

SPECIAL EVENTS

Music and art mark Día de los Muertos

Exhibits and activities for all ages celebrate the Day of the Dead

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El Día de los Muertos — the Day of the Dead — is upon us, and Eugene and Springfield offer a variety of ways to celebrate this week and next.

Maude Kerns Art Center

As part of its regular Día observance, Maude Kerns Art Center, 1910 E. 15th Ave., is hosting Eugene artist Samuel Becerra's "The South in the North Project," a performance on handcrafted percussion and wind instruments that he builds himself of pre-Hispanic music from the ancient Aztecs and Mayans and from the Andes region of South America.

Becerra, a ceramicist, brings to life ancient instruments such as flutes and ocarinas inspired by animal figures. He also shapes Mexican skulls and skeletons as part of the offerings for the Day of the Dead. His hourlong performance starts at 8 p.m. today.

Maude Kerns is also showing its 18th annual Día de los Muertos Exhibit, a juried show of work by 26 artists from around the country. The exhibit runs through Nov. 4.

Springfield library

Youngsters and ghouls with an earlier bed time might want to check out the free Day of the Dead celebration from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday at the meeting room at the Springfield Public Library, 225 Fifth St., Springfield.

Folkloric music will be performed by Grupo de los Andes.

Fun art activities for children and snacks for everyone will be provided.

Jordan Schnitzer Museum

The Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, in association with Oak Hill School, MEChA, Adelante Si and Dirección de Atención a Comunidades Guanajuatenses en el Extranjero, presents a free Día celebration at 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the museum with music, poetry and refreshments.

Eugene Arte Latino

Meanwhile, Becerra will perform again next week when Eugene Arte Latino and Downtown Languages, 1035 Willamette St., host their own Día de Los Muertos Celebration and Art Exhibit from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. Nov. 4. Local artists will display their works. A life-size alebrije (fantastic creature from Mexico) will welcome visitors. Featured will be visual art by Becerra, Erin Bucklew and Jessica Zapata.

The opening reception begins at 5:30 p.m. In addition, there will be introductory tours and a lecture from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday and Nov. 3. All events are free and open to the public.

Selected pieces from the Migrant Program Summer School and the Downtown Languages Summer Art Workshop also will be displayed.

During the summer, a group of school-age children worked on pieces of art related to the Day of the Dead.

They demonstrated their talent and skills in the form of painting and sculpture, depicting flowers, skulls and calaveras.