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**Mesa Arts Center's Dia de los Muertos Festival Celebrates Day of the Dead Traditions
October 25 and 26
Presented by SRP**

For Immediate Release

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Mesa, AZ – On Saturday, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 26, from noon to 5 p.m., the Mesa Arts Center campus will host a celebration of the memory of departed loved ones with the Ninth Annual Dia de los Muertos Festival. The free festival will offer a nonstop schedule of live entertainment, participatory children's activities, a wide variety of food options, studio demonstrations, and a Mercado Marketplace, featuring traditional and contemporary merchandise,

jewelry, and Mexican arts and crafts from over thirty local artisans and vendors.

In the spirit of traditional Dia de los Muertos festivities, a community altar will be the centerpiece for the festival, where attendees can leave mementos in honor of their loved ones who have passed. Altars created by community groups, schools and families will also be on display for a festival contest sponsored by the Mexican Consulate and Mesa Association of Hispanic Citizens.

In the Bookmans Family Activity area festival participants of all ages are invited to create a traditional sugar skull or ceramic pin, or to contribute a paper flower to construct a large-scale, colorful skull over the course of the weekend. Families can also enjoy the Taylor Troupe Stiltwalkers and performances by juggler James Reid.

Featured festival performances include award-winning author Stella Pope Duarte with Liliana De Leon-Torsiello, Fiesta Mexicana Dance, Folklorico Lindo y Querido, Mariachi Passion, Mariachi Corazon de Phoenix, Mariachi Juvenil los Primos, Mariachi Viva, Noemy Esparza, Nuance Jazz, Orchestra Kaliente, Sherry Finzer, Si Se Puede Foundation, Sol Gitana, Unidos en Armistad and more.



The festival will culminate in a performance and an open procession to the Community Altar led by Mariachi Pasion at 4:45 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 26.

Mesa Arts Center is located at One East Main Street in downtown Mesa. There is no charge to attend the Dia de Los Muertos Festival, and parking is free. More information can be found at MesaArtsCenter.com or by calling 480-644-6500.

Editor's Note: Images are available for download via Mesa Arts Center's online Press Room at <http://www.mesaartscenter.com/index.php/misc/about/press-room/login> (Password is macmedia).

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About Mesa Arts Center

The Mesa Arts Center, owned and operated by the City of Mesa, is a unique, architecturally stunning facility located in the heart of downtown Mesa. Arizona's largest arts center is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios. Guests, patrons, and students come to Mesa Arts Center to enjoy the finest live entertainment and performances, world-class visual art exhibitions, and outstanding arts education classes. The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. For more information, visit mesaartscenter.com.