



# UNA COMUNIDAD MANY VOICES

DEC 2-4

9:30 am –  
12:30 pm



NATURALLY

# LATINOS 3

CONFERENCE



# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

2

3

## Diamond



## Gold



## Copper



## Gemstone



## Pebble



## WHAT TO EXPECT:



Networking opportunities



Sponsors' Expo Booths, including job opportunities



Live interpretation: English to Spanish, and Spanish to English



Connect with anyone in the conference via private call from Hopin

## BEST PRACTICES:

- **Treat a virtual conference as you would an in-person conference**, be present and plan your calendar / workload accordingly.
- **Minimize distractions:** When watching from home you might feel inclined to "multi-task". Instead, try to reduce notifications, grab a notepad, and get ready to connect and participate in the sessions through the chat box!



- **Log in with Google Chrome**, check your camera and microphone: are they plugged in and turned on?
- **Close other windows and tabs** to optimize your computer performance.

Didn't capture everything you wanted? ¡No hay problema! You'll be able to rewatch later without pressure.

## TYPES OF PROGRAMMING:

All-conference sessions

Concurrent panel sessions

Breaks/ Speed Networking

Interactive workshops

Sponsors Expo

Lunchtime activities: Roundtable session, live music, speed networking

Live English/Spanish interpretation available

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2nd

### Time (ET)      EVENT

9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Sponsor Expo & Speed Networking available
10:00 AM - 10:20 AM	Welcome session - ANS & planning committee: Rebecca Lemos-Otero, ANS Board Member; Serenella Linares, Eliza Cava & Lisa Alexander, Audubon Naturalist Society*
10:20 AM - 11:00 AM	Green Jobs and the Latinx Community: Landscapers, Arborists, Foresters, and More Panel
10:20 AM - 11:00 AM	Panel en Español: How did una comunidad enjoy, learn, and protect el Arroyo de Long Branch?*
10:20 AM - 12:30 PM	Workshop: La ciencia participativa - Tools for community empowerment and resilience (pre-registration required)
10:20 AM - 12:30 PM	Sponsor Expo
11:00 AM - 11:10 AM	Break: Speed Networking and Sponsor Expo available
11:10 AM - 11:50 AM	Serving the Public and the Planet - The Latinx experience in green career fields Panel*
11:10 AM - 11:50 AM	Lost in the Parks Panel
11:50 AM - 12:00 PM	Break: Speed Networking and Sponsor Expo available
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM	Roundtables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting an annual scholarship for Black &amp; Latinx Birders of the DMV &amp; DE</li> <li>• What does it take to get environmental groups to actually use Spanish?</li> <li>• Public Lands &amp; the 30x30 Resolution to Save Nature</li> <li>• What's in a name? Re-examining the legacy of John James Audubon</li> </ul>

\* Interpretación al español disponible  
 \*\* English interpretation available

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3rd

Time (ET)	EVENT
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Sponsor Expo & Speed Networking available
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Natali Fani-González - Keynote: Without apologies, go bold and take back our streets for social and environmental justice*
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Sponsor Expo
10:30 AM - 11:10 AM	The Queer Latinx Experience in the Outdoors
10:30 AM - 11:10 AM	Panel en Español: What is in the Great American Outdoors Act for us Latinx **
11:10 AM - 11:20 AM	Break: Speed Networking and Sponsor Expo available
11:20 AM - 11:50 AM	Champions presentation*
11:50 AM - 12:00 PM	Break: Speed Networking and Sponsor Expo available
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM	Roundtables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storytelling through Art in Latinx Environmental Outreach</li> <li>• Cafecito Chat Young professional networking tables (ends at 1 pm) (pre-registration required)</li> <li>• Queer Latinx in-depth</li> </ul>

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4th

Time (ET)	EVENT
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Sponsor Expo & Speed Networking available
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Panel: A conversation on becoming Latinx anti-racists in our environmental movement*
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Sponsor Expo
10:30 AM - 11:10 AM	Panel en Español: Climate Change Impacts and Resilience of Latino Populations in the U.S. and Latin America**
10:30 AM - 11:10 AM	Workshop: Naturally Naturalists
10:30 AM - 11:10 AM	Tres Comadres: Changing narratives in the outdoors
11:10 AM - 11:20 AM	Break: Speed Networking and Sponsor Expo available
11:20 AM - 11:50 AM	José G. González - Keynote: The Latino Experience in the Outdoors*
11:50 AM - 12:00 PM	Closing Session - ANS*
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM	Marimba Band: Princesa Xinabajul

