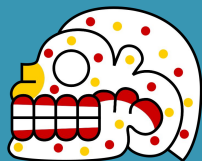


# NICHOS DE MEMORIA

Xico González, MFA



# BIENVENIDXS



**ARTIST**

**EDUCATOR**

**ORGANIZER**

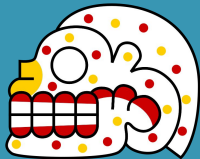
**POET**



# NICHOS DE MEMORIA

## Remembering Our Loved Ones Through Mini Altar Making

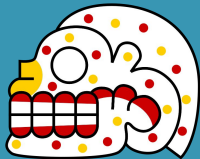
**Xico González will take educators through a nostalgic journey, one of remembrance, honor, and celebration. González will provide educators with a creative tool to help them connect to students through a traditional art form known as “mini altares.” These mini altares are created through the use of Día de muertos iconography, artifacts and poetry.**



# INTENTIONS

**Write in the chat the answer to this question:**

**What do you hope to learn  
from this workshop?**

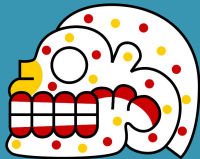




# ¡PRESENTE!

Calling in the ancestors...

**Write the name of a loved one  
that is no longer with us to  
remember and to honor.**

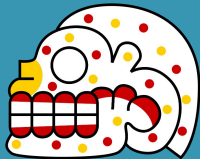


# DÍA DE MUERTOS

**Día de Muertos is a traditional Mexican holiday honoring the dead. Día de Muertos is not a sad time, but instead a time of remembering and rejoicing.**

**Día de Muertos is celebrated every year on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Día de Muertos is celebrated in México, and other parts of Latin America. In the United States, Día de Muertos is celebrated in the US Southwest and other areas where populations of Mexican heritage exist.**



# DÍA DE MUERTOS

## CELEBRATION

### Home

- Altar

### Cemetery

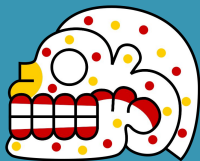
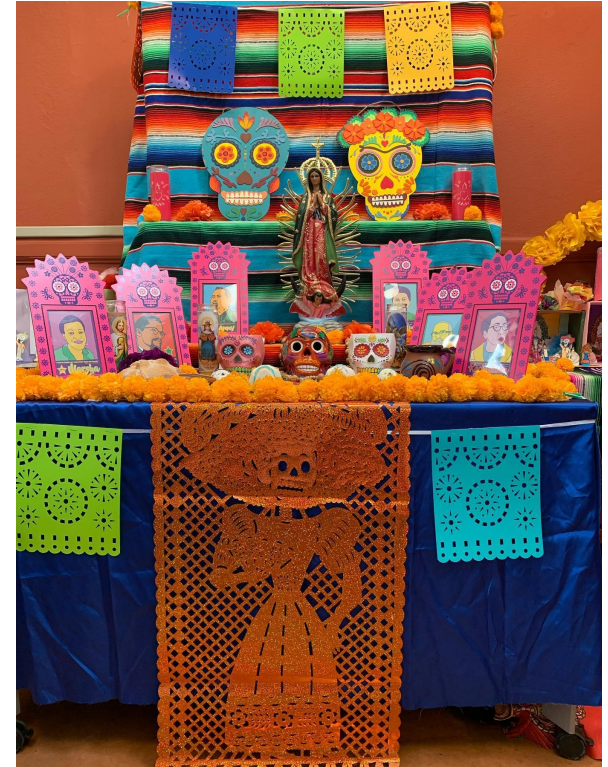
- Community Celebration

### Food

- Loved one's favorite meal

### Music

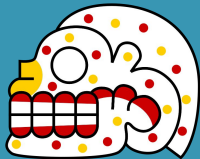
- Banda
- Norteñas
- Mariachi



# ALTARES

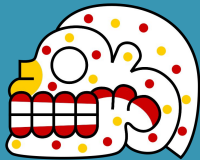
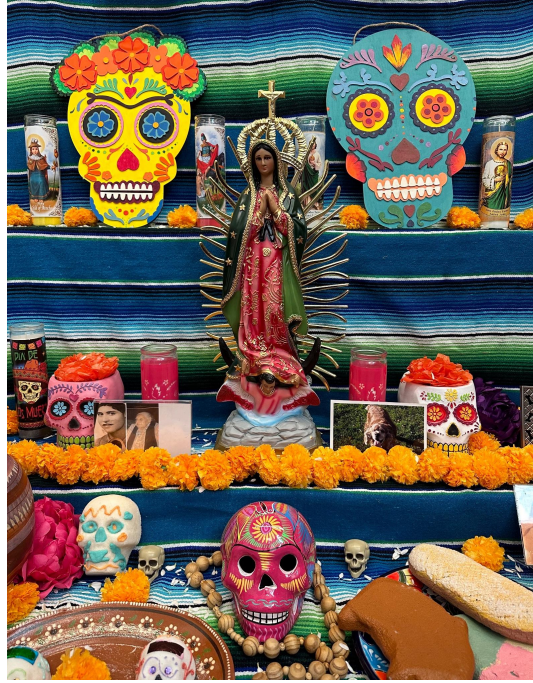
## ALTAR ITEMS:

