
Arlington Arts Center's 15th Annual Día de los Muertos Celebration

Día de los Muertos Celebration

Saturday / November 3 / 5-8pm

Día de los Muertos: A Cultural Legacy, Past, Present & Future

On view: November 3 – December 15

Projection: Robin Bell x MazPaz: Una Luz Para Los Muertos

On view: Nov 2 & 3 / 6-8:30pm

ARLINGTON, VA – For the 15th consecutive year, Arlington Arts Center (AAC) is proud to present its annual Día de los Muertos exhibition and celebration. Featuring traditional music, costumed dancers, customary food, and family-friendly art activities, this event is free to the public and is suitable for audiences of all ages and backgrounds. As one of AAC's most popular programs, Día de los Muertos drew over 700 visitors in 2017.



Sonia Romero, *Untitled*, 2015

In keeping with AAC's visual arts mission, the event also includes an annual exhibition in the Jenkins Community Gallery, featuring artwork addressing themes related to the centuries-old celebration of Día de los Muertos. This year AAC presents a selection of prints on loan from Self-Help Graphics & Art (SHG), a community-driven nonprofit based in Los Angeles that is devoted to fostering the creation and advancement of new work by Chicano/a and Latinx artists. The exhibition includes prints from SHG's archive, which were originally presented as part of their 2017 exhibition, *Día de los Muertos: A Cultural Legacy, Past, Present & Future*.

Additionally, in cooperation with Arlington County's Cultural Affairs Division, the event will feature a spectacular, artist-designed projection on AAC's facade, further exploring the Día de los Muertos theme in visual form. This projection is a collaboration between MasPaz and Bell Visuals. MasPaz is a Latino artist born in Bogota, Columbia; raised in Washington, DC; and currently living in Arlington, VA. His murals and public art projects combine influences from Latin American culture with the aesthetic of contemporary street art. Robin Bell, founder of Bell Visuals, is a multimedia artist based in Washington, DC, whose video collage work combines creativity and political activism.

This year's Día de los Muertos celebration includes live performances by Ballet Folklórico Mi Herencia Mexicana, an organization dedicated to promoting and preserving Mexican folklore, and the Washington, DC-based group, Mariachi Aguila, who will be performing traditional mariachi music. Guests will have the opportunity to participate in art workshops, have their faces painted with festive sugar skull imagery, and enjoy tacos from acclaimed local food trucks.

ABOUT ARLINGTON ARTS CENTER

Location: 3550 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22201

Gallery Hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 12-5 pm, or by appointment

AAC's exhibitions and their attendant lectures, workshops, and panel discussions offer opportunities for dialogue, and ultimately serve to illustrate the value of contemporary art —specifically, what it is, how it works, and why it matters in our daily lives. Established in 1974, Arlington Arts Center (AAC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit contemporary visual arts center dedicated to presenting and supporting new work by regional artists. Through exhibitions, educational programs, and subsidized studio spaces, AAC serves as a bridge between artists and the community. AAC is housed in the historic Maury School, and boasts nine exhibition spaces, working studios for thirteen artists, and three classrooms. At 17,000 square feet, AAC is one of the largest non-federal venues for contemporary art in the Washington DC metropolitan area. For more information, visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org or call 703.248.6800.

Arlington Arts Center (AAC) is an independent, 501(c)(3) organization. Our programs are supported in part by The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; Arlington County through the Arlington Cultural Affairs division of Arlington Economic Development and the Arlington Commission for the Arts; the Virginia Commission for the Arts/National Endowment for the Arts; the Washington Forrest Foundation; and generous individual donors.



The project by Robin Bell and MasPaz and the performance by Mariachi Aguila were realized through the artistic direction, collaboration, and essential support from our colleagues, co-presenters, and partners at Arlington Cultural Affairs. Refreshments are being sponsored by the Ballston BID.



Día de los Muertos: A Cultural Legacy, Past, Present & Future is part of Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA, a far-reaching and ambitious exploration of Latin American and Latino art in dialogue with Los Angeles. Pacific Standard Time is an initiative of the Getty.

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