

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Today's Date: September 27, 2012
Event Date: Thursday November 1, 2012
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Wise Fool Community Arts &
The Institute of Urban Homesteading
present

North Oakland Day of the Dead Procession & Celebration

Thursday November 1, 2012 ~ 5-8pm

The Day of the Dead is an important spiritual holiday, a time to honor our ancestors and those who have gone before us, our Beloved Dead. In traditions and cultures around the world, this is the time when “the veil between the worlds draws thin,” both literally and figuratively. This celebration marks the end of harvest, when nature itself goes into dormancy. Tradition holds that at this time the dead can cross over to the land of the living to partake of worldly pleasures and visit their loved ones. Day of the Dead is also a celebration of locale. In Mexico people camp out in the cemetery for days reconnecting with community past and present. Traditional European celebrations of the season were marked by the spiral dance—a joining of hands of the entire community to celebrate where we've been and where we are going, who has passed on and who has been born.

The first annual North Oakland Day of the Dead Procession and celebration embraces the spirit of the season and our place. This neighborhood is a rich community of diverse residents. It is a true neighborhood, where people talk to each other on the stoop, watch out for each other and participate in civic activities such as Neighborhood Watch and community bulletin boards. North Oakland is known as a mecca—rich in African American heritage and infused by newer environmentally conscious residents. We invite everyone from the neighborhood and beyond to join us in this home grown Day of the Dead Celebration, honoring our people and our place.

The celebration will connect two ends of the neighborhood with processions starting at the two triangle parks., Driver Park (60th & Adeline) and McGregor Park (52nd & West). The processions will join at Dover Park for a short ceremony calling forth the dead, community altar building and candlelight picnic (food provided).

Participants are invited to wear a costume or facepaint, bring flowers, candles and/or digital photo copies of their beloved dead for the altar. It is also recommended to dress warmly and bring a blanket to sit on. We respectfully ask folks to refrain from picture taking during the procession and ceremony. Other times photography is welcome.

Schedule of Events

5pm Gather at Driver or McGregor Park
5:30 Processions to Dover Park
6pm Ceremony Calling Forth the Dead
6:30 Community Altar Building and Picnic in the Park
8pm Clean-Up

Volunteers needed! If you'd like to get more deeply involved we are looking for volunteers to help build the altar structure, cook and serve food and act as security & traffic monitors.

Website

<http://iuhoakland.com/events.html>