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**Festival Cinco de Mayo to Be Held at the State Museum on May 4**

*Museum partners with Hispanic Connections to present a day of cultural fun for all ages*

**COLUMBIA, S.C., Monday, April, 28 2014** – The South Carolina State Museum is proud to partner with Hispanic Connections to celebrate Mexican heritage and pride by hosting Festival Cinco de Mayo at the State Museum from 12:30 – 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 4. The festival provides an opportunity for the community to come together and recognize the importance of Hispanic culture in South Carolina.

Guests will enjoy a family fiesta featuring an unbreakable Piñata, crafts, games, a Spanish puppet show, art, dance, live music and authentic Mexican and Latin American cuisine. There are two entertainment groups traveling more than 2,500 miles from Guatemala to participate in the festival. The first group, “Marimba Pura, Corazón de Hormigo,” will perform live traditional musical presentations throughout the day. The second group, “Asociación Local Francísquense de Ayuda K’malbe,” will bring colorful, authentic Latin American crafts and products for sale, including clothing, accessories, small gifts, carvings and more.

“The Hispanic community is a growing part of South Carolina and it is important to recognize and celebrate their traditions and contributions to our community,” said Celeste Wszola, public programs manager, S.C. State Museum. “We are thrilled to partner with Hispanic Connections to bring South Carolinians a day packed full of fun cultural activities.”

A fact that most will find surprising is that Americans celebrate this Mexican holiday more widely than do people in Mexico. Cinco de Mayo means “fifth of May” in Spanish, and the holiday commemorates the events of May 5, 1862. It is not Mexican Independence Day, as many believe. Rather, on that day, the Mexican army, under the command of Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza, won a victory over the French at Puebla, despite overwhelming odds. This victory led to the expulsion of the French from Mexico five years later. Cinco de Mayo took off as an American holiday in the 1960s, when the holiday was promoted as a day to celebrate America’s own Latino community.

May 4 is also \$1 Sunday at the State Museum, where general admission is only \$1 for guests. Festival Cinco de Mayo is included with museum general admission or membership. To learn more, visit [scmuseum.org/events](http://scmuseum.org/events) or call (803) 898-4999.

**About the South Carolina State Museum:** *On Oct. 29, 1988, the South Carolina State Museum opened its doors, bringing to the citizens of the Palmetto State the newest, and one of the finest, state museums in America. The Museum has four large floors devoted to the disciplines of art, history, natural history and science/technology. It houses both long-term exhibits and five changing exhibit galleries. For more information about the museum, visit [scsmuseum.org](http://scsmuseum.org) or follow @SCStateMuseum on Twitter.*