



News Release

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SHELDON WINS MAYOR'S ART AWARD FOR EL DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

LINCOLN, NE (April 3) – The Lincoln Arts Council announced this week that Sheldon Museum of Art's celebration of El Dia de Los Muertos won the Mayor's Choice Award for 2008.

Celebrating a centuries-old spiritual tradition honoring the continuity of life, Sheldon Art Association presented *El Dia de los Muertos* on Saturday, October 27, 2007. More than 1,200 visitors took part in day-long activities, including music, dance, theater and crafts, at Sheldon Museum of Art on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.

As chair of the art association's education committee, Liz Shea-McCoy organized and led a community advisory group, composed of volunteers and staff members of many organizations, that planned and organized the event around the cultural tradition celebrated on November 1 and 2 in Mexico and other Latin American countries.

The 30th Annual Mayor's Art Awards will be presented on June 3 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts. The complete list of award winners is available on the Lincoln Arts Council Web site, info@artscene.org

The Sheldon Art Association was organized in 1888 with about 180 members among whose purposes were: "to study and prepare papers on art, to form a collection, to acquire a suitable art museum, to encourage young artists, to interest public school children, and to attract industry and keep abreast of a growing city."

In its early years the club presented art annual exhibitions in Lincoln, bringing works of artists from across the country, and provided financial support for art instruction at the university. In the early 1900s, the club was reorganized and incorporated as the Nebraska Art Association, the organization's name until it was changed last March.

From its annual art exhibitions, the art association and its members acquired numerous pieces, which over the years became the foundation of the museum's outstanding collection of American art. Through the first half of the 20th century, these artworks did not have a permanent home and were exhibited in many university venues. Completed in 1963, the elegant museum building was a gift of Frances Sheldon and her brother Bromley Sheldon to the university. Designed by renowned architect Philip Johnson, the museum now houses collections with more than 12,000 artworks.

The museum, located at 12th and R Streets on the UNL City Campus, is open to the public Tuesday through Sunday. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. For information or to arrange a tour, please call (402) 472-2461. Additional information is also available on the Sheldon Web site, www.sheldon.unl.edu.