

Tyrone Guzman brought vision, intelligence, spirit to flourishing community

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Tyrone Guzmán, Executive Director of Centro Cultural Chicano, passed away June 30, 2009. Guzmán, for 13 years, brought spirit, intelligence, vision, warmth and compassion in service to the organization. He was admired and loved by the board, staff and volunteers of Centro. He cared deeply for his community and had a sincere desire to see it flourish. One could see and feel this when they entered the doors of Centro. Under his leadership and guidance, the organization grew to serve more than 30,000 individuals every year. Centro thrived as he strengthened the agency's capacity to promote the well being of Latino families in Minnesota within a nurturing cultural sanctuary.

Prior to his position as Executive Director of Centro, Guzman worked in the field of Latino arts, education, and the Minnesota Department of Human Services. He was a founding member of CreArte, Aurora Charter School, and La Corvina. He served in Panamá, in the US military where he earned many commendations. In addition, Guzmán served as a member of the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders. He was a Santero, a Southwestern style religious folk artist. He was a self taught artist. His ancestors were from San Miguel de Allende, home to many Santero artists. His art was his passion and it was healing.

As a native of St. Paul, Guzmán held a B.A. from Macalester College, studied law at William Mitchell College, and graduated from Harvard's Graduate School of Business Executive Education Program.