

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

October 8, 2024

Honoring Loved Ones at Gloria Molina Grand Park’s 13th Annual Downtown Día de los Muertos

Día de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead, is a time-honored celebration that honors the lives and memories of those who have passed away, deeply rooted in Indigenous Mexican traditions, and enriched by Catholic influences. This revered tradition is characterized by its vibrant and respectful customs, including the creation of intricate altars (*ofrendas*), the offering of traditional foods, the adornment of graves with marigolds and candles, and the performance of music and dance.

Gloria Molina Grand Park has emerged as a central cultural venue in our community, providing a prominent and accessible space where individuals from all backgrounds can come together to participate in and celebrate Día de los Muertos, reflecting the diverse cultural tapestry of Los Angeles County. The Día de los Muertos celebrations at Gloria Molina Grand Park have grown significantly in scale and impact, evolving into a cornerstone program that not only honors and celebrates cultural heritage, but also fosters a sense of unity and belonging among residents. The success

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and impact of Gloria Molina Grand Park's Downtown Día de los Muertos are a testament to the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders, including local government partners, community organizations, and cultural institutions who work to create a memorable and inclusive celebration.

Gloria Molina Grand Park's Downtown Día de los Muertos, taking place from October 19 to November 2, 2024, on blocks 1 and 2 of the park between Grand Avenue and Hill Street, is a community-oriented space inviting park-goers to contribute to a community altar curated by artist, educator, and curator Consuelo G. Flores, and to stroll through the park viewing twenty altars made by the following government partners, local organizations, and professional artists:

- Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, First District
- Antonio Rael
- Consuelo Flores
- Gian Flores Norte
- Jessica Monares
- Joe Bravo
- Marissa Magdalena Sykes
- Rose Portillo
- The Gloria Molina Family
- Alec Esparza, OZO CommUNITY, Plus Gizelle Verduzco & Patricia Veliz Macal, Generaciones en Accion
- Jaime Najera & Richard Zaldivar, Wall Las Memorias
- Jennifer Sanchez, Indigital Productions
- Jose Antonio Aguirre, Mexican Cultural Institute
- Josie Garcia, German Shepard Foundation
- Julie Rodriguez, Antioch University
- Melissa Sanvicente, Tia Chuchas Cultural Café
- Rosamaria Marquez, Rock River Rose Gallery
- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Society of Hispanic Engineers/ American Society of Civil Engineers Los Angeles
- ALOUD, Library Foundation of Los Angeles

The program offers a unique opportunity for intergenerational learning and

cultural exchange, allowing younger generations to connect with their heritage and for the broader community to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of this important tradition. Recognizing the importance of maintaining and expanding this cultural celebration is essential for preserving the legacy of Día de los Muertos, reinforcing cultural pride and enriching our community's social and cultural fabric.

To that end, the continued support and involvement of government partners, including Los Angeles County departments, local organizations, and professional artists, are essential for the ongoing success and growth of Día de los Muertos at Gloria Molina Grand Park, ensuring that this important cultural celebration remains a foundation of our community's cultural and social landscape.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Promote Gloria Molina Grand Park's 13th Annual Downtown Día de los Muertos taking place from October 19 to November 2, 2024, by directing all Los Angeles County departments, including Countywide Communications, to disseminate information on social media, newsletters, and other internal and external communication platforms.
2. Direct the Los Angeles County Department of Human Resources, in coordination with The Music Center, to share information on Gloria Molina Grand Park's 13th Annual Downtown Día de los Muertos with County employees.
3. Direct the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office to work with The Music Center in encouraging Los Angeles County departments to participate in upcoming Gloria Molina Grand Park Annual Downtown Día de los Muertos

celebrations so that they can feature an altar or provide programming support.

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