

EVELIO FLORES
MITOTILIZTLI YAOYOLLOHTLI

DANCE WORKSHOPS

Danza is a rich blend of music, choreography, poetry, theater and most important of all, of deeply held spiritual faith. Using intricate dance steps, turns and jumps, the dancers evoke a kinetic prayer. Participants will learn the purpose and meaning of Danza. Along with this they will be taught some of the simpler steps and footwork and onto some of the beginners level of dances. Participants can be taught (depending on their skill) a variety of dances, the names and meaning of each dance and meaning of some of the movements associated with the dance.

DANCE PERFORMANCES

Opening performance invoking the 4 cardinal directions, the 4 elements of Life (air, earth, water, fire) and the Ancestors. Dances give thanks to nature around us, the four elements of Life and the Ancestors. La Danza Mexihka (Azteca) is a living, evolving and cultural tradition filled with the artistic and spiritual tradition of the Mexihka. La Danza is a form of prayer, individual and yet communal. It is a way of life, all encompassing. Using brilliant colors in their regalia, headdresses and musical instruments, the Mexihka dancers communicate across generations, to carry on a tradition which they have been entrusted with.

MUSIC WORKSHOPS

Music workshops provide an explanation and demonstration of several Mesoamerican musical instruments used for Danza but also for other ceremonies. Instruments include the drum, hand drum, flutes and other percussion instruments including turtle shells, "death whistle", hand rattles and conch shells.

Songs in a variety of tribal languages can also be shared to accompany the instruments Opening performance invoking the 4 cardinal directions, the 4 elements of Life (air, earth, water, fire) and the Ancestors. Dances give thanks to nature around us, the four elements

VISUAL ARTS WORKSHOPS

Participants will be able to learn up to 2 Indigenous art projects. The first is the Ojo de Dios or "eye of God" from the Wirrarika made by weaving yarn on cross sticks as an artistic totem / amulet that participants will learn to create and keep. The crossed sticks represent the basic elements (earth, water, wind, fire) and the four cardinal directions. The center of the eye, where the sticks cross, symbolizes the power of seeing and understanding things beyond the physical realm.

The second project is the dream catcher from the Lakota people. Hand woven hoop with a net, often decorated with feathers and beads. This artistic totem / amulet will be handcrafted by participants using imitation sinew to weave a weblike pattern to be used as protection and catch the "good" dreams. Supplies will be provided by artists for up to 12 people per event

Participants age 6 and older