



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

201 North Figueroa Street
Suite 1400
Los Angeles, CA 90012
TEL 213.202.5500
FAX 213.202.5511
WEB culturela.org

MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 16, 2008

Media Contact: John Paul Thornton, DCA
Phone: 818-346-7099
818 346-7099
john.thornton@lacity.org

**Día De Los Muertos Family Art Festival
at the Canoga Park Youth Arts Center**

Canoga Park, CA- The Canoga Park Youth Arts Center is proud to present their free, eighth annual Día De Los Muertos Family Art Festival on Saturday, November 1, 2008. While decorating sugar skulls, creating colorful masks, and enjoying delicious food, guests will be entertained by costumed Aztec dancers, authentic folk music, and a magnificent shadow puppet show. The gallery exhibit will feature children's art inspired by traditional Mexican folk arts and will include gorgeous altars to honor great painters from the past.

With its roots a combination of ancient Aztec rituals and Catholic ceremonies from Spain, the rustic tradition Día De Los Muertos translates as "Day Of the Dead" and bears only a passing resemblance to American Halloween. Día De Los Muertos is not about frightening others while wearing scary costumes. It actually began in Mexico and Central American countries as a way to honor family members who have died. At the Canoga Park Youth Arts Center, decorated altars are dedicated to some of the world's most revered creative figures such as Leonardo Da Vinci, Frida Kahlo, and Vincent Van Gogh. Yet far from sadness, the act of honoring the dead involves a playful attitude of laughing in the face of death. This manifests in whimsical skeleton sculptures, sugar skulls, delicious foods, music, and handicrafts. Día De Los Muertos is an artist's dream. The creation of beautiful artwork has become a wonderful component of the tradition.

Come and join in the celebration! This is a free event for the entire family.

The Canoga Park Youth Arts Center's eight annual Día De Los Muertos Family Festival will be held on Saturday, November 1st, 2008, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Canoga Park Youth Arts Center is a facility of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and is located at 7222 Remmet Avenue, Canoga Park, CA, 91303. For general information, the public may call 818.346.7099.

About DCA:

The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) generates and supports high quality arts and cultural experiences for Los Angeles residents and visitors. DCA advances the social and economic impact of the arts and assures access to arts and cultural experiences through grant making, marketing, public and



MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

-more-

Page 2- Día De Los Muertos

community arts programming, arts education, and creating partnerships with artists and arts and cultural organizations in every community in the City of Los Angeles.

DCA grants \$3.4 million annually to over 300 artists and nonprofit arts organizations and awards the Artist-in-Residence (A.I.R.) and City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) Individual Artist Fellowships. The Department provides arts and cultural programming in its numerous Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers, theaters, and historic sites, and manages several arts and education programs for young people. It directs public art projects and manages the City's Arts Development Fee and Percent for Arts Programs, and the Art Collection and Murals Programs. DCA markets the City's cultural events through development and collaboration with strategic partners, design and production of creative promotional materials, and management of the culturela.org website.

###