

# Sonoma County Arts Education Alliance

November 2021

## In this issue:

- **TOP STORY:** Youth Poet Laureate | Native American Heritage Month | Survey for English Language Learner Educators
- **ArtsEd RESOURCES:** Poetry Out Loud | We Want to Hear from You
- **ArtsEd DIRECTORIES:** Music to My Ears | Summer Arts School

## OUR TOP STORY



## Ella Wen is New Youth Poet Laureate

California Poets in the Schools announces Sonoma County's new Youth Poet Laureate, Ella Wen, a sophomore at Maria Carrillo High School. Sonoma County follows the lead of the nation, the state and sister counties (Alameda, Los Angeles and Ventura) in acknowledging a student who has achieved excellence in poetry, allowing them to be a leader for the county in raising the profile of poetry and developing its audience.

Ella Wen was selected from a qualified pool of applicants by a panel of judges in October of this year. Ella was the 2021 winner of Sonoma County's Poetry Out Loud recitation contest held in February.

In Ella's words:

*"Nowadays, I write poetry to debunk my thoughts and turn social issues into an emotionally rich work of art. Communication of ideas has always been a struggle for me, and yet poetry gives me that chance to exhibit my thoughts and political views in an incredibly free way. In all honesty, poetry lets me speak a volume that I never thought was reachable ."*

Congratulations, Ella!



Learn about the California Indian Museum & Cultural Center



The Sonoma County Arts Education Alliance (AEA) seeks feedback from educators who serve English Language Learners (ELL) in a school setting by completing this survey about arts education in the classroom. Those educators who complete the survey by November 20 are eligible for a drawing for a \$25 gift card!

Take the ELL Survey

## ArtsEd RESOURCES

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS  
AND POETRY FOUNDATION PRESENT



When Amanda Gorman spoke at the inauguration of President Joe Biden, people around the nation were exposed to the power of poetry, and saw how much skill and creativity it takes to bring a poem's words to life. For more than 15 years, Poetry Out Loud™ has given millions of high school students a similar platform through a national poetry recitation competition.

Poetry Out Loud—presented in partnership with California Poets in the Schools, National Endowment for the Arts, and Poetry Foundation—is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering **free** educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition for high school students. Since the program began in 2005, more than four million students across the country have participated in Poetry Out Loud.

Sonoma County High schools and organizations that wish to participate (for free) in the official Poetry Out Loud program should contact Sonoma County POL Coordinator Jodi Hottel, [hottel@sonic.net](mailto:hottel@sonic.net), by **December 10, 2021**. CalPoets will work with interested schools and organizations to include them in the official Poetry Out Loud program. Schools and organizations that are not in the official program may conduct their own contests using the online resources.

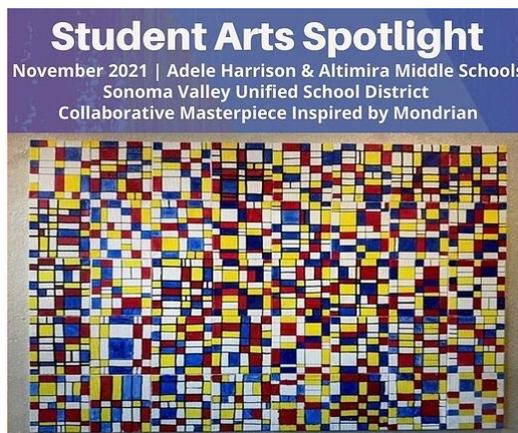
[Learn More](#)

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**Classroom Teachers, School Administrators, Teaching Artists,  
Arts Organization Leaders & More:**



Take the (2 minute) AEA Survey



## ArtsEd BLOG & STUDENT ARTS SPOTLIGHT

The AEA Student Arts Spotlight celebrates excellence in arts education. Submit your school's work in the arts on the ArtsEd Blog page!

[Read the Blog](#)

**ArtsEd DIRECTORY & OPPORTUNITIES**  
FROM [CREATIVESONOMA.ORG](http://CREATIVESONOMA.ORG)

**Featured ArtsEd Program:** A local source for expertise in music education. Learn more about [Music to My Ears](#)

**From Opportunities:** Info sessions for teens about [CSSSA Summer School opportunities](#)

An advertisement for the California State Summer School for the Arts (CSSSA). The background is orange. On the left, the text "CSSSA CALIFORNIA STATE SUMMER SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS" is written in white. Below this text are three small images: a student working on a sculpture, a student playing a violin, and a student playing a guitar. On the right, there is a larger image of a student playing a violin. Below the images, the text "APPLY FOR 2022" is written in white, followed by "Virtual Info Sessions Nov. 18 & Dec. 9 | 6pm" and "Sign up at: [csssaf.org/events](https://csssaf.org/events)". At the bottom, a black box contains the text "CSSSA is for teens from 9th-12th grades. Full tuition, need-based scholarships provided." in white.

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