



Archaeology **Now**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA - HOUSTON SOCIETY

2022 - 2023 Series

CELEBRATING
&
PRESERVING
OUR
STORIES

Celebrating & Preserving Our Stories

Archaeology Now

The Archaeological Institute of America, Houston Society

2022—2023 SERIES

THE WORLD IN BETWEEN ANCIENT ROOTS OF DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

THE KPMG LECTURE

Dr. Javier Urcid
Professor, Anthropology Department
Jane's Chair Professor of Latin American Studies
Brandeis University

Saturday, October 22, 2022, 7:00 pm

Co-sponsored by The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

With generous assistance from the Mexican Consulate General in Houston

This event is made possible in part by funding from the City of Houston
Through Houston Arts Alliance

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BACKSTREET
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Sharing our passion for food, drink and hospitality since 1983

Join Us for a Día de los Muertos Culinary Event "Taste & Remember"

Featuring James Beard Award-Winning Chef Hugo Ortega,
his brother, José Luís Ortega, and Elvis Espinosa

Sunday, October 23, 2022, 4pm - 6pm

✦ Oaxacan Cuisine ✦ Mezcal

Tickets: archaeologynow.org/culinary-adventures

About Archaeology Now

The Archaeological Institute of America, Houston Society

THE PAST HAS NEVER BEEN MORE PRESENT

We are storytellers.

We tell the tales that connect us to our past, that bring us together so that we see one another in a whole new light. Stories of our dreams, our loves, our adventures, our tragedies, our beginnings ... our endings.

There is no more magical phrase than “once upon a time.” Archaeology helps create a link from the earliest circle that sat around the campfire through those who influenced who we are today, and who continue to affect our future. Archaeology celebrates the wonder of our humanity.

As we emerge from the pandemic, we know that our past is worth protecting. Memory must be preserved from extinction, skills saved and taught to new generations, and all our varied heritages celebrated anew.

*There are so many stories waiting to be told.
We invite you to become part of the story.*



With Deepest Gratitude

Following the affects of COVID, it feels a bit like we're emerging from a cave to embrace the light again! We are filled with joy to be with you and grateful for your support.

We are deeply thankful for the generosity of many people who helped to make the series of events focused on Día de los Muertos possible: KPMG, the Consulate General of Mexico in Houston, the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance, Giselle Kiperman Mangini, Mariana Gonzalez Servitje, Bite of Hope, BakerRipley Ripley House, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Because of your gifts, we are able to tell a story from Mexico that reaches out to the world—the story of memories passed through generations.

Stay in Touch

Keep in touch! We make it easy through the following ways:

Phone: 713.364.6DIG (713.364.6344)

Our website: archaeologynow.org

Email: archaeologyhouston@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ArchaeologyNowHouston/>

YouTube channel: Archaeology Now

Ancient Roots/Modern Rituals The Día de los Muertos Project

**Celebrate Día de los Muertos at Events
Through the Month of October for a Variety of Audiences**

WORKSHOP

Learn How to Create an Ofrenda
Casa Ramirez Folkart
Oct 8, 2022, 10am – 11am

TALK

The World In Between
Ancient Roots of Día de los Muertos
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
Oct 22, 2022, 7:00 pm

CULINARY ADVENTURE

Taste & Remember – Día de los Muertos
Xochi
Oct 23, 2022, 4pm – 6pm

FAMILY EVENT

Día de los Muertos Celebración Cultural Familiar
BakerRipley Ripley House
Oct 29, 2022, 9am – 1pm

TWILIGHT CEMETERY TOUR

Hollywood Cemetery
Oct 30, 2022, 4pm – 6pm

Tickets: [archaeologynow.org](https://www.archaeologynow.org)

The World In Between: Ancient Roots of Día de los Muertos

Día de los Muertos has become such a ubiquitous tradition that many outside of Mexican culture are not aware of the symbolism of its ceremonies and imagery.

The days surrounding Día de los Muertos transcend worlds: the worlds of the living and the dead, the worlds of Europe and Latin America, the worlds of today and yesterday. Día de los Muertos is a loving, glorious celebration of death *and* life.

