



PEABODY MUSEUM
of ARCHAEOLOGY & ETHNOLOGY

PRESS RELEASE

DAY OF THE DEAD/*DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS*

FEATURING SALSA, SON, AND MARIACHI MUSIC AT THE PEABODY



Art by José Guadalupe Posada.

- Where:** Peabody Museum
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge
- When:** Sunday, November 2, 2008
FAMILY EVENT: 1 pm – 4:30 pm
FIESTA: 6 pm – 9 pm
- Contact:** 617-496-1027 (Public Information)
- Admission:** **FAMILY EVENT:** All activities free with Museum admission, *except* Sugar Skull Workshops, \$5/participant
- FIESTA:** FREE, tickets required, call 617-495-2269. Limited tickets available at the door.

(Cambridge, October 8, 2008) The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology and the Consulate General of Mexico in Boston present Day of the Dead/*Día de los Muertos* at the Peabody Museum on Sunday, November 2, 2008 with a Family Event from 1–4:30 PM and a Fiesta from 6–9 PM.

The Family Event will feature traditional Mexican dance performances by Harvard University's Ballet Folklórico, the artistry of wood carver Ventura Fabian of Oaxaca, craft activities including *papel picado* (cutting colorful Mexican paper decorations), *calaca* masks (decorating skull masks in the Day of the

Dead style), paper marigolds (making distinctive Day of the Dead decorations), and the popular Sugar Skull Workshops (decorating traditional sugar skulls). Then relax with the kids at the Cambridge Public Library story corner.



The Fiesta will live feature Mariachi music by *Mariachi Veritas* and live Son music by *La Tuza*. *Hips on Fire* will spin salsa music, perform salsa dances and offer a salsa lesson. Visitors can also watch demonstrations by wood carver Ventura Fabian of Oaxaca, Mexico, taste some *pan de muerto* (bread of the dead), sip Aztec chocolate, and much more. Open from November 1 –30 in the gallery is the Peabody’s annual temporary Day of the Dead altar where visitors can honor departed loved ones with written messages .

Sponsors

This event is sponsored by the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University; the Consulate General of Mexico in Boston; Dirección General de Asuntos Culturales/SRE; Cuauhtemoc Brewery (Tecate and Sol); Nomad; Cambridge Public Library; Olé Mexican Grill; José’s Mexican Restaurant.

Day of the Dead/*Día de los Muertos*

Originating with the Aztecs, the Mexican Day of the Dead is a unique blend of Mesoamerican and Christian rituals. The holiday is celebrated on November 1st, All Saints’ Day, usually dedicated to children; and November 2nd, All Souls’ Day, dedicated to adults. Traditions vary from region to region, but generally families gather at cemeteries to tend and decorate the graves of their departed loved ones, remember them by telling stories, eating their favorite foods, and dancing in their honor. Many

families build altars at home, decorated with flowers and food, especially *pan de muerto*, “bread of the dead.” A festive and social occasion, the holiday welcomes the return of those who have died and recognizes the human cycle of life and death.

About the Peabody Museum

The Peabody Museum is among the oldest archaeological and ethnographic museums in the world with one of the finest collections of human cultural history found anywhere. It is home to superb materials from Africa, ancient Europe, North America, Mesoamerica, Oceania, and South America in particular. In addition to its archaeological and ethnographic holdings, the Museum’s photographic archives, one of the largest of its kind, hold more than 500,000 historical photographs, dating from the mid-19th century to the present and chronicling anthropology, archaeology, and world culture.

Location: *The Peabody Museum is located at 11 Divinity Avenue in Cambridge. The Museum is a short walk from the Harvard Square MBTA station.*

Hours: 9 AM to 5 PM, 7 days a week. The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day. Admission is \$9.00 for adults, \$7.00 for students and seniors, \$6.00 for children, 3-18. Free with Harvard ID or Museum membership. The museum is free to Massachusetts residents Sundays, 9 AM to noon, year round, and Wednesdays from 3 PM to 5 PM (September to May). Admission includes admission to the Harvard Museum of Natural History. For more information call (617)496-1027 or go online to: www.peabody.harvard.edu.

Media Contact: Faith Sutter, Communications Coordinator
Peabody Museum
11 Divinity Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138
Tel: (617)495-3397; Fax: (617)495-7535, sutter@fas.harvard.edu