



**CITY OF ONTARIO**  
**ONTARIO MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ART**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING AGENDA**  
FAYE DASTRUP HAMILL HISTORIC COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
225 S. EUCLID AVE. • ONTARIO, CA  
October 24, 2023 • 6:00 PM

**CALL TO ORDER**

**6:00 PM**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**ROLL CALL**

- Kueng
- Caughman
- Gerstheimer
- Weems
- Garcia
- Dorst-Porada/City Council Member

**MUSEUM ASSOCIATES LIAISON**

- Sherwood-James

**STAFF PRESENT**

- McAlary, Executive Director of Community Life & Culture Agency
- Kuchek, Museum Arts & Culture Director
- Costello, Senior Administrative Assistant

**MINUTES**

**MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR September 26, 2023**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**6:30 PM**

The Public Comment portion of the Board of Trustees meeting is limited to 15 minutes total, with each speaker allowed a maximum of 3 minutes. Additional speakers are allowed 3 minutes each at the end of the meeting. Prior to consideration of old or new business agenda items, speakers will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes each to comment on that specific item. Under provisions of the Brown Act, the Board of Trustees is prohibited from taking action on oral requests.

**CITY COUNCIL LIAISON DORST-PORADA**

**STAFF REPORTS**

Director Report – Marissa Kuchek

Recuerdos de Sabores (Día de los Muertos Annual Exhibit) – Sam Herrera

**OLD BUSINESS**

Strategic Plan Update and FY23-24 Annual Goals

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MUSEUM ASSOCIATES/LIAISON COMMENTS**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**MUSEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**NEXT MUSEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING(S)**

Next meeting:

Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 6:00 PM

**ADJOURNMENT**

**7:00 PM**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**  /



Agenda Report  
October 24, 2023

**SECTION: STAFF REPORT**

**Prepared By:** Marissa Kuceck  
**Staff Member Presenting:**  
Marissa Kuceck  
**Approved By:** Marissa Kuceck

**Action: Report & File**

**SUBJECT**

Director's Report

**AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY**

**Public Programs**

In September, the Education Division coordinated four programs. First Thursdays is a new series where the Museum is open late from 5pm-8pm. During the program, the galleries are open late and guest artists host workshops or a drop-in activity. This month, artist Annie Toliver taught the public about the Zentangle method.

Our Emerging Artists series continued with a program titled: Meet the Artist Associations. Participants included: The Arts Area, Associated Artists of Inland Empire, Chaffey Community Museum of Art, Corona Art Association, Drawing Together, Pomona Valley Art Association, Redlands Art Association, and Wrightwood Arts Center.

Studio Saturdays is a new recurring series that was also added this fall. Each month a local artist leads a workshop related to their artistic practice. In September, ceramicist Karla Camacho led three *trastero* workshops, where the public participated in the

development of our annual Día de Muertos exhibit community installation. A *trastero* is a storage room complete with a kitchen rack or shelving area showcasing heirloom plates or cups used for decorative displays or special events. Community members designed plates and mugs that are currently on display in the exhibit *Recuerdos de Sabores*.

In October, the Education Division coordinated two programs. This month's First Thursdays featured calavera mask making. The Education team also coordinated this year's reception for our 25th annual Día de Muertos exhibit: *Recuerdos de Sabores*. The reception was filled with flavorful memories, community-led artwork, local vendors and businesses, face painting and two ballet folklórico group performances from Herencia Mexicana and Ballet Folklórico Cultural from San Bernardino. We were excited to see so many community members come out and celebrate this great milestone.

### **Built on Water:**

Curator of Education, Miriam Valle-Mancilla hosted an Inspiration Station with former Curator of Exhibitions, Leslie Matamoros for the Western Museums Association's (WMA) Annual Meeting in Pasadena, California on October 8th. At WMA, curators highlighted two projects created in conjunction with the *Built on Water* exhibit: *Water Keepers*: a mobile application that explores the past, present and future of water management through a gamified experience and *Wings of Transformation: A Monarch's Journey* a Virtual Reality (VR) experience that uses social emotional learning to explore our local ecology through the lens of the monarch butterfly's migration. Conference attendees experienced both digital interactive components and learned from curators how to inspire and seek opportunities to incorporate digital technologies in their museums. In addition, earlier this month the team received news that their conference proposal was accepted for California Association of Museums Annual Meeting in Long Beach where they will share more about the development of *Built on Water* later in March 2024.

