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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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East Cleveland Public Library Welcomes Chrystos, Poet and Activist for Radical Words

June 16 at 3pm in the Greg. L. Reese Performing Arts Center. In partnership with the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland and Twelve Literary Arts, ECPL is hosting an Radical Words, afternoon poetry reading with Menominee poet and social justice activist, Chrystos.

To commemorate Pride Month, ECPL coordinated a visit from a poet whose work examines Native rights, racism, feminism, and social justice issues. Author of *Not Vanishing, Fugitive Colors*, and other collections, Chrystos' work has also been featured in groundbreaking anthologies like *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color* (edited by Cherríe Moraga and Gloria E. Anzaldúa) and *Living the Spirit: A Gay American Indian Anthology* (edited by Will Roscoe). Winner of the Audre Lorde International Poetry Competition and recipient of the Sappho Award of Distinction from the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, Chrystos' writing, like her activism, transcends boundaries and challenges assumptions. A widely celebrated author, Chrystos has been featured in *Making Queer History* online and in a number of volumes identifying her influence and critical voice within LGBTQ literary legacy.

ECPL Director, Ms. Marcus-Bey describes the event as "an exciting opportunity to welcome an author who has made significant and lasting contributions to the LGBTQ literary community. Her voice is part of an often under-recognized and under-celebrated literary history." In describing the partnership, Ms. Marcus-Bey said, "We are continually inspired by the dedication and collaboration of our partners, The LGBT Center and Twelve Literary Arts, and we're honored to welcome Chrystos to ECPL and to northeast Ohio."

East Cleveland Public Library has operated for more than one hundred years, and was started with a grant from the philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. This free event will be held in ECPL's The Greg L. Reese Performing Arts Center, which was built in 2005. Founded in 1975, The LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland is one of the longest running LGBTQ centers in the nation. Twelve Literary Arts is a nonprofit organization that brings performance poetry to public spaces and supports poets and writers of all ages with dynamic programming and professional development.