

The Poetics of Connection



CAL POLY POMONA
JULY 21-22-23
FRIDAY 2PM - SUNDAY 2PM

CALPOETS' STATEWIDE SYMPOSIUM 2023



CALIFORNIA
ARTS COUNCIL
A STATE AGENCY

CALPOETS' STATEWIDE SYMPOSIUM 2023

Cal Poly Pomona

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JULY 21

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm:

Registration Window/Check-in: Building 63 (Vista de la Luna)

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm:

Networking/Happy Hour: Building 73 (Sicomoro Hall), Room 107

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm:

Dinner: Building 72 - Centerpointe Dining Commons

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm:

Welcome & The Blue Collar Poetry Workshop
with Ceasar K Avelar - Poet Laureate of Pomona: Building 73 (Sicomoro Hall),
Room 107

SATURDAY, JULY 22

7:45 am - 8:45 am:

Breakfast: Building 72 - Centerpointe Dining Commons

8:45 am - 9:00 am:

Symposium Opening - Building 73 (Sicomoro Hall), Room 107

9:00 am - 10:30 am:

Songs of the Self - UCLArts & Healing Workshop
Presented by Stacie Aamon Yeldell - Building 73 (Sicomoro Hall), Room 107

10:30-10:45 am:

Break

10:45 am - 12:00 pm:

Breakout Sessions/Led by Active CalPoets' Poet-Teachers/Choose One

1) Calaveras, Offerings y Poemas - Rosie Angelica Alonso - Building 73 (Sicomoro Hall), Room 124

2) Showing Your Best Side - Jessica - Building 73 (Sicomoro Hall), Room 102

3) CalPoets' Oral History and Archiving Project - Michael Willard - Building 73 (Sicomoro Hall), Room 107

12:00 pm-1:00 pm:

Lunch: Building 72 - Centerpointe Dining Commons

1:00 pm-2:30 pm:

Breakout Sessions/Led by Active CalPoets' Poet-Teachers/Choose One

1) Celestial Communication: Multidimensional Writing, Diosa Xochiquetzalcóatl -
Building 73 (Sicomoro Hall), Room 107

2) Mercy, Mercy Me; Things Ain't What They Used to Be: Coping with Uncertainty and Connecting through
Poetry, Johnnierenee Nelson - Building 73
(Sicomoro Hall), Room 124

2:30 pm-3:00 pm:

Break

3:00 pm-5:00 pm:

The Poet's Fire, Creative Writing Workshop with Lee Herrick - Building 73 (Sicomoro Hall),
Room 107

5:00 pm-6:00 pm:

Networking/Happy Hour - Building 73 (Sicomoro Hall), Room 107

6:00 pm-7:00 pm

Dinner: Building 72 - Centerpointe Dining Commons

7:00 pm-8:00 pm

Poetry Reading & Book Signing with Lee Herrick - Building 73 (Sicomoro Hall), Room 107

8:00 pm-10:00 pm

Open Mic - Building 73 (Sicomoro Hall), Room 107

SUNDAY, JULY 23

7:45 am - 8:45 am:

Breakfast: Building 72 - Centerpointe Dining Commons

8:45 am - 9:00 am

Sunday Symposium Opening - Building 73 (Sicomoro Hall), Room 107

9:00 am-10:30 am

Breakout Sessions/Led by Active CalPoets' Poet-Teachers/Choose One

1) Incorporating Art Projects into Poetry Lessons - James Coats - Building 73
(Sicomoro Hall), Room 124

2) Piece Together - Lallj Dana - Building 73 (Sicomoro Hall), Room 102

3) Somatic Writing Workshop - Dawn Trook - Building 73 (Sicomoro Hall), Room 107

10:30 am-10:45 am

Break

10:45 am-12:00 pm

Symposium Closing - Building 73 (Sicomoro Hall), Room 107

12 pm-1:00 pm

Lunch - Building 72 - Centerpointe Dining Commons

1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Pack out, Check out Building 63 (Vista de la Luna)

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JULY 21



Cesar K. Avelar
Pomona Poet Laureate
Friday, July 21, 7-8:30 PM

The Blue-Collar Poetry Workshop
Explore writing clandestinely, quickly, and effectively, using the momentum and rhythm of a production line.

SATURDAY, JULY 22

Stacie Aamon Yeldell
UCLArts & Healing
Saturday, July 22, 9-10:30 AM
Songs of the Self

A journey of self-expression through of vocal improvisation (Spoken Word/freestyle rap), groove, and the creation of a sacred space, (a cypher).



10:45 AM - 12 PM



Rosie Angelica Alonso
Calaveras, Offerings, y Poemas

Honor earth, what we love, and appreciate by writing "offering poems". Make sugar skulls from air dry clay, paint, and decorate them.



Jessica W. Cardenas
Showing Your Best Side

We will consider the message of the poem, themes or tones, images that arise, to use as inspiration for creating our broadsides.



