

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING

AILEEN CASSINETTO

San Mateo County Poet Laureate, January 2019 – June 2022

WHEREAS, AILEEN CASSINETTO is a product of chain migration, born and raised in Manila, Philippines and followed her grandparents and parents by immigrating to the United States in 2000 where she began professionally pursuing her passion for writing and is the author of the poetry collections *Traje de Boda* and *The Pink House of Purple Yam Preserves & Other Poems*, and her work has also appeared in *Poetry Magazine* and *Vox Populi*, among others; and

WHEREAS, upon appointment as San Mateo County Poet Laureate in January 2019, AILEEN CASSINETTO launched her “Speak Poetry in San Mateo County” project in schools, city halls, the county jail, nursing facilities and libraries; and

WHEREAS, in April 2020, AILEEN CASSINETTO curated the community poem, “Love in the Time of COVID19 for Healthcare Workers and Other Frontliners,” raising funds for San Mateo County Health Foundation and was featured in the Mystic Seaport Museum (Connecticut), Minnesota Alzheimer’s Poetry Project, Montgomery Independent School District (Texas), and Japanese American National Museum (Los Angeles); and

WHEREAS, in January 2021, AILEEN CASSINETTO released the poetry anthology, *I Have a Dream: Inaugural Poems for a New Generation* featuring poems by 115 San Mateo County students; and as a 2021 National Youth Poet Laureate Competition judge, AILEEN CASSINETTO helped establish annual youth poetry competitions and youth poet laureate programs in San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, AILEEN CASSINETTO is currently expanding her ecopoetry program in collaboration with local groups and her poetry film, “Breathe,” based on a crowdsourced ecopoem by San Mateo County high school students, was an official selection in the Nature & Culture Poetry Film Festival and screened at Kulturhuset Islands Brygge Cultural Center in Copenhagen, November 2021; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, AILEEN CASSINETTO received a highly competitive Academy of American Poets Laureate Fellowship and a Special Congressional Recognition, also in 2021,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, hereby gratefully commends AILEEN CASSINETTO for her three and a half years of service as San Mateo County’s Poet Laureate and deeply appreciates the myriad of poetry programs she has crafted and lead with equity throughout our county making all of us richer for these efforts and wishes her continued success in the years ahead.

Dated: June 30, 2022

Supervisors:

Don Horsley, President

Dave Pine

Carole Groom

Warren Slocum

David J. Canepa

Attest: Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors