

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Yadhira Lozano

210.271.3151 ext. 220

yadhiral@guadalupeculturalarts.org

The Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center Celebrates Día de los Muertos with a Free Family-Friendly Event and Altar Exhibition

Día De Los Muertos Annual Celebration

Friday, November 2, 2018, 6:00-10:00pm

Across the Guadalupe Campus: Guadalupe St., Brazos St., & El Paso St. 78207

October 30, 2018 (San Antonio, Texas) —The Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center continues its annual tradition of celebrating el Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) with a free family-friendly event on Friday, November 2, 2018. The festivities begin at sundown with hands-on learning activities and a book launch in honor of voting rights champion Willie Velasquez. Live mariachi music and ballet folklorico dances will be followed by a procession across the westside Guadalupe campus.

“Día de los Muertos is a celebration of life and the legacy that our ancestors left us,” said Cristina Ballí, Executive Director. “We provide a space for the community to learn about the tradition and actively participate so that they can continue honoring their ancestors at home with their own families.”

El Día de los Muertos is a tradition celebrated across Latin America with origins in Indigenous communities that pre-date colonization. When Catholicism arrived, the tradition of honoring the dead morphed with All Souls Day and became much of what is celebrated today. November 2 is the day when our dearly departed are invited to spend a day with us back on earth. Altars are prepared with colorful decorations including papel picado, sugar skulls, marigold flowers, their favorite foods, photos, religious symbols and other items. The procession commemorates the families headed to the cemetery to celebrate at family grave sites.

The public is welcome to participate in hands-on workshops including papel picado-making, sugar skull decorating, get their faces painted in traditional Day of the Dead style, and mask-making. They can also bring a photo of a loved one who has passed to be placed on the Community Altar in the Galería Guadalupe. Written dedications can also be made on-site and placed on the altar. The Galería will feature additional altars created by local families, organizations, children and individuals.

Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center

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In addition, author Barbara Renaud-Gonzalez will host a book launch in the Progreso Building. Her new book, *Dear San Antonio, I'm gone but not lost: Letters to the World from your Voting Rights Hero Willie Velasquez*, comes on the 30th anniversary of his death.

The Guadalupe Academy's Mariachi will play live music and the Dance Academy will perform special Day of the Dead dances in the outdoor Guadalupe Plaza where most of the hands-on activities will take place. Lawn chairs are recommended.

All events and activities are free to the public. For more information, visit www.guadalupeculturalarts.org or call 210.271.3151.

Friday, November 2, 2018, 6:00-10:00pm

6:00-8:00pm Workshops

6:00-9:00pm Altar Exhibition

7:00pm Book Launch

7:30-10:00pm Performances by the Guadalupe Mariachi Academy and Guadalupe Dance Academy

In the Progreso Building

1300 Guadalupe St (across from the Guadalupe Theater)

Su Voto Es Su Voz: The Voice of Willie Velasquez Book Launch

Dear San Antonio, I'm gone but not lost: Letters to the World from your Voting Rights Hero Willie Velasquez

By Barbara Renaud-Gonzalez

On the 30th anniversary of his death

-Reception at 6pm

-Reading at 7pm

-Viewing of Altar from 6pm to 8pm

In the Galería Guadalupe

723 S. Brazos

Altar Exhibition

Open from 10:00am to 9:00pm on November 2

On view Monday-Friday through Wednesday, November 21, 2018, 9:00am-5:00pm

View Día de los Muertos altars in the Galería Guadalupe created by a variety of artists, families, and organizations.

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