\* Interpretación al español disponible  
 \*\* English interpretation available

\* Interpretación al español disponible  
 \*\* English interpretation available

# SESSIONS & SPEAKERS

## Keynote: Without apologies: Go bold and take back our streets for social and environmental justice

Thu Dec 3, 10:00 - 10:30 am ET



**Natali Fani-González**

Vice Chair  
Montgomery County Planning  
Board M-NCPPC

Natali Fani-González (she/her/hers) was appointed in October 2014, is the vice-chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board, part of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC). The MNCPPC is a bi-county agency that regulates real estate development, plans transportation infrastructure, and manages the park systems in Montgomery and Prince George's Coun-

ties. Natali is the first Latinx and first millennial to serve on the five-member Planning Board. She is a graduate of Goucher College and has completed professional studies at Georgetown University. She lives with her husband and children in Wheaton, MD. Since her appointment to the board, Natali has made significant contributions to engage diverse communities in the planning process while championing key economic and environmental issues. She has been involved with several planning efforts, including the Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan, the Montgomery County Growth Policy, and the Bicycle Master Plan. Natali has been a speaker on different issues involving Parks and Planning, including the 2020 Montgomery County Affordable Housing Conference; a panelist at CityLab's local innovations for national problems event; a panelist at the national conference of the American Planning Association, about public outreach for hard-to-reach audiences; and a panelist

on women and urban planning, by the National Capital Area of the American Planning Association.

Natali was a member of the Transition Team for Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich and a member of the "More Affordable and Welcoming County" committee. She was also vice-chair of the Transition Team for former Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker III.

Her contributions have been recognized across the region by publications such as Washingtonian Magazine and El Tiempo Latino. Washingtonian Magazine honored Natali as one of the "40 Under 40" Changemakers in the Washington DC Region, and then named her as a "Woman to Watch." The DC region's largest Spanish language newspaper, El Tiempo Latino, recognized her as one of the 100 most influential individuals for the DC Hispanic community. She is also a recipient of the Montgomery Women's Rising Star Award. As a member of the Montgomery County Planning Board, Natali is a public engagement executive on impactful efforts towards social and economic justice.

## Keynote: The Latino Experience in the Outdoors

Fri Dec 4, 11:20 -11:50 am ET



**José G. González**

Founder, Director Emeritus-  
Latino Outdoors  
Partner- Avarna Group

José G. González (He/El) is the Founder and Director Emeritus of Latino Outdoors. An experienced educator, González has held positions such as a K-12 public education teacher, environmental education advisor, outdoor education instructor and coordinator, and university adjunct faculty. As a Partner in the Avarna Group and through his own consulting, his work focuses on Equity & Inclusion frameworks and

practices in the environmental, outdoor, and conservation fields. González is also an illustrator and science communicator.

His commentary on diversity and environmental and outdoor equity has been featured by High Country News, Outside Magazine, Earth Island Journal, and Latino USA, among others. He engaged in collaborations with the White House Council on Environmental Quality, U.S. Department of Interior, and the National Park Service during the Obama Administration. He also represented Latino Outdoors in several coalitions including the Latino Conservation Alliance, the Next 100 Coalition, and California Parks Now. He has been recognized with several honors, including the National Wildlife Federation Environmental Educator Award, Grist Magazine's "Grist 50", and The Murie Center's Murie Spirit Conservation Award. You may have also seen him in various outdoor spaces or read his poetic musings.

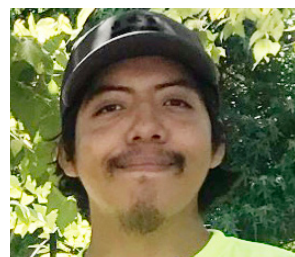
He received his B.A at the University of California, Davis, and his M.S at the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources & Environment. His teaching coursework was at the Bilingual, Multicultural, Education Department at Sacramento State. He serves as a Trustee for the National Outdoor Leadership School, a Trustee for the National Recreation Foundation, Resource Media Board Director, Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project Board Director, Councilor for Save the Redwoods League, and as an advisor to Blue Sky Funders Forum, in addition to other leadership in advocacy roles.



## Green Jobs and the Latinx Community: Landscapers, Arborists, Foresters, and More

Wed Dec 2, 10:20 - 11:00 am ET

*In so many parts of the country, Latinx workers are over-represented in the landscaping industry in particular but severely underrepresented in the management and ownership levels. Panelists will discuss the types of jobs available to Latinx workers, what kinds of educational opportunities do they need to build businesses and careers, what are the barriers, what are the opportunities. Many of the Latinx workers may not have the Spanish-language education they need to gain access to native plant training, stormwater management through rain gardening, and other fast-growing, conservation-oriented segments of the industry. How do we change this paradigm and build capacity?*

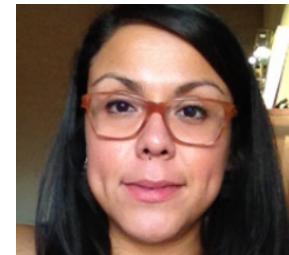


**Alexander Palacios**

Urban Forestry Crew Member,  
Casey Trees

Alex is half Salvadoran and half Bolivian. He was born in Washington D.C. but grew up in Hyattsville, MD. He is an alumnus of the Montgomery County Conservation Corps from LAYC (Latin American Youth Center). In addition, he has served as a Mentor with the Full Circle Brotherhood (which is also a part of LAYC). He is currently working for Casey Trees as part of their

tree planting crew in the Tree Planting Department.



