



# Dias de Los Muertos

at San Bernardino County Museum

## Dias de Los Muertos at San Bernardino County Museum

The San Bernardino County Museum will present a Dias de Los Muertos Family Celebration on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2006 from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. The event, designed to meet the needs of the community— especially families—for meaningful cultural enrichment opportunities to share with their children, is free and open to the public.

The museum event will begin at 10:00 a.m. with opening ceremonies at 10:15 p.m. with remarks by honorary chairperson 5<sup>th</sup> District San Bernardino County Supervisor Josie Gonzales, Museum Director Robert McKernan, and Curator of History Michele Nielsen.

The day's activities between 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. will include a musical and dramatic performance by Victor Valley College Ballet Folklorico del Desierto, and basket weaving demonstrations and hands-on activities with Nexwetem—the Southern California Indian Basketweavers Society. Visitors can also chat informally with with Gena Philibert Ortega, genealogist, and members of the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America - Southern California Chapter, about researching family history.

Art activities for all ages related to the celebration of Dias de Los Muertos will be facilitated by the museum education division and community volunteers. Activities will include creating *papel picados* (cut paper panels), *zempusúchiles* (paper marigold-making, a flower traditional to the holiday), *calavera* (skull) *mascaras* (masks), and *la calacas or eskeletones* (skeleton puppets).

This event will also feature a festive *ofrenda* where visitors can place memory items if they care to do so. An area for picnics will be available.

Food and flower vendors from the community will be on hand with Mexican food, *pan de muertos*, *calaveras dulces*, and other items that are traditional parts of the Dias de Los Muertos celebration.

The celebration will conclude with a performance by the *Ballet Folklorico del Desierto* from

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Victor Valley College between 2:00-2:45. At 3:00 farewells with Bertha Padilla and Lorraine Hedtke of Vitas Hospice Care and Museum Curator of History Michele Nielsen will be followed by a community dance.

Created by the San Bernardino County Museum, the event will offer visitors the opportunity to learn more about the cultural history of Dias de Los Muertos as they enjoy live entertainment and educational activities.

Sponsors and contributors to this Dias de los Muertos celebration include Vitas Hospice Care; Victor Valley College Ballet Folklorico del Desierto; San Bernardino Mission Chapel Mortuary-Funeria; Down By Law Mobile DJ's in association with Odyssey DJ Entertainment; Monica Arce-Archuletta and Nexwetem; Gena Philibert Ortega; Genealogical Society of Hispanic America - Southern California Chapter; Craig Putnam; and Eagle Scout candidates under the direction of Dave Beckar.

The San Bernardino County Museum is The San Bernardino County Museum is at the California Street exit from Interstate 10 in Redlands. The museum is open Tuesdays through Sundays and holiday Mondays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$6 (adult), \$5 (student or senior), and \$4 (child aged 5 to 12). Children under five and Museum Association members are admitted free. Parking is free. For more information, visit [www.sbcountymuseum.org](http://www.sbcountymuseum.org).

The museum is accessible to persons with disabilities. If assistive listening devices or other auxiliary aids are needed in order to participate in museum exhibits or programs, requests should be made through Museum Visitor Services at least three business days prior to your visit. Visitor Services' telephone number is 909-307-2669 ext. 229 or (TDD) 909-792-1462.