Michael Willard
CalPoets Oral History and Archiving Project

Learn more about the projects, schedule to be interviewed, or submit teaching materials and other documents for the archives.

1 - 2:30 PM



Diosa Xochiquetzalcóatl
Celestial Communication: Multidimensional Writing

Open up and clear your chakras, especially the throat chakra, the energy center responsible for communication. Learn to connect to the divine feminine, unlocking the fundamental energy of creation and creativity.



Johnnierenee Nelson
Mercy, Mercy Me; Things Ain't What They Used to Be: Coping with Uncertainty and Connecting through Poetry

Identify and briefly discuss social/environmental issues which particularly resonate with you. Handouts of poems addressing some of these topics will serve as models/springboards for writers to create their own poems through individual reflection.



Lee Herrick
CA Poet Laureate
Saturday, July 22, 3-5 PM

The Poet's Fire
Explore the writer's fire. Discover what it is, how to nourish it, and how it can help create some of our most powerful, meaningful poems.

FOLLOWED BY READING AT 7 PM

SUNDAY, JULY 23, 9 - 10:30 AM



James Coats
Incorporating Art Projects in Our Poetry Lessons

Help students explore their imaginations by converting their poetic language into visual expressions. Examine the ways art and poetry informs experiences, capture moments, and can be used in tandem to inspire vivid communication.



Lalli Dana
Piece Together

Integrate simple practices to activate vagus nerve. This workshop calls on the wisdom of ancient traditions: belonging, harmony, nature, and the four directions. Combining a little movement, breath, humming, and drumming (lightly on our own belly or thighs), the workshop leans on my experience with emergent ritual constellations.



Dawn Trook
Somatic Writing Workshop

This generative writing workshop will use guided meditations, breathing, a body scan, and somatic practices to access sensorial descriptions and story that can be starting places for poems and a variety of practices to write from the body.

WORKSHOP ARTIST BIOS

Rosie Angelica Alonso

Rosie Angelica Alonso aka Tauri received her MFA from Cal State University, San Bernardino in creative writing. She is a part of the Los Angeles Poet Society and is the chief editor of Acid Verse Literary Journal. She is a narrative poet who delves into the realms of magical surrealism and indigenous storytelling. She is a daughter of migrant parents and a lover of cats, skateboarding, and food.

Cesar K. Avelar

Cesar Avelar is a U.S.-born, Blue-Collar Central American Poet who writes exclusively for the working class. Cesar is the current Poet Laureate of Pomona, CA. He is the Writer in Residence at Cafe Con Libros Press, and is the Founder and Host of Obsidian Tongues Open Mic. Cesar is the author of *God of the Air Hose* and *Other Blue Collar Poems*, published by El Martillo Press.

Jessica Wilson-Cardenas

Jessica is a 3rd generation Beatnik... a Beat Poet from the lines of Jack Spicer to Paul Vangelisti, and the heartbeat of the visual Muse and Master Poet, Maurya Simon. She completed her BA in Creative Writing and Art History from UC Riverside in Riverside, CA, and obtained her Master of Fine Arts from Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles, CA.

James Coats

James Coats is a multidisciplinary artist, author, and educator born in Los Angeles and raised in the Inland Empire. As a creative change agent he believes the arts can inspire youth and influence positive change in the world. His first poetry collection *If I had Lived* was published in 2018. He is the winner of the 2021 San Gabriel Poetry Slam. In 2021 he founded the organization *Lift Our Voices Education* which hosts an award winning workshop monthly called *Be The Change: Social Justice Writing Workshop*. He became the Artist in Residence at The Garcia Center for the Arts in 2022. His newest poetry collection *Midnight & Mad Dreams* is published by World Stage Press. You can find him attending poetry readings throughout California or follow his poetry via his Instagram @MrLovingWords

Lalli Dana

Her first job out of college, working at the Iowa Arts Council, Lalli Dana Drobny recognized and experienced how utterly essential Arts and the creative process are to humans. She received her MA in Writing from the University of Iowa and has been facilitating contemplative, nurturing workshops where folks can be curious and connect deeper with themselves and each other ever since. Lalli created *Writing Our Lives into Being* in 2003. In 2020, wanting to mix appropriate doses of joy into increasing levels of widespread despair and isolation, Lalli introduced online *Write Now Workshops*. Lalli founded *KindMind* – the heart of well-being in 2002 (kindmind.org). Designed to support and strengthen mind/body/spirit collaboration and right/left brain integration, *KindMind* blends somatic and mindfulness practices. (She's been teaching *Mindfulness* at Santa Barbara City College since 2007.) In 2021, Lalli was certified in *Resonant Healing* and offers time travel, vow release, and emergent ritual constellations.