**Cristina Flores**

Co-manager,  
Three Part Harmony Farm

Cristina Flores (she/ her/ hers) a flower farmer/floral designer in the D.C. area, is working to cut waste and minimize the environmental impact of the floral industry. After working as a grower for Three Part Harmony Farm in Washington, D.C., she founded Flowers x Flores a floral design company that provides quality designs using sustainable practices

and majority locally grown blooms. Her work not only provides a critical food source for urban pollinators, but she also strives to facilitate conversations around sustainability, equity, and agriculture so she can provide joy to all.



**Luis Alfonso**

Horticulturist/Manager,  
University of Maryland,  
Arboretum and Botanical  
Garden

Luis has a degree in ornamental horticulture from the Botanic Garden of Maracaibo, Zulia, Venezuela and studied entomology at the University of Maryland (UMD). He has over 42 years of experience in horticulture and landscape management and was the first horticulturist on staff at the UMD Arboretum and Botanical Garden since its creation 32 years ago. Luis received the

University Systems Maryland Board of Regents Staff Award for Extraordinary Public Service to the University or Greater Community in 2018. He has also received the UMD President's Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Contributions to the College Park Community in 2018. Luis has been involved as a meeting exhibitor in the Green Industry Professional Field Day and Trade Show at American University and at the American Public Garden Association conference.



**Sergio Obadia**

Principal, Cabana Designs

Sergio has spent the past twenty years learning about sustainability by working in the construction and solar industries, and by attending national and local conferences and courses in everything from renewable energy to the more relevant Rain-scapes and Stormwater Management from Montgomery County. After early stints in consulting, banking,

and shipping, he found himself in Guatemala where he noticed solar panels on a refrigerated warehouse. Since then, he has worked with and for small and large companies to implement sustainable practices in construction and to advance the implementation of solar energy. He has noticed that in the DMV region about 70% of the construction work is performed by Latinos and he seeks to advance the use of solar and energy efficiency practices in the homes that we purchase and also to bolster Latino's business ownership to better compete in the marketplace. Sergio was raised in Caracas and holds a BA in Math/Computer Science from the University of Richmond and a Master's in Organizational Development/Health Care from Villanova University. He sits on ANS Woodend 2065 Committee.



**Xavier Bure Quijano**

Garden Manager, Washington  
Youth Garden

Xavier (he/him/his) is originally from Peru, where his relationship with agriculture began at a very early age. He grew up surrounded by coffee and cocoa farms and worked on his family farm. He graduated from university in Lambayeque, Peru where he studied communications. During college, he worked with an indigenous organization, helping to create

international solidarity for their rights. After this experience, he returned to work with coffee farmers to defend the environment, at that time threatened by mining companies. He worked as a teacher for high school students, who wanted to develop a career in the coffee industry. Upon moving to the US, Xavier worked at the Clagett Farm in Maryland and Three-Part Harmony Farm in D.C., helping to grow, harvest and distribute food. He has also completed the Future Harvest CASA Beginner Farmer Training Program to better understand better east coast agriculture. Prior to joining Washington Youth Garden (WYG), Xavier worked for FRESHFARM, organizing farmer's markets across the Maryland, Virginia and Washington D.C. Throughout his career, Xavier has always enjoyed sharing his love of all things food with young people!

## How did una comunidad enjoy, learn, and protect el Arroyo de Long Branch? (Español)

Wed Dec 2, 10:20 - 11:00 am ET

*This session will focus on the intersection of Latinx community outreach and engagement with in a highly urbanized stream and watershed in Silver Spring, MD. In 2019, Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) and various community partners hosted a total of six Latinx-focused, outdoor, in the stream, community engagement events with families in the Long Branch community. Panelist will provide an overview of the project, share their own personal reflections and answer questions from the audience. Additionally, panelists will share their ongoing and future Long Branch community projects like land use planning outreach and food distribution center during the pandemic. We will also have Gregg Trilling, ANS Conservation Outreach Manager, available to answer questions from the audience on the development and progress of the project as well as answer any question on Creek Critters app, macros, engagement activities.*



**Cecilia Zavaleta**

Community School Coordinator, YMCA/Youth & Family Services- Linkages to Learning Program at Rolling Terrace ES

Cecilia is the Senior Community School Coordinator at Rolling Terrace ES (Takoma Park, MD) with the YMCA Youth & Family Services' (YMCA-YFS) Linkages to Learning program, a comprehensive school-based prevention and intervention initiative working in partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and other local public,

private, and community agencies. She is responsible for supporting student learning while promoting programs to build stronger families and healthier communities. In 2019, she was invited to Capitol Hill to represent Maryland Community School Coordinators. Cecilia was also community-school liaison for the ANS What Lives in Long Branch? ¿Qué Vive en Long Branch? project. An activist to protect the environment, immigrant justice, women's equality, and other social causes, in 2008 -2009 she went to Guatemala to volunteer for Gardens for Peace, a project designed to empower women who are refugees of war. A resident of the Washington D.C. area for more than 25 years, she currently lives in ElkrIDGE with her husband and loves nature, art and cosmology.



