

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**\*\* Images available upon request.**

## DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION AT THE DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN

Experience *Día de los Muertos*, a colorful Mexican and Native tradition that honors and celebrates departed loved ones in a festival setting. Enjoy entertainment that will bring the history of this holiday to life via song, dance and storytelling. Experience the Desert Botanical Garden's interactive altar, a display honoring *Día de los Muertos*, the Garden's past and present, and the act of gardening. Devour delicious Mexican food & pastries, available for purchase, and shop for beautiful Mexican art in the Garden's Mercado. **The Garden's *Día de los Muertos* celebration takes place Saturday, October 31 and Sunday, November 1, 2009.**

To enhance your experience and understanding of the *Día de los Muertos Celebration*, the Garden is offering special additions to the festival:

### Ofrenda

**October 28 – November 5 / 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. / Daily**

#### **Included with Garden admission**

Expand your knowledge of the *Día de los Muertos* through the beauty and creativity of ofrenda installations by local artists. All installations will have a direct relation to *Día de los Muertos*, its history and its meaning in contemporary times.

### La Calaca Cabaret

***Saturday / October 31 / 7 - 9 p.m.***

**Member Adult: \$14 / Non-Member Adult: \$20 / Children (ages 3-12): \$8**

La Calaca Cabaret is a celebration of music, dance, poetry, storytelling and theater, featuring the Valley's premier Day of the Dead practitioners: Zarco Guerrero, Stella Pope Duarte, Michelle Ceballos and other surprise invited guest artists. The Calaca is the smiling skull image of Mexican art. Since ancient times, the Calaca has symbolized rebirth and regeneration and expressed the acceptance of death as an integral part of life. It is used extensively during the Mexican holiday of *Día de los Muertos* and has become a vital symbol in contemporary Chicano cultural expression. This performance expresses the pageantry in

Mexican/Chicano tradition, especially as it pertains to *Día de los Muertos*, combining folk arts, music, dance, performance and the extensive use of masks to entertain and educate audiences about this ancient celebration and its meaning and viability in a contemporary urban setting.

*La Calaca Cabaret is a family friendly event presented in a bilingual and concert-style format. Despite addressing the theme of death, La Calaca Cabaret is full of life, sarcasm, social commentary, lively performances and humor.*

### **Evening Procession**

***Sunday / November 1 / 4:30 p.m. / Included with Garden admission***

This year's *Día de los Muertos Celebration* will culminate in a large garden-wide procession featuring the Valley's premier Day of the Dead practitioners, who will lead this special activity with colorful song and dance. Moving from the Garden's Mercado on Boppart Courtyard, the procession will work its way through the Garden to the exit, stopping along the trails to visit outdoor altar installations created by local artists.

**WHEN:**           **Saturday and Sunday, October 31 and November 1, 2009**  
**10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**WHERE:**       Desert Botanical Garden  
1201 North Galvin Parkway  
Phoenix, AZ 85008

**COST:**           **Garden Admission Rates:** \$15.00 for adults, \$13.50 for seniors, \$7.50 for students (13-18 years-of-age and college with proper ID), \$5.00 for children 3-12 years-of-age. Children under 3 years-of-age and Garden members are admitted free.

**INFO:**           For additional information call 480-941-1225 or visit [www.dbg.org](http://www.dbg.org).

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