

Colleagues and friends,

A group of Tibetan Buddhist monks, in direct lineage of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, will create a beautiful sand mandala painting in Foxworthy Gallery next week. This is a rare opportunity for staff and students to see its construction over four days, Tuesday through Friday, October 15-18.

The monks will hold a half-hour opening ceremony at 10am Tuesday before they begin their work. They will chant and offer prayers for peace and the well-being of all who work at our college and for the world during construction of the mandala.

Gallery hours for the week are:

Tuesday 10am-5pm. Opening ceremony 10-10:30am.

Wednesday 10am-5pm

Thursday 10am-4pm

Friday 10am-3pm. Closing deconstruction ceremony begins at 2pm.

Creation of the mandala is a sacred process, where millions of grains of colored sand are painstakingly applied over the course of a few days, with narrow metal funnels that work like pens to deposit the sand on the design. After it is completed, the mandala will be ceremonially deconstructed, the grains of sand swept together into one mass. Visitors present at the ceremony may receive a small bag of sand to take with them, to bless their own spaces at work or home. Those who wish may join the monks in a car parade, to deposit the rest of the sand in the Santa Maria River bed at Suey Crossing Road near East Donovan, at the levee trail, about 2.5 miles from campus. Maps will be available in the gallery.

During the week, Tibetan crafts will be on display and for sale in the gallery.

This group of learned monks travels throughout the world to share the Tibetan culture and raise awareness for the plight of the many thousands of Tibetans killed and/or displaced by Communist China. Relocated to southern India, their monastery provides housing, education, and health care for their citizens, and are supported solely through donations.

That Allan Hancock College has this opportunity to host the monks is a great privilege. I hope you will join me in welcoming the monks to the gallery, and encourage your students to stop by to witness the progress of the mandala.

Warmly,

Marti Fast
Art Gallery Director
Ext. 3465