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Flatiron NoMad Debuts Daniel Valero's "Twenty Petal Flower," A Newly-Commissioned, Site-Specific Ofrenda Created in Mexico and Brooklyn for Fifth Annual Día de Muertos Celebration

Twenty Petal Flower is a community altar on display in the Flatiron North Plaza in collaboration with Flatiron NoMad Partnership, Mestiz and Powerhouse Arts, connecting Mexico to New York City

The public ofrenda anchors a month-long celebration bringing live Mexican folklore performances, interactive activities and colorful public art to Flatiron NoMad



Ofrenda rendering (left) and district imagery (right) courtesy of Mestiz and Flatiron NoMad Partnership

Images from Día de Muertos 2025 can be found [here](#) (credit labeled within)

NEW YORK, NY – October 6, 2026 – Today, the [Flatiron NoMad Partnership](#) announced the return of its district-wide [Día de Muertos](#) (Day of the Dead) celebration, bringing Mexican art, culture and tradition to the heart of Manhattan. This year's programming will center around **Twenty Petal Flower**, a newly-commissioned, site-specific community altar created through a cross-cultural collaboration between [Mestiz Studio](#), founded by artist and designer Daniel Valero in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico and Brooklyn-based [Powerhouse Arts](#), set to be unveiled at the Partnership's fifth annual Día de Muertos Celebration on **October 28** alongside colorful public art and cultural community programming throughout the district. **Now through November 5**, residents, employees, students and visitors are invited to experience the sacred Mexican tradition through free public art, live cultural performances and opportunities to come together in the district.

"As we mark 20 years of the Flatiron NoMad Partnership, Día de Muertos reflects what we want our public spaces to be at their best: a destination where community members come together to share experiences

and discover new lenses through which to see the district,” said **James Mettham, President of the Flatiron NoMad Partnership**. “This year, we are honored to collaborate with a Mexico-based team from Mestiz to create a custom altar for Flatiron NoMad and bring a tradition rooted in memory and craft into one of New York City’s most recognizable public spaces.”

Crafted across two cities, “*Twenty Petal Flower*” was created by Mestiz Studio and its workshop in San Miguel de Allende, in collaboration with Powerhouse Arts in Brooklyn, before arriving in the Flatiron North Plaza as a community altar for New Yorkers. Named for the Nahuatl *compōhualxōchitl*, or “twenty petal flower,” the installation traces the *compasúchil* from the fields of Michoacán to the artisans who transform it into temporary monuments of remembrance, reimagined through oversized woven floral forms arranged across a vibrant, tiered altar with warm, candle-like lighting.

“Flowers become an architecture of celebration,” said **Daniel Valero, Founder of Mestiz Studio**. “This year, we dedicate *Twenty Petal Flower* to the hands that cultivate, harvest, and transform the *compasúchil*. We honor its full journey from the field to the ofrenda, where it becomes one of the most beautiful and essential elements of Día de Muertos.”

Día de Muertos is a Mexican tradition of pre-Hispanic origin that celebrates the memory and presence of those who have passed. According to popular belief, from October 31 - November 2, these souls return home to be with their loved ones, and altars are assembled with offerings, food and rituals to welcome and celebrate their visit. *Compasúchil* flowers traditionally play an important role in these rituals, transforming into floral arches, offerings and ephemeral structures honoring the deceased.

“At Powerhouse Arts, we are always looking for projects that marry cross-disciplinary expertise and artistic talent. Estudio Mestiz contributes a deep knowledge of woven, handmade form, and our role was to help amplify that sensibility to the scale of a public art installation. We are grateful to Flatiron NoMad for the opportunity to have contributed to this project. This very process of exchange between two workshops, two cities and two ways of making is where we in the Public Art department shine most,” said **Brittni Collins, Director of Public Art at Powerhouse Arts**.

This year’s Día de Muertos celebration in Flatiron NoMad will kick off in October with colorful public art displays to enjoy through the month, culminating in a free public celebration on October 28. Visitors will have an opportunity to discover and experience several activations including:

- **October 26 - November 3** — At the center of this year’s programming is the Partnership’s fifth annual community altar, bringing the Mexico-to-New York collaboration to life in the Flatiron North Plaza. *Twenty Petal Flower* will honor the tradition of Día de Muertos, using large woven floral forms and warm, candle-like lighting to evoke the *compasúchil* fields and floral structures that inspired the piece. The altar will serve as a place for community members to place mementos and remembrances of their loved ones, inviting New Yorkers and visitors to learn about and experience the Mexican custom firsthand.
- **October 28** — Join the Partnership for its fifth annual Día de Muertos Celebration from 3:00 - 7:00 PM in the Flatiron North Plaza, where *Twenty Petal Flower* will serve as the centerpiece of an afternoon featuring a curated mix of Mexican folklore performances presented by [Calpulli Mexican Dance Company](#), plus a painted sugar skull activity and colorful papel picado decor to set the scene. The free event invites visitors of all ages to gather, celebrate and experience Día de Muertos traditions in the heart of Manhattan.

Throughout the celebration, the Partnership will also spotlight the Mexican and Latinx-owned businesses that contribute to the fabric of Flatiron and NoMad. Residents and visitors can explore the Partnership's [guide](#) to support local Mexican and Latinx-owned businesses throughout Día de Muertos and all year long.

This year's programming is made possible through the invaluable support of program partners, including [Mestiz](#), [Powerhouse Arts](#), and [Calpulli Mexican Dance Company](#).

Residents and visitors are encouraged to explore and embrace the spirit of Día de Muertos in the heart of Manhattan. For a full map of participating locations and the latest details on this year's activations, visit the Flatiron NoMad Partnership website [HERE](#).

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About The Flatiron NoMad Partnership

The Flatiron NoMad Partnership, formed in 2006, is a non-profit organization and business improvement district that serves the businesses, people, and places that help make Flatiron and NoMad two of Manhattan's most iconic and authentic destinations. Home to a range of retailers and employers, cultural and educational institutions, and a thriving residential community, the district is a center of activity. The Partnership serves as a dedicated steward and supporter of public life in the district by maintaining a clean and safe environment; spearheading area improvement projects; and marketing and championing the diverse business and retail options in this vibrant and historic neighborhood.

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About Mestiz

Mestiz is a San Miguel de Allende-based design studio rooted in the handmade, creating vibrant objects and spaces through craftsmanship and color. Working at the intersection of contemporary design and artisanal tradition, Mestiz celebrates handcraft through pieces and environments that tell stories through material, form and color.

mestiz.mx

Instagram: [@mestizmx](#)

About Powerhouse Arts

[Powerhouse Arts](#) (PHA) is a not-for-profit organization committed to creative expression. Located in a purpose-built facility in Brooklyn, PHA convenes an extended network of art and fabrication professionals and educators who co-create and share artistic practices vital to the wellbeing of artists and the communities to which they belong.

PHA offers fabrication programs in [Ceramics](#), [Print](#), and [Public Art](#); alongside membership opportunities in the [Community Ceramics Studio](#) and at [MGC Community Print Studio](#), textile and decorative arts workshop [The Alpha Workshops](#); and spaces for education, exhibitions, events, and public engagement.

powerhousearts.org

Instagram: [@powerhouse_arts](#)