



Cesar Chavez Celebration

Juan
Felipe-Herrera
U.S. Poet Laureate

Juan Felipe Herrera
U.S. Poet Laureate
(2015-16) & Activist,
National Book Critic
Circle Award Winner

Monday, March 28

12 to 1 p.m.

Lobby 1

Franklin Building

Please join us in welcoming Juan Felipe Herrera to UCOP. Herrera will read from his collection of poems and discuss the legacy and impact of Cesar Chavez.

In 2015 Juan Felipe Herrera was appointed the 21st United States Poet Laureate, the first Mexican American to hold the position. In his statement of choice, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington said Herrera's poems "contain Whitman-esque multitudes that champion voices, traditions and histories, as well as a cultural perspective" that serve to illuminate our larger American identity.

Herrera grew up in California as the son to migrant farmers, which has strongly shaped much of his work. A Washington Post article tells the story that "As a child, Herrera learned to love poetry by singing about the Mexican Revolution with his mother, a migrant farmworker in California. Inspired by her spirit, he has spent his life crossing borders, erasing boundaries and expanding the American chorus."

Sponsored by the President's Executive Office, Diversity & Engagement, and Local Human Resources

"The fire that appears again and again in Herrera's poetry exists to illuminate, to make beautiful, to purify."

– New York Times Book Review

"Aesthetically, Herrera leaps over so many ... And spiritually, he is deep into the quest that we all must begin before it is too late."

– Ilan Stavans