**Sample Press Release**

{*Print your press release on your sponsoring organization's letterhead*

*or include name, address, and phone number of organization at top of release*}

**For Immediate Release**

**THE [SPONSORING ORGANIZATION] HOSTS MONTANA CONVERSATION “STORIES IN STONE: DECODING HEADSTONE SYMBOLS AND THEIR REFLECTION OF COMMUNITY” WITH CRYSTAL ALEGRIA**

[City–date]

The [sponsoring organization] hosts Montana Conversation “Stories in Stone: Decoding Headstone Symbols and Their Reflection of Community” with Cystal Alegria on [date of program]. The program is at [location and time of program]. The presentation is free and open to the public. Funding for Montana Conversations is provided by Humanities Montana through grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Montana’s Cultural Trust, and private donations. We are funded in part by coal severance taxes paid based upon coal mined in Montana and deposited in Montana’s cultural and aesthetic projects trust fund.

*Stories in Stone: Decoding Headstone Symbols and Their Reflection of Community* is a presentation that explores the rich symbolism etched into headstones and their significance in understanding the cultural, historical, and spiritual fabric of a community. By decoding the motifs, designs, and inscriptions found in cemeteries, we can better understand the stories these stones tell us about community values. This program highlights how headstone symbolism serves as a visual language, connecting us to the lives and legacies of those who came before.

Crystal Alegria is the Executive Director of The Extreme History Project, a nonprofit based in Bozeman, MT. Crystal has worked in the field of public history for the past twenty years at a variety of museums and heritage organizations, always with the goal of bringing history to the public and highlighting the stories of those that have been marginalized. She produces *The Dirt on the Past Podcast* with co-host, Nancy Mahoney and has recently co-produced a documentary series, The Story of Us: The Women Who Shaped Montana that premiered on Montana PBS in 2022 (episode one) and 2024 (episode two). Crystal has a B. S. in Anthropology and a M. A. in History, both from Montana State University. She grew up in Livingston but now lives in Bozeman.

For more information, please call [sponsoring organization] at [phone number].

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Contact person: [project organizer and phone number]