

ANTONIO DE JESÚS LÓPEZ

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CURRENT POSITIONS

- **San Mateo County Poet Laureate** (2025–2027)
- **Doctoral Candidate, Modern Thought & Literature**, Stanford University (PhD expected June 2026)
- **Lecturer, College of San Mateo** (April 2025–present)
- **Director of Research & Advocacy, Ayudando Latinos a Soñar** (February 2025–present)

EDUCATION

Stanford University

Doctorate of Philosophy in Modern Thought & Literature, June 2026 (expected)

Dissertation: *Hood Playin' Tricks on Me: East Palo Alto and the Sonic Afterlives of Redevelopment*

- RAISE (Research, Action, and Impact through Strategic Engagement) Inaugural Fellow
- EDGE (Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education) Fellow
- Cumulative GPA: 4.06

University of Oxford

Master of Philosophy in Modern Middle Eastern Studies, June 2020

2018 Marshall Scholar. Graduated with Merit.

Rutgers University–Newark

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (Poetry), May 2018

Thesis: *Gente-fication* • Cumulative GPA: 4.0

Duke University

B.A., Global Cultural Studies (Literature) and African and African-American Studies, May 2016

Certificate in Latino/a Studies in the Global South. Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude, Highest Distinctions.
GPA: 3.93/4.0

BOOKS

- ***Gente-fication*** (Four Way Books, 2021) — Winner of the Levis Prize in Poetry, selected by Pulitzer Prize–winning poet Gregory Pardlo
- ***The Right to Remain Violets*** (University of Arizona Press, forthcoming 2027)
- ***Pochtli: An American Novel*** (in progress, target 2027)
- ***Hood Playin' Tricks on Me: East Palo Alto and the Sonic Afterlives of Redevelopment*** (dissertation manuscript, in revision for book publication)

SELECTED POEMS IN LITERARY JOURNALS

- "Our Lady of the Westside," *Poetry* (2024)
- "Opening Statement" and "To Keep It a Cento," *The Colorado Review* (2024)
- "The Other Home I Found Is In the Art Itself: A Conversation with Richard Blanco," *The Rumpus* (2024)
- "Measure I (Know I Can)," *The Stanford Daily* (2022; reprinted in *The Almanac*)
- "House I (can't afford to) Live In," *The Stanford Daily* (2021)
- "Divide Without Conquering," *The Almanac* (2021)
- "Grading Rubric," "Primaria," and "Magical Forrealism," *Puerto del Sol* (2020)

- "Idolos Among Us," *Jacket2* (2019)
- "Aubade en Portlandia," *Tin House* (2019)
- "Triptych of the Adobe Cotta Army" and "An Apology to Her Majesty, Queen Cardi B," *Lunch Ticket* (2019)
- "After we Make It," *Inside Higher Education* (2019)
- "Sermon on the Rock," *Hayden's Ferry Review* (2018)
- "Anatomy of a Monarca," *Cleaver Magazine* (Life as Activism Issue, 2018)
- "First Time I was Called a Spic," *Arcturus Magazine* (Chicago Review of Books, 2018)
- "Yuri Duty," "La Carrera: An Achievement Gap Ekphrastic," "Haqq Monitor," and "The President of the Farmworker's Union..." *The American Journal of Poetry* (2018)
- "When Amá Asks Me," *Grist* (2017)
- "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Paloma Negra," *Permafrost* (2017)
- "The M Word Stories: Antonio De Jesús López," *PEN/America* (2017)
- "Conjugations of my Tía's Back," *After Happy Hour Review* (2017)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- **James W. Lyons Award for Service**, Stanford University (2026) — Awarded by the Dean of Students Office for exceptional service to the Stanford community
- **Obama Foundation USA Leader** (2025–26)
- **Pushcart Prize** (2024)
- **Arnold Soforenko Award** (2023) — for leadership establishing East Palo Alto's first Urban Forest Master Plan
- **National Book Critics Circle Emerging Critic Fellow** (2021)
- **Katharine Bakeless Nason Award in Poetry**, Bread Loaf Writers' Conference (2019)
- **Poetry Award, Martha's Vineyard Institute for Creative Writing** (2019)
- **Marshall Scholarship**, University of Oxford (2018–20)
- **Lucille Clifton Memorial Scholarship**, Community of Writers in Squaw Valley (2017)
- **Poetry Award, Santa Barbara Writing Conference** (2017)
- **Winner, AWP Open Mic & Old School Poetry Slam Competition** (2017)
- **Finalist, 9th Annual Nazim Hikmet Poetry Competition** (2017)

