



## Call for Submissions

Tohono Chul Park, Tucson, AZ

*Day of the Dead: Ancient Roots/Contemporary Expressions*  
*Día de los Muertos: Raíces Antiguas/Expresiones Contemporáneas*

**Exhibit Dates: Aug 27 – Nov 8, 2009**

**Reception:** Thursday, Sept 10, 5:30-7:30pm (Free)

**Park After Dark:** Friday, Oct 30, 5:00 – 8:00 pm, \$5 General Public

Tohono Chul Park in Tucson, AZ, is seeking artworks created by Southwest artists on the theme of *Día de los Muertos/Day of the Dead*. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> *Día de los Muertos* exhibit organized by Tohono Chul's staff paying homage to this observance. The exhibit will feature an ever-popular Community Ofrenda where people can leave a token, memento or loving tribute on a card in memory of a loved one.

The group exhibit will showcase all media (paintings, sculpture, photographs, fine crafts--jewelry, metals, clay, fiber, glass and wood, mixed media works, and shrines) influenced by the Mexican tradition of *Día de los Muertos* –graveside vigils, colorful traditions, pageantry, paper banners, masked & costumed dances, altars and shrines, sugar skulls and skeletons, flowers, candles and saints - the imagery is endless. Works that are heartfelt expressions dealing with death, loss and remembrance are encouraged. Also humorous and joyous works are welcomed.

In Mexico, ancestors are remembered and honored on the Days of the Dead: All Saints' Day, November 1<sup>st</sup>, and All Souls' Day on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. On these days families attend church, gather at cemeteries to clean graves, and create home *ofrendas* (offerings) that are embellished with food, flowers, photos of the deceased, and candles to entice souls to return for a short visit. Not to be confused with the ghoulish celebration of Halloween, Day of the Dead is a joyful remembrance with feasts and festivities in which death is recognized as a natural part of the cycle of life.

Artists who wish to create new work for this exhibit may submit sketches and a narrative proposal outlining their ideas. Completed works may be submitted in slide, photo, or digital media/CD format. Submissions should include size, media, and an accompanying statement about the work and its relevance to the theme. **No fees required for submissions.** Email submissions or mail materials with a SASE to:

Vicki Donkersley, Curator of Exhibitions  
Tohono Chul Park, 7366 N. Paseo del Norte, Tucson, AZ 85704  
(520) 742-6455 x 218 [vickidonkersley@tohonochulpark.org](mailto:vickidonkersley@tohonochulpark.org)

### **Deadline: July 15 (Early submissions encouraged).**

Tohono Chul will be hosting a family-fun nighttime event on Fri, Oct 30, 5-8pm, which the exhibiting artists are encouraged to attend. The exhibit, musical performances, and children's activities are among the festivities at the Park After Dark event, when 1000+ people enjoy refreshments and entertainment on a starry desert evening.

Tohono Chul Park, where nature, art and culture connect, is a private, not-for-profit organization located in a residential setting in northwest Tucson and was selected as an "Arizona Treasure" by former governor Janet Napolitano. We have a strong arts/cultural program and a family-oriented audience. The Exhibit House is an elegant 70-year-old restored adobe home providing gallery space for changing displays. Gallery hours are 9:00 – 5:00 daily.

Website: [www.tohonochulpark.org](http://www.tohonochulpark.org)