

# LAGUNA BEACH POETRY TRAIL

## GUIDE & MAP

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## ABOUT THE POETRY TRAIL

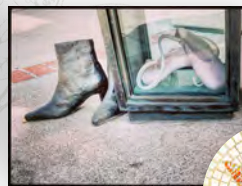
In 2020, local poet and writer Ellen Girardeau Kempler received a Fostering Creativity in a Time of Crisis Grant from the City of Laguna Beach for the Laguna Beach Poetry Project.

The grant was funded by the City of Laguna Beach with a donation from the Wayne Peterson Trust through the Laguna Beach Community Foundation.

Between November 2020 and April 2021, community members were encouraged to visit and engage with the ten selected works of public art along the poetry trail route, then write and submit a short poem in response.

The 10 winning poems featured in this guide were chosen from 127 entries using a blind judging process. The selected poems all demonstrate how art can inspire imagination and how words can complement visual art.

As you walk the trail, we encourage you to jot down your own responses!



The Laguna Beach Poetry Trail Map & Guide  
was published and funded by  
Friends of the Laguna Beach Library © 2022

*Photos by Ellen Girardeau Kempler via Instagram @placepoet  
Graphic design by Cynthia Love*

## WALKING WARM UP: LIBRARY ENTRANCE



One of the Orange County Public Library system's oldest branches, the Laguna Beach Library is an art destination of its own. As you stand here, take a look around and notice the artwork.

Artist Marlo Bartels created the tiled Sakura Starburst obelisk in front of the entrance for the late community activist Joan Benford.

The whimsical tile bench celebrating reading and readers, "Another Beautiful Day in Paradise," was designed for the library by artists Valerie Gorrell and Helma Bovenizer in 2007.

Finally, notice the names on the stepping stones along the footpath into the Butterfly Garden. The late poet John Gardiner, who co-founded Laguna Poets (a group that met at the library for many years), has his name here.

Many writers got their start in libraries, and the Laguna Beach Library has welcomed many to speak, read and lead classes here. As novelist Alice Hoffman said, "...all the best stories begin in a library."

**THE LAGUNA BEACH POETRY TRAIL  
STARTS AT THE LIBRARY!**

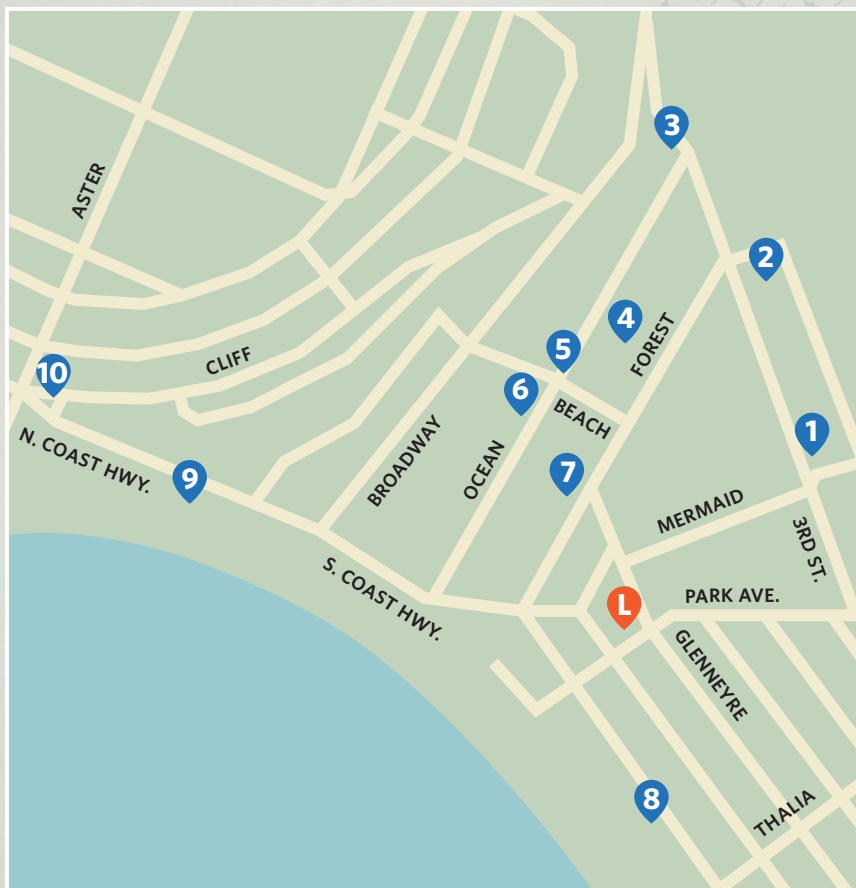
**WELCOME TO THE TRAILHEAD**

Your art + words walking adventure around downtown starts at the Laguna Beach Library, 363 Glenneyre Street. The 1.7 mile route features 10 stops at 10 works of public art that inspired 10 selected poems by community members. This guide includes the poems, a biography and photo of each poet, a trail map and information about points of interest along the way. Walk the whole route or save some discoveries for later!