- Photographs
- Sugar skulls
- Food and drinks
- Cempasuchiles (Marigolds)
- Religious imagery
- Papel picado
- Skeletons
- Pan de muerto
- Candles
- Incense/Copal



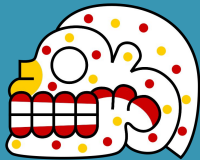


# ALTARES





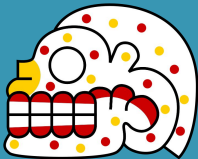
# ALTARES



# JOSÉ GUADALUPE POSADA

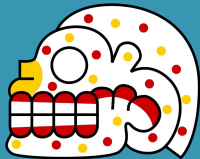
## José Guadalupe Posada

- Born in 1852
- Lithographer and engraver
- Popularized the calavera
- Political satire
- Animated and imaginative style
- Creator of "Catrina calavera"



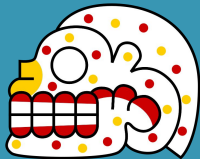


# JOSÉ GUADALUPE POSADA



# NICHOS

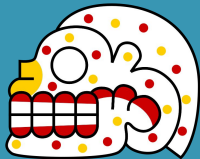
A nicho is a three-dimensional or recessed display box, used as a portable shrine to an important figure or loved one. They originated as an adaptation of the Roman Catholic “retablo”, which is a painting of a patron saint on wood or tin.



# MINI ALTARES

## MINI ALTAR INSTRUCTIONS:

- Fully cover your shoe box with colored paper
- Color and add the coloring pages cutouts to your shoe box
- Add a picture of a loved one that passed away to the coloring altar page
- Personalize your mini altar
- Write a poem

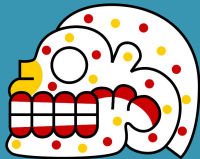




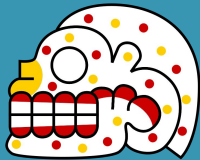
# MINI ALTARES

## PERSONALIZING YOUR MINI ALTAR

- Paper flowers/fake flowers
- Papel picado
- Candles and/or lights
- Religious images and iconography
- Little skeleton figure
- Food (fake or real)
- Mexican/Indigenous or other type of cloth
- Skulls
- And much more

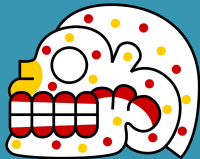


# MINI ALTARES



# DÍA DE MUERTOS POEM

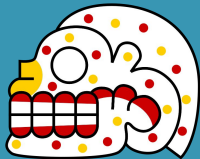
**What the altar does with physical items, we can do with words. The idea is to create such a strong sense of the person through the details in the poem that they, in a sense, come back. The power of the words, the details of speech, physical description and thought, bring these characters to life in our minds and hearts.**



# POETRY WRITING

## POEM REQUIREMENTS:

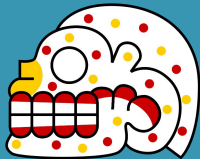
- Address your poem to the person that you will pay homage in your mini altar
- Write down a smell or scent you associate with them
- Name a food or drink or taste of something they loved to eat or drink
- Write down a sound you associate with them. This can be music or the sound of them hammering or sweeping or chopping in the kitchen, a whistle, a laugh, a cough, anything.





# POETRY WRITING

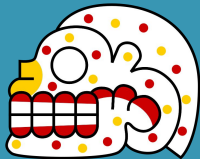
- Remember a favorite article of clothing, a sweater, a pair of shoes they always wore/ Write those down.
- Was there a favorite saying they had? Something you associate with them, a nickname, a way of teasing? How would they greet you?
- What would you say to them if they came back? What might they say to you?
- What activity might you do together? Who else, if anyone, would join you?



# POETRY WRITING

## STARTING TO WRITE:

- You might think of this as an informal letter to this person. Address them by name (e.g., Tío Manuel). Or a nickname or term of endearment like “Gramita”.
- The memories and details from their lives are what you are offering as the lure to bring them back to your minds and to your hearts. Let them know what will happen if they return.
- Have a conversation with them from the heart.



# TÍA LALA

[SAMPLE POEM]

Dear Tía Lala,

You were the matriarch of the  
family

*El centro, el corazón*

When I smell *tamales de puerco*  
*o de rajas con queso*

I remember your wrinkled  
yet very soft hands.

You poured love into masa  
resting in a cornhusk bed  
waiting to become culinary presents  
to be open at any time of the day.

