. Horacio Saavedra, Consul General of Mexico, on Monday, October 29 at 6 p.m.; Free**

Join the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society for discussion about the historical traditions of Day of the Dead in Mexico. As part of this year's conversation, a very special artifact from the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society collection - a pre-Columbian copper bell originating from the Gulf Coast of Mexico - will be accepted by Dr. Horacio Saavedra, consul general of Mexico, on behalf of Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History. This repatriation is the result of a year of negotiation and communication between the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, various museum and historical researchers and the Mexican government. The event is free; however, RSVPs are required by October 1 at <https://bit.ly/2AsF0xn>.

### **Florida Day of the Dead Celebration and Exhibit Closing on Friday, November 2, from noon - 8 p.m.**

Stake your spot on the lawn of Fort Lauderdale Historical Society at 6:30 p.m. to enjoy the 9th annual colorful skeleton processional sponsored by Riverwalk, City of Fort Lauderdale, Puppet Network and Puppet Guild of South Florida. Community members in skeleton costumes and masks, many with giant puppets, will meander down the Riverwalk through the Historic District and downtown Himmarshee in remembrance of our ancestors. Dr. Horacio Saavedra, consul general of Mexico and city officials will kick-off the parade while Mariachi musicians lead the way as thousands of skeletons stream from Huizenga Plaza west along the Riverwalk, to head north on SW 3rd Avenue where the celebration continues at Revolution Live Entertainment Complex. Prior to and during the event, Fort Lauderdale Historical Society will welcome guests to visit "Ofrendas", traditional remembrance altars, and an art exhibition curated by Heather Calderon, from noon to 8 p.m. Visit [www.dayofthedeadflorida.com](http://www.dayofthedeadflorida.com) for schedule information.

This "Ofrendas" exhibit is part of Fort Lauderdale Historical Society's "Fall in Love" Florida resident discount program. "Fall in Love" will offer residents a chance to experience history in the heart of Downtown Fort Lauderdale, participate in activities and view new exhibits at 50% off general admission each visit through November 30 (some exclusions apply) and receive 25% off of a \$100 yearly membership which includes admission to hundreds of museums around the US through the Southeast Museums Reciprocal Program.\*

For more information about the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, please call (954) 463-4431 or visit us online at [www.fortlauderdalehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.fortlauderdalehistoricalsociety.org) and follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/ftlhistory](https://facebook.com/ftlhistory) on Instagram [@ftlhistory](https://instagram.com/ftlhistory) and on Twitter [@FLLhistory](https://twitter.com/FLLhistory).

### **About the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society (FLHS)**

For 56 years, the [Fort Lauderdale Historical Society](http://www.fortlauderdalehistoricalsociety.org) (FLHS) has brought the stories of our diverse community to life through engaging educational experiences, innovative cultural exhibits, research and preservation of artifacts. Residents and visitors to Fort Lauderdale are invited to explore the city's rich past that is housed in five historic buildings on a lushly landscaped campus - the 1907 King Cromartie House Museum, the History Museum of Fort Lauderdale situated in the 1905 New River Inn, the 1905 Philemon Nathaniel Bryan House, the 1899 Replica Ivy Cromartie Schoolhouse and the Hoch Research Library, South Florida's foremost history center housing print resources and newspapers from 1910-present plus 400,000 archival photos, 2,500 maps and 5,000 architectural blueprints. The FLHS is located at 219 Southwest Second Avenue in Fort Lauderdale. Museum hours are Monday – Friday from noon – 4 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. The FLHS is a nonprofit agency supported by memberships, grants and charitable contributions. Click [here](#) to donate.

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\* Discounts will be taken off of regular general admission - \$15 for adults; \$12 for seniors and \$7 for students (through age 22 with a valid student ID). Admission is always free for members, military and children ages six and under. Proof of Florida residency required.



Funding is provided in part by Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward County Cultural Council and Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau. This organization is sponsored, in part, by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council of Arts and Culture.



"Tara Chadwick & Son Ihiyo" Photo Credit: Adrienne Chadwick

Celebrate the colorful traditions and heritage of Mexico's Día de los Muertos during "Ofrendas" opening Sunday, October 7 at [Fort Lauderdale Historical Society](#). Guests can view fine art alongside creative community memorial altars or "ofrendas," covered in photographs, flowers and favorite items of the dearly departed, plus participate in a variety of cultural community activities.