**Poetry Trail Stops**

- Stop L**      Laguna Beach Library ~ Trailhead  
*Glenneyre Street at Park Avenue*
- Stop 1**      Moving Forward                      *Poem by Joy Dittberner*  
*SuzyQ Center*
- Stop 2**      Canyon Preserve                      *Poem by Lisa Mansour*  
*Laguna Beach County Water District*
- Stop 3**      The Discussion                      *Poem by Jessica DeStefano*  
*Ocean Avenue and Forest Avenue*
- Stop 4**      Adventure                      *Poem by Kai Bourne Turok*  
*Ocean Avenue West Lot B*
- Stop 5**      The Shopper                      *Poem by Alina Dziuk*  
*Ocean Avenue and Beach Street*
- Stop 6**      Road Blossoms                      *Poem by Karen Kanner*  
*Beach Street and Ocean Avenue*
- Stop 7**      Chambered Nautilus Bench      *Poem by Lisa Hughes Anderson*  
*North corner of Forest and Promenade*
- Stop 8**      A Tranquil Moment                      *Poem by Theresa Keegan*  
*Entrance to Brown's Park, South Coast Highway*
- Stop 9**      Grace                      *Poem by Jan Tattam*  
*Laguna Beach Marine Safety, Main Beach*
- Stop 10**      Girl and Dog                      *Poem by Barrett Bernholtz-Purko*  
*Jahraus Park, corner of Cliff Drive at North Coast Highway*

# POETRY TRAIL MAP



Scan this code for a  
Google Trail Map

POETRY TRAIL

# STOP 1

Suzi Q Center, 380 Third Street



## MOVING FORWARD

*by Gerard Stripling @ Michele Taylor*

To walk to Stop 1, exit the library and turn left. Follow the sidewalk to the crosswalk and cross Glenneyre to Mermaid Street. Cross Mermaid to walk along the righthand sidewalk. As you proceed, notice the art tiles along the wall. At the corner, cross Mermaid again to the left side of the street. Use **EXTREME CAUTION** to cross Third Street to the Suzi Q Center at 380 Third Street.

Poem inspired by "Moving Forward"

May younger feet find  
these toe shoes left behind.  
Soaring pirouette memories last  
while my days *en pointe* have passed.

~ JOY DITTBERNER

Joy Dittberner is Executive Director of Laguna Dance Festival, so it was fitting that she write about ballet shoes. When not traveling, hiking or doing yoga, she serves on the Laguna Beach Arts Alliance. In the past, Joy was on the board of the Laguna Beach Friendship Shelter and volunteered at the Marine Mammal Center.



POETRY TRAIL  
**STOP 2**

Laguna Beach County Water District, 306 Third Street

*Walk to the corner of Forest Avenue to see the artwork  
on the wall opposite Laguna Beach Police Department.*



**CANYON PRESERVE**

*Tile mural by Michele Taylor*

This Mediterranean Revival-style building was designed in 1927 by Aubrey St. Clair, son of Norman St. Clair, the first artist to make his home in the Laguna Beach Art Colony.

The Water District's beautiful Waterwise Garden was designed by Bruce Scherer to show that landscaping can be fire-safe, water efficient, and beautiful. Over 50 different California-friendly plants, exotic shrubs, and perennials line the paths. You'll also find a koi pond, sycamore-shaded benches and decorative tile details.



*Poem inspired by "Canyon Preserve"*

Dappled summer trees  
green in plein air pageantry.  
Laguna whispers.

~ LISA MANSOUR

Lisa Mansour is an oil painter from Laguna Beach and a graduate of Laguna College of Art and Design's Post-Baccalaureate program. Her artwork can be found at the Sawdust Art Festival and the Quorum Gallery in North Laguna. She loves exploring the playful side of fine art, blending classic technique with exuberant expression.



POETRY TRAIL  
**STOP 3**

North Corner of Ocean Avenue at Forest Avenue intersection



**THE DISCUSSION**

*Bronze sculpture by Ralph Tarzian*

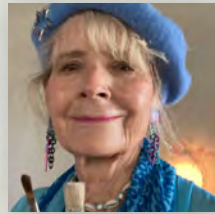
Continue north on Forest Avenue, past Laguna Beach City Hall, built in 1953. Notice the pepper tree in front of the main entrance, a clone of the original, planted at the Rogers' family's ranch house in the 1880s. Cross to the north corner of Ocean Avenue.

*Poem inspired by "The Discussion"*

three thin bronzed ladies  
join in endless discussion  
without any sound

~ JESSICA DESTEFANO

Jessica DeStefano is a lifelong artist. She is best known for her small sculptures, pastel pet portraits, and political chess sets. She also dabbles in poetry and gardening and created the Laguna Beach Library's much-loved Butterfly Garden.



POETRY TRAIL  
**STOP 4**

Ocean Avenue West Lot B  
*(just before intersection with Beach Street)*



**ADVENTURE**

*Painted mural by Yuri Kuznetsov*

Walk down Ocean Avenue and cross to Ocean Avenue West Lot B (just before the intersection with Beach Street). The “Laguna VIP” limo featured in Stop 4’s mural occupies a reserved parking spot on the wall! If you have time, note the historic marker next to the lot at the site of the original Laguna Playhouse building.

*Poem inspired by “Adventure”*

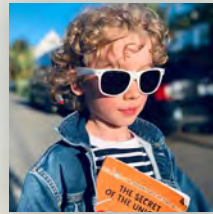
Six animals in a car.

They are heading off to the moon.

Up in the clear sky.

~ **KAI BOURNE TUROK**

Kai Bourne Turok is a well-traveled fourth-grader with a zest for life and an appetite for adventure. His best friends are humans; he can't get enough of them. When he's not building castles in the air, he loves making comics, telling stories, dancing to the beat of his own drum, studying history, science, language arts and biographies of the immortals.



POETRY TRAIL  
**STOP 5**

South Corner of Ocean Avenue and Beach Street



**THE SHOPPER**

*Bronze sculpture by Andrew Meyers*

Walk to the corner of Ocean Avenue and Beach Street. When you meet the shopper at Stop 5, you might find she's dressed up for a special occasion. Sometimes people lend her a holiday scarf or hat.

*Poem inspired by "The Shopper"*

The things she has enough of already

fill her hands and keep her steady.

A shopper finds joy in the bags

that are heavy.

~ ALINA DZIUK

Alina Dziuk is a senior and cheerleader at Laguna Beach High School. She volunteers at Mariners Church and works at a boutique downtown, which has contributed to her interest in studying design in college.



POETRY TRAIL  
**STOP 6**

Southwest Corner of Ocean Avenue and Beach Street  
*(across Beach Street from Stop 5)*



**ROAD BLOSSOMS**

*Sculpture with seating by Kyungmi Shin and Todd Gray*

Cross Beach Street to the colorful, tile-topped seats on the corner of Beach Street and Ocean Avenue.



*Poem inspired by "Road Blossoms"*

At the corner of Ocean and Beach,  
seats and suncatchers are  
within reach,  
urchins and starfish offered to each.

~ KAREN KANNER

Karen Kanner is a community activist who loves the whimsical and joyful life in Laguna Beach. She's lived here since 1990, was married in the Hotel Laguna rose garden, and put two sons through the Laguna Beach schools.



POETRY TRAIL  
**STOP 7**

North corner of Forest Avenue and Forest Promenade



**CHAMBERED NAUTILUS BENCH**

*by Carolyn Reynolds*

**Shell Lore:** Legend has it that if you touch the pearl at the center of the Chambered Nautilus bench, all your travel dreams will come true! Read the plaque at the base of the bench for the shell's story.

**Points of Interest on the Way to Stop 8:** Cross the Forest Avenue Promenade and walk up Forest Avenue past the Laguna Beach Library and the Friends of the Laguna Beach Library Butterfly Garden.

*Poem inspired by "Chambered Nautilus Bench"*

## QUEST

Travelers see the Nautilus pearl  
which grants wishes of the world.

Shop, swim, play, go eat!

Adventure waits within reach  
strolling through Laguna Beach.

**~ LISA HUGHES ANDERSON**

Lisa Hughes Anderson is a West Coast artist who paints the world with words. Her Kindness Rocks project engaged the community and visitors to pay forward kindness. Lisa's name, along with a million others, is currently traveling inside NASA's Parker Probe on its mission to "touch" the sun.



POETRY TRAIL  
**STOP 8**

Entrance to Brown's Park, 551 South Coast Highway  
(between Laguna Avenue and Legion Street)



**A TRANQUIL MOMENT**

*Cast bronze sculpture by Jason Kopydiowski*

Turn right at the corner on Laguna Avenue, walk one block to Coast Highway, then cross to the north corner. Proceed uphill to 551 South Coast Highway, where you'll find the entrance to Brown's Park on your right. (If you reach Legion Street, you've gone too far.)



