

CENTER FOR LITERARY

ARTS

2025
2026

www.clasanjose.org





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

Jamel Brinkley, author of *WITNESS*.



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

Noelle Brada-Williams, Chair
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

J. Michael Martinez, 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!



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Center for LITERARY ARTS

2025 2026

2025

Gennarose Nethercott

HAMMER THEATRE | 6:30PM

10-09



10-30

Natalie Diaz

HAMMER THEATRE | 6:30PM



02-05

Danzy Senna

HAMMER THEATRE | 6:30PM

Photo credit Dustin Snipes



02-19

Venita Blackburn

HAMMER THEATRE | 6:30PM



04-23

Kim Addonizio

HAMMER THEATRE | 6:30PM



READING SERIES

2026