



THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING APRIL 2026 AS

## *National Poetry Month*

**WHEREAS**, in 1996, to support American poets of all ages in their careers and to foster the appreciation of contemporary poetry, the Academy of American Poets established the month of April as *National Poetry Month* – the largest literary celebration in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, poetry enhances and enriches our communities, fosters critical thinking, discipline, creativity, self-expression, and problem-solving skills, and inspires other artists in the fields of music, theatre, film, dance and the visual arts; and

**WHEREAS**, *National Poetry Month* seeks to highlight the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievement of American poets, introduces citizens to the pleasures and benefits of reading poetry, brings poets and poetry to the public in immediate and innovative ways, and connects the next generation of creative minds with the art of poetry; and

**WHEREAS**, poetry is an essential part of civic life – a beloved and vital component of San Mateo County’s rich cultural history and contemporary landscape; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 23, 2013, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors approved the establishment of the post of San Mateo County Poet Laureate to elevate poetry into the consciousness of San Mateo County residents and, since then, Poets Laureate have amplified the role of poetry and the literary arts across the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors has named Antonio Jesus Lopez as the fifth San Mateo County Poet Laureate to serve as ambassador and advocate for poetry, literature, and the arts throughout San Mateo County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, hereby designates April 2026 as *National Poetry Month* and calls upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of San Mateo County to observe this month, to celebrate the cultural riches our community has to offer, and to recognize with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs the essential role poetry plays in our lives.

**Dated:** April 7, 2026

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS