

Title **Julio Soriano Soriano** 03/14/2023
by **Xulio Soriano** in **Napa County Poet Laureate - 2023** id. 35959544
[REDACTED]@gmail.com

Original Submission 03/14/2023

Applicant Full Name **Julio Soriano Soriano**

Email Address **[REDACTED]**@gmail.com

Check to Confirm: **Applicant is 18 years or older**
Applicant's primary residence is in Napa County, CA
Applicant has a profile on CreativeDirectoryNapaValley.com

Phone: **[REDACTED]**

Street Address: **[REDACTED] Napa, CA 94558**

Mailing Address (if different from Street Address): n/a

Why do you want to be the Poet Laureate? **I want to be Poet Laureate because I want language justice in poetry. I know poetry is in everyone and in everything. I want poetry to help bridge communities. I want poetry to be intercultural and multicultural, multilingual and multi-media. As the demographics of Napa change, I want our government institutions and community organizations to be as accessible as possible by all cultures and languages. We are transitioning into a new climate-change affected world. We are living through many traumatic social and environmental experiences. If poetry helped me build tenacity during adversity, I hope it may also help communities do the same.**

What would your top three priorities be as Poet Laureate?

Además de impulsar la poesía en la comunidad anglo-parlante, me gustaría impulsar la poesía en la comunidad hispano-hablante del Condado de Napa y la comunidad que habla idiomas indígenas, como el idioma Mixteco y otros idiomas. Es necesario promover la poesía en idiomas que son escritos y también en idiomas que no son escritos, por ejemplo, idiomas indígenas que no se escriben con letras romanas. Esta es mi prioridad de justicia lingüística.

Mi segunda prioridad es laborar para que los espacios de poesía incluyan personas de todas edades. Que las personas jóvenes están más involucradas en espacios de poesía, y que puedan crear poesía de diversas maneras escritas y no escritas. Esta es mi prioridad de acceso inter-generacional.

Mi tercer prioridad es la interculturalidad pública. Deseo hacer más visibles a poetas del Valle de Napa que son de culturas migrantes que tienen poca visibilidad. Por ejemplo, personas de culturas Filipinas, o Indígenas migrantes, o personas blancas de clases sociales menos privilegiadas que, por mi experiencia y observación, no participan mucho en espacios literarios o de poesía. Esta es mi prioridad de equidad social.

As Poet Laureate, how would you engage with the community?

From 2008-2016 I helped organize Open Mic. nights mostly in Downtown Napa. I would like to help organize or support other people organize such events through the valley. Open mic nights can be exclusive to poetry, or they can be poetry, hip hop, and music, which are in themselves different mediums for poetry. Usually open mics draw people from many different ages and cultures so I would like to have at least one Poetry or general Open Mic. in each city of Napa County.

I would also make sure that official Poet Laureate events or spaces are at least bilingual, if not multilingual. Translating all promotional materials before a community event, and providing multilingual content during an event, helps engage the community. Schools are currently where there is the most ethnic diversity, so connecting to schools and libraries would be a priority to engage with youth. While the Poet Laureate position has little funding and it is a volunteer position, I would like to support the publication or compilation of a multilingual valley-wide anthology of local poets of all ages, where video can be used for those who don't read and write.

Proof of residence in Napa County, CA (Copy of official mail with applicant name and address)

[IMG-5365.jpg](#)

Letter of Intent

[Carta_intencion_final.docx](#)

Resume

[Xulio_Poetry_Resume.pdf](#)

Letter of Support/Recommendation

[letter_support_naomi.pdf](#)

5 Supporting Poems (Text, Video, or Audio format)

[The_Bicycle_Rap_Song2010.mp3](#)

[Grand_Grandmother2017.pdf](#)

[Like_Rising_Tortillas2017.pdf](#)

[In_This_Paradise_2017_video_performance.mp4](#)

[Somos_Tortillas_2018.pdf](#)

Carta de intención
Xulio Soriano

A quien le concierne:

A veces es difícil contestar preguntas grandes, como "el porqué." ¿Por qué he vivido en Napa por 23 años, y porque mis padres dejaron el lugar donde nací que tanto amaba y que sigo queriendo con todo mi corazón desde lejos? ¿Por qué sigo viviendo en Napa cuando muchas de mis amistades salen fuera de Napa para sobrevivir artísticamente y espiritualmente? ¿Por qué no buscar otro lugar, un hogar en donde no me sienta como un extranjero? ¿Por qué sigo siendo poeta si mi familia necesita que yo tenga una carrera en donde pueda tener dinero para levantar nuestra situación económica, para que sus sacrificios valgan la pena? En años pasados, escritores y otros Poetas Laureadas me han sugerido considerar aplicar para ser Poeta Laureado. Sin embargo, no he tenido la impresión que este puesto sea un lugar en donde un migrante, una persona indígena, una persona morena, una persona insatisfecha con la experiencia de exclusividad en el Valle de Napa, pueda florecer. He tenido miedo de que institucionalizarme como Poeta Laureado en Napa, si lograra tener ese puesto, sería un puesto en donde el poeta va a perder su esencia, en donde yo perdería mi esencia. Ahora pienso un poco diferente.

Después de la pandemia de COVID-19 y la crisis de incendios de cambio climático que afectaron fuertemente al Condado de Napa, mi manera de pensar ha cambiado un poco: la crisis es una oportunidad para la transformación. La crisis demuestra nuestras debilidades pero también nuestra fortaleza y nuestro potencial como individuos y como pueblos. Quizás siendo Poeta Laureado bilingüe yo pueda ser una oportunidad para que haya más puentes entre las comunidades multilingües de Napa. Si la poesía es multilingüe y accesible, ojalá Napa County también pueda ser accesible y multilingüe cuando enfrentemos más crisis económica, climática, y social.

March 12, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my honor to give a whole-hearted endorsement and recommendation to Xulio Soriano as he applies to be the Poet Laureate of Napa County. Xulio embodies what this position is, and would bring a spotlight to poetry and the arts in Napa in a powerful way.

I met Xulio back in 2013, shortly after I opened Napa Bookmine in a space adjacent to a performing arts community theater space that Xulio co-created and operated. For years, until the lease of The Black and White Center ended, I had the opportunity to witness the quality youth-centered programming that he organized. There was a monthly, very popular Open Mic at the B+W Center, and Xulio also provided a space there for various dance groups, musicians, and writers/poets to gather and rehearse.

Xulio is a poet in his heart, on the page, and on the stage. He is a multilingual community organizer who is known to have acted as a bridge between the Latinx and White communities of Napa. Xulio is an authentic, passionate artist and organizer and our community of Napa is currently sorely lacking in the leadership that he would provide. He would energize a segment of young artists whose interest and exposure to poetry has gone unlit due to the painful lack of recent opportunities due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

I haven't heard it in years, but he would kick off every Open Mic with his Pedal Power poem, which always make the audience go wild with excitement. He creates beautiful combinations of words deep with meaning, and often has fun with it and encourages others to do so as well. Even Xulio's Facebook updates are filled with poetry. At some point, and I have never once had this thought about anyone else, I wanted to publish every single post he made on social media and consolidate them into one book so our community could share, remember, and learn from Xulio's spirit and passion. Having a Poet Laureate like Xulio would most definitely inspire future generations to be interested in writing and finding their voice. He is a visionary, and our Napa youth deserve to meet him and be inspired by him. Through that exposure, he would inspire more than a handful of our students to think of poetry and interdisciplinary arts in a new way and create meaningful relationships while doing so.

Thank you for considering Xulio for this leadership position. Please don't hesitate to contact me with further questions. I believe in him and the ways in which he will challenge Napans to think bigger, more critically, and honestly.

Sincerely,
Naomi Chamblin
Owner, Napa Bookmine

NAOMI CHAMBLIN

Owner, Buyer of Children's Books

naomi@napabookmine.com | [707.](tel:707)

napabookmine.com

Xulio Soriano

Poet, performance Artist



 @gmail.com

  Napa, CA 94558

Work Experience

AVID Tutor, Vintage High School

A2008-2009

- ▶ Supported youth in English, Math, Spanish, and French class work.
- ▶ Gave powerpoint presentations a few times per year.

Rancho Gordo Retail Coordinator 2015-2017

- ▶ Supervised retail store, trained new sales employees, gave Spanish classes to employees.

Summary

Indigenous performance artists living at the nexus of art, education, and equity.

Education

Vintage High School

2004-2008

-Graduated in 2008

-Won the 2008 Jessamyn West Writing Contest, High School Student Category, 1st place Poetry in Spanish, 2nd Place Poetry in English

Napa Valley College

2008-2014

Xulio Soriano

Poet, performance Artist

2017-Present

Movimiento Cultural de la Union Indigena

-Volunteer Coordinator

-Board of Directors, Vice President

-Director of Organizational Development

-Won 2nd place in Jessamyn West Creative Writing Contest, College Student Poetry

Category.

Other achievements

- ▶ 2018 Presenter at United Nations conference, side event, New York
- ▶ 2018 Recipient of NEWS Male Role Model of the Year Award
- ▶ Co-founder of The Black and White Cultural Center, Downtown Napa
- ▶ Co-Founder of Alianza Mixteca del Valle de Napa
- ▶ Napa Valley Ethnic Studies Advocates, Co-Founder

Grand Grandmother

My *tatarabuela*

As ancient as *Huehuetotl*

My great, great, grand-grandma

Every dawn when Sun climbs mountains

Your waking eyes stretch the ridges on your skin

Your long-awoken palms read the braille on your face

Your ground grooves on your temple speak like morning records

When you press your gaze with weathered hands

And adjust your quiet bones

Your ruffled braids wait patiently

As you rise up like the spine of *América*

You touch my pores to bless me

Just as you cured clay comales

With circular massage of *cal*

You travel each night

Between moonlight howls

And crepuscular chirps

Crossing veils and borders

To remind me...