**Denisse Guitarra**

Maryland Conservation Advocate, ANS

Denisse (she/her/ella) is the Maryland Conservation Advocate at Audubon Naturalist Society. She works with various stakeholders to pursue sustainable environmental policies that are centered around climate change, environmental justice, and genuine community engagement in both Montgomery and Prince

George's Counties. She has advocated and mobilized people on different issues but the two most recent have been the Beltway/I-270 expansion, and Montgomery County's New General Plan - Thrive 2050. Denisse was born in Ecuador and holds a bachelor's in biology from Hood College and a master's in biodiversity, wildlife and ecosystem health from the University of Edinburgh. Denisse oversaw the Spanish outreach interpretation and fostered strong community relations with the Long Branch community during the ANS What Lives in Long Branch? ¿Qué Vive en Long Branch? project.



**Gregg Trilling**

Conservation Outreach Manager, ANS

Gregg (he/him/his) is the Conservation Outreach Manager at Audubon Naturalist Society. He works with organizations throughout the region to engage people in protecting local streams and coordinates the ANS volunteer water quality monitoring community science program. He has also worked as an environmental education program manager, developing and teaching lessons, training teachers, guiding schools through Maryland Green School certification, and managing programming. Gregg holds an MBA from the University of Maryland and a B.A. in urban studies from Washington University. Gregg oversaw managing and organizing Creek Critters activities for families around Long Branch stream during the ANS What Lives in Long Branch? ¿Qué Vive en Long Branch? project.



**Lisa Büttner**

Community Outreach Strategist and Long Branch community member

Lisa (she/her/hers) is an avid gardener, beekeeper and watershed steward who began her career in the field of renewable energy for rural applications in Mexico and Central America. She worked as the key community outreach strategist with the ANS Conservation team implementing the "What Lives in Long Branch?" project engaging students and families in the discovery and exploration of life in and

around Long Branch. She currently works with Community Health and Empowerment through Education and Research (CHEER) on asset mapping, vision building and food distribution with Latinx neighbors. Prior to these roles, Lisa strengthened her garden educator skills through support to City Blossoms' bilingual garden classes at CentroNía and through the Growing Garden Teacher trainings in the District of Columbia. She led the creation of a bilingual edible garden program with a team of volunteers at Rolling Terrace Elementary School.



**Vanesa Pinto**

Empowerment and Leadership Development Coordinator, Community Health and Empowerment through Education and Research (CHEER)

Vanesa, (she/her/hers) as the Empowerment and Leadership Coordinator at CHEER organizes all the community building and networks of support in the Long Branch area. She has also volunteered in different organizations and the school community in Silver Spring and taught Spanish Literacy and basic computer classes to adults for the last four years through the YMCA Program Linkages to Learning. Since

the COVID pandemic outbreak Vanesa has been helping lead the New Hampshire States food distribu-

tion center which reaches many families and individuals. She was the key community liaison for the ANS What Lives in Long Branch? ¿Que Vive en Long Branch? Project. In that capacity she oversaw the community engagement, outreach, Spanish interpretation, and led focus group discussions.



**Wendy Cruz**

Long Branch community member, CHEER/ Conexo

Wendy (she/her/hers) and her whole family participated in ANS's What Lives in Long Branch? ¿Que Vive en Long Branch? Project and learned more about their local stream and how to protect it. Wendy was born in El Salvador and immigrated to the United States in 2014. She and her family, including 3 children, live in the Long Branch community. One of

her passions is helping others and she is always ready to help anyone in need in her community. She also has worked in the restaurant industry and has developed a passion for cooking.



