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## Human Rights Education Institute offers 'Taste of India' Lego replica of Taj Mahal will be raffled off during event

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COEUR d'ALENE — Step into the brick building that is home to the **Human Rights Education** Institute on Dec. 10 and you will feel like you have been transported to India. That is a promise from the organizers of the institute's "Touch of India" event, a celebration of International **HumanRights** Day.

"It will be a cultural immersion stimulating all five senses," said Rachel Dolezal, the institute's director of **education** and curator.

Upon entering, guests' foreheads will be dotted with a traditional, Indian ornament — a bindi blessing.

"It's like receiving a lei when you arrive in Hawaii," Dolezal said.

Live music performed on the sitar and tabla, the traditional string and percussion instruments used to perform northern classical Indian music, will fill the institute. Josh Feinberg, a musician from Portland, Ore., who studied sitar in India under some of the country's masters of the instrument, is the featured performer.

The institute's ceiling will be covered in satiny cloth.

"The entire room will be wrapped in charmeuse. It's kind of a sensual fabric, like silk," Dolezal said. "There is a pleasurable feel to the fabrics of India."

Dolezal will "embroider" the fabrics with gold paint, in the style of traditional Indian tapestries.

Images of traditional Indian art will line the billowy walls.

Authentic northern Indian cuisine, prepared in the Punjab tradition, will be served, catered by Spokane restaurant Top of India.

There will be small gift items to purchase as souvenirs.

"It's a real stay-cation experience," Dolezal said.

A replica of the Taj Mahal built out of Legos by local children will be raffled off during the event. Dolezal said the Lego kit has a \$300 value.

"Taste of India" will take place at the institute's Mullan Avenue building from 5-8 p.m.

Tickets are \$50 in advance or \$75 at the door and just 200 will be sold.

They can be purchased by credit card online through PayPal at [www.hrei.org](http://www.hrei.org) or by e-mail to [info@hrei.org](mailto:info@hrei.org). Tickets can also be purchased at the institute between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Information: 292-2359

SHAWN GUST/Press

Lake Edmonson of Coeur d'Alene, 10, sorts pieces into like piles Sunday in preparation to build a 5,922 piece Lego replica of the Taj Mahal at the **Human Rights Education** Institute. The model will be given as a raffle prize at the upcoming exhibit "A Touch of India" on Dec. 10.

**Infobox**

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RACHEL DOLEZAL, curator

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