



PROCLAMATION

HONORING KATHLEEN HERRMANN AS CO-POET LAUREATE FOR THE CITY OF VALLEJO

WHEREAS, the Vallejo Poet Laureate Program is sponsored by the Vallejo Center for the Arts's Poetry Vallejo Committee, through which the Poet Laureate for the City of Vallejo is selected, and then officially appointed by the City of Vallejo; and

WHEREAS the duties of the Vallejo Poet Laureate include composing poems for and hosting special events and occasions, through which increases the public's awareness of the power of poetry along with other forms of literature, fosters appreciation of poetry in all its forms, and serves Vallejo residents and visitors with expressions of culture through words; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vallejo is fortunate to have an active community of poets living and working in our midst from which the Poetry Vallejo Committee chose the finalists, and in a historic first, has appointed two poets to serve the community side by side as co-poet laureates for the term of the fourth Poet Laureate of the City of Vallejo, California; and

WHEREAS, Vallejo resident Kathleen Herrmann was selected from this community and has graciously agreed to serve jointly as Vallejo's Poet Laureate for the term of January 2024 to December 2025; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Herrmann, a retired educator, holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from the University of California at Berkeley, and a Master of Arts in Teaching Leadership from St. Mary's College of California; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Herrmann is an internationally published poet whose work appears in 14 anthologies worldwide, including *I Can't Breathe* (Kistrech Poetry, Kenya, 2021), *Friendship* (Pure Slush, Australia, 2021), and *Work & the Anthropocene* (Ice Floe Press, Canada, 2022), and the *Benicia Herald* has also published numerous poems by Herrmann; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Herrmann won Best of Show in Poetry at the 2022 and 2023 Solano County Fairs, and has also received awards from the Ina Coolbrith Poetry Circle, including 2nd place in 2022 and 3rd place in 2023. She has featured for the Flyway Festival, Alameda Island Poets, Benicia First Tuesday Poets, and Napa Valley Writers Club. She is a regular and occasional host at Art Beat Poetry Hour on KZCT, and

WHEREAS, during her term as Poet Laureate, Ms. Herrmann hopes to hold workshops for the community, including Vallejo youth and organize ekphrastic readings, continue her current work on her upcoming collection entitled *I Was There, Now I'm Here: Crossing Borders*, featuring the stories of refugees, and as an experienced musician and singer, hopes to meld the two art forms to create a community song for Vallejo.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Robert H. McConnell, Mayor of the City of Vallejo, and the Vallejo City Council, do hereby appoint Kathleen Herrmann as the Official Co-Poet Laureate of the City of Vallejo, in recognition of her significant body of work, and her service to poetry and poets in Vallejo, for a term of two years, ending on December 31, 2025.

Dated: March 12, 2024




ROBERT H. MCCONNELL, MAYOR

Vice Mayor Mina Loera-Diaz, District 3
Councilmember Tina Arriola, District 6
Councilmember Peter Bregenzer, District 5
Councilmember Diosdado "JR" Matulac, District 2
Councilmember Charles Palmares, District 4
Councilmember Rozzana Verder-Aliga, District 1