**A Place for Poems:** At the end of Brown's park, you can enjoy an ocean view as well as two poems: one in the stained glass art fence by Raymond Persinger, and the second, (inscribed on a plaque) by Joseph R. Brown. Brown dedicated this park to his grandfather, whose beachfront home was destroyed by a winter storm.

*Poem inspired by "A Tranquil Moment"*

The thrones await

Once seated, all become regal –

A draped sleeping bag converts

to a royal robe.

A living room for those whose lives

are hard.

**~ THERESA KEEGAN**

Theresa Keegan is an award-winning writer who is constantly awed by the beauty of Laguna Beach, and the stark contrast of its homeless population. When not staring at a blank page or attending meetings of Third Street Writers she can be found happily paddling an outrigger canoe on the Pacific Ocean.



POETRY TRAIL  
**STOP 9**

City of Laguna Beach Department of Marine Safety  
*on Main Beach Boardwalk, 175 North Coast Highway*



**GRACE**

*Metal wall sculpture by Terry Thornsley*

**Points of Interest on the Way to Stop 9:**

To get to Stop 9, turn left out of Brown's Park, walk down Coast Highway and turn left at Laguna Avenue to the Main Beach Boardwalk, past the historic lifeguard tower. (Once part of a Union Oil Company gas station, it was moved across the highway by a team of horses in 1937.)

*Poem inspired by "Grace"*

Roiling winds, whitecaps churning,  
On distant horizon torn sail flails,  
A sailor's arms desperately waving,  
Grace – at last – a dory and two  
strong oarsman!

~ JAN TATTAM

Jan Tattam is a member of Laguna Poets. A retired English teacher, she enjoys travel, theater, studying Spanish, and spending time with family and friends. Jan loves the ocean and finds inspiration at our beautiful beaches.



POETRY TRAIL  
**STOP 10**

Entrance to Jahraus Park, on Cliff Drive  
*across Coast Highway from the Laguna Art Museum, 307 Cliff Drive*



**GIRL AND DOG**

*Bronze sculpture by Ruth Peabody*

**Points of Interest on the Way to Stop 10:**

As you climb the stairs into Heisler Park, you may want to take some time to admire the panoramic ocean view, artist's bench and sculpture at the top of the stairs. Continue past the rose garden on your left. Turn right at Cliff Drive and cross Coast Highway at the Laguna Art Museum. You'll see the "Girl and Dog" statue in the triangle-shaped park on your right, at the corner of Coast Highway and Cliff Drive.

***A Place in History:*** Originally titled "Boy and Dog," this work was renamed when historical information came to light showing that was commissioned by former resident Isadora Kerr. The statue, which was restored in 2008 and rededicated in 2009, is a memorial to her sister, artist Helen Weiser, who loved dogs. Installed in 1933 when Jahraus Park was dedicated, the sculpture is said to be the oldest public art installation in Laguna Beach.



*Poem inspired by "Girl and Dog"*

Sitting at the beach  
content as can be  
holding a treasure  
from the sea.

Saltwater skin.

Warm glistening sun.

Two best friends

Sharing summer fun.

**~ BARRETT BERNHOLTZ-PURKO**

Barrett Bernholtz-Purko is 10 years old and in fifth grade. She loves all kinds of adventures, especially camping and road trips. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends and loves her dog, Olivia, and Shellington, her tortoise. She plans to continue writing poetry and stories.





Over 50 years ago, volunteers who desired to make our library special formed the Friends of the Laguna Beach Library. Today the Friends take pride in making the library a better place for all.

Supporting the Friends means helping fund craft days, magazine subscriptions, major interior improvements, reading programs, college scholarships, unique and interesting speakers, the annual John Gardiner Community Poetry Contest, the Butterfly Garden and much more.

To support the library, visit the Friends of the Laguna Beach Library Bookshop at the bottom of the stairs near the parking lot.

Shop hours from June-August are Monday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday-Friday 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (closed Sunday).

Shop hours from September-May are Monday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (closed Sunday).

Donations are accepted during open hours. Please do not leave donations when the bookshop is closed.

*For information*  
call (949) 497-1733

*or email*

[bookshop@friendsofthelagunabeachlibrary.org](mailto:bookshop@friendsofthelagunabeachlibrary.org)



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LAGUNA BEACH POETRY TRAIL  
MAP & GUIDE.**

# LAGUNA BEACH POETRY TRAIL GUIDE & MAP



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