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Poets share a heartbeat with rush-hour commuters during Poetry in Motion reading in Union Station. Below, from left, moments with Marisela Norte, Elena Karina Byrne and Suzanne Lummis.



Photos: Josh Southwick

## Metro, Poetry Society of America present live rush-hour readings by acclaimed poets at Union Station

- 10th Anniversary of Poetry in Motion L.A.: Live poetry readings in the Metro system invite rush-hour commuters to cherish the moment during National Poetry Month of April

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(April 11, 2008) Metro and the Poetry Society of America presented acclaimed California poets Elena Karina Byrne, Suzanne Lummis, and Marisela Norte in a live poetry reading during the afternoon rush hour, April 10, at Union Station to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Poetry in Motion*® L.A. The poets invoked the muse during a two-hour period to soothe the soul, lift the heart and invite the sometimes harried commuters to cherish the moment.

"Each year (of Poetry in Motion) is different and it continues to touch more and more people," said Maya Emsden, Deputy Executive Officer, Creative Services. "It is so gratifying to see people so enamored by the program."

Poet Elena Karina Byrne, moderator for the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books and director of the MOCA Night Vision series, finds the transit environment and the rush of commuters inspiring. "The Union Station event brought some familiar faces, in addition to new devotees," she said. "Two men told me they remembered the readings on the Metro cars and in the stations in previous years. One man took several placards to put on display in his classroom. Another woman, who listened for most of the two hours, said we made her year and thanked me profusely. Our hope is, of course, to touch as many hearts and minds as we can..."

Free commemorative bookmarks inscribed with the poetry of Emily

Dickinson and Octavio Paz were distributed to commuters and poetry lovers.

Traditionally held during the National Poetry Month of April, the rush-hour readings are a collaboration of the Poetry Society of America and Metro. The readings personify and extend the experience of *Poetry in Motion ® L.A.*, where the work of poets is inscribed on placards and placed aboard Metro buses throughout the year. The program brings poetry to an estimated one million Metro bus customers a day.

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