



For Immediate Release

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## **Poet Laureate Position for Santa Cruz County**

### **Local Poets May Apply Directly and Santa Cruz County Residents May Nominate their Favorite Santa Cruz County Poet**

The Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County, in collaboration with Poetry Santa Cruz, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, Santa Cruz Public Libraries and the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission, is launching a biannual Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate Position.

The Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County (CCSCC) as the official partner of the California Arts Council and designated local arts agency in Santa Cruz County, will administer the program. Poetry Santa Cruz will lead the selection process.

Establishing a post of Poet Laureate will create, over time, a body of work that commemorates the rich and varied culture of Santa Cruz County. Poetry is an important vehicle that inspires creativity in children and adults to express feelings, experiences, and questions about the world.

The Poet Laureate will be an honorary two-year position. During that term, the Poet Laureate will act as an advocate for poetry, literature, and the arts, and contribute to Santa Cruz County's poetry and literary legacy through public readings and participation in civic events. The Poet Laureate will also propose and lead a community project. The Poet Laureate will receive a modest honorarium.

Poets who have resided in Santa Cruz County for at least five years and have been published or recognized for poetry and literary contributions are invited to apply. Santa Cruz County residents are welcome to nominate their favorite local poet.

## Timeline

Terms of office: 2 years, January 2010 – December 2011.

Deadline for applications and nominations: September 1, 2009.

Deadline for project proposal: November 1, 2009.

Position announcement: January 2010.

Guidelines, criteria, application and nomination form are available at [www.ccscc.org](http://www.ccscc.org) and [www.poetrysantacruz.org](http://www.poetrysantacruz.org)

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*Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County: a private non-profit organization in partnership with the County of Santa Cruz, the California Arts Council, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, and the cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley and Watsonville.*