

PRESS RELEASE
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At least 70 imaginative artists needed for 'MARIPOSA PALOOZA' opening at Botanical Gardens May 10, funded by Corpus Christi Arts & Culture Commission!

CORPUS CHRISTI—**MARIPOSA PALOOZA**, more than 70 large and larger metal butterflies artistically recreated by local professional and amateur artists, goes on display with artists' names, at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, in time for Mother's Day weekend, May 10 through November 2, which includes the *Día de los Muertos* holiday. *Mariposa* is Spanish for butterfly!

Funded in part by a \$14,000 grant from City of Corpus Christi Arts & Cultural Commission, MARIPOSA PALOOZA offers local artists an opportunity to express their talents on a non-traditional medium in a non-traditional "gallery," outdoors in a high-traffic public venue.

Artists needed to recreate butterflies, judged for cash awards.

Professional or amateur artists wishing to enter a butterfly for "Mariposa Palooza" should come by the Gardens Administration Building, entrance on S. Oso Parkway & S. Staples St., **starting March 25, 9:30 am-5:30 pm, to pick up their metal butterfly** leaving a \$25 refundable deposit. **Finished works are due May 1.** Prizes will be awarded for the top three adult and youth (under 18) entrees.

Each butterfly must be painted with completely weather-proof coatings on both sides, with other deco-materials added if desired, followed by a clear-coat sealer. When the 'artful butterfly' is returned completed, each artist will receive a cash stipend for materials used. Butterflies then become property of the Botanical Gardens & Nature Center.



Meaning behind the exhibit

Mariposas have fascinated people for centuries being a symbol of renewal and new life in many cultures. The exhibit will be tied to pollinator gardens; *une ofrendo* (an altar) erected at the Gardens during *Día de los Muertos* along with a butterfly release in the screened native Butterfly House to connect natural science of butterflies to the Mexican culture; educational signage about butterfly and monarch migration, life cycles; and our local *Día de los Muertos* festival encouraging summer visitors to return to Corpus Christi for the street festival!

"Art is for the Birds," artist-decorated wooden bird houses also funded by the Arts & Cultural Commission, successfully filled the Gardens in 2023 for the *Birdiest Festival in America*. Many of those cleverly-detailed birdhouses remain on display.

