

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For additional information please contact:**

Holly Mackay, Artistic Director  
Art From Scrap  
302 E. Cota Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 884-0459 ext. 15

**Artists Reception:** Dia de los Muertos Collaborative Exhibition Opening Saturday November 1<sup>st</sup> from 5-7pm at the AFS Gallery, 302 E. Cota Street, Santa Barbara

**Dia de los Muertos Exhibition at the AFS Gallery**

This collaborative Dia de los Muertos art installation involves close to eighty inspired children, youth and families from four different centers on both the East and West side of downtown Santa Barbara. Art From Scrap (AFS) has held a series of art workshops focusing on Dia de los Muertos, using materials from the AFS Reuse Store and encouraging participants to use recycled materials from their homes. The workshops were held at the People's Self Help Housing (PSHH) Ladera site, facilitated by educator Josefina Cabrera; and at Housing Authority Youth Center sites at Voluntario with Angel Velasquez, and Montecito Street with Marcus Lopez. There will be a one week exhibition that opens with a reception at the AFS Gallery on Saturday November 1<sup>st</sup> from 5-7pm. Art work from El Puente teens, led by artist Alejandro Vasquez and facilitated by Gloria Sanchez-Arreola, will also be on display.

Artists Julia Ford and Holly Mackay have worked with children, teens and families from these centers, teaching them practical skills like sewing, while encouraging artistic exploration using materials brought from the AFS Reuse Store. Masks, bones, skulls, flowers and alter objects were created by the children, and family participation was encouraged. Prayer flags were made by the teens and children using embroidery stitches such as chain stitch and French knots. Decorated bones from all the sites will be mixed together to create 3 large skeletons, which will be a part of the installation. The exhibition also includes an alter and other objects that celebrate and honor the dead.

This project is funded in part by a **Next Generation** mini-grant using funds provided by the City of Santa Barbara in partnership with the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission.