

For Immediate Release: JANUARY 5, 2016

**BEYOND BAROQUE HONORS POETS HOLLY PRADO AND LUIS RODRIGUEZ AT THE 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER, SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2016, 6PM, AT THE CHURCH IN OCEAN PARK**

Beyond Baroque is pleased to announce that it will be honoring Los Angeles Poet Laureate and community leader, Luis Rodriguez, and poet and teacher Holly Prado with awards for their dedicated service to the craft and community of poetry at its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner at the Church in Ocean Park (235 Hill Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405) on Sunday, April 10, 2016.

Luis Rodriguez will receive the Distinguished Service Award. Previous recipients include S.A. Griffin, Amélie Frank, Rick Lupert, Mike Sonksen, and Elena Karina Byrne. The award is given to a Los Angeles based poet who has inspired public interest in poetry through his or her good works, and raised the pursuit and practice of poetry to new heights through community action. In addition to being the Poet Laureate of Los Angeles, Rodriguez has received numerous awards including a Chicago Sun-Times Book Award, a Carl Sandburg Book Award, and a Sundance Institute Arts Writing Fellowship. He is also founding editor of the small press, Tia Chucha Press, publishing for over 25 years, and co-founder of Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural & Bookstore in the San Fernando Valley. His 1993 memoir "Always Running, La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.," with close to half a million copies sold, became one of L.A.'s most checked out books in libraries—and one of the most stolen. Luis's last memoir, "It Calls You Back: An Odyssey Through Love, Addiction, Revolutions, and Healing," became a finalist for the 2012 National Book Critics Circle Award.

Holly Prado will receive the George Drury Smith Award, named after the founder of Beyond Baroque. Previous recipients include David St. John, Wanda Coleman, Eloise Klein Healy, Bill Mohr, and Suzanne Lummis. The award is given to a Los Angeles based poet whose work has raised the profile of poetry outside the bounds of Los Angeles and has brought widespread attention to the craft of poetry in Los Angeles. Prado spent her early years in Nebraska and Michigan before making Los Angeles her home in 1960. After teaching high school, she was hired in 1973 by Poets in the Schools as a Master Poet-Teacher. She has taught at various alternative education organizations and taught poetry in the Master of Professional Writing Program at USC for twenty years. She has continued to teach privately as well. She was the recipient of the Fin de Millennium, first place, given by the Los Angeles Poetry Festival. She was honored by the City of Los Angeles with a Certificate of Achievement for 35 years of accomplishment in the Los Angeles poetry community. She is a founding member of Cahuenga Press, a poets publishing cooperative.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Beyond Baroque Awards Dinner will take place at the Church in Ocean Park in Santa Monica, California, and will once again be Emceed by poet Brendan Constantine. Tickets to the annual dinner are \$60 for members and \$70 for all others. Tickets may be purchased at Eventbrite ([4thbbawards.eventbrite.com](http://4thbbawards.eventbrite.com)), or by contacting Beyond Baroque. This event has sold out every year and advance purchases are recommended. Those wishing to congratulate the honorees are encouraged to purchase a program ad, also available on the Eventbrite page.

Beyond Baroque Literary | Arts Center is one of the United States' leading independent literary | arts centers and public spaces dedicated to literary and cultural production, interaction, and community building. Founded in 1968, it is based in the old City Hall in Venice Beach, California, near the Pacific Ocean. It offers a program of readings, new music, free workshops, and publishing. It also houses an independent bookstore featuring the largest collection of new poetry available in one place, an archive featuring thousands of books and artworks from local artists with an emphasis on the Venice Beats, and The Mike Kelley Gallery, which exhibits local and international artists.

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