



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kristen Corrado
616.988.5402, ext. 5438
kcorrado@grpl.org

Mexican Holiday 'Día de los Muertos' Explored at the Grand Rapids Public Library

www.grpl.org

Main Library
111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids MI 49503
p. 616.988.5400
f. 616.988.5419

Madison Square Branch
1201 Madison SE
Grand Rapids MI 49507
p. 616.988.5411
f. 616.245.1403

Ottawa Hills Branch
1150 Giddings SE
Grand Rapids MI 49506
p. 616.988.5412
f. 616.241.1460

Seymour Branch
2350 Eastern SE
Grand Rapids MI 49507
p. 616.988.5413
f. 616.241.1445

Van Belkum Branch
1563 Plainfield NE
Grand Rapids MI 49505
p. 616.988.5410
f. 616.365.2615

West Leonard Branch
1017 Leonard NW
Grand Rapids MI 49504
p. 616.988.5416
f. 616.301.9438

West Side Branch
713 Bridge NW
Grand Rapids MI 49504
p. 616.988.5414
f. 616.458.0103

Yankee Clipper Branch
2025 Leonard NE
Grand Rapids MI 49505
p. 616.988.5415
f. 616.235.8349

Community-built altars honoring those who have died will be on display.

GRAND RAPIDS (October 12, 2016) The Grand Rapids Public Library will honor the Mexican holiday Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) October 27-November 1, 2016. Altars celebrating the lives of those who have passed away will be on view.

Día de los Muertos is a Mexican holiday that honors family and friends who have passed on. Loved ones come together to build an altar, or ofrenda, that celebrate the life and memory of the dead. The day is a time of celebration and joy, filled with talk and memories of those who have died. On the ofrenda many significant objects are placed as gifts to the deceased loved ones. The altar holds four important elements: water, wind, fire and earth. These are represented by a pitcher or glass; candles; papel picado (punched paper); and food, usually pan de muerto. Other items seen on altars include sugar skulls, flowers, photos and religious items.

The altars, built by local residents who want to share the memory of their family and friends will be on display Thursday, October 27 – Tuesday, November 1. Every altar is unique and taken together create a fascinating portrait of what the citizens of Grand Rapids hold close to them.

The library will host a Family Day during Día de los Muertos on Sunday, October 30 from 1:00 – 5:00 pm. There will be educational activities for families including a bilingual story time, live music, sugar skull decorating, face painting, and crafts. Food will be provided by El Granjero and Pan de Muerte provided by Panaderia Margo.

The Day of the Dead program and altars will be held at the Grand Rapids Public Library, 111 Library St. NE. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 616-988-5400 or visit our website at www.grpl.org/dayofthedead. The Grand Rapids Public Library connects people to the transforming power of knowledge.

###

Images available. Contact Kristen Corrado at 616-988-5402 x 5438.