

For Immediate Release

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Angelina Leños has been named as Ventura County's 2020/2021 youth poet laureate by the Ventura County Arts Council.

The Ventura County Arts Council is pleased to announce its selection of Angelina Leños as the county's inaugural Youth Poet Laureate; she will serve for one year as official poet and ambassador to the community for poetry. Ms. Leños will be inaugurated with an online ceremony on March 20, 2021 at 3:00PM, and the public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Angelina Leños is an AmeriCorps Fellow at California Lutheran University and the youngest poet in California Poets in the Schools' history (established in 1964) to be invited onto the Board of Directors. Angelina has created platforms for others poets by organizing a monthly online poetry open mic with the Ventura County Arts Council in partnership with the Oxnard public library system. She also hosts a quarterly statewide online reading and open mic. In high school, Angelina won the Poetry Out Loud competition at both school and county levels, and has since returned as a recitation coach for Ventura County. Angelina has been widely published. "I'll Take This Word and Make it Mine," was included in and selected as the title for the 2018-2019 California Poets in the Schools statewide anthology. Angelina Leños is the 2020-2021 Ventura County Youth Poet Laureate.

The tradition of the poet laureate reaches back to the ancient Greeks who crowned their most celebrated poets and athletes with laurel wreaths. England has had a poet laureate since Geoffrey Chaucer first enjoyed the mantle in the 14th century; Italy's tradition dates back to Petrarch in 1341. The United States established its laureateship in 1937, and California appointed its first laureate in 1915. In April 2017, Amanda Gorman was named the inaugural National Youth Poet Laureate. Angelina Leanos laureateship follows closely after the newly appointed 2020 National Youth Poet Laureate, Meera Dasgupta. Currently, there are 60 youth poet laureates across the nation.

More information about the Ventura County Youth Poet Laureate program visit: vcartscouncil.org.

To RSVP: [VCYouthPoetLaureate2021.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vc-youth-poet-laureate-2021-tickets-15084848808)



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Ventura County's 2021 Youth Poet Laureate Virtual Inauguration

**March 20, 2021
3:00pm - 4:30pm**

RSVP today: vcyouthpoetlaureate2021.eventbrite.com



Angelina Leños

