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## For Immediate Release

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## Dia de los Muertos Celebration at Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose Offers Activities for Youngest Visitors

San Jose, CA – October 13, 2016 – In the Latino culture, <u>Dia de los Muertos</u> helps children celebrate life and not fear death. This year <u>Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose</u> will offer special activities geared for children four and under, in addition to the traditional <u>Dia de los Muertos'</u> activities at the museum's annual celebration that remembers and honors the dead. The program is part of the museum's Cultural Celebration series and will be held on Sunday, October 30 from 12 noon to 4 p.m. All activities are included in the price of admission.

Using a marigold as a paintbrush, the youngest visitors can create their own masterpiece in the Wonder Cabinet Art Loft and join in an interactive storytime selected special for this day.

"Celebrating <u>Dia de los Muertos</u> is an important part of our mission and Cultural Celebration series," said Jessica Torres, associate director of education at <u>Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose</u>. "I'm proud that the museum brings together families and children to share traditions and customs with one another, and offering fun and engaging activities for our youngest visitors is an integral part of this and all of our community celebrations."

The day features clay skull-making and decorating, mask-making, and the opportunity for kids to paint their faces like a *calvera* or skull. There will be music and dance performances and a procession led by the artistic troupe, <u>Teatro Familia Aztlan</u>, dressed in skeleton costumes carrying large papier mache puppets. The museum's procession is uniquely exciting compared to others in the community – it includes a stop at Lupe, the 14,000 year-old "muerto" mammoth.

Before the performances begin, visitors are invited to write down the names of loved ones who have passed and say those names aloud to the audience. It's a touching way the museum provides the opportunity for parents, children and family members to learn about and celebrate traditions and customs together. Visitors are invited to bring a personal memento to share on a community altar created for the day. They can also visit a spectacular altar created by artist <u>Lissa</u> Jones in the Oaxacan tradition that will be on view through November 6.

## **About Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose**

With over 150 interactive exhibits and programs, Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose is one of the largest museums of its kind in the nation. Since opening its doors in 1990, CDM has welcomed over 7 million visitors and has offered new exhibits each year that respond to children's diverse educational needs. The striking 52,000 square foot purple building was designed by Mexico City-based architect Ricardo Legorreta and is a beacon of discovery. Encompassing the broad themes of community, connections and creativity, hands-on exhibits invite self-directed, open-ended explorations. For more information about the Museum, visit www.cdm.org.