### **Community Outreach:**

On September 30th, the Education Division and Museum Associates participated in Kinderfair, an annual event at the Ovitt Library. On October 2nd, our Education Curator visited Chaffey Joint High School and collaborated with school librarian Alicia Morales to discuss the history of Día de Los Muertos. She also provided instruction on how to create an *ofrenda* - a project that will be completed by several high school classes and displayed in the library common area for their annual Day of the Dead exhibit. Next month, the Education Division will visit Mariposa Elementary as part of their school's annual Day of the Dead celebration.

### **Collections:**

The Collections team has inventoried over 500 items and has moved 345 inventoried items to the offsite storage. On October 5th the team attended a Disaster Preparedness Training at the Western Association of Museum's annual conference: Damaged Paper Recovery workshop. The team learned how to deal with photographs, documents and books that have been damaged by water or by soot.



Agenda Report  
October 24, 2023

**SECTION: STAFF REPORT**

**Prepared By:** Samantha Herrera  
**Staff Member Presenting:**  
Samantha Herrera  
**Approved By:** Marissa Kuchek  
**Action:** Report & File

**SUBJECT**

*Día de los Muertos: Recuerdos de Sabores (Flavorful Memories)*

**AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY**

The Ontario Museum of History & Art is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibition of the Día de los Muertos exhibition. The history of the Ontario Museum of History & Art's annual Día de los Muertos exhibition began in the early 1990s when the Museum shared the North Wing gallery with the non-profit organization Chaffey Community Museum of Art (CCMA). In 1993, CCMA held its first Day of the Dead-related exhibition, *El Día de Los Muertos*. Five years later, in 1998, the Ontario Museum of History & Art staff was inspired and decided to continue the exhibit after CCMA moved to its new home at the Joseph Filippi Winery & Vineyards. The exhibit featured three artists: Danielle Segura, Linda Romero, and Marti Gutierrez; where each artist created individual altars and hosted workshops, including a community altar.

The 25<sup>th</sup> exhibition focuses on favorite foods, an essential element of an altar where it is tradition to offer the departed their favorite foods and drinks. Often-seen foods and beverages include tamales, candied

yams, fruits, coffee, sugar skulls, hot chocolate, and the popular pan de muerto, a sugary bread. It is believed that the delicious flavors and memorable fragrances lure the traveling spirits back to the living. To continue the Museum's long-standing tradition, we invited artists to explore flavorful memories of the past. *Día de los Muertos: Recuerdos de Sabores* is an exhibition featuring the artwork of cherished moments and cuisines that remind us of our departed family and friends. *Día de los Muertos* at the Ontario Museum of History & Art has reunited artists, families, friends, and the community since 1998.

The exhibition includes thirty-six artists and seven organizations that created an *ofrenda* (altar) for the exhibition.

- Chaffey Highschool, Newcomer Students
- Chaffey Highschool, MECHA club
- Colony Highschool
- Rancho Cucamonga Highschool, National Spanish Honor Society
- Lytle Creek Elementary school
- City of Ontario Community Life & Culture Administration and Housing Services Departments
- City of Ontario, Lewis Library

#### Interesting Facts about the Exhibition

- 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the exhibition
- First collaboration with Lytle Creek Elementary and with over 250 students participating
- Created community installation mural in collaboration with the education department and Jessica Cruz, who has been an exhibiting *Día* artist for more than 16 years.
- 14 *ofrendas* on view, the most we have had for the exhibition

#### Related Programming:

Studio Saturdays: *Trastero* Art-Making  
Saturday, September 23, 2023 | 3 PM – 5 PM

First Thursdays: *Calavera* Mask-Making  
Thursday, October 5, 2023 | 5 PM – 8 PM

Community Reception: *Día de los Muertos: Recuerdos de Sabores (Flavorful Memories)*  
Saturday, October 7, 2022 | 12 PM – 3 PM

First Thursdays: Paint in the Dark *Día de Los Muertos*  
Thursday, November 2 | 6 PM – 8PM

Ontario Art Walk: An Evening at the Museum  
Saturday, November 18, 2023 | 6 PM – 9 PM