



## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Key West has been home to the most important poets of the past century, including Robert Frost, Elizabeth Bishop, Richard Wilbur, and James Merrill. American literature has been enriched by poetic descriptions of Key West's history, environment, and culture, and the Key West Poet Laureate is the official poet of Key West; and

WHEREAS, Arida Davis Wright is a poet, author, and literary event organizer who was born and raised in New York, and has lived in Key West for nearly thirty years; and

WHEREAS, she is the author of *Then Sings My Soul*, and the poetry collection *Crossing the Threshold: Voice of a Black Woman* and is published in several Key West anthologies. She has been a member of The Key West Writers Guild and The Key West Poetry Guild; and

WHEREAS, she is a past columnist for Key West *The Blue Paper* and *Village Voices*. She is a recipient of the Richard Heyman Award from the Anne McKee Grant Foundation; and

WHEREAS, she is a fervent advocate for the spoken word and poetry, contributing insightful narrative highlighting racial identity, Key West black history, and cultural, and is one of the founding members of R.O.S.E Diversity, and a producer of Kwanzaa, Black History Month, A Day Of Remembrance, and Juneteenth programs and events.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Danise Henriquez, Mayor of the City of Key West, along with the entire Key West City Commission, do hereby recognize

## ARIDA DAVIS WRIGHT POET LAUREATE 2026

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States," and encourage all residents and citizens to join in recognizing and honoring her accomplishment.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 1st day of April 2026

  
**Danise Henriquez**  
Mayor, City of Key West

