



Market Square
October 2009
www.marketsquaresa.com

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“LOS ALTARES DEL MERCADO”
October 17 – November 2, 2009
A DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION

In celebration of Dia de los Muertos, the merchants and tenants of Market Square along with local community schools join together to present a walking tour of altars. Primarily practiced within the Mexican culture, el Dia de los Muertos is a special holiday dedicated to the dearly departed. A traditional custom during el Dia de los Muertos is the creation of altars. These altars are erected and displayed to honor the lives lived by those who have passed away. Traditionally adorned with marigolds and illuminated by candlelight, each altar is distinct to the person it honors as it is also decorated with items the person enjoyed during their lifetime. It is believed that the altars serve as invitations to the departed souls to return and visit those left behind. Many of the altars you will encounter during your tour of **“Los Altares del Mercado”** pay homage to the many individuals who helped establish Market Square as the nucleus of San Antonio culture, color and history. This area of San Antonio is rich and strong in family tradition and many of today’s shop owners are third and fourth generation area merchants. **“Los Altares del Mercado”** was created not only in celebration of el Dia de los Muertos, but as a way for Market Square merchants to share a piece of Mexican culture with the visitor.

Beginning Saturday, October 17 – Monday, November 2, Altar viewing will be between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Location of altars will be within the Market Square complex to include the Farmers Market Building, El Mercado Building, Mi Tierra Restaurant, Museo Alameda and the private sector businesses.

A special dance, drum and puppet procession by the celebrated LAS MONAS Drum and Dance Performing Group and an explanation of El Dia de los Muertos is scheduled for Sunday, November 1 beginning at 1 p.m. In addition, a special blessing of all the altares will take place on Sunday, November 1 along with ballet folklorico dancers, food vendors, arts & crafts and children activities between the hours of 12 noon – 6pm.

The **Museo Alameda** in Market Square is also presenting **"Family Day"** and is inviting the community to participate in the viewing of the altar presented by the Henry Ford Academy School. A variety of musical performances along with children activities will take place on November 1 between the hours of 12 noon – 6 pm. For more information visit www.thealameda.org