Lee Herrick

Lee Herrick is the California Poet Laureate. He is the author of three books of poems: *Scar and Flower*, finalist for the 2020 Northern California Book Award; *Gardening Secrets of the Dead*; and *This Many Miles* from *Desire*.

He is co-editor of *The World I Leave You: Asian American Poets on Faith and Spirit* (Orison Books 2020). His poems appear widely, in *The Poetry Foundation*, *Academy of American Poets*, *The Place That Inhabits Us: Poems from the San Francisco Bay Watershed*, *Indivisible: Poems of Social Justice with a foreword by Common*, *HERE: Poems for the Planet*, with a foreword by the Dalai Lama, and *Dear America: Letters of Hope, Habitat, Defiance, and Democracy*, among others. Herrick serves on the advisory board of *Terrain.org* and *Sixteen Rivers Press*. He co-founded *LitHop* in Fresno. He has taught in Qingdao, China, and for *Kundiman*.

He was born in Daejeon, Korea, and adopted as an infant. He lives with his family in Fresno, California, and served as Fresno Poet Laureate from 2015-2017. He teaches at Fresno City College and in the low-residency MFA program at University of Nevada Reno at Lake Tahoe. He is the 10th California Poet Laureate, and the first Asian American to serve in the role.

Johnnierenee Nelson

Award-winning writer Johnnierenee Nia Nelson, aka the Kwanzaa Poet, has written five books of Kwanzaa poetry. Her first volume, *"A Quest for Kwanzaa"*, published in 1988, was heralded as the authoritative genesis of Kwanzaa literature. *"Classic Kwanzaa Poems: New and Selected"* is her latest work. A poet/teacher for both California Poets in the Schools and San Diego's Border Voices Project, as well as a performance poet, Johnnierenee has presented readings and workshops from Cairo, Egypt to Vancouver, British Columbia. Ms. Nelson was featured at the fifth Annual El Cajon Friendship Festival with her creation *"A Taste of Kwanzaa"* and on two KPBS shows, *"These Days"* and *"The Lounge."* She also performed at San Diego City College in collaboration with Urban Bush Women. Her video credits include the Emmy-Award-winning documentary, *"Lighting the Way"* and KPBS' acclaimed *"Border Voices"* TV show. Ms. Nelson is the Poet Laureate of the World Beat Center and the San Diego County Area Coordinator for CalPoets.

Dawn Trook

Dawn Trook is a Merced-based performer, writer, theater producer, and educator. She serves as an Area Coordinator for California Poets in the Schools and teaches writing at UC Merced. Trook is a recipient of a California Arts Council Heartland Creative Corps grant and will spend the next year writing, creating, and performing a one-woman show where she plays water in the last stages of battle with human development. Though her writing has been printed in some publications, Trook focuses on non-traditional methods of poetry distribution. She writes poetry on demand through her initiative *bespoke*. She uses a pink manual Smith-Corona to do this.

Michael Willard

Michael Willard holds a Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Minnesota. His teaching, research, and publications focus on popular/youth culture and racial formation in Los Angeles of the past and present. He co-edited *Generations of Youth: Youth Cultures and History and Sports Matters: Race, Recreation, and Culture*. His articles have appeared in *American Quarterly* and edited collections on popular culture and American cultural history.

Diosa Xochiquetzalcóatl

Adriana Citlali Brenes-Rios is the writer behind the pen name, *Diosa Xochiquetzalcóatl*, or *Diosa X* for short. She is a multilingual and multidimensional Xicana, Indigenous, MeXicana poetiza, and author of three poetry collections: *A Church of My Own* (2021), *Hechizera: Sus Sultry Spells* (Editorial Raíces, 2022), and *West of the Santa Ana and Other Sacred Places* (Riot of Roses Publishing, 2023). Adriana Citlali comes to you as a seasoned language arts/ESL educator and citizenship instructor with a Bachelor's in English and a Master's in Cross-Cultural Education. This poet has the gift of not only fusing her teaching expertise and poetic talents, but her Level 1 Kundalini Yoga Teacher training as well to facilitate unique poetry workshops in English, Spanish, and/or a fusion of both for participants of all ages and demographics.

Stacie Aamon Yeldell

Stacie is an award-winning vocalist, speaker, and music psychotherapist with over 15 years of experience in mental health treatment. As the founder of *Amóntra*, a consulting company based in California, she has facilitated a range of therapeutic mindfulness practices for individuals and organizations, including The Grammy Foundation, The Riveter, GoogleArts and Culture, and YoungArts. In addition to being a faculty member for UCLArts & Healing, Stacie has spoken at events like *Women In Music and DisclosureFestTM*. She has also appeared on CBS News, in *Renée Fleming's "Music and Mind Live"*, and is featured in the documentary *"Proven."* Stacie holds a masters degree in music therapy from New York University, in addition to certifications in sound and music healing from the Open Center and Vocal Psychotherapy (AVPT) from the Vancouver Vocal Psychotherapy Institute.