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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**“Third Thursday Family Arts Night” Celebrates Day of the Dead October 19th, 2006 6-8pm**

Join the Humboldt Arts Council's **Third Thursday Family Arts Night!** Thursday, October 19th, 2006, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Morris Graves Museum of Art as they celebrate Day on the Dead. This Thursday's presenters for the evening will include **Folkloric Dancing** 6:15-7:00pm in the Performance Rotunda, **Bi-Lingual Circle Singing with Lisa Monet** 7:00-7:45pm in the Performance Rotunda, **Jumping Jack Skeletons with Janice Sharman-Hand** 6-8pm in the Youth Classroom and **a Community Altar** in the Atrium from 6-8pm.

The *Day of the Dead*, also called "Dia de los Muertos," is a holiday (or festival) which is celebrated in Mexico, Ecuador, Guatemala, and other areas in Central and South America populated with the Latino ethnic background. The *Day of the Dead* is also celebrated in areas of the United States, such as California, Texas, and many others, in which the Mexican/American heritage exists. November 2nd is the official date for Day of the Dead, although it is celebrated between October 31st and November 2nd. The best way to describe this holiday is to say it is a time when family members who have died are remembered. It is a holiday when the whole family comes together - both living and dead. This holiday festivity is believed to be a time for the departed to join the living in the celebrations of the "continuum of life." In Mexico, this festival is considered to be the most important holiday of the year.

Lynn McCulloch from Ferndale Elementary School will be leading *Folkloric Dancing* in the Performance Rotunda. Eighteen dancers will perform traditional Mexican Folklorico dances from two of the thirty-one Mexican states, Chiapas and Michoacán under the direction of Lynn McCulloch, bilingual aide and Spanish instructor at Ferndale Elementary School in Ferndale since 1990. Lynn is also the founder and organizer of the Cinco de Mayo FIESTA at Ferndale Elementary since 1990, and the Cinco de Mayo FIESTA for the town of Ferndale since 1999. Some of the dancers performing on October 19 have been dancing since they started Kindergarten at Ferndale Elementary. A group of twelve 7<sup>th</sup>-graders will perform a four part dance from the state of Michoacán: Jarabe de Tres, Jarabe de Novios, La Costilla, and Los Arrieros. The dancers will be wearing authentic costumes, hand embroidered in Michoacán and Ferndale. The dancers in this group are Louis Sterback, Trey Dixon, Bryce Fields, Christian Fields, Sam West, Denim Ohmit, Rebecca Forcier, Miranda Sears, Melissa Rodriguez, Monica Sopjes, Shannon Scales, and Cassidy Allardice. Lynn and five older dancers will perform a traditional dance from the state of Chiapas, Las Chiapanecas. Their beautifully embroidered costumes were generously sponsored by Ferndale Rotary. The older dancers include Brittany Elderkin, now in her third year at College of the Redwoods, Maira Rodriguez, a 2006 graduate from Ferndale High, Gaby Rodriguez and Karina Morales, both seniors at Ferndale High, and Sunny Griffiths, a junior at Ferndale High. Lynn wants to thank Jeff O'Connor, HSU dance instructor, and Liz Rivera for their inspiration and mentorship in Mexican Folklorico Dance. Lynn would also like to invite everyone to the 18th annual Cinco de Mayo FIESTA in the town of Ferndale on Saturday, May 5, 2007. The event celebrates and honors the culture and traditions of our Hispanic community and provides students with the opportunity to perform traditional Mexican Folkloric Dances for the entire community and its visitors. Lynn is proud of this example of youth working together in the performing arts, and feels incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to work with such wonderful young people and their families.

A bi-lingual program of songs in Spanish and English will be led by Lisa Monet, Parents' Choice award-winner and recording artist on the Music for Little People label. Lisa Monet has received national recognition as a best-selling artist of children's music in schools, libraries, and homes, and has won the Parents' Choice Award. She is named one of "the five leading ladies in children's music" by Billboard Magazine. Ms. Monet is currently devoted to celebrating diversity through her bilingual concerts in Spanish and English. Her recordings will be available at the concert. She is currently producing a bilingual CD of the songs you'll hear at this performance.

*The Humboldt Arts Council is dedicated to providing leadership in support of the rich heritage of North Coast arts and to bringing this legacy fully into community life.*

Bring pictures of lost loved ones for our *Community Altar*. Linda Wise of City Garbage will lead community members in designing an altar in memory of those who are no longer with us with picture cards cut out of paper, tissues paper flowers, dead bread and sugar skulls. Come a celebrate the Day of the Dead at the Morris Graves Museum of Art.

In the Youth Classroom, join the fun of creating Jumping-Jack Skeletons with Janice Sharman-Hand. Janice will be presenting hands-on demonstrations every 10 to 15 minutes through out the evening. Drop in anytime.

The Humboldt Arts Council would like to recognize our Third Thursday Family Arts Night Underwriters: AG Edwards, Citigroup, Living Education and Arts Foundation, McLean Foundation, Sidney Stern Memorial Trust, Umpqua Bank, and US Bank. Thank you for all of your support! *Family Arts Night* is FREE and occurs every third Thursday of the month. To be a presenter or for more information about Family Arts Night contact Rebecca Froehlich at (707) 442-0278, ext. 201. The Morris Graves Museum of Art is located at 636 F St., Eureka, Ca.