

Call for Proposals: Día de los Muertos - Community Altar



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Mesa's award-winning Día de los Muertos Festival brings together neighbors and community members in a celebration of the memories of the deceased. **This Call for Proposals seeks submissions for a temporary Community Altar.**

We're seeking proposals that honor the traditional engagement of Día de los Muertos while also incorporating contemporary elements where attendees can pay respect to passed loved ones and family members. You are invited to submit your ideas for a temporary Community Altar that activates the Mesa Arts Center campus and engages the community in celebrating this important and culturally significant holiday. The temporary Community Altar will be showcased during Mesa Arts Center's Día de los Muertos Festival on **October 22-23, 2022.**

You can learn more about the Día de los Muertos Festival at
<https://www.mesaartscenter.com/diadelosmuertos>

The Community Altar is a focal point for the Día de los Muertos Festival, occupying a visible and accessible location on the Mesa Arts Center campus. During the two days of the festival, attendees are encouraged to bring photos and objects representative of their loved ones to place on the Community Altar. The festival culminates on October 23rd at 4:30 pm with a procession that ends at the Community Altar where attendees have the opportunity to light candles and place them in front of the altar in decorative sandboxes. At the end of the closing procession, dignitaries from the City of Mesa and the Consulate General of Mexico will address the crowd standing next to the Community Altar.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Community Altar will be located on the steps leading up to the Joanie Flatt terrace. Public access to the steps will be restricted but will have areas for attendees to place photos or memory objects on the Community Altar. See the Mesa Arts Center location and image of the previous altar below.



FEE

The selected artist/team/organization will receive a budget of \$2,500 to fabricate, install, and de-install the Community Altar.

MESA ARTS CENTER TO PROVIDE

The selected artist/team/organization will receive; access to previous year props, candles and decorations, fresh flowers to enhance the altar, including marigolds, call to volunteers to assist in the installation, overnight security roaming the campus and marketing/press opportunities.

WHO CAN APPLY

Anyone with a great idea and an authentic connection to the cultures which celebrate Día de los Muertos is encouraged to apply! For images of altars in different states of Mexico, for reference, please visit <https://www.mesaartscenter.com/diadelosmuertos>. We invite ideas from individual artists in the community, including students or neighborhood residents, as well as artist teams, other design professionals, or organizations. Applicants may recruit team members with various skills needed to realize their concept, such as those with design or

construction skills, and may submit their proposal as an individual or a team.

COMMUNITY ALTAR REVIEW CRITERIA

The temporary Community Altar must meet the following criteria:

1. Be representative of the traditions of Día de los Muertos while offering a contemporary perspective.
2. Be representative of the communities that celebrate this holiday.
3. Be accessible for community members to add photos or other elements.
4. Cover the entire altar area with colorful, engaging, creative, attractive visuals. (Height - 20 feet, Depth - 30 feet in total with steps ranging in 1 foot to 2.5 feet, Width - 43 feet)
5. Demonstrate the skills/team to develop, build, install, deinstall and maintain the Community Altar throughout the festival event. *The altar must be installed by Friday, October 21st at 10pm and de-installed on Sunday October 23rd by 10pm.*
6. Proposal is not attached to the building or blocking walkways.

PROJECT BUDGET

Total project stipend will be a maximum of \$2,500. Proposed budget should cover design, materials, fabrication, all labor (including labor by the applicant or others for fabrication), deinstallation, and other related expenses. Budget must be detailed in the application, estimating costs for materials, any fabrication, labor costs, moving expenses, etc. **This budget should cover all costs associated with your idea.**

Sample Budget:

- Artist Fee
- Materials
- Transportation
- Construction/Fabrication
- Total

HOW TO APPLY

Your application should include the completion of the below, either online <https://forms.gle/HwMJttXXzYZ6WYjA8> or on paper and should include the following:

1. Project Description
 - a. Description of the altar, including how it will address cultural elements and/or contemporary aesthetics.
 - b. How your altar meets the larger goals of the Dia de los Muertos Festival

2. Budget
3. Project Lead Bio
4. Rough Sketch of your idea (artistic ability will not be judged)
5. Up to 2 examples of previous public installation or similar work

SUBMISSION

1. **ONLINE [PREFERRED]** by completing this form and attaching additional documents (form can be found at <https://forms.gle/cHao8oumjAABCvRn6>).
2. **MAIL** PO Box 1466, Mesa, AZ 85211, “attn: Día de los Muertos Community Altar.”

SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed by Mesa Arts Center’s Día de los Muertos Committee and Mesa Arts Center staff, who will make the final selection.

KEY DATES

Deadline for Submissions: **May 30, 2022 (11:59pm) Arizona Time**

Selected Applicants Notified: On or before June 13, 2022

Stipend Release Dates: **Initial Payment:** \$1,250 within three weeks of signing agreement. **Final Payment:** \$1,250 within three weeks of deinstallation.

CONTACTS

If you have additional questions about the Mesa Arts Center Día de los Muertos Festival Community Altar Call for Ideas, please contact Kevin Vaughan-Brubaker, Festival Associate, 602-908-9300, engagement@mesaartscenter.com.

If you are having trouble submitting your application, have any questions or none of the above options meet your needs, please contact Sarah Goedicke at sarah.goedicke@mesaartscenter.com or 480.644.6607.