Photo Credit: NPS

## La ciencia participativa – Tools for community empowerment and resilience

Wed Dec 2, 10:20 - 12:30 pm ET

*This workshop will introduce the concept of community science (also called “citizen science”) as a tool for fostering connection to land, environmental healing, lifelong learning, and community resilience. Learn what community science is and what it is good for, how to plan a community science project, and how it is used to equip community residents to be the direct advisors of management plans for decisions that directly affect them. The speakers will be researchers, Forest Service staff, and community scientists (students and community residents) from Puerto Rico who are spearheading a science project designed to help Puerto Rican communities face one of the island’s most formidable challenges: climate change. (Pre-registration required)*



**Pedro Ríos**

Ecosystem Management Team Leader, El Yunque National Forest US Forest service

Pedro is the Team Leader, Ecosystem Management/ Planning & Conservation Education at El Yunque National Forest (US Forest Service), directs natural resource operations, forest planning, external relations and community conservation and restoration work. He’s completed a Land Management Plan for El Yunque, emphasizing co-manage-

ment, regional tourism and socio-economic sustainability. He has led development of an All Lands Plan for Northeast Puerto Rico, a Rio Grande Biological Corridor proposal, and a Position Statement for the establishment of an 11,000-acre Special Planning Area in Northeast Puerto Rico. As District Ranger of a 28,000-acre National Forest. He promoted programs focused on engineering, recreation, biological, hydrological, law enforcement, interpretation, public outreach, rural

development and economic recovery programs. His work includes USDA/Foreign Agriculture Assistance for Hurricane Mitch Watershed Restoration Project in Guatemala, USAID & Office of Regional Forestry Advisor for De-Forestation Assessment of Central America, Costa Rica & Colombia, USAID/Panama National Remote Sensing and Natural Resources Mapping Strategy, and resource operations in Colombia, Peru, Suriname, Guyana, Ecuador. He has served as Environmental Scientist, Hydrologist and Planning Forester in New Jersey and North Carolina. He holds an M.S. in Forestry (N.C. State) and an M.S. in Agriculture (University of Puerto Rico).



**Albertyadir De Jesús Román**

Volunteer Coordinator SCA Intern U.S. Forest Service

Albertyadir is a recent graduate from the Environmental Sciences bachelor’s degree program from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus (UPR-RP). As a student Albertyadir worked as a research assistant in Dr. Jorge R. Ortiz-Zayas Limnology Laboratory at UPRRP. In 2017, De Jesus worked as an intern at El Yunque National Rainforest, for the “Redercubre El

Yunque” (Re-discover El Yunque) program through a collaborative internship through the Student Conservation Association and the United States Forest Service. His work with the program facilitated the connection of hundreds of volunteers with community science and the ecological gem in their backyards: El Yunque Rainforest. As a recent graduate, Albertyadir currently continues his devotion to El Yunque as a volunteer for the ecology team.



**Christopher Nytch, PhD**

PhD, Researcher Department of Environmental Sciences University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras

Christopher (he/him/his) is an ecologist with interests in the fields of urban, landscape, forest ecology, and social-ecological systems. He is also an environmental educator and practitioner who collaborates with non-profit, governmental, and academic organizations, and local communities to advance ecoliteracy and sustainable resource stewardship. Chris holds a bachel-

or’s degree in geology, a master’s in natural resources and ecological planning, and a PhD in environmental sciences. He has extensive research and community-based project management experience, including serving as a natural resources volunteer with the Peace Corps in Honduras; as Research Manager with the Luquillo Long-Term Ecological Research Program; and as an affiliated investigator with the Dept. of Environmental Sciences at the Univ. of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras campus. Chris currently works with the Friends of El Yunque Foundation and served as Project Leader for the El Yunque National Forest Citizen Science Vegetation Monitoring Project, in collaboration with the USDA Forest Service. Chris also coordinates the Puerto Rico Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development, officially recognized by the United Nations University. Chris aims to cultivate healthy and regenerative relations between people and the land.

## Serving the Public and the Planet - The Latinx experience in green career fields

Wed Dec 2, 11:10 - 11:50 am ET

*This session invites professionals at various stages of public service careers in natural resource fields to share on their personal experiences. Speakers are encouraged to speak honestly about their own journeys, offer guidance to conference participants on how to find and secure opportunities in local, state, and federal jobs, and most importantly—how to navigate organizational culture while serving in these roles. Panelists will answer questions designed to encourage sharing of personal narratives and commentary on public service at the intersections of natural resource management, conservation, nature education, and recreation. This discussion will bring to light disparities in these service-oriented green institutions, including, but not limited to: representation of the Latino-identifying staff, Latino narratives, the application of Latinidad, and contributions of the Latino community to conservation, nature education, recreation, and natural resource management.*



**Michael Rizo**

Program Specialist  
USDA Forest Service  
Office of International Programs Chicago, IL

Michael works as a Program Specialist with the Office of International Programs of the USDA Forest Service where he designs and coordinates outreach, education, and capacity-building projects geared toward community-level partners. His goal is to build awareness and encourage broader participation in conservation practices, especially as they relate to habitat of migratory species, while understanding

and incorporating priorities of communities into all projects. Charismatic species such as monarch butter-

flies and migratory birds are used as vehicles to build interest in conservation programs that benefit people and nature alike. Based in Chicago, Mike works with a variety of non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, and government agencies to build networks in the US and at the international level that strengthen individuals, communities, and ultimately, conservation through his work.



**Brenda Ramirez Romero**

Communications and Community Engagement Specialist  
US Forest Service

Brenda (she/her/hers) has worn many hats during her 5-year career on public lands. She has worked as an educator, interpretation ranger, and outreach coordinator during her rotating pattern of intern, ranger, and seasonal environmental educator with Naturebridge. Currently, Brenda is working as the Communications and Community Engagement Coordinator for the Forest Service

in the Pacific Northwest Region. She helps bridge gaps in communications to under-served communities by working with partners to provide culturally relevant programming and translated information. During the pandemic, she has shifted her gap-bridging efforts to virtual platforms and has been able to provide webinars to employees and the public. Her favorite part of her work is getting creative with lesson plans and programs to ensure that she is meeting each student's and family's needs during their outdoor experience. Even when she walks the same trails day after day, she always learns something new from the people she works with. Brenda became interested in the environmental field during her time at the University of California Santa Barbara where she majored in environmental studies and feminism. She hopes to apply an environmental justice framework to her work. During her free time, she enjoys watching birds and makeup tutorials.



**Albert Arévalo**

Volunteer & Community Engagement Coordinator  
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
Coordinator, Latino Outdoors DMV

Albert (he/him) is the Volunteer Coordinator at Brookside Gardens Nature Center, Montgomery County Parks & Planning Commission. In his work, he is committed to increasing the access of Hispanic to public lands and educating students about opportunities for careers in the Environmental Field. Mr. Arevalo also volunteers as Latino Outdoors' DC Coordinator. Latino Outdoors is a Non-Profit organization that brings cultura into the outdoor narrative and connects Latino communities and leadership with nature and outdoor experiences. Arevalo has reconnected Latinx participants in paddle nights, rock climbing events, intro hiking programs, and many more outdoor opportunities to minority individuals through the Summit Seekers program. 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.



**Fabian Garcia**

Partnership Coordinator, US Forest Service

Fabian (he/him), the second of four children, was born in Dinuba, California to immigrant parents from Jalisco, Mexico. He left his small farm working community after high school to attend UCLA where he received a Bachelors Degree in Chicana/o Studies, with a minor in Spanish, including a semester abroad at the Universidad de Alcalá de Henares, Spain.

He later obtained a Masters Degree in Education from California State University, Los Angeles. Fabian Garcia returned home to work with his community as a Student Trainee with the US Forest Service on the Sierra National Forest. Fabian later went on to become the Director for Southern California Consortium on the Angeles National Forest. He was responsible for establishing Generation Green partnerships that connect youth to environmental education and careers exploration with the US Forest Service. He led the initiation of many collaborative programs that expanded educational outreach, experiential learning opportunities, recruitment, and career/school counseling to underrepresented youth in urban areas through-



out southern California. Today, Fabian serves as the Partnership Coordinator for the Angeles National Forest where he leverages relationships to engage partners and the public toward the shared stewardship of public lands.



**Melissa Martinez**

Policy Staff - National Parks Conservation Association, Outings Leader - Latino Outdoors

Melissa (she/her) is the daughter of Mexican immigrants and middle child of seven, born and raised on the southwest lands of the Tongva and Piscataway people (Los Angeles and Maricopa counties). Growing up in a home with church organizers, she recognized the importance of collective organizing and the immense need of her communities that required local and systemic

change. After graduating from the University of Southern California and receiving a B.S. in environmental studies with a concentration in policy, Melissa left to learn more in DC and took a fellowship with the US Forest Service on wilderness and wild and scenic rivers through the Hispanic Access Foundation, followed by a fellowship on climate and partnership building with a national environmental nonprofit through another diversity initiative. She continues to learn and unlearning the histories and practices of oppression in the city of DC, the environmental movement and the federal government. Melissa organizes locally through solidarity and mutual aid work and is currently on her first year at the National Parks Conservation Association where she works on federal oil and gas and energy policy. Melissa is a big fan of reading to her grandma's puppy Snow and recharging in the desert sun.

## Lost in the Parks

Wed Dec 2, 11:10 - 11:50 am ET

*This panel will feature voices and perspectives of young Latinx conservationists who are budding in their careers. Our three speakers worked together this summer virtually to build community engagement programs with the Latinx communities in the Chesapeake. Sheila will describe her internship project which she conducted from California entitled "Lost in the Parks" where she sought to understand and reach the communities of the Chesapeake without the ability to be there in person. She developed her community engagement program learning from best practices in Parks in California to inform how to build authentic relationships with Latinx communities in parks. Julian and Isabel worked virtually to put those practices into place by creating online and video content in Spanish to reach the community. This reached beyond environmental programming and into a Youth Roundtable for Latino Conservation week and creating mentoring opportunities for Latinx youth in Anne Arundel County.*



**Gabrielle Roffe**

Manager of Equity and Community Engagement at Chesapeake Conservancy

Gabrielle (she/her/hers) is the Manager of Equity and Community Engagement at Chesapeake Conservancy where she works in partnership with the National Park Service to promote inclusive stewardship in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Gabrielle leads initiatives focused on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice for the Conservancy. Prior to working at the Chesapeake Conservancy, Gabrielle worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service building urban partnerships and community engagement programs in Kansas City and Denver as well as with the National Aquarium in Baltimore. Gabrielle has expertise in the areas of partnership and capacity building, community engage-

ment, and creative place making. She takes a multidisciplinary and intersectional approach to environmental issues and community outreach through nature, art, and storytelling to authentically build community. Gabrielle completed her MS in Environmental Science at Towson University and her BA at the University of Southern California. In her spare time she practices yoga, spends time with family, and goes for walks in her local Baltimore parks.



