

ART CENTER EAST HOSTS Día de los Muertos CELEBRATION

LA GRANDE — The annual Día de los Muertos celebration has returned to Art Center East. Like everything this year, however, ACE had to make a few changes. Most of the celebration will take place online or at home, with the exception of the community ofrenda.

The community ofrenda is now open to the public at the art center, 1006 Penn, La Grande. All are welcome to place a photo or memento of a lost loved one on it (plan to pick up your item

Nov. 9-10). Papers will be available for writing a message, or you may bring your own. See the ofrenda with all of its candles lit on Friday, Oct. 30, from 4-6 p.m.

“It feels especially relevant this year in the midst of a global pandemic to give the community a place to remember lost loved ones and reflect on the transitory nature of life,” noted a press release from Art Center East.

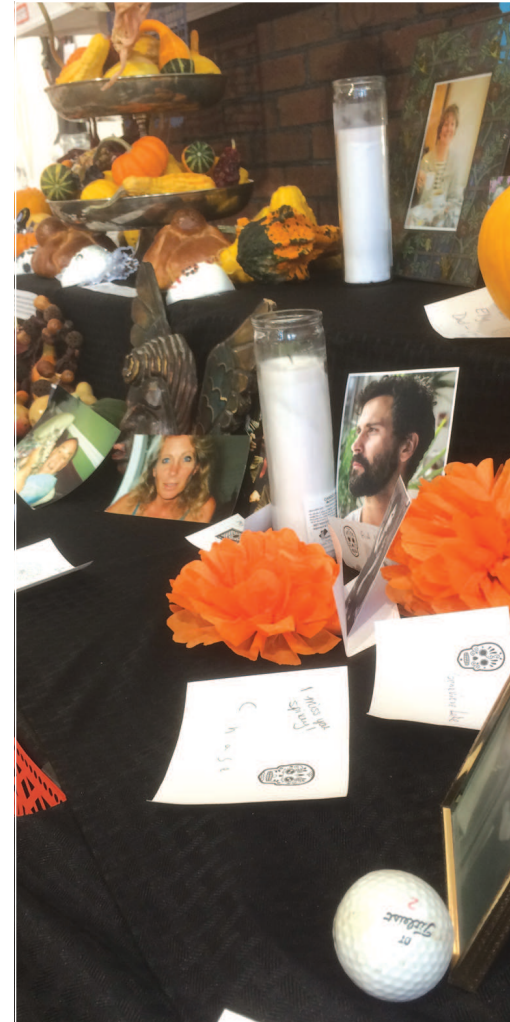
Rather than classroom art on the gallery walls this year, you are invited to leave your own contribution to our community art wall when you visit. Check back toward the end of the exhibit to see what others have added to the interactive art piece.

New this year is a take-home component to the exhibit. Take-home kits will include art supplies and information for creating your own home ofrenda and other Día de los Muertos art, as well as four La Fiesta tamales and four “calavera” sugar cookies.

After you complete your home ofrenda, submit a photo of it by Nov. 3 and it will be included in ACE’s online virtual exhibit that launches Nov. 5. (Photos may be submitted to sarah@artcentereast.org as a .jpg or .png file.)

Take-home kits must be reserved in advance (call ACE at 541-624-2800 or go to <https://artcentereast.org/product/take-home-kit>). The kits are valued at \$25 each. They are available for free (enter \$0 on the reservation form) or whatever price you can afford. Reserved kits may be picked up Friday, Oct. 30, at the art center.

ACE’s Day of the Dead celebration concludes with a virtual artist talk with Berenice Chavez, a recent Eastern Oregon University graduate and a talented emerging Mexican-American photographer. Her work explores themes of family, separation and loss. To RSVP for this free event, go to <https://artcentereast.org/calendar/artist-talk-with-berenice-chavez>.



Art Center East / Contributed Photo

ACE’s Day of the Dead celebration features a community ofrenda honoring those who are no longer with us.

Artist talk

Día de los Muertos is a celebration of life through the lens of loss. Berenice Chavez’s work mirrors this sentiment, exploring family,



Chavez

love, separation and belonging with the photographs she takes of her undocumented family members.

“My family and I are characters that play a role in a story of undocumented immigrants in American society,” Chavez says.

“I photograph my mother every time I visit home. The process of developing, proofing, editing and printing the photographs are a way for me to make up for the time I cannot be with her. The permanence of the image solidifies the life and identity my mother has made for herself in this country. For me, these photographs take the place of the legal citizenship that my mother does not have. They are proof that she belongs.”

In this online artist talk, Chavez will present a slideshow of her work, sharing some of the stories behind the photographs. A time for Q&A with Chavez follows.

Día de los Muertos

Recognized by UNESCO

as an Intangible Cultural Heritage, Día de los Muertos is a Mexican national holiday that, despite its name, celebrates the joys of life and offers an annual opportunity to honor loved ones who have passed. The tone of the Day of the Dead is playful and celebratory, and its traditions highlight the importance of family, both living and dead.



The Art Center East Day of the Dead exhibit and activities are supported by a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation’s Latino Partnership Program.



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FRIDAY
High 61 Low 34
Partly sunny



SATURDAY
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SUNDAY
High 59 Low 32
Mostly sunny