

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 25-26, 2025. Selected Artist will be invited to create the Community Altar for the next two years of the festival.**

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 26 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 in the middle of the Community Altar. Mariachis will perform at the top of the altar during the procession, as well.

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 there will be areas for attendees to place photos or memory objects on the Community Altar.

Pictured: Mesa Arts Center's Community Altar location and image of the community altar below.



FEE

The selected artist/team/organization will receive a budget of \$5,000 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's props, candles and decorations, fresh flowers to enhance the altar, including marigolds, a 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 that celebrate Día de los Muertos is encouraged to apply! 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 as a team. For images of altars in different states of Mexico, for reference, please visit <https://www.mesaartscenter.com/diadelosmuertos>.

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 from 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 24 by 10 pm and deinstalled on Sunday October 26 by 10 pm.*
6. Elements of the altar may not be attached to the building or blocking walkways or stairs.

PROJECT BUDGET

The total project stipend will be a maximum of \$5,000. The proposed budget should cover design, materials, fabrication, all labor (including labor by the applicant or others for fabrication), deinstallation, and other related expenses. The 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 project description questions below, either via the online LINK or on paper:

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 Día 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 two (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 LINK: <https://forms.office.com/g/yS9bMpPtdL>).

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: **April 30, 2025 (11:59 pm) Arizona Time**
- Selected Applicants Notified: On or before May 9, 2025
- Stipend Release Dates: **Initial Payment:** \$2,000 with signing of the agreement
- **Second Payment:** \$2,000 with final design approval
- **Final Payment:** \$1,000 following completion of deinstallation.

CONTACTS

If you have additional questions about Mesa Arts Center's Día de los Muertos Festival Community Altar Call for Ideas, please contact Kevin Vaughan-Brubaker, Festival and Special Events Manager, 480-644-6540, kevin.vaughan-brubaker@mesaartscenter.com.

If you are having trouble submitting your application, have any questions or none of the above options meet your needs, please contact David Moroney at david.moroney@mesaartscenter.com.