

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. _____

On the motion of Supervisor:
Duly seconded by Supervisor:

The following resolution is adopted:

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DESIGNATION OF NANCY MILLER GOMEZ AS
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY 2025-2026 POET LAUREATE

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate position was approved by your Board on October 18, 2022, with the objective to elevate poetry in our community, educate the public about the value of creative expression, inspire diverse voices to emerge, create new points of connection among residents in our county, and increase access to our cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, in collaboration with Arts Council Santa Cruz County, Santa Cruz Public Libraries, Santa Cruz County Parks, and Poetry Santa Cruz, the application process for this honorary position was developed, and a seven-member panel convened to review applications; and

WHEREAS, the selection panel reviewed the applications and, in November 2024, selected Nancy Miller Gomez to be recommended for the Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate for a two-year term, from January 31, 2025 to December 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, her work has appeared or is forthcoming in many publications, among them *Best American Poetry*, *Best New Poets*, *Prairie Schooner*, *TriQuarterly*, *The Adroit Journal*, *The Hopkins Review*, and she received a special mention in the *2023 Pushcart Prize Anthology* and her chapbook, *Punishment*, was published as part of the *Rattle* chapbook series; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Miller Gomez co-founded an organization that provides writing workshops to incarcerated women and men and has taught poetry in Salinas Valley State Prison, the Santa Cruz County Jails and the Juvenile Hall; and

WHEREAS, during her two-year term as Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate, Nancy Miller Gomez will work to coax poetry off its academic pedestal and bring it back to members of the community who have little to no experience with poetry, and especially to those who have been marginalized and are most in need of the connective lifeline that poetry offers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz does hereby approve Nancy Miller Gomez as Santa Cruz County's Poet Laureate from January 31, 2025 through December 31, 2026, and honor her for her significant contributions to advancing and enlivening the art of poetry in Santa Cruz County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz,
State of California this 28th day of January 2025 by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: _____
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Signed by:
Ann Jackson 1/21/2025

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Office of the County Counsel

Distribution:
Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector
County Counsel
County Administrative Office
Arts Council Santa Cruz County
Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services
Arts Commission