

## Day of the Dead

Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is two days of celebration, November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, to commemorate the lives of the departed and welcome the return of their spirits. The history of Day of the Dead is embedded with indigenous and Spanish customs and has become increasingly popular in Latin America and the United States.

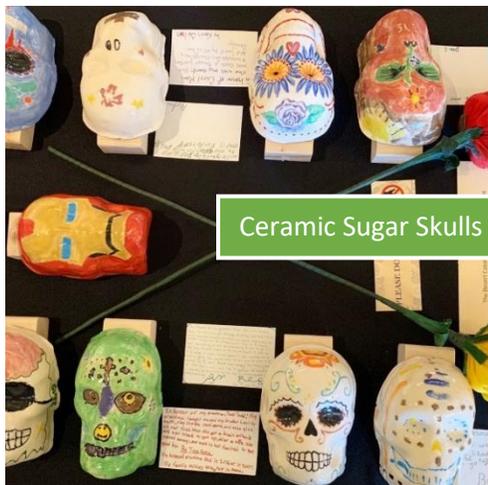


DCWM Ofrenda 2019

Every fall, the Desert Caballeros Western Museum celebrates Day of the Dead by offering a community ofrenda. In addition, local student artists create works of art for the exhibit.



"Empty Chairs" 2018



Ceramic Sugar Skulls 2019



Paper Mache 2017

Celebrate Day of the Dead by making a traditional inspired work of art.

# Day of the Dead Inspired Art and Crafts

## Paper Marigolds

- Marigolds (Cempasuchitl) are called the flowers of the dead. It is believed the fragrant smell along with their yellow-orange color attract the deceased on their journey to visit their families.

### Supplies

- Yellow and/or orange tissue paper
- Green craft stems
- Scissors

**Step 1:** Layer 5-6 pieces of tissue paper. It is helpful to cut the tissue paper into desired size squares first.

**Step 2:** Fold the paper like a fan, each strip about half inch to inch wide.

**Step 3:** With scissors, round off the two ends.

**Step 4:** Wrap the pipe cleaner around the middle of the segment.

**Step 5:** Spread out the fan. Take the top layer of the fan and pull it up. Repeat with remaining layers. Fluff out if necessary.

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## Papel Picado

- Papel Picado (punched paper) is traditionally used for many Mexican holidays including Day of the Dead. The papel picado represents wind, one of the aspects important to an ofrenda altar.

### Supplies

- Assorted tissue paper
- Scissors
- String
- Glue or tape

**Step 1:** Fold the tissue paper lengthwise (hotdog) and fold twice widthwise (hamburger).

**Step 2:** Start cutting out patterns (squares, triangles, rectangles, and curvy lines) but do not cut the corners of the paper. For added flair, decorate the bottom edge with zigzags/waves.

**Step 3:** Unfold paper and clean up edges if needed.

**Step 4:** To make a banner, fold the top edge over a long piece of string and tape or glue it.

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## Sugar Skulls

- Sugar skulls (Calaveritas de azucar) are given to children as gifts or placed on the ofrenda as an offering. The skull symbolizes death while the sugar refers to the sweetness of life. Representations of sugar skulls can be found in various artwork including ceramic and Paper Mache creations. Use the template provided to draw and create your own sugar skull design.
- For instructions to make a real sugar skull, go to <http://www.gourmetsleuth.com/sugarskullsmaking.htm> or <http://www.mexicansugarskull.com/mexicansugarskull/recipe.htm>
- For instructions to make a Paper Mache skull go to <http://www.juniperlearning.com/skull.html>

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**Share your creations.**

**#westernmuseum**

Design a sugar skull.

