

# Kriss Worthington

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**CONSENT CALENDAR** 

May 7, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Proclamation in Honor of Mary Rudge

### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a proclamation honoring Mary Rudge to be presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Berkeley Poetry Festival on May 11, 2013.

## **BACKGROUND**

Mary Rudge, a former art school teacher and BFA graduate from California College of the Arts, will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award in Poetry at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Berkeley Poetry Festival at Berkeley City College on May 11, 2012 at 4p.m. Past award winners have included: Clive Matson, Adam David Miller, Joyce Jenkins, Maggie Meyes, Julia Vinograd and Jack Foley.

Mary Rudge was awarded the once-in-a-lifetime Golden Pegasus award by the California Federation of Chaparral Poets and received the California's First Poet Laureate in 2002. She has also won awards in Greece, Taiwan, Canada, and New York. Her work reflects a lifetime of ongoing community activism and awareness for peace.

According to CA.gov California Art Council, Mary's first book of poetry was *Water Planet*, with preface by Leopold Sedar Senghor, first President of Senegal, Africa; the book was well-reviewed by *Publisher's Weekly*. Since then Mary has produced *Poems for Ireland*; *Oakland is a Holy City*; *Hungary, Austria, and Other Passions*; *Maps for Poets* (published in India), and others. For ten years she published and edited *Poets and Peace International*, read in ten countries and wrote poems in several languages. Anthologies she has co-edited include *State of Peace*; *The Women Speak* (Gull Press New York).

For twelve years she produced multi-cultural cable TV Shows that focused on arts under-represented in the media. Poetry-related projects include the documentation of the oral history of farm workers from various ethnic groups in California which she received a California Arts Council artists' grant for her work. She currently speaks internationally about how to create peace, calling poetry a healing art.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONTACT PERSON:
Councilmember Kriss Worthington 981-7170

## Attachment:

Proclamation Honoring Mary Rudge

## In Honor of Mary Rudge

**WHEREAS,** Mary Rudge became the City of Alameda, California's First Poet Laureate in 2002. Her work reflects a lifetime of ongoing community activism and awareness.

**WHEREAS,** Rudge, did her post graduate work in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico and received her MFA from California College of the Arts, Oakland,

WHEREAS, Mary's first book of poetry was *Water Planet*, with preface by Leopold Sedar Senghor, first President of Senegal, Africa; the book was well-reviewed by *Publisher's Weekly*. Since then Mary has produced *Poems for Ireland*; *Oakland is a Holy City*; *Hungary, Austria, and Other Passions*; *Maps for Poets* (published in India), and others. For ten years she edited and published *Poets and Peace International*, read in ten countries and included poems in several languages. Anthologies she has co-edited include *State of Peace*; *The Women Speak* (Gull Press New York).

**WHEREAS,** Rudge was awarded Honorary Doctorates in the Republic of China, New York, and Canada; named "Princess of Poetry" in Italy; and crowned with a gold laureate crown as an International Woman of Letters by United Poets Laureate International in ceremony at the City Hall Rotunda, San Francisco.

**WHEREAS,** Mary speaks internationally at universities, schools, cultural centers, libraries, poetry groups, and peace events on five continents on teaching word skills for creating peace and Poetry as a Healing Art, among other topics;

**WHEREAS,** For twelve years she produced multi-cultural TV Shows on an Alameda cable channel, focusing on arts under-represented in the media. Poetry-related projects include the documentation of the oral history of farm workers from various ethnic groups in California which she received a California Arts Council artists' grant for her work;

WHEREAS, She is a radical journalist, longtime community activist, multi-cultural TV producer, retired schoolteacher, and poet extraordinaire.

**WHEREAS,** on May 11th, 2013, the 11<sup>th</sup>Annual Berkeley Poetry Festival will honor Mary Rudge with its Lifetime Achievement Award for the wonderful and truly exciting work that she has accomplished;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Berkeley City Council recognize and proclaim

# May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 as Mary Rudge Day

Mayor Tom Bates	Councilmember Max Anderson	Councilmember Jesse Arreguin	
Councilmember Laurie Capitelli	Councilmember Linda Maio	Councilmember Darryl Moore	
Councilmember Susan Wengraf	Councilmember Kriss Worthington	Councilmember Gordon Wozniak	