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For Immediate Release
Photos & Interviews Available

FREE Hands-On Experience of Traditional Mexican Culture
Día de los muertos / Day of the Dead
Manhattan Oct. 29—31, 2010

New York, NY, October 12, 2010. Here's a unique way to travel to Mexico: attend the traditional celebration that *Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders* will host at its eighth annual **Day of the Dead (*Día de los muertos*)**. A variety of events and workshops will be offered in the churchyard of St. Mark's in the Bowery (10th Street and Second Avenue in Manhattan) from Friday, October 29th to Sunday October 31st. All events are free and open to the public.

Day of the Dead has been one of Mexico's most important festivals since pre-Hispanic times. It is a time for families to gather and welcome the souls of the dead on their annual visit home. *Cempasúchil* (marigold) flowers, burning copal incense, fresh *pan de muertos* bread, candles, sugar skulls, photographs and mementos of the departed adorn special altars. In Mexico, **Day of the Dead** is celebrated over an entire week with the preparation of altars, foods, dance, music and special offerings for people who have died. *Mano a Mano* recreates the magical space of a village churchyard during the celebration and has organized a series of events including altar building, workshops, dance, poetry and music. This year, in observance of the bicentennial of Mexico's Independence and the centennial of its Revolution, valiant figures from Mexico's past will be honored. Area artists will be invited to create three small altars on the themes of Women of Juárez, Victims of Drug Trafficking, and Children Who Have Died. A weekend Mexican Market will provide visitors with a chance to buy authentic products for their altars. (A complete schedule of all activities is attached.)

"The Mexican immigrant community, and friends of Mexican traditional arts and culture, will once again gather to mark this intensely moving occasion," said Emily Socolov, Executive Director of *Mano a Mano*. "This is a great opportunity for New Yorkers to join Mexicans and remember their own departed loved-ones by bringing photographs, candles and flowers to adorn the altar throughout the three-day celebration."

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Program Highlights include:

- *Noche Mexicana* on Friday, October 29th with food music and dance
- Visitors of all ages can attend workshops where they will learn traditional Mexican paper crafts, sugar skull making, bread making and poetry writing on Saturday, October 30th and Sunday, October 31st
- Performance by Radio Jarocho, a spirited music and dance ensemble, performing in the Afro-Mexican tradition on Saturday, October 30th
- A procession with traditional Mexican dancers through the Village streets on Saturday, October 30th
- The celebration concludes on Sunday, October 31 with a stunning performance by Mariachi Tapatio de Alvaro Paulino. During this time, the public is invited to come share the bread and flowers and join in the clearing away of the altar.

All events are free and open to the public. Mexican food will be available for purchase throughout the event, including:

Hot drinks: *Atole* (Hot gruel flavored with cinnamon), *Chocolate caliente* (Hot chocolate)

Traditional dishes: Chicken with mole sauce (chilies and chocolate)

Tamales and *sopes* (Corn based dumplings with different toppings and fillings)

Desserts: *Calabaza dulce y conservas* (Caramelized pumpkin chunks with preserves)

How to Get There: Subway: #6 to Astor Place, L to 3rd Avenue, F to Second Avenue, or any train to Union Square. Bus: M8, M15, M101, M102, M103.

Accessibility: This event is wheelchair accessible.

For information please visit: www.manoamano.us, call 212-587-3070 or email: info@manoamano.us.

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**Mano a Mano Presents Día de los muertos / Day of the Dead
October 29-31, 2010**

Schedule of Events:

Friday, October 29

5:00-7:30 pm *Noche Mexicana*

Saturday, October 30

12:00-7:30 pm Mexican Marketplace

12:00pm Traditional Dance Procession Assembles at Union Square

1:00 pm Dancers Arrive at St. Mark's for Ceremony at the Altar

3:00-5:00 pm Two Workshops:

-Building Individual Altars/Making Paper Flowers

-Making *Pan de Muerto* Bread

6:00pm Radio Jarocho Musical Performance

7:30 pm Event Closing for the Day

Sunday, October 31

12:00-8:00 pm Mexican Marketplace

2:00-4:00 pm Two Workshops:

-*Calaveras de Azúcar*/Sugar Skulls

-*Calaveras*: Day of the Day Poetry

5:30 pm Mariachi Tapatío de Álvaro Paulino Musical Performance

7:00 pm Taking down and Sharing the Altar by the Public

8:00 pm Event Ends

Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders / Cultura Mexicana Sin Fronteras

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