Día de los Muertos originated among the ancient Mesoamerican peoples, who emphasized honoring their ancestors. Today's commemoration blends indigenous celebrations with teachings of Catholicism.

This talk will help you discover the ancient rituals and the multifold meanings of a tradition when the veil separating worlds is thin, when perhaps it is possible to symbolically commune with loved ones on the night that their souls return for a visit.

A dance performance by **Ambassadors International Ballet Folklorico** takes place fifteen minutes prior to the start of the talk.

We are proud to welcome you to the start of another year and to remember and celebrate those who have come before us.



Profile of Dr. Javier Urcied

I am an anthropological archaeologist interested in how symbolic systems, including scribal traditions and other forms of material culture, integrated social practices in ancient Mesoamerican cultures. Other interests center on archaeological approaches to political economies and on bio-archeology, particularly work on the social dimensions of mortuary practices and cultural/ritual modifications of human bones.

My experience on forensic approaches to the study of human skeletal remains includes the analysis of large burial series from several archaeological sites in the central valleys of Oaxaca. I have also worked on some 3,000 sets of remains targeted for repatriation formerly housed in the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C.

I received my PhD from Yale University and my graduate and undergraduate degrees from Universidad de las Américas. Today, I teach anthropology at Brandeis University, and I am the Jane's Chair Professor of Latin American Studies.



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*The Día de los Muertos Project is dedicated to the memory
of two of our own board members:*

Greg McCord & Anita Kiperman

Their memory is a blessing



Family Outreach

New Activities for Children

This year, courtesy of a generous grant from Summerlee Foundation, we redesigned our family events to tell a more inclusive story of the world around us. All presentations are free to the public and will tour around Harris County.

Now, children have an opportunity to learn about the many people who helped build Texas after the Civil War, ancient Egypt, Indigenous Houston, and attend a revival of the Ancient Games Tournament.

Each of these activities will appear at presentations at libraries, festivals, parks, and malls at convenient locations near you. Now, more can enjoy learning about their past. Archaeology Now is proud to work with groups in the Houston community to revive heritage and to make the stories of our past more relevant.

Keep updated with our activities and tour dates by logging on to our website at <https://www.archaeologynow.org/ancient-encounters>

Join us! We put the “story” into history.



Ambassadors International Ballet Folklorico

The mission of the Ambassadors International Ballet Folklorico dance organization is to promote and disseminate the Hispanic and Texan Culture. The Ballet promotes cultural exchanges between the Hispanic community and the people of the various cultures in our City of Houston, State of Texas, and United States of America.

The Ambassadors International Ballet Folklorico dance organization teaches the traditional cultural dance of Latino countries around the world to youth and adults, Hispanic and non-Hispanic alike, and showcases these dances through the presentation of programs in collaboration with the local educational institutions, corporations, foundations and local neighborhoods. These programs include participation in diverse events such as annual citywide parades, citywide forums, community festivals, and various local community workshops.

Classes are available for a wide range of ages. The organization can be contacted at ambassadorsibf@hotmail.com



Ambassadors International Ballet Folklorico

*Advance Level
2021 - 2022*

Legacy

As we return to in-person events, your donations are more important than ever! Become a sponsor of Archaeology Now to help support our digital events, in-person talks, our educational and family outreach, preservation work, and culinary adventures. Donors receive exclusive benefits, such as private talks, tours, and receptions to meet speakers.

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While archaeology is about the past, your gift is about the future: helping future audiences remember, helping future generations learn about what links us together, helping create an informed citizenry that understands and respects the many aspects that make our world so vibrant.

You may send a contribution to P.O. Box 271062, Houston, TX 77277
or use our PayPal account at paypal.me/houstonarchaeology.

Caring. It's our business too.

KPMG is proud to sponsor the Houston Society of the Archaeological Institute of America.

KPMG ranks among the oldest and largest professional services firms in Houston. Our employees support community involvement programs that give life to our core value—a commitment to our communities. We are proud to sponsor the programming at the Houston Society of the Archaeological Institute of America.

kpmg.com



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