



EVENT PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Inaugural Santa Cruz County Youth Poet Laureate Selected

SANTA CRUZ, CA—Santa Cruz Public Libraries and the Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate (SCCPL), in partnership with Urban Word, are excited to announce that Dina Lusztig Noyes was selected as the Inaugural Santa Cruz County Youth Poet Laureate. The celebration took place at the Kuumbwa Jazz Center on Wednesday, April 10 at 6:00 pm. Lusztig Noyes was chosen from the inaugural cohort of finalists for Santa Cruz County Youth Poet Laureate (2024-2025) which includes Madeline Aliah, Simon Ellefson, Sylvi Kayser, and Gregory Souza.

The program, hosted by current SCCPL Farnaz Fatemi, included five-minute readings from each of the finalists plus appearances by special guests Joseph Jason Santiago LaCour, poet, delivering a poem for the cohort of writers, and Valentina Russell, Aptos High School senior and SC County Poetry Out Loud winner, reciting her winning entry. The event concluded with Lusztig Noyes' announcement as Santa Cruz County's first Youth Poet Laureate.

Dina Lusztig Noyes is currently a junior at Pacific Collegiate School in Santa Cruz. She will serve a one-year term as Youth Poet Laureate and will act as an advocate and county ambassador for poetry, social action and civic engagement. Lusztig Noyes will champion her own poetic practice while encouraging her peers through readings, workshops and appearances at events throughout the county.

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ABOUT THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM:

Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL) brings people, information, and resources together to enrich lives and strengthen the community. SCPL gives every Santa Cruz community member the opportunity to learn through educational resources, classes, and staff support. The Library develops programs for the broad community as well as for specific groups like students, seniors, and those who are most vulnerable, including the unhoused and incarcerated. SCPL also curates specialty collections, like genealogy and local history. Learn more about SCPL at [SantaCruzPL.org](https://www.santacruzpl.org) or on social media. To access the SCPL Press Kit visit <https://www.santacruzpl.org/press-kit/>.



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