

## Night Through the Lens: A Visual Reflection on the All Souls Parade, November 8th 2015

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Rituals, steeped in the flavors of a culture, have long been a source of intrigue for anthropologists. Rituals come in many shapes, from the small, seemingly insignificant personal and everyday acts that help bring meaning and order to our lives, to orchestrated social events, ceremonies or happenings, time out of time, for reflecting on the past, the present and the future.

The All Souls Procession has been a Tucsonan tradition since 1990; an annual ritual that invites the collective celebration of love and loss through creative means. The procession draws thousands of people to walk amongst and witness this moving meditation on life after death, an open space for shared contemplation and artistic expression. Whether they choose to craft the characteristic skull makeup associated with the Mexican *Día de los Muertos* festival upon their faces, to carry a photo or placard of the deceased or hold a mantra throughout the procession, each participant contributes to the mutual commemoration of those who have passed. The All Souls Procession is both carnival and tragedy, darkness and levity, personal, impersonal, small and large. It is hope, laughter, solidarity and pain. It is in thanks to those who went before, who touched our lives and shaped our souls.

The photos in this collection were taken during the 2015 All Souls Procession. They were intended to provide a snapshot of the event through my eyes, a taste of the rich diversity that Tucson has to offer. The captions accompanying the photos feature both snippets of conversations that I overheard or was engaged in with participants, and my own reflections on the procession.



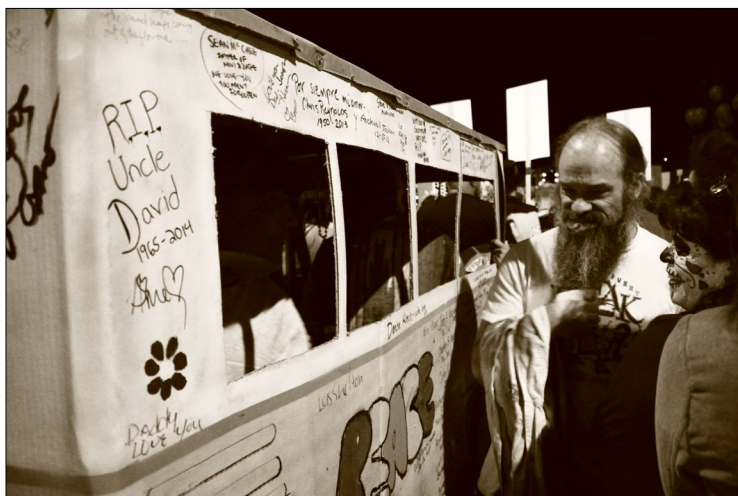
*Figure 2: "Oh! I didn't realize someone was under there!"*



**Figure 3:** *“Was that your cat? Yes...many, many cats...”*



**Figure 4:** Shuffling forward, lighting the way



**Figure 5:** "You can sign it if you want....here's a Sharpie"



*Figure 6: Gathering, looking, performing, listening*



*Figure 7: Pictures, face paint, flowers, candles, namesakes, keepsakes, heart-shaped love notes*



*Figure 8: "It's two-sided.....Oh, how beautiful, thank you"*