



Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP ♦ Casa de la Guerra
Santa Inés Mission Mills ♦ Jimmy's Oriental Gardens

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, October 13, 2017

Additional photos available upon request

PRESS CONTACT

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Celebrate *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) at Casa de la Guerra

17th annual celebration includes displays and crafts for the entire family



Photo by Fritz Olenberger

(SANTA BARBARA, CA) – Celebrate ***Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead)** with a **free craft day** and exhibition presented by the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation on **Sunday, October 29 from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM** at **Casa de la Guerra** (15 East de la Guerra Street) in downtown Santa Barbara. Fun for the whole family—discover the fascinating history of this special holiday while decorating sugar skulls, getting your faces painted, and creating skeleton masks, tin artwork, block prints, and more. Enjoy complimentary traditional food, such as *pan de muerto* (bread of the dead) and Mexican hot chocolate.

Day of the Dead is celebrated annually across the world, merging pre-Hispanic customs with Catholic rituals introduced by the Spanish. The celebration exemplifies the synthesis of cultures that defines present-day Latin American culture and, in part, reflects the history of Santa Barbara. Families celebrate *Día de los Muertos* as a time when the spirits of their deceased loved ones return to commune with the living. Families decorate cemeteries and assemble *ofrendas* (which translates to “offerings”) on household altars, where favorite foods and items that the dead enjoyed in life, as well as flowers, candles, and personal mementos, are placed. A moving tradition, *Día de los Muertos* celebrates life and our connection to the past. During the event, descendants of Presidio families will display *ofrendas* honoring their ancestors.

This event is sponsored by The Outhwaite Foundation and The Towbes Foundation.

CALENDAR LISTING



***Día de los Muertos* Craft Day**

Sunday, October 29, 2017

12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Casa de la Guerra, 15 East De la Guerra Street, Santa Barbara, CA

For more information: www.sbthp.org or (805) 965-0093

Celebrate *Día de los Muertos*, “Day of the Dead,” with a free family craft day and exhibit at Casa de la Guerra in downtown Santa Barbara. Discover the fascinating history of this special holiday while decorating sugar skulls and creating block prints, tin art, and more. Traditional food such as *pan de muerto* (bread of the dead) and Mexican hot chocolate will be served. This event is sponsored by The Outhwaite Foundation and The Towbes Foundation. *(Photo by Fritz Olenberger)*

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ABOUT Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP)—For over fifty years the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) has worked to *protect, preserve, restore, reconstruct, and interpret historic sites in Santa Barbara County*. Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase and other concerned community leaders, SBTHP operates El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park—Santa Barbara’s 18th century birthplace—under a unique agreement with California State Parks. The State has purchased the building that housed Jimmy’s Oriental Gardens, providing an opportunity to interpret the history of Santa Barbara’s Asian American community in the Presidio Neighborhood. SBTHP owns and operates Casa de la Guerra, the 1820s home of Presidio *Comandante* José de la Guerra and his family; the restored home is now a museum featuring original furnishings and rotating exhibits. In 2009, SBTHP signed an agreement with State Parks to manage and develop the Santa Inés Mission Mills, located near the town of Solvang, as a future California State Park. In 2011, SBTHP was awarded the Trustees’ Emeritus Award for Excellence in the Stewardship of Historic Sites by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. With the help of continuing education programs and exhibits, SBTHP strives to encourage community involvement and foster an appreciation for Santa Barbara County’s distinctive history. **Learn more at www.sbthp.org.**