**Isabel Layton**

Bilingual Interpretive Outreach Assistant / Student, Chesapeake Conservancy

Isabel (she/her/hers) grew up in a bi-cultural household and has continued practicing Spanish in higher education. Her mother was raised in Colombia and Isabel visited Bogotá as a child. Through 8th grade, Isabel was homeschooled in an English-Spanish bilingual environment. She took formal Spanish classes in high school and is currently majoring in Environmental Science (with a concentration in Anthropology) and Sociology with a minor in Spanish (on the Professional Contexts path). She is excited to use her skills as a heritage Spanish speaker to share the wonders of the Chesapeake Bay with the Spanish-speaking community. When not working, Isabel likes to read, hike, and participate in other fun outdoor activities with her friends and family.



**Julian Segovia**

Bilingual Interpretive Outreach Assistant / Student, Chesapeake Conservancy

Julian (he/him/his) is a Peruvian-Salvadoran American born and raised in Maryland. He is currently a student at the University of Navarra pursuing a bachelor's degree in International Relations. He enjoys kayaking, fishing, and volunteering with the Latinx community in his free time. Julian is looking forward to his second year as a bilingual interpretive outreach assistant and hopes to continue developing resources for environmental education and watershed accessibility for the Latinx community of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.



**Sheila Lucero-Garcia**

LHIP Intern / Student, NPS Chesapeake Bay Office/ LHIP

Sheila (she/her/hers) developed an early interest in the great outdoors. She grew up spending her weekends and summers familiarizing herself with the beauty of nature. After exploring many pristine places, she developed a passion for conserving them and her curiosity was sparked. Sheila began pursuing an interest in both cultural anthropology and environmental science and is in her last semester before receiving her BA in Cultural Anthropology at California Baptist University. This past summer Sheila was the Communication Assistant for the Chesapeake Bay Gateways & Watertrails Network where she researched the best practices for engaging Latinx communities in the parks. In her free time, she loves to take spontaneous road trips with her family, visit nurseries, and kayak!

## The Queer Latinx Experience in the Outdoors

Thu Dec 3, 10:30 - 11:10 am ET

The experience of the Latinx community in nature and in the outdoor industry is unique, complicated and challenging due to numerous barriers, intentional and un-intentional. The experience of LGBTQIA+ identified individuals is also challenging to navigate in the Latinx community. Join us to gain a prospective from four individuals who are creating a name for themselves in the outdoor industry, from Environmental Educators, to outdoor bloggers, to non-profit workers, each has a unique story to share. This panel will focus on the experience of these individuals from what drew them to the industry, what it was like entering the nature community and how they navigate those spaces today to create a more inclusive outdoor experience for all, no matter the color of your skin, gender identity or sexual orientation.



**Amanda E. Machado**

Writer and Facilitator for justice and anti-oppression work

Amanda (she/her/hers) is a writer and facilitator who focuses on the intersections between race, gender, travel, and the outdoors. Her work has been published in The Atlantic, The Washington Post, Slate, Harper's Bazaar, NBC News, Vox, The Week, Outside, REI Co-Op Journal, Quartz, Sierra Magazine, and others, and has also been featured by the New York

Times, NPR, Travel and Leisure, National Geographic, Longreads, Jezebel, the She Explores podcast, and several other publications, radio programs, and blogs. In addition to her essay writing, Amanda also facilitates workshops on justice and anti-oppression for organizations around the world. Amanda has a degree in English Literature and Nonfiction Writing from Brown University. She currently lives in Oakland, California.



**Bianca Marcella Ballara**

Environmental Justice Community Organizer with Beyond Toxics

Bianca (she/her/hers) is an Environmental Justice, LGBTQ and Indigenous Rights activist who has spent the last ten years studying different forms of community gardening, permaculture, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, farming in different bio regions, as well as environmental policy reform and protections on the government levels. Most recently, she has worked for Beyond

Toxics, an Oregon state-wide Environmental Justice organization, uplifting the environmental concerns of frontline communities. Currently, she is laying the foundation for a Queer & Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) Non-Profit land project in the Pacific Northwest centered around safe-space, food sovereignty and Indigenous land stewardship. In her spare time, she runs her practice in Astrology, decolonized healing, and intuitive guidance.



