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Contact: Jazmine Zavala, Marketing Coordinator  
Arts Council for Monterey County  
831-622-9060 x 106  
jazmine@arts4mc.org

**ARTS COUNCIL FOR MONTEREY COUNTY ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF POETRY OUT LOUD CONTEST**

**(Seaside, CA - February 10, 2023)** The Arts Council for Monterey County announces the winners of the 2023 Monterey County Poetry Out Loud® Contest. The first place winner is Karina Torres from North Monterey County High School. The second place winners are Anixia Davila from Gonzales High School and Chloe Haggquist from Stevenson School. The third place winner is Hailie Atkinson, Pacific Grove High School.

Poetry Out Loud—presented in partnership with the Arts Council for Monterey, National Endowment for the Arts, and Poetry Foundation—is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering free educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition for high school students across the country. Since the program began in 2005, more than 4.1 million students across the country have participated in Poetry Out Loud. On February 4, seventeen high school students participated in the Poetry Out Loud contest at the CSUMB Alumni & Visitors Center.

Students recited works selected from an anthology of more than 1,200 poems. Judges evaluated student performances on criteria including voice and articulation, evidence of understanding, and accuracy. The National Endowment for the Arts and Poetry Foundation have created free, standards-based curriculum materials to support Poetry Out Loud including a teacher’s guide, lesson plans, an online anthology, posters, and video and audio on the art of recitation. These resources are available for free at PoetryOutLoud.org.

Karina Torres from North Monterey County High School will advance to the California Poetry Out Loud virtual contest on March 19, 2023, 5:00-6:30pm. The California champion will receive \$200 and will advance to the national finals next spring where \$50,000 in awards and school/organizational stipends will be distributed. The representing school or organization of the state champion will receive \$500 for the purchase of poetry materials. The first runner-up in each state will receive \$100, with \$200 for their school or organization. The Poetry Foundation provides and administers all aspects of the monetary prizes awarded and travel arrangements for the Poetry Out Loud National Finals.

To learn more about the California Poetry Out Loud contest, contact [www.capoetryoutloud.org](http://www.capoetryoutloud.org) or visit PoetryOutLoud.org.

To learn more about the Arts Council for Monterey County visit [www.arts4mc.org](http://www.arts4mc.org).

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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)*