

Dearly departed

At these Día de los Muertos celebrations in the city, remember the lives of loved ones who've died. By *Dorkys Ramos*

HALLOWEEN MIGHT

CONJURE images of evil spirits, but Mexico's Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is about the exact opposite. Every November 1 and 2, there's a celebration for those who've passed on, in the hopes that they'll drop in for a visit. Here are events that invite you to think fondly on your deceased loved ones and learn more about this festive tradition.

Disco de los Muertos

El Museo del Barrio's annual fund-raiser returns with a cocktail dance party. The evening features an art installation, video projections and a special performance by former El Museo Artist in Residence Ayana Evans. Groove to DJ Mickey Perez's disco beats while browsing silent auctions and tasting Mexican dishes from Tacombi. → Dune Studios, 55 Water St (elmuseo.org). Wed 19 8:30-11:30pm; \$95.



New York City Day of the Dead Festival

At the communal *ofrenda*, or "altar," people can offer up flowers, photos or even a shot of tequila in the hopes of luring the spirits. Learn to make skeleton puppets and cut colorful tissue paper into *papel picado* to brighten up graves, and get steppin' as a mariachi band and dance performers take the stage. → Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 285 Clove Rd, Staten Island (dayofthedeadnyc.org). Sun 23 11am-7pm; free.

Día de Muertos celebration

Honor your lost ones with nonprofit Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders. Bring pink roses

to place at the altar in remembrance of women killed by violence, create skull masks, and stroll through the marketplace for folk art and pan de muerto (bread). Catch live performances from singers paying tribute to the late great Mexican singer Juan Gabriel. → St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery, 131 E 10th St (manoamano.us). Oct 28-31 1-6pm; free.

Celebration of Day of the Dead

Corona Plaza comes alive with food, dancing and crafts like silk screening and face painting. This year's altar honors those who fought for education justice in the Global South. Live music and dance groups keep spirits light, while workshops on relaxation and self-care will have you floating all the way home. → 103rd St and Roosevelt Ave, Queens (queensmuseum.org). Oct 29 11am-7pm; free.

LIES TO TELL TOURISTS

The Russian Tea Room may be best known for its sophisticated throwback vibe, but don't let the daytime finger-food crowd fool you: Come midnight, the spot is reborn as the Russian Rave Room, and it's the hottest club in town. DJs born and bred in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, spin mixes including a touch of traditional dumka beats tossed in with today's chart-topping dance hits, and the only tea being served is spiked with vodka. But be warned: If you want to get in, you better be prepared to sing the secret words: Russia's entire national anthem.

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