



ARTS COUNCIL For Monterey County

Enriching the lives of our community through the arts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Advisory

High School Voices Take Center Stage at the 2026 Poetry Out Loud Monterey County Competition

WHAT: The Arts Council for Monterey County (Arts4MC) invites the media to witness the power of the spoken word at the annual Poetry Out Loud county-level competition. High school students from across Monterey County will compete in this dynamic recitation contest, mastering public speaking and connecting with their literary heritage.

The winner of this event will be named the Monterey County Champion and will advance to the California State Finals in Sacramento this March, with the ultimate goal of reaching the National Finals in Washington, D.C.

WHO: Talented high school students (grades 9-12) from schools including Alisal High School, Monterey High School, Pacific Grove High School, Palma School, Rancho San Juan High School, and Trinity Christian High School.

Representatives from Arts4MC. 2026 - 2027 Monterey County Poet Laureate Marie Boucher (aka Marie Butcher). 2025 - 2026 Monterey County Youth Poet Laureate Mya Pop. Local guest judges Eric Mora, Susan Breen, Rachelle Escamilla, and Ayaz Pirani.

WHEN: Saturday, January 31, 2026 Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

WHERE: Black Box Theater, Monterey County Office of Education, 901 Blanco Circle, Salinas

VISUAL & AUDIO OPPORTUNITIES:

- Performances: Dramatic recitations of classic and contemporary poems by local youth.
- Student Interviews: Firsthand accounts from participants on how poetry has helped them build confidence and find their voice.
- Award Ceremony: The crowning of the 2026 County Champion.
- B-Roll: Vibrant reactions from the audience, judges' deliberations, and the intensity of student performers on stage.

WHY: Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering free educational materials and a recitation competition to high schools across the country. In partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, Arts4MC hosts this event to provide a platform for young residents to develop critical communication skills and artistic excellence.



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For more information, visit arts4mc.org/poetry-out-loud.

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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

Contacto: Nelly Otsu, Directora de Comunicaciones
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Aviso a los Medios

Voces de Estudiantes de Secundaria Protagonizan el Concurso Poetry Out Loud 2026 del Condado de Monterey

QUÉ: El Consejo de las Artes del Condado de Monterey (Arts4MC) invita a los medios de comunicación a presenciar el poder de la palabra hablada en el concurso anual Poetry Out Loud a nivel de condado. Estudiantes de secundaria de todo el condado de Monterey competirán en este dinámico concurso de recitación, dominando el arte de hablar en público y conectando con su herencia literaria.

El ganador de este evento será nombrado Campeón del Condado de Monterey y pasará a la final del estado de California en Sacramento este mes de marzo, con el objetivo final de llegar a la final nacional en Washington, D.C.

QUIÉNES: Talentosos estudiantes de secundaria (grados 9-12) de escuelas como Alisal High School, Monterey High School, Pacific Grove High School, Palma School, Rancho San Juan High School y Trinity Christian High School.

Representantes de Arts4MC. Marie Boucher (también conocida como Marie Butcher), Poeta Laureada del Condado de Monterey 2026-2027. Mya Pop, Poeta Laureada Juvenil del Condado de Monterey 2025-2026. Los jueces invitados locales Eric Mora, Susan Breen, Rachele Escamilla y Ayaz Pirani.

CUÁNDO: Sábado, 31 de enero de 2026 Hora: 1:00 p. m. - 2:30 p. m.

DÓNDE: Black Box Theater, Monterey County Office of Education, 901 Blanco Circle, Salinas

OPORTUNIDADES VISUALES Y AUDIOVISUALES:

- Actuaciones: Recitaciones dramáticas de poemas clásicos y contemporáneos por parte de jóvenes locales.
- Entrevistas a estudiantes: Testimonios de primera mano de los participantes sobre cómo la poesía les ha ayudado a ganar confianza y a encontrar su voz.
- Ceremonia de entrega de premios: Coronación del Campeón del Condado 2026.
- B-Roll: Reacciones del público, deliberaciones del jurado e intensidad de los estudiantes que actúan en el escenario.

POR QUÉ: Poetry Out Loud es un programa nacional de educación artística que fomenta el estudio de grandes obras poéticas ofreciendo materiales educativos gratuitos y un concurso de recitación a institutos de secundaria de todo el país. En colaboración con el National Endowment for the Arts y el



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Poetry Foundation, Arts4MC organiza este evento con el fin de proporcionar una plataforma para que los jóvenes residentes desarrollen habilidades de comunicación crítica y excelencia artística.

Para obtener más información, visite arts4mc.org/poetry-out-loud.

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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.