



The Northwest's premier Latino Art, Culture & Heritage organization
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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What: 2nd Annual Central Eastside Muertos celebration

When: October 29 – November 6

Where: Milagro Theatre, 525 SE Stark St. and Various Locations in the Central Eastside

Admission: Most events are Free



ABOUT THE CELEBRATION:

Last year during COVID shutdowns, Dañel Malan, Artistic Director of Teatro Milagro, brought art into the streets with organized bike rides and an altar tour that brought local businesses together to strengthen neighborhood engagement.

“The artists did such a great job making a bike-specific altar for the shop, while enlightening many of us about the traditions of Dia de Muertos that we had never really learned about before.” – Haynes Kenny, River City Bicycles

Thanks to support from Central Eastside Together, Milagro was able to construct altars in various Central Eastside businesses in partnership with artists from [IDEAL PDX](#), a collective of Latino Portland-based artists. Altars were constructed in a dozen businesses. IDEAL PDX also collaborated with Milagro on Community Artes workshops, led by IDEAL PDX teaching artists, on how to construct Day of the Dead folk art.

This year all of the same activities are back and more, with two Muertos bike rides, workshops and performances! The Street Trust will be partnering with Milagro to provide “corkers” to keep the October 29th bike ride safe for all, and Friends of Green Loop will be leading the November 4th evening ride. Participating businesses will also be hosting live presentations in their spaces, such as a First Friday party at the East Creative Art Collective and Aztec Dancers at Living Room Realty. There will also be folk art workshops of repujado tin hearts and barro, clay crosses and hearts at Milagro, and workshops for kids at Cargo.

This year’s slate of businesses includes [Milagro](#), [Cargo](#), [Miller Paint](#), [Columbia Credit Union](#), [Bar Botellon](#), [Lippman Co](#), [Guardian Games](#), [Living Room Realty](#), [River City Bicycles Belmont](#), [East Creative Collective](#), [Ice Queen](#), [Wild Shaman Kilims & Rugs](#), [Guerilla Development Corp](#), [Architectural Heritage Center](#) and [Classique Floors](#). Each business will have an altar designed and created by artists from the IDEAL PDX Latino Arts Collective under the direction of Jessica Lagunas.

According to IDEAL PDX creative director Jessica Lagunas, each altar will carry traditional elements while individual artists bring their own creativity. Altars typically have representations of earth, water, wind and fire incorporated into the display, Lagunas said. Earth commonly is displayed in the form of food. Water is left in pitchers for spirits to drink. Wind is represented with traditional papel picado, candles adorn altars for the fire element and the strong scent of the marigold flower helps attract the dead.

Schedule

October 14th – **Viva la Muerte!** Milagro's 26th Annual Día de los Muertos production opens @Milagro

October 15: 1 – 3 PM, **Repujado** Tin Hearts workshop for advanced crafters, led by Yathzi Turcot with Maribelle Olea @Milagro Registration required: **Repujado Workshop Sign-Up**

October 16th Altar making workshop for kids – @Cargo

October 22: 1 – 3 PM, **Barro**, Clay Hearts & Crosses workshop, led by Daniel & Erika Arevalo for advanced crafters – @Milagro Registration required: **Barro Workshop Sign-Up**

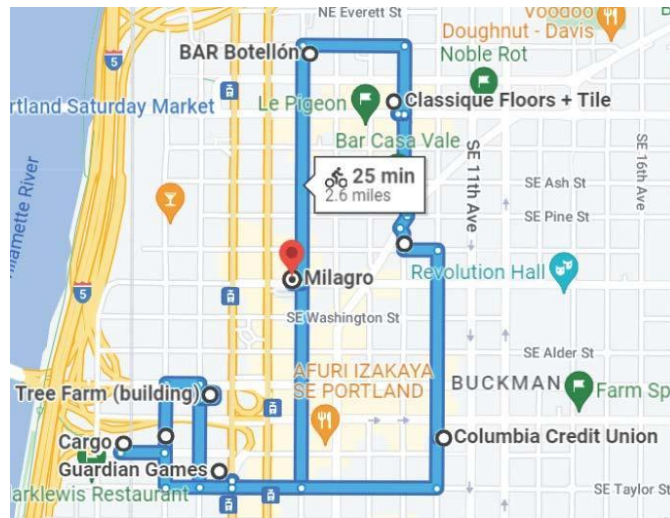
October 29, 1 – 4 PM – District Wide Altar bike tour, in partnership with [The Street Trust](#) – starts at Milagro with bike decorating. Registration required: **Bike Altar Tour Sign-Up**

October 30th – Altar making workshop for kids @Cargo

November 2nd, 6 – 8 PM - **Viva Milagro** - Annual Muertos dinner & fundraiser at @Milagro

November 4th – Evening bike ride with [Friends of Green Loop](#) – ends @First Friday Art Walk at [East Creative](#) First Friday Event with Visual Arts & Entertainment.

November 5th – Aztec Dance Celebration and blessing of altar @[Living Room Realty](#)



Bike Route Map

Central Eastside Muertos Celebration is made possible with support from



Central Eastside Muertos Celebration 2022 - Las Artistas y Los Negocios



Milagro will be sponsoring an altar created by Yathzi Turcot, a queer, multidisciplinary artist whose work spans photography, painting and mixed media. From Hidalgo, Mexico, she is also a Navy veteran. Her themes are broad and expressive. As a teaching artist, she aims to inspire and looks forward to leading the *Repujado* workshop on October 15th with Marybelle Olea.



