

## CALL FOR ARTISTS

Thanks to the generous support of the Wyoming Arts Council, the Wyoming State Museum, Cheyenne Botanic Gardens, and Cheyenne Depot Museum are initiating a call for local artists to create original artwork for our 2022 community Día de los Muertos (DDLm) celebrations.

The DDLm events hosted by all three organizations seek to share the cultural significance of this holiday and provide welcoming spaces for people to celebrate publicly. In 2021, the celebrations served over 600 people at the State Museum and 860 at the Botanic Gardens. In 2022, we are working to increase the authenticity and educational value of the events. The first major step is inviting local artists to create authentic artwork that our organizations will use for event posters, social media ads, and other promotional materials.

Artists of all mediums (to include, but not limited to: visual arts, music, theater, dance, folk and traditional arts) are encouraged to apply. However, the winning artist must create a work of art that will work well for print and digital advertising. If an artist creates a 3D work of art, the piece will need to be portrayed in 2D so it will meet marketing needs. One selected artist will receive \$750 to create a final work. Once the piece is created, the State Museum, Botanic Gardens, and Depot Museum will utilize their inhouse design professionals to create a regional marketing campaign featuring the work. Work must be completed by September 26, 2022.

Our Día de los Muertos celebrations are family-friendly and inclusive of all people. Artwork must be appropriate for children. We encourage artists to reflect on their own cultural and traditional connections to DDLm when creating their artwork. Artists should consider the following goals when creating their proposal:

1. Represent the cultural significance of Día de los Muertos in a visually compelling way
2. Appeal to multigenerational families and people of all ages
3. Represent the diversity of people, places, and cultures who traditionally celebrate this holiday

Please contact Melisa McChesney at 307-630-2573 or [melisa.mcchesney@wyo.gov](mailto:melisa.mcchesney@wyo.gov) if you have any questions regarding your eligibility for this call or if you need a paper application.

All applications must be submitted by 11:59 pm MST on July 29th, 2022.

Funding for this project is made possible through the Wyoming Arts Council's Arts Access Grant.

**Criteria:**

Projects will be evaluated and selected based on whether the application demonstrates:

- A clear connection to a community that traditionally celebrates Día de los Muertos,
- An ability to create authentic, original artwork that speaks to the heart of traditional and/or contemporary Día de los Muertos traditions,
- A unique and authentic approach to meeting the three goals listed in the project description.

To ensure that the final artwork is an authentic representation of DDLM and the people who celebrate it, the winning artist must be able to describe how they are genuinely a part of a community that traditionally celebrates Día de los Muertos, a sacred, religious holiday.

**Eligibility:**

- Grant funds can be distributed to an individual or an artist collective.
- Applicants may not be affiliated with the Wyoming State Museum, Cheyenne Depot Museum, or Cheyenne Botanic Gardens either as a board member or staff member, including their families, whether full-time, part-time or contractual.
- May not be an employee of the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources.
- Must be a Wyoming or Northern Colorado resident, living in the state for at least 10 months of the year.

All applications will be reviewed by a committee of three community members based on the criteria listed above. Applicants will be notified of their application status by August 12, 2022. Committee members include:

**Ann Redman**, Founder of the Wyoming Latina Youth Conference and co-founder of Hispanic Organization for Progress and Education. Ann is the 2016 Wyoming Council for Women's Issues Distinguished Woman of the Year and was the recipient of the 2017 Woman of Influence Lifetime Achievement award, presented by the Wyoming Business Report. She is the 2001 Athena Recipient awarded by the Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce.

**Nicole Cordova**, leader of Las Angelitas Unidas y Los Rayos del Sol, a local dance group that shares culture through music and dance. Nicole is a dedicated member of the community who has been involved with the State Museum's Dia de los Muertos

events for over 10 years. She is also on the Cheyenne Hispanic Fest Committee.

**Jason Sanchez**, head of Cheyenne Community Recreation & Events Department. Jason is also an incredibly active community member, working on the Greenway Advisory Committee, the Hispanic Fest Committee, and more.

### **Exhibition at the Cheyenne Depot Museum:**

All applicants, including the winning artists, will be invited to display a selection of their sample work in an art exhibition at the Depot Museum during October and November, 2022. You will receive more information about this exhibition after you submit your application.

### **Application:**

1. Name of Applicant (if applying as a collective, this should be the name and contact information for the best person to contact regarding this application)
2. Name of artist collective or group if different than above (if there is no collective name, please list the names of all artists participating)
3. Email
4. Phone
5. Mailing address
6. Please describe your personal connection to a community that traditionally celebrates Día de los Muertos.
7. Your Artistic Practice (Please provide a short description of your artistic practice and experience. Include any details that will be pertinent when reviewing your Work Samples uploaded below. )
8. Project ideas (Please provide a short description of your initial ideas for this project and how it best aligns with the goals outlined in the project description above. A fully formed idea is not expected at this point and we do not expect you to create any new work until selected, but it is necessary that we have some idea of what you are thinking you might explore through this project.)
9. Work Samples (Please upload up to ten work samples of your past work that best showcases what you will embark on for this project. Samples can be a combination of multiple art forms. Image, video, audio, and document files will be accepted.)