

Center for Literary Arts
One Washington Square
San José, CA 95192-0223



FOLLOW US AT:

-  @CENTERFORLITERARYARTS
-  @CENTERFORLITERARYARTS
-  CLASANJOSE.ORG

“The Center for Literary Arts is an absolute jewel....
Its work is vital and should be applauded
and supported.”

Jamel Brinkley, author of WITNESS.

Center for Literary Arts

Our Mission at the CLA

The San José State College of Humanities and the Arts founded the CLA in 1986 with a mission to bring writers of contemporary literature to the South Bay community. For over three decades, we have continued that mission with a host of readings, conversations, craft talks, and workshops featuring authors of exceptional voice and vision.



THE MARTHA HEASLEY COX LECTURE

A generous endowment created by San José State Professor Emeritus Martha Heasley Cox established an ongoing series to bring celebrated and influential authors to San José, previous Cox lecturers include Toni Morrison, J.M. Coetzee, Jonathan Franzen, and Maxine Hong Kingston.



THE LEWANDOWSKI FAMILY POET

In honor of Frank and Dr. Mary Lou Lewandowski, the CLA celebrates poets whose work inspires and influences the next generation of poets. Past Lewandowski Family poets include Claudia Rankine, Tyehimba Jess, Carmen Giménez, and Lillian-Yvonne Bertram.



THE JAMES D. HOUSTON MEMORIAL LECTURE

To honor the California author and former Lurie Author-in-Residence, the annual James D. Houston Memorial Lecture brings emerging writers from diverse backgrounds to San José State University. Past Houston Lecturers include Yiyun Li, Daniel Alarcón, Kiese Laymon, and Danielle Evans.

Who Are We?

- Shannon Miller, Dean
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS
- Ryan Skinnell, Chair
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
- J. Michael Martinez, Director
DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR LITERARY ARTS

SUPPORT CLA

The Center for Literary Arts is a non-profit funded by the College of Humanities and the Arts, by grants from the City of San José and SV Creates, and individual donations. Donations are tax-deductible and provide critical operating support. Please know that every contribution is important to us. Thank you for your support for the literary arts!



2026
2027

CENTER FOR LITERARY ARTS

TESSA HULLS



HAMMER THEATRE
09-24 | 7 PM

BARBARA
KINGSOLVER



HAMMER THEATRE
10-22 | 7 PM

JJJJEROME
ELLIS



HEIDI
ANDREA
RESTREPO
RHODES

STUDENT UNION THEATER | 10-29 | 7 PM

STUDENT UNION THEATER
02-25 | 7 PM



BRITTANY
PERHAM

HAMMER THEATRE
04-15 | 7 PM



STEPHEN
GRAHAM
JONES

READING SERIES