East Creative Arts Collective represents the community of artists and craftspeople who create their work in the building. They welcome visitors to their open studios on the First Friday of every month and host a wide variety of local community events. In addition to hosting an altar created by Yathzi Turcot, they will also be organizing a large Día de Muertos party at their event space Friday evening, November 4th.



Architectural Heritage Center will be hosting an altar by Mariel del Rincon, from Sinaloa, Mexico, who has created art since a very young age. Her work has been exhibited in Mexico City, New York, Seattle and Portland. The Architectural Heritage Center connects people and place, past and future. Each year we organize public programs, walking tours, and gallery exhibitions



on a wide variety of topics related to Portland's built environment.



has celebrated Dia de los Muertos with master altar builder and IDEAL PDX Creative Director Jessica Lagunas for several years, with each year getting bigger and better than ever. Jess, aka Xomalli, dedicates this year's ofrenda to Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera and other Mexican Artists who's work inspires her to create her own artwork each day. During the week of celebrations Xomalli will be leading blessings and lectures of the traditions at Cargo.



This will be Miller Paint's second year of participating in the Altar Tour, and this year they are sponsoring an altar created by Ximena Morales, from Mexico City. With her husband Carlos, they have an online store, Huitzil Imports and many independent projects. This year will feature Miller's signature paint cans, which are often seen at the many community events they support.



Living Room Realty will be partnering with Ximena as well, as she brings her experience of performing Aztec dance into her altar design... "a self-healing ritual, to achieve balance and beauty. This year I'm building a pre-Hispanic altar, representing *El Mictlan* and adding more representative elements like; a *tzompantli* (with 35 skulls), art with seeds, nopales, corn and molcajetes. These elements will complement an Aztec dance performance that will also be at the site

on November 5th.



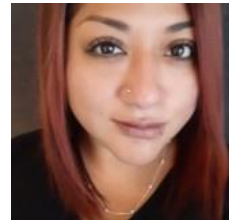
is sponsoring an altar by Veronica Cabrera at their Goat Blocks location. Named for the 2-acre herding field on which the area was developed, the Goat Blocks today is home to the Buckman neighborhood's business and residential center. Columbia Credit Union's branch pays tribute to its community namesake with *goat and block* decorations that may be elements in the altar that Veronica creates. Originally from Mexico City, "Vero" is excited to share her culture and traditions about the celebration of Día de Muertos and will also be working on altars with Marybelle Olea.





was founded in 1977 by two floor covering craftsmen who dreamed of owning their own business. Today, current owners Abby Mages and Markus Stoffel have continued Classique’s commitment to providing top quality, full-service flooring installations to their customers. Their altar will be

created by Marybelle “Marbe” Olea, with Vero using the flooring samples for a "the pathway to Mictlan".



a vegan plant-based frozen treat shop, will also be hosting an altar created by the duo Vero and Marbe. This will be Ice Queen’s second year of hosting an altar, and now in a new location, at SE 11th and Harrison. Ice Queen is a Latina owned business that is excited to host Marbe whose roots and upbringing are from Mexico City and Oaxaca where she has embraced the beauty of Mexican Folklore.



Guardian Games is returning this year to host an altar, which will also be created by Marbe. With the spirit of vintage board games, viewers will have a walk down memory lane with this altar. The value of local community has never been more vital with people coming together to play tabletop games, develop new connections, and create communities.



is also returning this year as an altar host. Carlos “Charlie” Rosas will be creating an altar that integrates bicycle parts, integrated with his love of nature, traditions and spirituality. Born in Salem, Oregon, and raised in the city of Guadalajara, Mexico, he has always felt connected to his cultural roots, using the folklore around him, to inspire younger generations.



Known for being risk takers and culture makers, and their colorful Dumbbell building on the Burnside Bridgehead, Guerilla Develop Corp. is joining the Muertos tour for the first time and hosting an altar also being created by Charlie. With his love of nature, it’s a perfect match to inspire an altar in the iconic Tree Farm Building, known for the 50 trees mounted on the exterior in large steel containers.



is another business returning for this year’s Muertos celebration. Their altar will be created by Santa Garcia Yurchenco and her partner Isaac Martinez. Both from Mexico, their work is inspired by Latin American identity, struggles, and their Meztizo heritage. Their altar will be dedicated to the children of the world.



Wild Shaman Rugs is joining the tour for the first time and the owners, Emre and Yesim Taskin are excited for the opportunity to share the culture behind their Turkish rugs. Their altar will be created by Carina Santollo from Michoacan, Mexico, a self-taught innovator whose work integrates both Mexican indigenous and modern minimalism. This altar will bring together the earthy traditions of Mexican and Turkish cultures.



Returns again this year and will also have an altar created by Carina in their intimate space at SE 6th & Davis. Mexican “nichos” will be at the centerpiece of their traditional styled altar. Greatly affected by the pandemic, Bar Botellon has been an inspiration to the neighborhood for their resilience and creative adaptability. Stop by for a glass of Spanish wine after the bike tour!