



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **November's First Friday is the 21st Celebration of Día de los Muertos in Carbondale** *November 7, 2025*

Carbondale, CO - October 31, 2025:

November's First Friday has long been a celebration of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). While Carbondale Arts has taken over presenting First Fridays for the past two years, 2025 marks the 21st year the organization has been facilitating the Día de los Muertos celebration, featuring live music and performances, and a procession through downtown Carbondale, beginning at Third Street Center and ending at 4th and Main Streets.

While Día de los Muertos aligned with November's First Friday in 2024, this year's event takes place nearly a week later. Organizers decided to maintain the tradition of celebrating on the First Friday in November for consistency and ease of coordination. A massive community ofrenda (altar) will be constructed on Saturday, November 1, out front of The Launchpad, with an invitation to the community to contribute their memorabilia throughout the week. Several Main Street businesses will be setting up ofrendas in their spaces as well, enhancing the community celebration that includes a procession through the downtown core beginning at 6pm from Third Street Center, ending at 4th Street Plaza with additional performances throughout the evening. 4th Street will be closed on Friday for stage set up and volunteer-powered decorating. Carbondale Arts has open requests for volunteer support as this honored event has grown exponentially over the past few years.

Carbondale Arts Programs Manager, Emily Reilly shares, "Día de los Muertos holds a special place in the heart of Carbondale Arts. It's a time to celebrate and honor the local Latino community and culture, an essential thread in the Roaring Fork Valley's vibrant tapestry." A dedicated planning committee composed of leaders from the Latino and nonprofit communities, meets annually in late summer to begin planning and dreaming of what the celebration can encompass, and to nominate an honoree in the Latino community. The collaborative effort for November's First Friday runs far and wide.

Paco Nevarez-Burgueño, adored instructor of the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet Folklórico program, will be retiring this year. He shares, "Next year there will be another way for me to keep celebrating and sharing my culture with all the RFV community. I like to stay here as much as I can, but at the same time I will get to spend more time looking for cultures and traditions from around the world to add to my enjoyment and knowledge. Thanks to all of you for embracing this beautiful tradition.. gracias!"



Additional performances take place throughout the evening by Mezcla Socials Dance, Roaring Fork Youth Orchestra and drumming by Rhythmystics. Several new pieces have been added to the procession created by Livier Cruz Guerrero, Anjanette Garcia, Estela Lopez, students from the Aspen Music Festival and School, with contributions from Garfield County Libraries. Reilly states, "It's hard to choose a single highlight of the celebration, but the community ofrenda always stands out. The collective remembrance and celebration of life creates a powerful, heartfelt tribute to the beloved people who have shaped our community."

Friday November 7, food trucks with *comida típica* will be parked along 4th Street, with face-painting offered both in the 4th Street Plaza and at the Carbondale Library, along with *pan de muerto* and Mexican hot chocolate served throughout the evening. Community partners will be hosting creative activities, businesses will be offering extended hours and after parties, it's a night not to be missed! Full details available at [carbondalearts.com](http://carbondalearts.com)

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### **About Carbondale Arts**

**Carbondale Arts** builds an inclusive and vibrant community through the arts, supporting Carbondale's identity as a place that fosters creativity, collaboration, innovation, and artistic exploration. Our dedication to this mission has been transformational to the history of Carbondale.

One of the more dominant efforts of Carbondale Arts is stewarding the Carbondale Creative District (CCD), a state-granted certification through the Office of Economic Development and International Trade. The creative industries are a driving force in our local economy. Through advocacy, support and action, the CCD preserves the creative ethos of Carbondale.

The event is sponsored by Melony + Adam Lewis, Patti Stranahan (in memory of George Stranahan), Aspen Community Foundation, the Michael McGoldrick Foundation, Radio Tricolor, SIX Productions, Songbird Sound Systems, Town of Carbondale.