



• *Enriching the lives of our community through the arts* •

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ARTS COUNCIL FOR MONTEREY COUNTY LAUNCHES POET LAUREATE PROGRAM

(Seaside, CA - March 23, 2021) Today the Monterey County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution to create a Monterey County Poet Laureate. The Arts Council for Monterey County (Arts4MC) will coordinate the County Poet Laureate program.

The Poet Laureate is an honorary position that celebrates the County of Monterey's cultural heritage and promotes literacy and literature among county residents.

A Call for Nominations will be launched on the Arts Council website on July 1st with the two-year term beginning on January 1, 2022. Poets typically can nominate themselves or be nominated by other residents of the county through an online application. Poets must live in the County of Monterey, be at least 18 years of age, and available to travel county-wide. An honorarium of \$2,500 will be provided to cover any travel costs over the term.

"This year, our first National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman hit the scene and poetry became cool! We had more participants and audience members than ever before at our recent Poetry Out Loud Competition so we know poetry is definitely growing in popularity. Now is the time for Monterey County to have our own Poet Laureate, and I'm thankful to the County Board of Supervisors for their support", states Jacquie Atchison, Arts4MC Executive Director.

The mission of the Poet Laureate is to:

- Elevate poetry in the awareness of Monterey County residents and to help celebrate the literary arts;
- Serve as an advocate for poetry, literature, and the arts;
- Lead a community project that makes poetry more accessible; and
- Contribute to Monterey County's poetry and literary legacy.

For more information, please visit [www.arts4mc.org/poetlaureate](http://www.arts4mc.org/poetlaureate).

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*The mission of the Arts Council for Monterey County (Arts4MC) is to improve the quality of life for everyone in our region through the arts. For more information, please email [info@arts4mc.org](mailto:info@arts4mc.org).*