

DAMN GOOD

HOSPITALITY GROUP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DAMN GOOD HOSPITALITY PRESENTS FT. LAUDERDALE'S BIGGEST BLOCK PARTY:
THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLORIDA DAY OF THE DEAD CELEBRATION
NOW COMBINED WITH THE NIGHT OF THE DEAD LIVE CONCERT
SATURDAY, NOV. 2**

The "Memory for the Dead, Party for the Living" Event Kicks Off with an October 3rd Day Of The Dead Launch Party at Stache Followed by a Month of Free Workshops and Programs

"Top 6 'Most Spirited' DOTD Events in U.S." - *Los Angeles Times*

"Top 6 Best DOTD Events in U.S." - Thrillist.com & *AFAR*

"Top 10 DOTD Events in North America" - *USA TODAY*

"#1 Day of the Dead Festival in the U.S.A." - *Corona U.S.A.*

FB EVENT: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2196140620674783/>

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (Sept. 12, 2019) – Get ready for the tenth installment of the ever-popular and spirited festival of remembrance and revelry. It's the Florida Day of the Dead ("FDOTD"), Ft. Lauderdale's biggest block party now combined with the Night Of The Dead Live Concert experience, Saturday, Nov. 2. On this day it is believed that the gateway between Mictlan, the ancient Aztec land of the dead, and our own world opens so we can dance and sing with our lost loved ones for one special time of year.

This free, family-friendly, Fort Lauderdale-based event founded by local artists and Puppet Network attracts an enthusiastic crowd of revelers enjoying legions of talented skull-inspired artists, mariachi musicians, dancers and painted performers. What started as just 750 attendees in 2010, has swelled to more than 19,000 participants in 2018 over multiple days. The Florida Day of the Dead Celebration is a creative spectacle honoring Mexican and Latin American traditions while generating modern artistic interpretations. Our month-long schedule of **free** activities will include a launch party on Oct. 3 in Stache (109 SW 2nd Ave, Fort Lauderdale) from 7-10pm.

Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2473426202939278/>

Event Founder, Master Puppeteer and Puppet Network Executive Producer, Jim Hammond says, "Our mission is to produce a signature event for all ages that maintains and respects the cultural integrity of international Dia de los Muertos traditions. Our FDOTD celebration provides a memory for the dead and a party for the living."

There will be eight exciting stages throughout downtown and in the Damn Good Hospitality Entertainment Complex off Broward Boulevard, each presenting music, dance, and more. On the New River, the outdoor celebration launches in three locations in partnership with Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale. All these locations will offer pop up *ofrendas*, sugar-skull face painting, puppet building and creative vendors.

- **STAGE 1: MEXIHKA STAGE (3-8pm)**

Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/885565731815543/>

Huizenga Plaza, 32 East Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale Florida 33301

Continued . . .

At 3 pm at Huizenga Plaza (across the street from NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale), the “Mexihka Stage” (pronounced ma - chee - ka) in Aztec Plaza will feature traditional dance, music and crafts by the indigenous peoples of Latin America along with skeleton costumes and mask vendors providing regalia for the processional. Half of the Skeleton Processional puppets will be on site for photo ops.

- o **The 10TH Annual Florida Skeleton Processional (5:30-6:45 pm)**

Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2311093909218966/>

Huizenga Plaza, 32 East Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale Florida 33301

Officials from the Fort Lauderdale City Commission and General Consulate of Mexico in Miami will formally welcome participants at 5:30 pm in Huizenga Plaza to begin the Skeleton Processional. At 6 pm, the Skeleton Processional, featuring 60 giant puppets reaching up to 18 feet tall, plus more than 1,000 skeletons, will follow mariachi musicians along Fort Lauderdale’s beautiful Riverwalk, culminating at the Folklorico Stage outside Revolution Live. All are invited to join the parade. The four main viewing areas for the procession along the “Quetzalcoatl Trail” include: Huizenga Plaza, History Fort Lauderdale, Esplanade Plaza and Revolution Live.

- **STAGE 2: LA HISTORIA STAGE (2-8 pm)**

Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/494121974480389/>

New River Inn, History Fort Lauderdale, 231 SW 2nd Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

At 2 pm at the New River Inn, History Fort Lauderdale will showcase a traditional Mesoamerican indigenous celebration opening ceremony for the citywide event. Early arriving guests can begin their day at the antique New River Inn and experience authentic traditional *ofrendas*, or altars of remembrance, the “Casa Calaveras” art exhibition and the first chance to get your face painted. History Fort Lauderdale will also include a VIP food experience and VIP tours of their collection of antique buildings. The largest FDOTD puppets will be on site for photo opportunities including Paco and Taco - the giant dog and cat.

