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**Modesto-Stanislaus
Poetry Center**

*Promoting poetry throughout Stanislaus County and
promoting Stanislaus County through poetry*

10/27/2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject:

Modesto-Stanislaus Poetry Center Announces Applications Open for 2024-2025 Youth Poet Laureate Position

Applications accepted through January 27 for youth ages 15 to 19

Contact:

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The Modesto-Stanislaus Poetry Center (MoSt Poetry), in partnership with the Stanislaus County Library, Stanislaus County Office of Education, and MJC's School of Language Arts and Education, is happy to announce the contest is open for 2024 Stanislaus County Youth Poet Laureate (YPL) program. Applications for the program, which brings Stanislaus County youth the opportunity to create positive change in their communities through activism and art, opened October 27, 2023, to students ages 15 to 19 who reside or attend schools in Stanislaus County.

The application period for the inaugural Stanislaus County YPL program closes on January 27, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. Youth interested in applying are asked to submit a YPL Application. Included in that application is a request for a summary of civic and social engagement experience and a portfolio of three to five poems. Submission guidelines and an application are available on the [YPL webpage](https://www.mostpoetry.org/contests/ypl) (<https://www.mostpoetry.org/contests/ypl>). Applicants with questions may email Stella Berattis at ypl@mostpoetry.org.

Submissions will be judged by a panel of local working poets and other selectors connected with our partner organizations. The selected Poet Laureate will receive a \$500 scholarship. Altogether, the YPL program will engage Stanislaus County youth in literary arts programming for one year, beginning June 2024 and ending in May 2025.

In addition to the scholarship, the YPL will be provided with the mentorship and resources needed to bring their community projects and vision of Stanislaus County's future to life. These resources will include access to MoSt Poetry's organizational infrastructure and board members as well as support from partnering community organizations and the local literary arts community. By the end of the program year in May 2025, the YPL will have made personal connections with

organizations and individual partners throughout the region and will have had the opportunity to create a countywide literary initiative serving youth.

For more information, please visit <https://www.mostpoetry.org>.

About the Modesto-Stanislaus Poetry Center

The Modesto-Stanislaus Poetry Center (MoSt Poetry) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed in January 2013 by poet, educator, and Modesto poet laureate emeritus Gillian Wegener and a group of community-minded poets. MoSt Poetry's mission is to promote poetry throughout Stanislaus County and to promote Stanislaus County through poetry. To that end, MoSt Poetry organizes a variety of activities and events to serve the public, including monthly readings online and quarterly readings at the Carnegie Arts Center; Poetry on the Spot with typewriters; readings for residents of senior care facilities and retirement communities; the "Poetry Everywhere" initiative which has served over 58 local schools including juvenile hall with donations of new poetry collections; free summer writing workshops; quarterly book discussions at the Modesto Library; an annual fall workshop and festival featuring noted poets from across California; and more. MoSt Poetry is partnering or has partnered with the Modesto Branch of the National League of American Pen Women, the Carnegie Arts Center, the Friends of the Modesto Library, and the Stanislaus Library Foundation. Members of MoSt Poetry serve on committees for the City of Modesto's Poet's Corner Contest, the Stanislaus Arts Council, and more.

For more information about MoSt Poetry, visit <https://www.mostpoetry.org/>. Follow us on social to keep up with the latest news: [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/MoStPoetry) (<https://www.facebook.com/MoStPoetry>), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/TheMoStPoetry) (<https://twitter.com/TheMoStPoetry>), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/mostpoetry) (<https://www.instagram.com/mostpoetry>).

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