

## Arlington Arts Center's 16th Annual Día de los Muertos Celebration

### Día de los Muertos Celebration

Saturday / November 2 / 5-8pm

### Francisco Loza

On view: November 2 – December 22

### Projection: Robin Bell x Claudia Olivos: Fiesta de los Ancestros

On view: Nov 1 & 2 / sunset until 8:30pm

ARLINGTON, VA – For the 16th 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 1,000 visitors in 2018.



Francisco Loza, *Destino Final (Final Destination)*

In keeping with AAC's visual arts mission, the event includes an annual exhibition in the Jenkins Community Gallery. This year, AAC presents a solo exhibition of works by Francisco Loza. Originally from Mexico, Loza creates Arte de Estambre or pressed yarn art. The Arte de Estambre technique is associated with the Huichol people, an indigenous group that lives in the central mountainous region of Mexico. Loza learned the technique from Huichol artisans and continues to collaborate with Huichol artisan-shamans in Mexico and the United States. In his pressed yarn works, Loza draws on both traditional and contemporary influences. Many of his pieces depict Latin American and Mexican cultural traditions and community scenes, while others draw on more abstract and experimental influences and imagery.

Additionally, in cooperation with Arlington County's Cultural Affairs Division, the event will feature an artist-designed projection on AAC's facade, further exploring the Día de los Muertos theme in visual form. This projection is a collaboration between Robin Bell and Claudia Olivos. Robin Bell, founder of Bell Visuals, is a multimedia artist based in Washington, DC, whose video collage work combines creativity and political activism. Claudia Olivos is an Arlington-based artist whose paintings celebrate and honor the energy of the Divine Feminine.

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 Mariachi Los Amigos, a group of friends who share a passion for the lively, extroverted sound of mariachi music. Guests will have the opportunity to participate in art workshops, have their faces painted with festive sugar skull imagery, sample traditional pan de muerto and Mexican hot chocolate, then grab dinner from acclaimed local food vendors La Tingeria and Ana's Twist.

## 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](http://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 Claudia Olivos and the performance by Mariachi Los Amigos were realized through the artistic direction, collaboration, and essential support from our colleagues, co-presenters, and partners at Arlington Cultural Affairs.

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Additional support for AAC's Día de los Muertos celebration is provided by Convergent Technologies, Inc.



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