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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Brooklyn Arts Council Announces Days of the Dead in Brooklyn Events this Fall

BROOKLYN, NY (October 2, 2008) - Brooklyn Arts Council announces its fall 2008 *Days of the Dead in Brooklyn* events. From Mexican ofrenda altar-making workshops to Chinese dance to an All Soul's Day tour of Green-Wood Cemetery with a Haitian trumpet band, *Days of the Dead in Brooklyn* is a wonderful way to explore the diverse cultural traditions of communities from all over the world now living in Brooklyn, and to better understand the creative ways in which human beings cope with death, dying, and remembrance. Visit: <http://www.brooklynartscouncil.org/documents/1027> for more information.

FALL PROGRAMMING

Join BAC for exciting public programs on Mexican, Chinese, Brazilian, Haitian, Jewish, and Islamic traditions of death and remembrance.

WORKSHOP 1: MEXICAN DAYS OF THE DEAD (DÍAS DE LOS MUERTOS) 10/28/08 and 10/29/08, 3:30PM - 5:00PM

Help prepare a Mexican Days of the Dead ofrenda, the traditional altar created to honor the dead and invite their spirits to visit earth for a few days. Ofrenda workshops led by Mexican artists Ines Rivera and Margarita Larios will teach you how to make alfeniques (sugar skulls) and flores de papel (paper flowers), which are put on the altar, along with candles, incense, fruit, pictures of the deceased, and mementoes representing the dead. These mementoes can range from a bottle of tequila, to a can of soup, or a pair of earrings. They are tokens of the things once enjoyed by deceased loved ones when they were alive.

The ofrenda will be dedicated on Saturday, Nov. 1 at noon and the public is welcome to bring offerings to honor their dead on Thursday, October 30 from 3:30-5pm and on Nov. 1 from 10am- 1pm

OFRENDA ALTAR AND CHINESE BUDDHIST ANCESTRAL ALTAR DEDICATION 11/01/08, 12:00PM - 2:00PM

Come to a lively program surrounding the dedication of two altars installed at the library. One is an ofrenda, the Mexican Days of the Dead offering altar, and one is a Chinese Buddhist ancestral altar. The altars will be explained by Miguel Lopez of Don Paco Lopez Panaderia and Xiao Ya Qun of Wan Shou Funeral Home. Take a taste of pan de muerto (bread of the dead) made by Mr. Lopez's father, Francisco. Bring an item for the Mexican altar if you like and then enjoy music from Mariachi Tapatio de Alvaro Paulino,

Chinese opera performed by Mr. Tang, and Mexican danza azteca performed by Benito Bravo with his Balet Folklórico Quetzalcoatl.

EVENTS ABOVE: *Sunset Park Library, 5108 4th Ave. at 51st St., Brooklyn*

ALL SOULS DAY “SYMBOLS, STORIES AND TRUMPETS”

11/02/08, 3:30PM - 6:00PM

Tour Historic Green-Wood Cemetery with Steve Estroff, who will point out some of the many folk symbols in evidence at this beautiful landmark, and experience the Haitian rara band “Dja’rara,” led by Leslie “Lex” Barbot. Rara bands typically sound their ceremonial trumpets to signal mardi gras in Haiti, but rara bands also lead processions through cemeteries on All Souls’ Day (November2), a centuries-old Roman Catholic feast day celebrating the souls of the departed. Our tour ends at the Green-Wood Chapel, where participants will have the opportunity to share stories about your traditions of mourning and remembrance.

The rara band begins its procession to the cemetery at 3:30pm from the N/R subway stop at 4th Ave and 25th St. Join us there or at the Green- Wood main gate at 4:00pm.

WHERE: *Historic Green-Wood Cemetery, 500 25th Street at Fifth Ave, Brooklyn*

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

11/23/08, 3:00PM - 4:30PM

Jewish Memorial Song, Buddhist Chants, and African Invocations. Featuring Cantor Janet Leuchter, CBE Singers, monks from the Gold Street Monastery, and more.

WHERE: *Congregation Beth Elohim, 274 Garfield Pl at 8th Ave, Brooklyn*

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Days of the Dead in Brooklyn is made possible with major support from National Endowment for the Arts and Con Edison. BAC Folk Feet traditional dance programs are supported by Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and The New York Community Trust.

Additional support is provided by New York State Council on the Arts, the Brooklyn Delegations of the New York State Senate and New York State Assembly, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and New York City Council and its Brooklyn Delegation.