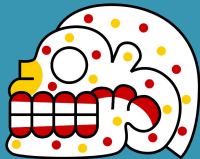
You were the matriarch of the family

*El centro, el corazón*

The sound of your contagious laughter  
resonates in your now silent home.

It was recorded throughout the decades  
in your casita's walls

The kitchen, the living room, the garage,  
and the garden  
surely miss your presence just like we all  
do.



# TÍA LALA

[SAMPLE POEM]

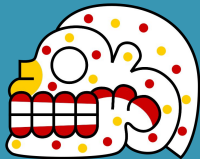
You were the matriarch of the family  
*El centro, el corazón*

*Siempre muy elegante*  
dressed in your Sunday best  
at Church and at home.  
The congregation congregated around you  
and together you all worshiped the Lord.  
You did this every Sunday for over 60 years  
I am sure the church misses your *rezos*  
*y cantos* just as the pews  
and the congregation do.

You were the matriarch of the family  
*El centro, el corazón*

I miss your welcoming smile and  
your warm hugs.  
I miss your *acento chihuahuense*  
*pronunciando la "Ch"*,  
If you were here,  
everyone would gather around you  
we would tell you how much you mean to  
us  
and give you all our warmth and love.

You were the matriarch of the family  
*El centro, el corazón*

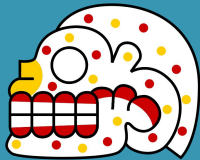


# POETRY WRITING

**You have 15 minutes to write your poems.**

**While you write your poems, enjoy these beautiful songs.**

**Once you finished writing your poems, upload them to the Google Slide Presentation found in the chat.**

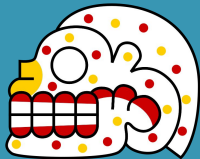
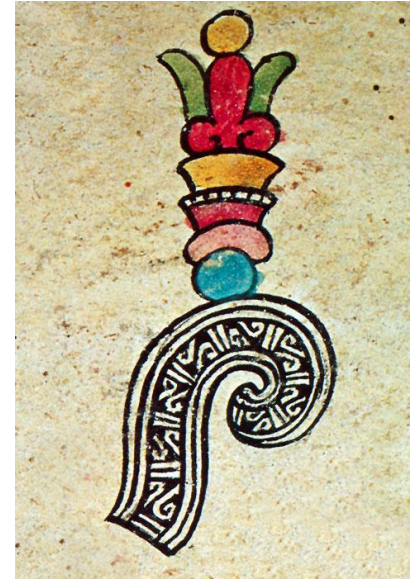


# FLORICANTO

## FLORICANTO (IN XÓCHITL IN CUICATL)

“An Aztec term for poetic expression that brings together two images (flower and song) to create a third meaning, floricanto poetry highlights the creative and transformative power of language to engender change.”

Rafael Pérez-Torres



# FLORICANTO

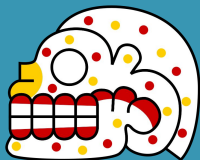
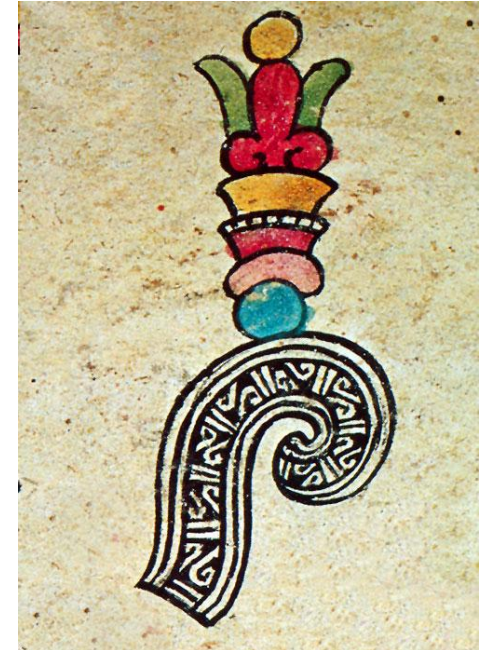
**LET'S HAVE A 10 MINUTE FLORICANTO!**

## **Poet**

- **Introduce yourself**
- **Tell us who your loved one is**
- **Read your poem**

## **Audience**

- **Snap snap is your felt that!**





# CLOSING

## Questionnaire

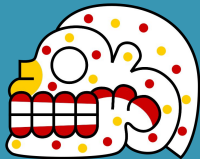
**When is Día de Muertos celebrated?**

**Name at least four items found in a Día de Muertos altar?**

**What's the name of the artist that popularized calaveras?**

**A nicho is an adaptation of what type of painting?**

**What does the Nahuátl word "cuicatl" means?**



# ¡ADIÓS!



[www.xico-gonzalez.com](http://www.xico-gonzalez.com)

