



ARTS COUNCIL For Monterey County

*The Arts Council for Monterey County champions the arts to enrich our community
- through education, healing programs and support for local creatives, nonprofits and cultural organizations.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arts4MC Announces the 2026 - 2027 Monterey County Poet Laureate

[MONTEREY COUNTY, CA. DECEMBER 9, 2025] The Arts Council for Monterey County (Arts4MC) is delighted to introduce Marie Boucher aka Marie Butcher—poet, educator, peace advocate, and naturalist—as the 2026 - 2027 [Monterey County Poet Laureate](#). Boucher officially steps into this prestigious role on January 1, 2026, serving a two-year term through December 2027.

This honorary role celebrates the county's rich cultural heritage and promotes literacy and literature throughout the community. As part of her tenure, Boucher is responsible for championing the art of poetry and creative expression, including through public readings, workshops, and undertaking a significant signature community project. She will receive a \$5,000 honorarium, funded by Arts4MC, for her service.

"The Poet Laureate program is part of our mission to champion the arts to enrich the lives of our community," said Jacquie Atchison, Executive Director of Arts4MC. "Poetry is one of many art forms, and we look forward to the creative energy and community outreach Marie will bring to the roles, especially her focus on connecting us with the natural world and each other."

The selection process was highly competitive, involving a comprehensive application and nomination period. Candidates were then subject to thorough evaluation by a panel of esteemed literary experts, consisting of Janice Rock, Garland Thompson, Jr., Rachele Escamilla, Jesus Valenzuela Felix, and Nura Agzamova-Turek.

This morning, the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors presented a resolution to Boucher officially recognizing and honoring her as the next Monterey County Poet Laureate. The recognition took place at the Board of Supervisors meeting held at the Government Center Building in Salinas after Boucher read two personal poems, "We Are But Guests" and "To the Children of This Land".



More about Marie Boucher aka Marie Butcher:

Marie Boucher is the Assistant Professor and Program Head for English for Academic and Professional Purposes at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey. She is a prominent literary figure in the area, known for co-leading the annual International Poetry Week and monthly International Poetry Gatherings in Monterey. Her poems, which revolve around themes of our integral relationship with the natural world and all beings, have been featured in the *Monterey Poetry Review*, *Porter Gulch Review*, *Poet's Choice*, and *Solo Novo*. She is also the Editor-in-Chief for the upcoming multilingual anthology *Doves Born of Flames: Poems of Resilience from Many Lands* (2026).

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*Arts Council for Monterey County (Arts4MC) is committed to enhancing the quality of life for all residents in our region through the arts. We provide a variety of ways to make art more accessible to everyone, including but not limited to providing **Arts Education** programs through schools and community organizations, offering business resources for artists and nonprofits through **BusinessWorks**, creating studio and public art spaces for local artists by **Curating Public Exhibitions** and via **ArtWorks**, awarding **Scholarships**, and providing **Grant Funding** to individual artists and nonprofits for community programs and events related to arts and culture. To learn more, visit arts4mc.org.*



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PARA PUBLICACIÓN INMEDIATA

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Arts4MC Anuncia al Poeta Laureado del Condado de Monterey para 2026-2027

[CONDADO DE MONTEREY, CA. 9 DE DICIEMBRE 2025] El Consejo de las Artes del Condado de Monterey (Arts4MC) se complace en presentar a Marie Boucher alias Marie Butcher, poeta, educadora, defensora de la paz y naturalista, como [Poeta Laureada del Condado de Monterey](#) para el periodo 2026-2027. Boucher asumirá oficialmente este prestigioso cargo el 1 de enero de 2026, con un mandato de dos años hasta diciembre de 2027.

Este cargo honorífico celebra el rico patrimonio cultural del condado y promueve la alfabetización y la literatura en toda la comunidad. Como parte de su mandato, Boucher se encargará de defender el arte de la poesía y la expresión creativa, entre otras cosas, mediante lecturas públicas, talleres y la realización de un importante proyecto comunitario emblemático. Recibirá un honorario de \$5,000 financiado por Arts4MC, por sus servicios.

«El programa de Poeta Laureado forma parte de nuestra misión de promover las artes para enriquecer la vida de nuestra comunidad», afirmó Jacquie Atchison, directora ejecutiva de Arts4MC. «La poesía es una de las muchas formas artísticas, y esperamos con interés la energía creativa y el compromiso con la comunidad que Marie aportará a sus funciones, especialmente su interés por conectarnos con el mundo natural y entre nosotros».

El proceso de selección fue muy competitivo e incluyó un exhaustivo periodo de solicitud y nominación. A continuación, los candidatos fueron sometidos a una minuciosa evaluación por parte de un panel de prestigiosos expertos literarios, formado por Janice Rock, Garland Thompson, Jr., Rachelle Escamilla, Jesús Valenzuela Félix y Nura Agzamova-Turek.

Esta mañana, la Junta de Supervisores del Condado de Monterey presentó una resolución a Boucher en la que la reconocía oficialmente como la próxima Poeta Laureada del Condado. El reconocimiento se llevó a cabo durante su reunión en el edificio del Centro Gubernamental en Salinas, después de que Boucher leyera dos poemas personales, «We Are But Guests» (No somos más que invitados) y «To the Children of This Land» (A los niños de esta tierra).



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Más sobre Marie Boucher alias Marie Butcher:

Marie Boucher es profesora adjunta y directora del programa de inglés con fines académicos y profesionales del Instituto de Estudios Internacionales de Middlebury en Monterey. Es una destacada figura literaria de la zona, conocida por codirigir la Semana Internacional de la Poesía, que se celebra anualmente, y las Reuniones Internacionales de Poesía, que tienen lugar mensualmente en Monterey. Sus poemas, que giran en torno a temas relacionados con nuestra relación integral con el mundo natural y todos los seres, han aparecido en *Monterey Poetry Review*, *Porter Gulch Review*, *Poet's Choice* y *Solo Novo*. También es editora jefa de la próxima antología multilingüe *Doves Born of Flames: Poems of Resilience from Many Lands* (2026).

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Arts Council for Monterey County (Arts4MC) se compromete a mejorar la calidad de vida de todos los residentes de nuestra región a través de las artes. Ofrecemos una variedad de maneras de hacer el arte más accesible a todos, incluyendo, pero no limitado a proporcionar programas de Educación Artística a través de escuelas y organizaciones comunitarias, ofreciendo recursos de negocios para artistas y organizaciones sin fines de lucro a través de BusinessWorks, la creación de espacios de estudio y de arte público para artistas locales mediante la Curaduría De Exposiciones Públicas y a través de ArtWorks, la concesión de Becas, y la concesión de Subvenciones a artistas individuales y organizaciones sin fines de lucro para programas comunitarios y eventos relacionados con las artes y la cultura. Para más información, visite arts4mc.org.