- **STAGE 3: SAMHAIN CIRCLE (3-8 pm)**

Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/687711295044391/>

Esplanade Plaza, 400 SW 2nd St., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

As part of the FDOTD’s first year partnership with Dark Arts Productions in Esplanade Plaza (near Broward Center for the Performing Arts), a Harvest Festival tradition - seen throughout Europe that parallel Dia de los Muertos in many ways – will be showcased beginning at 3 pm. In the “Samhain Circle” (pronounced sow - in), traditional Celtic and ancient European music will be enjoyed along with one of the largest groups of mystical vendors ever presented in South Florida. Returning for a second year will be performances by Mexican dancing horses from Homestead beginning at 4 pm.

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- **STAGE 4: FOLKLORICO STAGE (3-11 pm)**

Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2006218636145583/>

100 SW 3rd Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

To celebrate the 10th year of the FDOTD, Damn Good Hospitality along with the Puppet Network have partnered with the Florida Mexican Festival, Foundation of Mexican Art & Folklore, and the General Consulate of Mexico in Miami, to merge the events to showcase the “Folklorico Stage/Florida Mexican Festival.” From 3-7 pm *folklorico* troupes from Bolivia, Venezuela and Peru will perform at the end of the Skeleton Processional. “Quetzalcoatl Trail” will be welcomed between 6:30-7 pm with a Mariachi Performance. Starting at 7 pm, the largest number of Mexican *folklorico* artists to perform in one evening ever in Florida, will be presented with more than 150 dancers onstage in elaborate costumes. The stage will close with an internationally renowned Mariachi band from 10:15-11 pm.

- o **Muertos Street Festival (3-11 pm)**

Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2457166244606420/>

Located on the intersection of SW 3rd Ave. and Broward Blvd, audiences will enjoy over a dozen authentic Mexican Cuisine trucks and restaurants, more than 30 of the best regional sugar skull-inspired artisans showcased in the “Craft Crypt”, plus the only place on the Skeleton Processional route to enjoy a Mexican lager, margarita, or michelada. As the epicenter of the November 2 event, the Muertos Street festival includes four stages, interactive art activities, street performances and much more.

- **STAGE 5: BONEYARD BANDSTAND (7 pm-4 am)**

Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/990772727921895/>

100 SW 3rd Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

Now in its 10th year, the “Boneyard Bandstand” will present South Florida’s Latin-themed rock sounds along with New Orleans-styled Brass Bands. At America’s Backyard, live performances will go from 7-10pm. The night doesn’t end there! Next the “Official FDOTD After Party & Y-100 Takeover!” will keep the party going with DJ Drew filled with Dancing and Drinks - Games and Prizes and fun surprises all night long.

- **STAGE 6: NIGHT OF THE DEAD (7 pm-4 am)**

Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1180967222113327/>

100 SW 3rd Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

Back by popular demand, “Night of the Dead” is inspired by the music of the Grateful Dead with amazing jam bands taking the stage at 9 pm at Revolution Live, then playing until the early morning. Pop up interactive puppet and mask performances will occur throughout the event. Enjoy tequila and cocktail specials all night long. (\$18 in advance, \$20 at the door)

- **STAGE 7: TEQUILA STAGE (7 pm-4 am)**

Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/936236853410644/>

109 SW 2nd Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

This year's most exclusive new programming is "Day of the Dead VIP Tequila Experience" at Stache. At this ticketed event opening at 4 pm, Stache will be the host a VIP party which will include tastings from over 10 premium tequila

brands, intimate *folklorico performances*, craft cocktail presentations, Mexican food, private washrooms and even AC. After the processional arrives, the venue will be transformed into "Tequila Stage" with live blues performances all night long. (\$25 Early Bird and \$30 after)

- **STAGE 8: LA CULTURA STAGE (3-6 pm)**

Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/531284664346680/>

NSU Museum of Art, 1 East Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale Florida 33301

FDOTD returns to where it all began over a decade ago at the Nova Southeastern University's Museum of Art. Cultural presentations will occur at the Museum of Art Auditorium at 3 pm, and will include Xoco's "Otomi" Culture Presentation as he discusses his 30 year quest to return the Crown of Montezuma back to Mexico. Xoco is a United Nations Ambassador for indigenous people of Mexico. Other presentations will include short Day of the Dead- inspired films, pop up art exhibitions and "Baile de los Alebrijes," a new dance presentation inspired by Mexican Folk Art. Discounted tickets to the museum will be provided for anyone dressed for the occasion.

The FDOTD is proudly supported by event partners: Puppet Network, Damn Good Hospitality Entertainment Complex (Revolution Live, America's Backyard, Stache, Green Bar + Kitchen), Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale, City of Fort Lauderdale, General Consulate of Mexico in Miami, History Fort Lauderdale, NSU Museum of Art and Broward County Cultural Division among many others. For more details on all events and to stay current on updates, visit: www.dayofthedeadflorida.com and check the full list of events Facebook.

Florida Day of the Dead Celebration:
Saturday November 2, 2019 - 2 pm – 4 am
www.dayofthedeadflorida.com

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