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22nd Annual Día de los Muertos Celebration for November's First Friday

Friday, November 6 | 5:00-9:00pm

Carbondale, CO - October 28, 2026:
Carbondale Arts presents the largest valleywide Día de los Muertos celebration each year as the theme for November's First Friday in downtown Carbondale.

The celebration kicks off with the creation of a community ofrenda (altar) on the front patio of The Launchpad during the recognized holiday on Sunday, November 1, organized by Dr. Maria Judith Alvarez, a doctor for La Clínica del Pueblo. Known as Judith, Dr. Alvarez has been integral in establishing support and involvement from our Latino community for the past eight years. She shares, "As a Mexican woman, this tradition has been part of my life since childhood, but today it holds an even deeper meaning. It is a way to honor the memory of those we love, keep their memories alive, and feel close to them, even though they are no longer physically with us. Sharing this tradition also allows us to celebrate our roots and teach future generations that love transcends absence."

The community is invited to contribute photos –copies preferred– and mementos for their loved ones who have passed on, for a collective remembrance and honoring. The ofrenda will remain up until November 9.

The festivities continue on First Friday, November 6, starting at 5pm in 4th Street Plaza in the heart of the Carbondale Creative District and includes family-friendly activities and exhibitions. A procession through downtown Carbondale led by a group of bedecked Catrinas, followed by large-scale puppets, stilters, dancers, and drummers begins at Third Street Center at 6pm, and ends back at 4th Street Plaza where additional performances will take place on stage in Chacos Park.

Carbondale Arts Programs Manager Emily Reilly is the coordination lead on the event; she shares, "The Roaring Fork Valley is nearly 40% Latino, and diversity is always something to celebrate! Continuing Carbondale's Día de los Muertos celebration is one small but meaningful way Carbondale Arts can honor the Mexican heritage that is such an important part of our valley. It's an incredible opportunity to collaborate with and spotlight the talented Latino organizers and community partners who help make this celebration so special."

First Friday attendees can enjoy performances by Dance Initiative's Folklórico program, Cumbre Sol, Mezcla Socials Dance, The Rhythmystics, The Stilting Sisters, Mariachi del Valle, Aspen Music Festival and School's El Proyecto de Mariachi, Roaring Fork Youth Orchestra, followed up

by a Catrina costume contest led by emcees Samuel and Ilíana Bernal, and Pedro “Da Walrus” Rivera. Other partners include Annie Bell and Soozie Lindbloom who have been working with Carbondale Arts and students of Stepping Stones to create giant puppets for the procession, Aspen Valley Land Trust providing face-painting, and several community booths providing family-friendly activities and hot chocolate.

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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.