



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Encinitas Friends of the Arts Presents 13th Annual Encinitas Día de los Muertos Celebration

Free Family-Friendly Festival Set for Sunday, October 25, 2026, at MiraCosta College San Elijo Campus

Encinitas, CA — Encinitas Friends of the Arts (EFA), in partnership with MiraCosta College, Mano a Mano Foundation and the City of Encinitas, proudly announces the **13th Annual Encinitas Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Celebration** on **Sunday, October 25, 2026, from 12–4 p.m.** at the MiraCosta College San Elijo Campus, 3333 Manchester Ave., Cardiff.

This **free community festival** honors the rich traditions of Día de los Muertos, a cherished Mexican and Latino cultural holiday when families and communities come together to celebrate and remember loved ones who have passed.

“We are honored to continue this beloved Encinitas tradition and to work alongside our community partners to create a celebration that is welcoming to everyone more specifically our Latino neighbors,” said **Naimeh Woodward, President of Encinitas Friends of the Arts**. “Día de los Muertos reminds us that art and culture have the power to bring people together, preserve meaningful traditions, and create connections across generations and backgrounds. We are especially proud that this celebration remains free and accessible to the entire community.”

“MiraCosta College is proud to welcome our community to the San Elijo Campus for a celebration that honors culture, family, remembrance, and connection,” said **Dr. Lennor M. Johnson, superintendent/president of MiraCosta College**. “Our campuses are places where people come together to learn from one another, celebrate the experiences and traditions that enrich our region, and strengthen our sense of community.”

The festival opens with a **blessing of the Community Ofrenda (remembrance altar)** by **Danza Azteca Mission San Luis Rey**, followed by remarks from community leaders, including **State Senator Catherine Blakespear, Encinitas Mayor Bruce Ehlers, Council Member Joy Lyndes, and Assemblymember Tasha Boerner**, among others. **Beatriz Villarreal, Program Director of Mano a Mano Foundation**, will serve as emcee.

Cultural Performances & Activities

Attendees will enjoy a full afternoon of live performances, including:

- **Danza Azteca Mission San Luis Rey**

- **Mariachi Fuente**
- **Ballet Folklórico de San Dieguito**
- **Ballet Folklórico El Tapatio de San Dieguito**
- **Ballet Caliztlan Santa Catarina de Juquila Oaxaca**
- And more

Hands-on workshops will include face painting, tissue flower making, sugar skull decorating, and large-scale flower crafting with **Sandra Servin**. **Joseph Curiel** will guide participants in painting, while the **Encinitas Ceramic Artists Collective** will showcase Mexican-inspired pieces for sale. Artwork by **Oak Crest Middle School students** will also be featured.

Festival goers can enjoy a **lowrider car show** presented by **Callejeros de Encinitas Car Club** along with artist demonstrations, artisan vendors, and authentic food. Opportunity drawings will offer prizes and free giveaways including laptop computers.

The **Community Ofrenda**, displayed indoors, invites attendees to participate by bringing a photo or small, non-valuable memento to honor the memory of loved ones.

Community Support

The Encinitas Día de los Muertos celebration is made possible through the generous support of the **City of Encinitas**, **Encinitas Friends of the Arts**, **Mano a Mano Foundation**, and **MiraCosta College**, along with sponsors including **California Coast Credit Union**, **MiGente**, **The Cottage**, **AmeriCorps**, **Woodward Family Trust**, and **San Dieguito Alliance for Drug Free Youth**, **North County Art Network**, and other community organizations.

About Encinitas Friends of the Arts

Founded in 2014, **Encinitas Friends of the Arts (EFA)** is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to elevating arts and culture in Encinitas and throughout North County San Diego. EFA supports cultural programming, arts education, and public art, enriching the community through creativity, cultural understanding, and diversity.

For event details and the full schedule, visit www.encinitasarts.org and/or contact Encinitasarts@gmail.com.

