

NATURALLY LATINOS CONFERENCE

ADAM ORTIZ

Director, Department of the Environment for Prince George's County

As Director for the Department of the Environment for Prince George's County, MD, Adam Ortiz heads a 400 person, \$160M agency dedicated to recycling, composting, clean water, renewable energy and humane animal care. Since his assignment in 2012, the County moved from 11th to 1st in the State for waste diversion, including an award-winning food scrap compost program and has been recognized by the Washington Post. He launched an innovative public private partnership storm water retrofit program that is restoring local streams while creating green jobs, an effort recognized by the Aspen Institute, Governing Magazine, Clinton Global Initiative and The White House.

Previously, Adam served three terms as Mayor of Edmonston, Maryland, a diverse, working class town outside of Washington, D.C. Two of his many accompaniments consist of an inclusive immigrant-engagement effort, and building the East Coast's greenest street. The Edmonston Green Street is a model of sustainability utilizing natural bioretention for polluted storm water in an urban setting, high efficiency LED streetlights powered by wind energy, native plants and trees, and improved bike and pedestrian safety. With more than 60% local minority contracting, it has received recognition as a Champion of Change by The White House and a Bright Idea Award from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, among other organizations.

As a volunteer, Mr. Ortiz is a member of the Local Government Advisory Council to the EPA Administrator and served as President of the Maryland Mayor's Association (2009-2010). He was born and raised in New York's Hudson Valley and has a B.A. in Public Policy from Goucher College in Towson, Maryland.



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DAVID FRASER-HIDALGO

Delegate, District 15, Maryland House of Representatives

David Fraser-Hidalgo has represented District 15 in Montgomery County in the House of Delegates of the Maryland General Assembly since 2013. He is the vice-chair of the Montgomery County Delegation and a member of the Environment and Transportation Committee. Mr. Fraser-Hidalgo believes that the most important challenge of our time is climate change and our last chance to address this challenge is now. He understands that if we don't expedite our transition to a sustainable energy economy and away from a carbon based economy in the next few years we will doom our planet and our kids, which will mark the end of human life on Earth as we know it today. It is his firm belief in this concept that led him to work so hard to ban hydraulic fracturing, promote electric vehicles, and support the MD Renewable Portfolio Standard.



Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo participates in the Montgomery County Minority Legislative Breakfast, a joint effort on behalf of the African American, Asian and Latino business communities to discuss legislative issues that affect them. David is also secretary and previous vice-chair of the Legislative Latino Caucus in the Maryland General Assembly. In 2015, Fraser-Hidalgo was named Legislator of the Year by the League of Conservation Voters for his work on the hydraulic fracking moratorium. In 2016, he was named Legislator of the Year by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. In 2017, David passed the first Legislative Hydraulic Fracturing Prohibition in the United States and The Clean Cars Act of 2017, which will extend the EV incentive to 2020.



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ALBERT AREVALO

Volunteer Coordinator, Brookside Gardens
Nature CenterDC Coordinator, Latino Outdoors

Albert Arevalo is the Volunteer Coordinator at Brookside Gardens Nature Center, part of the Montgomery County Parks and Planning Commission. In his work, he is committed to increasing access of the Hispanic community to public lands and educating students about opportunities for careers in the environmental field. Albert is currently working on the Nature Ambassadors program. The program is designed to expose high school students to environmental careers by allowing them to work on environmental issues using their high school volunteer service hours requirement. Some students enjoy the program so much they choose to serve beyond their requirements. As Albert states **“Green tech and jobs are for everyone.”**

Albert also volunteers as Latino Outdoors’ DC Coordinator. Latino Outdoors is a non-profit that brings culture into the outdoor narrative and connects Latinx communities and leadership with nature and outdoor experiences. Through the Summer Seekers program, Arevalo has connected minorities to paddle nights, rock climbing events, introductory hiking programs, and other outdoor opportunities. Albert helps families and youth connect with nature, engage and inspire Latino leadership, and empower communities to explore and share their stories in defining the Latino Outdoors identity. Albert is also dedicated to bringing awareness of the fragility of nature to the general public and emphasizing our crucial role in protecting it by helping others reconnect to their natural roots. He has partnered with a variety of organizations that share the vision of Latino Outdoors. In May 2017, Albert was selected as a Chesapeake Regional Fellow for the Environmental Leadership Program.