FELLOWSHIPS & RESIDENCIES

- **Stanford Humanities Center Dissertation Prize Fellowship** (2025–26) — One of four awarded annually across all humanities fields at Stanford, recognizing outstanding dissertations of scholarly excellence and public significance
- **CantoMundo Fellow**
- **Macondo Writers Workshop Member**
- **James Merrill Poetry Fellowship**, Vermont Studio Center (2019) — Fully-funded, month-long residency at the largest fine arts residency program in the U.S.
- **Bread Loaf Writers' Conference Scholarship**
- **Tin House Workshop Scholarship**
- **Community of Writers Scholarship**

SELECTED PRESS & RECOGNITION

- "Antonio López Is the New San Mateo County Poet Laureate," County of San Mateo Official News & San Mateo Daily Journal (2025)

- "East Palo Alto's Antonio De Jesús López Named San Mateo County's New Poet Laureate," San Mateo County's Executive Office (2025)
- "Moving Through Worlds: East Palo Alto Mayor Antonio López Shares His Journey," M-A Chronicle (2024) — Finalist, JEANC Best Profile Feature Story
- "East Palo Alto Poet Uses Public Office to Uplift Community," San José Spotlight (2023)
- "Meet East Palo Alto's Poet-Turned-Councilmember, Antonio López," KQED Arts (2022)
- "Gentefication and the Politics of Poetry with Antonio De Jesús López," The Rumpus (interview, 2022)
- "Antonio de Jesús López: At the Intersection of Poetry and Politics," Rutgers SAS-Newark (2021)
- "'Gentefication': Poet Antonio de Jesús López on Changing and Reclaiming Language," The Stanford Daily (2021)
- Featured Guest, *SiriusXM Dean Obeidallah Show* (2016)

INVITED TALKS & READINGS

- **Closing Keynote, College Success Conference** (2024)
- **Keynote Address, College Track Graduation** (2024)
- **Speaker, Social Justice Pathway program**, Palo Alto High School (2022; 2024)
- **Co-Panelist, "The Relationship Between East Palo Alto and Stanford"** with Juanita Croft, Pathways of Public Service Series, Stanford Otero House (2023)
- **Guest Speaker, Stanford Dems** (2023)
- **Guest Speaker, SWEET** (Stanford Winter Enrichment Experience for Teens, 2023)
- **Keynote Speaker, Cañada College Commencement** (2022)
- **Speaker, Hispanic Heritage Month, Harker Middle School** (2022)
- **Address, Menlo-Atherton High School Black Student Union** (2021)
- **"Can Poetry Save the World,"** Lecture, UC Merced (150+ audience)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- "Brown Noise: Sonic Erasure and the Struggle for Memory in Whiskey Gulch," *Moving Images Remains Conference*, Goethe University, Frankfurt (2026)
- "Hallowed Be Thy Pain: Roadside Altars as Counter-Publics in East Palo Alto," *Latino Studies Association Conference*, Austin, TX (2026)
- "Because the School Is No Longer There: Institutional Mourning and the Afterlives of Ravenswood High School," *American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting*, Los Angeles, CA (2026)
- "First Source Haunting: When Amazon Came to East Palo Alto, CA," *Fraker Conference*, University of Michigan (2025)
- "From Dais to Die-In: Transnational Entanglements of the Black Power Salute and the Brown Boycott," *National Association for Chicano and Chicana Studies Conference* (2017)

TEACHING

Lecturer, College of San Mateo (April 2025–present)

- English 110, main campus
- Academic Reading & Writing 1000, Half Moon Bay coastside campus (one of eight inaugural courses)

Part-Time Lecturer, Rutgers University–Newark (August 2016 – May 2018)

- English Composition 101 and 102, four consecutive semesters

Tutor & Mentor, Rutgers-Newark Writing Center (January 2017 – May 2018)

LEADERSHIP & PUBLIC SERVICE

Mayor (2024) and Councilmember (2020–2023), City of East Palo Alto

- Helped pass \$700 million in K–12 school bond measures
- Founded the East Palo Alto Coalition Against Sex Trafficking
- Helped reduce city homicides to zero in 2023
- Steering Committee, first Urban Forest Master Plan for the City of East Palo Alto
- **Vice Chair, El Concilio of San Mateo County Board of Directors** (2023–Present) — Core service agency providing food, shelter, and family-needs assistance in San Mateo County
- **Director, Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency** (2020–Present) — Represents 24 cities and water districts purchasing wholesale from the San Francisco Regional Water System
- **Advisory Board Member, New Market Tax Credit Action Opportunity Fund** (2020–Present)
- **Board Member, Catalino Tapia Scholarship Foundation** (2022–Present)
- **Board Member, Reaching and Inspiring Success Through Education (RISE)** (2022–Present)
- **Board Member, Mannakin Dance Theater** (2022–Present) — Expanded ballet to underrepresented communities; opened East Palo Alto's first permanent dance studio in 2022
- **District Representative for State Senator Josh Becker** (April 2021–May 2023)
- **SMC Leadership Corps Program, Inaugural Cohort**