



Mujeres de la Tierra
 Día de los Muertos Benefit
 Saturday, November 3, 2018
 Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
 Community Altar Application

**Space is Limited! Altars spaces are given on a first-come, first-served basis.
 Please return this form to Mujeres de la Tierra or email info@mujeresdelatierra.org
 by Friday, October 26, 2018**

Name of Organization/Nonprofit/Entity/or Individual: _____

Point Person: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email: _____

Will this individual(s) be responsible for setting-up/taking down altar?

YES NO

If answered NO, please list the contact information of that individual(s) below:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Each registered individual will be given an assigned space to build their altar. You can put items on the table or build a self-sustaining structure that does not exceed a height of 3ft. You can have lit candles as long as the flame is below the rim of the container. We suggest battery operated candles. The tables will be pre-assigned and will be located next to vegetation, we ask that you do not step on the plants. Set-up is from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm on Saturday, November 3 in the Main Courtyard. Please check in at the entrance of the Los Angeles River Center where a space will assigned to you. You can stay with your altar and you are allowed to bring food and drinks (no alcohol is allowed). Please make sure you have someone near your altar at all times as we do not assume responsibility for any items missing, damaged or broken. **Each altar will be given a total of 3 (applicant + 2 guests) admission bracelets. They need to be worn at all times to have access to the River Center after 4 pm on Saturday, November 3.**

- Applications will only be accepted when all forms are completed and submitted to the above address.
- All altars must be respectful of Día de los Muertos traditions and thus NO Halloween themed decorations
- You are responsible for taking down your Altar after 11:00 pm and cleaning-up the area where you built your Altar **by no later than 12:00 am**. MRCA staff will close the center at that time.
- A confirmation email with instructions on event logistics, parking, etc. will be sent to you the week of October 22.



PHOTO RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY

Photo Release: I hereby authorize Mujeres de la Tierra to film or photograph my altar. I further understand and acknowledge that any video, photographic or other images obtained of the altar through my participation in the Día de los Muertos 2018 Benefit are the property of Mujeres de la Tierra and may be used for publicity and educational purposes.

Signature:

Date: Click or tap here to enter text.

Print Name: _____

Hold Harmless From Liability: I hereby hold harmless and release Mujeres de la Tierra (the staff or any representative) and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) from any and all, loss, theft or damage to my altar, sustained by my participation in this event.

Signature:

Date: Click or tap here to enter text.

Print Name: _____



Día de los Muertos Information

Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is an annual celebration held in Mexico and several Latin American countries. It is a day that creates a space for families to commemorate their ancestors and loved ones who have passed away. This important holiday is held on November 1st and November 2nd. This holiday combines traditions from Roman Catholicism and Native Aztec traditions that pre-date the arrival of the Spanish in the Americas. It is both a joyous and reflective occasion where families pay their respects to their ancestors and loved ones.

This holiday does in fact fall around the same time as Halloween, but it is vital to remember that they are not the same tradition or holiday. This holiday DOES NOT include imagery such as witches, black cats and pumpkins. While Halloween is associated with costumes and trick-or-treating, *Día de los Muertos* can be compared to Memorial Day, because it is a time in which we pay respects to those have passed on. The prominent presence of skulls and skeletons as visuals in *altares* (altars) are utilized as symbols of death and rebirth. The skulls are used to honor the dead, whom were believed to visit for the month-long ritual. Death is not feared, but in fact respected and their lives celebrated in this day of remembrance.

Families will often set up *ofrendas* (offerings), either at home or at the cemetery, Throughout *Día de los Muertos* celebrations, rituals to honor ancestors include feasting on foods such *pan de muerto* or *calaveras de azucar* (sugar skulls). Music and songs that were favored by the loved ones and ancestors are played throughout the day. *Altares* also include *zempasuchitl* (marigold) flowers. It is the symbolic flower of death, a flower that represents the earth's regenerative forces of nature. In some regions, marigold petals are laid around the altar to represent the pathway that leads souls to their *ofrendas*. *Altares* will also have images of their loved ones and a dish of their favorite meal and favorite drinks.

Other items such as a glass of water, are placed on the altar to quench the thirst of the souls after their long journey; it also emphasizes that water is essential to life. *Papel picado* is placed around *ofrendas* and *altares* to represent the wind, a sacred earth element. They are colorful, decorative pieces often with skull images to represent life and the celebration of *Día de los Muertos*. *Calaveras de azucar* represent the sweetness of life and the sadness of death; they are created in a variety of sizes from sugar paste pressed into ceramic molds. Lastly, candles are very prominent in *altares*. They signify fire and are used to guide the way of the souls to the altar.

Día de los Muertos is a very sacred tradition. We encourage you to learn more about its significance to Mujeres de la Tierra and our communities. For more information please visit www.mujeresdelatierra.org