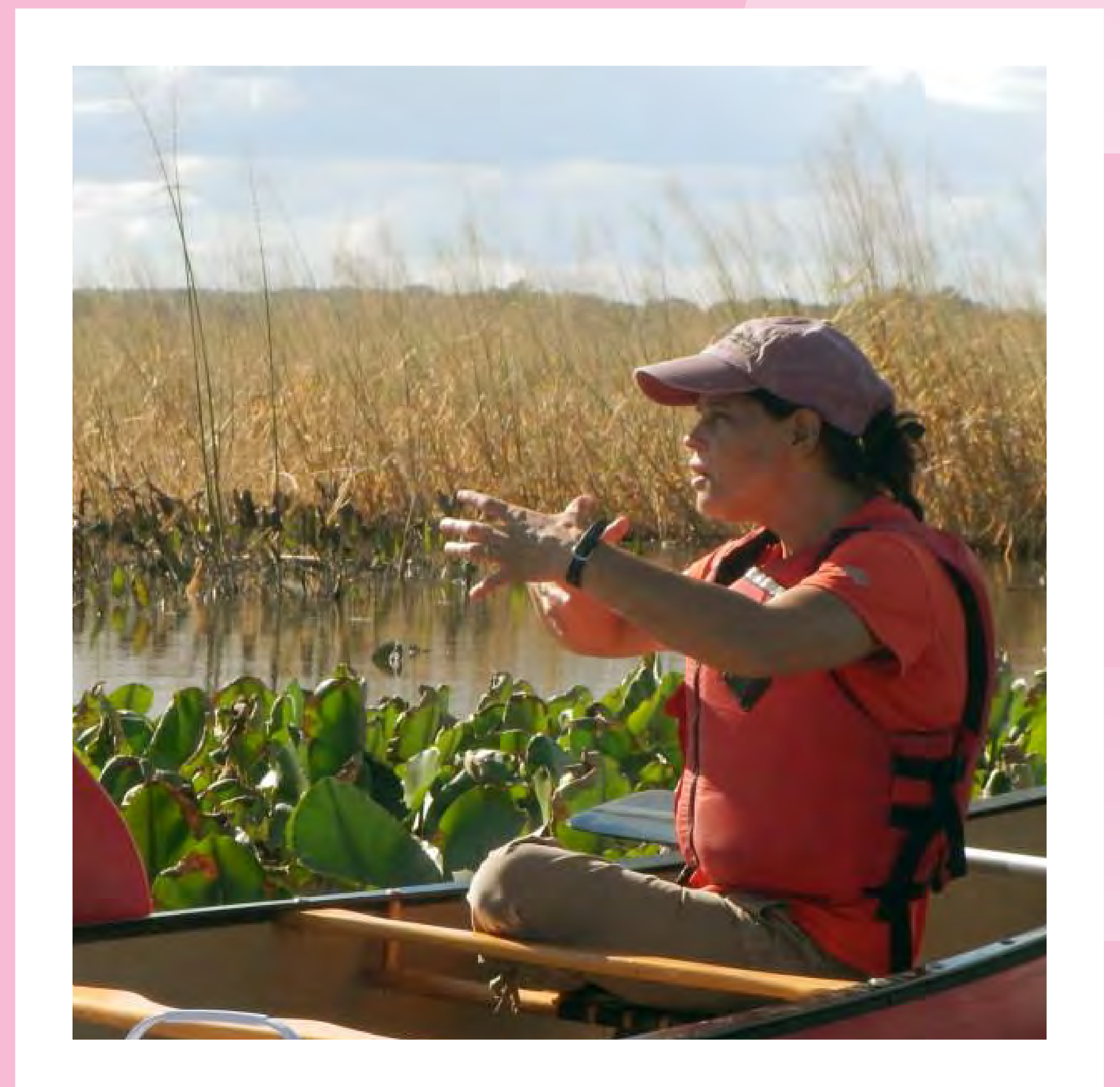
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DR. PATRICIA DELGADO

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Anne Arundel
County Department of Recreation and Parks

Born and raised in Costa Rica, Patricia Delgado is currently the Superintendent of the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary managing 1,700 acres of natural lands along the Patuxent River Estuary. She coordinates and implements research, education, stewardship, and volunteer-driven programs. As a scientist, Patricia believes in the important role of science in supporting education, resource conservation, and management. Before joining Jug Bay, Patricia worked for six years with Maryland DNR as the research coordinator of the Maryland Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. In this capacity, Patricia coordinated and conducted monitoring and research projects to better understand the effects of climate change on aquatic resources, which she continues to oversee today at Jug Bay. Patricia also worked four years at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration where she gained experience with coastal management issues.

As a child, Patricia grew up in the country, surrounded by nature, which planted the seed for her curiosity and passion for the environment. Patricia moved to the city for her university studies, where she obtained a B.S. in Marine Biology from Universidad Nacional de Heredia. As an undergraduate, Patricia had many opportunities to discover the beautiful national parks of her home country and learn how local communities depended on their natural resources. Working as a research assistant at the university, she gained invaluable experience studying the mangrove forests and working with the local communities. With the help of a USAID scholarship, Patricia came to the United States where she enrolled at Louisiana State University. She obtained Master's and Doctorate degrees in Oceanography and Coastal Sciences.





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CHISPA DE MARYLAND

Environmental Justice and Action Promotores,
League of Conservation Voters Fund



Chispa Maryland's 2016 Class of Environmental Justice and Action Promotores, Prince George's County, is a group of 14 Latino community members who were selected to participate in Chispa Maryland's highest volunteer program. The program required commitment, strength and an undeniable drive for advocacy, education and action. Chispa's Environmental Justice and Action Promotores elevated Latino leaders and gives training for how to do grassroots organizing within our own communities to fight climate change, move pro-environment policies and practices, while building relationships of respect and dignity with members of the community – aspects that are essential to environmental protection and healthy, safe communities. Since their graduation, these 14 leaders have worked to bring environmental issues, education and activism to fellow Latinos and people of color in schools, churches, community centers, and parks. Often you can find them around Prince George's County educating the public about improving water quality within our watershed through proper management of waste and recycling practices. Most recently, these women have been advocating for the campaign "CleanRide4kids" that seeks to improve the air quality of our region by providing schools with zero-emission buses.

From left to right, the 14 Promotores are: Mayra Patricia Coreas, Elsa Aracely Vargas, María V. Marroquín, Edith Morejón Márquez, Rosario Reyes, Ramón Reyes, Gladis López, María del Rosario De León Barrios, Brenda Nereyda Barrios Ovalle, María Alicia Silva Santos, Claudia Sacramento M., María Belén Narváez, María S. Guardado and Cándida Rosa García.

