



PROCLAMATION

HONORING ERIK MANUEL SOTO AS POET LAUREATE FOR THE CITY OF VALLEJO

WHEREAS, the Vallejo Poet Laureate Program, sponsored by the Vallejo Center for the Arts' Poetry Committee, selects the Poet Laureate for the City of Vallejo who is then officially appointed by the City; and

WHEREAS, the duty of the Poet Laureate is to promote the power of poetry and enrich the lives of Vallejo residents and visitors by sharing their gift of poetry. The Poet Laureate is dedicated to building community through poetry and inspiring a love of poetry and other forms of literature among all people; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vallejo is fortunate to have an active community of gifted poets living and working in our midst. Vallejo resident Erik Manuel Soto was selected from this community and has graciously agreed to serve as Vallejo's Poet Laureate for the term of January 2026 to December 2027; and

WHEREAS Mr. Soto is an accomplished poet whose debut collection, "Inside the Umber Iris," explores themes of subconscious realms, mythology, and generational trauma. His work has appeared in numerous publications, including *Huizache*, *Sonora Review*, *The Dewdrop*, *Action*, *Spectacle*, and *Antiphony*, and work forthcoming in *The Offing*. In 2023, he penned the essay "Being a Poet in the Biggest Little City" for the Nevada Arts Council, demonstrating his commitment to fostering literary communities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Soto has an active presence on the literary reading circuit in the Bay Area and Los Angeles area. He is a dedicated educator and mentor serving elementary through university levels, and he holds an MFA in Poetry from the University of Nevada, Reno, and an MA in English from Sonoma State; and

WHEREAS, as Poet Laureate, Mr. Soto plans to make poetry accessible to all Vallejo residents through workshops at local libraries and community centers, to establish partnerships with Vallejo schools to bring poetry into classrooms, and to create opportunities for emerging voices through open-mic events and collaborative projects that celebrate the city's diverse cultural heritage.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Andrea Sorce, Mayor of the City of Vallejo and the Vallejo City Council do hereby proclaim and appoint Erik Manuel Soto as Official Poet Laureate of the City of Vallejo for a two year term, ending December 31, 2027, in recognition of his significant body of work, and his service to poetry and poets in Vallejo.

Dated: March 24, 2026




ANDREA SORCE, MAYOR

Vice Mayor Diosdado 'JR' Matulac, District 2
Council Member Peter Bregenzer, District 5
Council Member Helen-Marie Gordon, District 6
Council Member Tonia Lediju, District 3
Council Member Alexander Matias, District 1
Council Member Charles Palmares, District 4