



## **Artist Laureate Katy Krantz**

### ***Dear Culver City . . .***

#### **Artist Statement**

The City of Culver City is pleased to present Artist Laureate Katy Krantz's *Dear Culver City . . .*, a multidisciplinary project that includes the ceramic contributions of over a thousand Culver City community members. *Dear Culver City . . .*, an installation of the ceramic works, will be on display at the Culver City City Hall from April 15 to June 10, 2024.

Please join us in celebrating the project with an opening reception on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, from 5pm to 7pm in the Dale Jones Courtyard at Culver City City Hall. Mayor Yasmine-Imani McMorrin, Cultural Affairs Commission Chair Brenda Williams, Artist Laureate Subcommittee members Tania Fleischer and Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin, and Culver City Arts Foundation Chair Jim Clarke will provide opening remarks. At the opening, local poets will read original poems inspired by words generated by community members.

For the project, Krantz led over thirty ceramics workshops across the city, engaging with residents and stakeholders of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. The workshops were comprised of two activities: a word brainstorm and a ceramics project. Krantz asked workshop participants to think of words that came to mind when considering Culver City's past, present, and future. These words were collected on large sheets of paper. Participants then chose one word to stamp in wet clay, which Krantz then fired and glazed. All words written on paper were alphabetized and compiled into documents, which were then given to seven local poets who created poems inspired by the collected words.

Workshop participants also learned basic ceramics techniques, creating pinch pots and small sculptures that were then fired, glazed, and strung onto cables for the installation. Glazing assistance was generously provided by community volunteers and members of the Culver City Senior Center.

Krantz noted, "I loved interacting with such a diverse range of Culver City community members. It was exciting to be able to offer free ceramics programming— people seemed to really enjoy taking part in the workshops, not only for the artmaking but also because the workshops offered an opportunity to relax and connect with their neighbors. The project also gave community members the opportunity to express how they feel about living here. I found it fascinating that the word brainstorm was able to capture such a wide range of perspectives. Lastly, it was so exciting to work with this group of talented poets and see the work they created from the community generated words."

After the installation comes down, Krantz will hold a one-day community "reclaim" day so that participants can come and pick up their work. Date and Time: TBD.

#### **Workshop Locations:**

Pride Culver City, Downtown Culver City

Culver City Senior Center

Wende Museum Artist Meet Up

Juneteenth Event, Ivy Station  
Syd Kronenthal Park  
Fox Hills Park  
Culver West Park  
Fiesta La Ballona  
Art Walk and Roll  
Julian Dixon Library  
The Village Well  
The Culver City Historical Society  
YMCA Back to School Event  
Sí Se Puede, Hispanic Heritage Month Event, Stoneview Nature Center  
Culver City Teen Center

Culver City Afterschool Recreation Program Sites:

Linwood E. Howe Elementary School  
Blanco Park  
El Marino Park  
Lindberg Park

Participating Poets:

Topacio Althaus  
Kate Burns  
Karen Gibson-Roc  
Janet Houlton  
Leah Johnson  
Brian Sonia-Wallace  
Bri Stokes

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The Artist Laureate Program is made possible by the City of Culver City and its Cultural Affairs Commission, with additional funding from the Culver City Arts Foundation.