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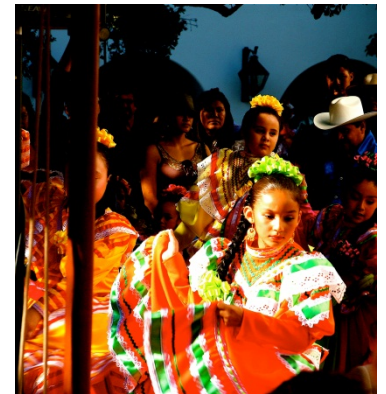
From left to right: Hand-made calaveras piece from student altars,
Group photo of members of Quetzalcoatl,
Art activities inspired by Día de los Muertos

25th Annual Día de Los Muertos Celebration at SBMA

Sunday, October 26, 1 – 4 pm

October 6, 2014 – The Santa Barbara Museum of Art (SBMA) presents a free family day in celebration of **Día de los Muertos on Sunday, October 26, from 1 to 4 pm**, in the Museum’s back plaza and throughout the galleries. For the 25th year, the Museum honors the Mexican tradition of remembering the dead with a variety of family festivities including art activities, live music, dance performances, altar displays, bilingual story time, and traditional Mexican refreshments. **Admission to the family event and to the Museum is free.**

Inspired by the Día de los Muertos traditions and works of art currently on view in the Museum galleries, the event’s art activities include mini-altars, using details of images from the Museum’s permanent collection, skeleton landscape postcards, and paper flower still lifes, as well as traditional festival skull charms. Bilingual stories from the Santa Barbara Public Library’s fall book list will be read throughout the afternoon in the Family Resource Center. Music by **Conjunto Jardin**, and dance by **Folkloric Dance Group Quetzalcoatl** return with performances throughout the day.



A member of Quetzalcoatl performs traditional dances.



Conjunto Jardin returns to SBMA’s Día de los Muertos celebration for the second year in a row.

Limited edition t-shirts and tote bags, with original, stenciled designs created by **La Cuesta Continuation High School student artists**, are also on sale as part of the celebration. The sale proceeds go toward the La Cuesta Art Scholarship, which will be awarded to a graduating senior at the 2015 commencement. The Santa Barbara Museum of Art and La Cuesta Continuation High School have been collaborating since 2007, providing opportunities for students to explore forms of self-expression through art and language. Previous projects have been exhibited in the Museum Shop window and SBMA elevator, at the Ridley-Tree Education Center at McCormick House, and at a number of Free Family Days.

The Day of the Dead is traditionally celebrated by creating altars or “ofrendas” (offerings) that include portraits, personal goods, clothing, favorite foods, and possessions of the deceased family member. This is an important social ritual that symbolizes the cycle of life and death that is human existence. SBMA’s display of altars are created by various partner schools and community organizations including **La Cuesta Continuation High School**, **SB Public Library Eastside Branch**, Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Montecito Union School, Carpinteria Middle School, and Crane School; students enrolled in the Museum’s after-school outreach programs, **Homework/Artwork After-School**; **Art After School** in collaboration with the **Police Activities League** and A-OK After-School at Adams Elementary; and **Brandon Elementary** and El Camino Elementary, which receive the Museum’s in-classroom outreach program ArtReach. Each group has incorporated traditional symbols and iconography to offer thanks to departed family, friends, or artists in the Museum’s collection for their help in guiding, inspiring, and protecting those who remain on earth.



La Cuesta Continuation High School students' altar in honor of family and friends.

Free Family Guides are available at the Visitor Services desks in both English and Spanish.

Free Family Days and all other Family Programs are made possible through the generosity of the Schlosser Family Trust. Additional support for the Dia de los Muertos Free Family Day is provided by Wells Fargo and the Junior League of Santa Barbara.