**Like Rising Tortillas
(From a Permanent Resident Alien)**

We don't live to take bread crumbs
We don't beg to exist
We exist to resist
We insist we exist

We are like corn tortillas
The more you push down
The more you try to thin us out
The more we have reason
To politically expand
And poetically expound
Upon who we are and what we're about
So pay attention to this sound
Cuz we're about to break it down
Pay attention to this sound
Cuz we're about to rise up and get down

We make moist morning chilaquiles
From dead dry crumbs
Pedazos secos de tortilla
No vivimos de rodilla
Nos incamos con respeto
A la tierra a pisar
El fruto que diariamente
Van ustedes cenar

We don't live to take bread crumbs
We don't beg to exist
We exist to resist
We insist we exist

We engineer with what we find
We do rascuache
We work, we grind, we don't demise
We work, we grind, we do design

We've engineered pyramids without wheels
We've built our lives driving without licensed vehicles
Permit me to say
Our souls move without a permit
We refuse to be made

Undocumented status hermits

So we break out of our shells
Flowers, mangoes, and strawberries we sell
Hit the books to academically excel

Wherever we go
We carry home on our back
We say si se puede
We say Isang-Bagsak!

But my life has always been a perpetual purgatory
That's why my heart is full of border-crossing oratory
Jailed up, caged up, arbitrarily
Subsidized, privatized, penitentiary
Transgender queer immigrants facing solitary
Confinement, confinement--come find me!
Come find me!
Come find us!

Families and children force injected and incarcerated
In a cold concrete box
My school is underfunded with a cereal box-top
Military, prison, non-profit industrial complex
This doctrine won't stop

Undocumented, DACAmended, UnDACAmended
Augmented fictional reality
I tend to prefer a decolonized mentality
A state of mind and a status
That embraces our humanity

We don't live to take bread crumbs
We don't beg to exist
We exist to resist
We insist we exist.

**Somos como tortillas que se inflan, resisten, y se levantan
(De parte de un residente con "mica")**

No vivimos por migajas
No rogamos por vivir
Existimos porque resistimos
Insistimos que existimos

Somos como tortillas de maíz
Entre más nos quieren reprimir
Entre más nos quieren aplastar
Más esperanza tenemos de crecer y vivir
Y expandirnos políticamente
Y exponernos poéticamente
Y explicarles claramente
Quienes somos y de qué estamos hechxs

Por eso pongan atención
a este ritmo y sonido
Pueblos poetas unidos
Jamás serán vencidos

En la mañana con familia
Cocinamos chilaquiles
Renace la seca tortilla
Con el jugo del sol que brilla
With the moisture of a new sun
We pick the food you all eat
But we don't live on our knees
We kneel in respect for Mother Earth

No vivimos por migajas
No rogamos por vivir
Existimos porque resistimos
Insistimos que existimos

No se limitan nuestros sueños
Somos gente del rascuache
Son creativos mis diseños
Son humildes mis huaraches

Fuimos ingenieros de pirámides sin el uso de la rueda
Nos ingeniamos la vida manejando sin licencia nueva
Permitanme decir

Que nuestras almas se mueven sin permiso
No dejaremos que nos traten
Como trapos en el piso

Escapamos la pobreza
Vendemos flores, mango, y fresa
Estudiamos y leemos
Porque la educación es grandeza

Dondequiera que vayamos
Nuestra hogar cargamos en la espina dorsal
Somos tiernos y fuertes
Como espinas de rosal
Cantamos SI SE PUEDE
Gritamos ISANG BAGSAK
Cantamos SI SE PUEDE
Gritamos ISANG BAGSAK!!!

Nuestras vidas siempre han sido un perpetuo purgatorio
Por eso el corazón tenemos lleno de oratorio
Encarcelados, enjaulados, inyectados arbitrariamente
En prisiones privatizadas quedamos privados eternamente
Generan ingresos torturando gente y hermanxs transgénero
Limitando la diversidad de cuerpo, mente, e identidad género
Cárceles crueles de concreto carecen de compassion
Niños, padres, y madres les separan sin razón
Hay dinero para el complejo militar-industrial-prisión
Pero nunca hay dinero para la educación

Indocumentada DACAmentada, in-DACAmentadada
Realidad ficticia, realidad aumentada
Yo suelo preferir una mentalidad de-conquistada
Una estatus y un estado de mente
Que refleje una existencia humanizada

No vivimos por migajas
No rogamos por vivir
Existimos porque resistimos
Insistimos que existimos