



#RamadanInLA 2017: A Date with Islam Sponsorship Proposal

After the resounding success of last year's Ramadan in LA, LA Commons (www.lacommons.org), in partnership with L.A.'s Muslim community, is excited to announce that the community gathering and celebration is returning this year and will be the evening of Friday, May 26, the night before Ramadan starts. This year, we are honored to partner with LA County's Human Relations Commission with the hope of expanding our program and bring more communities together.

With the rise of Islamophobia and the fear of a Muslim registry/ban, Ramadan in LA is needed now more than ever to bring communities together. LA Commons is excited to present creative ways for Angelinos to explore the many facets of Islam to deepen our collective understanding of the members of the community and learn more about their rich contributions to LA's cultural stew. In keeping with LA Commons' mission to use art and culture to bridge Los Angeles' diverse community, the focus of the program will be on arts, poetry, music, food and celebration.

Our specific goals for these activities is to:

- Create opportunities for the greater LA County to experience and learn about Muslim culture and to interact with Muslims.
- Increase positive impressions of Muslims for the general public.
- Increase the number of positive messages communicated about the Muslim community.
- Further positive relationships between Muslims and non-Muslims

WOULD YOU AND YOUR ORGANIZATION LIKE TO JOIN?

Goals:

- People from across LA County are invited to join us on the hilltop for a casual evening of food, music, poetry and discussion about Ramadan.
- The venue is in the process of being confirmed, and we are in the process of booking speakers, poets, and musicians.
- Bring the community of LA County together to get a better understanding of Ramadan and the start of the fasting month.
- Combat rising Islamophobia through education and interaction.
- Showcase mosques, Islamic centers, consulates, organizations, groups, people, etc. via information tables and food for the LA community.
- Provide audience with better understanding of breadth of cultures, ethnicities and traditions that comprise being an LA Muslim and celebrating Ramadan.
- The evening would end at sunset, when everyone would be invited to look up to the sky to see the birth of the new moon (if visible).

Our Invitation To You:

- We will give each group a table and the space to educate people about their organization.
- If you are having an iftar, let us publicize it for you with the possibility of opening your registration to the greater LA interfaith community (we respect that some people charge for their iftars, and we would not ask you to change that).
- Use #RamadanInLA2017 in your promotions so the LA community can see that it's part of that same program.
- Promote our goals/talking points.
- Allow us to list you as a sponsor and advertise your group and iftar.

We Ask You To:

- **Publicize the May 26th event**
- **Bring food and information for a table**
- **If you are hosting an iftar, allow the larger interfaith community to attend**

One Last Thing:

In hopes of adding substance, knowledge and understanding to the month, we want to hold two educational workshops/seminars/etc. for the community to get a better understanding of Ramadan. This doesn't necessarily have to be a lecture, but could be a service event or arts and crafts project.

Suggested Dates:

- Saturday, June 3
- Sunday, June 17

What About Eid?

- Ramadan is about 29-30 days, and ends with Eid Al-Fitr on Sunday, June 25. On this day, Muslims gather early in the morning for prayer and then celebrate the days by spending time with family and friends.
- Each year, the Islamic Center of Southern California rents a big space, such as the LA Convention Center, for these prayers. Ideally, the Islamic Center will welcome #RamadanInLA guests so they can get a better understanding of this celebratory day.
- Some other communities will also hold a festival/community event.
- Each year, a coalition of organizations and a group of dedicated volunteers from the local Muslim communities host a festival geared at people of all ages and all cultures. From diverse and delicious food vendors to carnival rides and face painting, they strive to create a fun and festive event. <http://www.eidfestival.net>

Marketing

- **Facebook Page:** <http://bit.ly/RamadanInLA>
- **Twitter:** #RamadanInLA2017
- **Ummah Now:**
 - List of Muslim events in SoCal: <http://losangeles.ummahnow.org/>
 - Great place for all of the iftars to be listed in addition to our Facebook page
- **Website:** Possible creation of a website to promote event, iftars & talking points
- **Flyer: (this is a sample of what was created last year)**



What is Ramadan?

Saturday, May 27, is the start of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of daily fasting (no food and no water) from dawn to sunset, increased religious observance and self-reflection. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, and begins with the sighting of the new moon. Because the moon can be spotted at different times in various parts of the world — and sometimes because of methodology — Ramadan's start can vary slightly from country to country.

And since the lunar calendar doesn't quite line up with the solar calendar, Ramadan usually moves up by about 11 days each year — and passes through all seasons. This year, the longest day of the year – June 21 – will be during Ramadan.

1.5 billion Muslims worldwide fast and focus on prayer and charity during Ramadan, as this special time is meant to purify the body and spirit and bring the faithful closer to God. Fasting during the month is also one of the five pillars of Islam.

Typically, the start of the month is welcomed with greetings such as "Ramadan mubarak!"

At sunset, Muslims end their fast (break their fast) by eating a date; this 1400-year prophetic tradition continues today because a date is known for its dense nutritional values. The breaking of the fast is typically called an iftar, and many mosques and organizations organize or host iftar meals.

Though commonly thought of as a month of hunger and solitude, in reality, this month is one of community, food and celebration.

Ramadan ends with Eid al-Fitr, the feast of fast-breaking. It's a three-day holiday that includes special prayers and meals.