**J. Abraham Lopez Trejo**

Education & Outreach Associate, Patterson Park Audubon Center

Abraham (he/him/his) was born and raised in northern Mexico and moved to the United States when he was 16 years old. Abraham found refuge in nature as a teenager as he dealt with depression that stemmed from the struggles of being both an immigrant and a gay Latino. Abraham discovered his career path of environmental studies and his passion for

community engagement as a college student, and he graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental education and minors in biology and urban & regional studies. Following an internship with the

United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Abraham became a bilingual environmental educator working for the Patterson Park Audubon Center in the city of Baltimore, Maryland. He has dedicated his career to using nature to bring people together and spends most days as an environmental educator working directly with the Latinx community.



**Joseph (Joe) Toolan**

Outreach and Education Program Assistant / Central Atlantic Community Cultivator, Chesapeake Bay Trust / OUT 4 Sustainability

Joe (he/him/his) identifies as a gay/queer, Latinx, environmentalist, adoptee. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in geographical sciences, with a concentration in environment systems and natural resource management, from the University of Maryland, College Park in 2018. Joe currently works at the Chesapeake Bay Trust on the Outreach and Education Team, where promotes

environmental stewardship through youth environmental education, community engagement, and restoration programs. He manages the Anne Arundel County Community Tree Planting Mini Grant Program, the Chesapeake Oyster Technology, Education and Monitoring Grant Program, as well as the Chesapeake Conservation Corps (CCC) Mini Grant Program and the CCC All Hands-On Deck Program. Joe is a member of the Young Professionals of Color program within the Choose Clean Water Coalition and serves as the Central Atlantic Regional Community Cultivator with Out for Sustainability. He is passionate about promoting diversity, equity and inclusion as a means to fight climate change, improve sustainability, and protect the Chesapeake Bay.



**Sebastian "Seb" Cancino**

Writer and Ambassador, Backpackers.com and We Got Next

Sebastián "Seb" (they/them or he/him) was born in Chile to a Chilean father and a Mexican American mother. Seb grew up on the Cross Timbers of the traditional lands of the Kiikaapoi, Jumanos, Tawakoni, and Wichita peoples in North Texas; They frequently visit the nation's public lands shaping their love of open spaces and appreciation of

nature's healing. After obtaining their undergraduate degree in marketing and international business from Arizona State University, the outdoor industry offered many opportunities to manage specialty retail stores, support people and processes, and outfit adventurers of all ages while advocating for equity and inclusion progress within various organizations. Maintaining an additional focus on awareness of and solutions to the dire environmental crisis unfolding across the world is central to their work. As a queer, non-binary, Latinx environmentalist and recreationist, they believe that local action, increased and diversified representation, and accountability in the environment and outdoor sport contributes directly to a more equitable and just society for everyone.



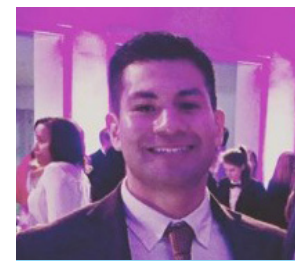
**Yamina Nater-Otero**

Program Coordinator - For the Birds!, Audubon NY

Yamina (she/her or they/them) took the scenic route on her journey to conservation and sustainability. After getting a Bachelor of Arts in Classical Studies she spent 8 years working with special needs children as both a teacher and a nanny. During that time, she discovered her love of nature and entered the Environmental Education Master of Arts Program at

Montclair State University. While working on her

degree Yamina served with AmeriCorps for a year at a community school and taught ecology at the School of Conservation. After beginning her job at Audubon NY, she became an avid birder. When not working or birding (or birding for work) she is with her dogs or consuming too much pop culture.



**Zachary Evans**

Senior Coordinator, Digital Campaigns, National Wildlife Federation

Zach (he/him/his) was born in Santiago, Chile and adopted by a North American family and raised in Upstate New York. Through the Boy Scouts he discovered the wonders of nature and as a student at Williams College he found a home in the Latino/a Studies Department. There he put theory and history into practice to advocate for greater institutional support for students of

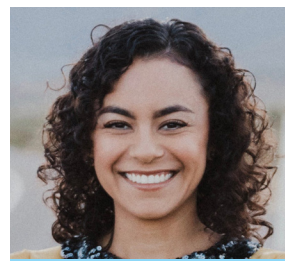
color and his LGBTQ+ peers. His work at the NWF includes connecting the dots between wildlife conservation and environmental justice for online audiences. Zach recently had the opportunity to support a series of environmental justice roundtables and a national townhall to elevate the voices of regional conservation, public health, and civic engagement leaders. For two years he has proudly attended the LGBTQ+ Outdoor Summit as part of the National Wildlife Federation's delegation.

## What is in the Great American Outdoors Act for us Latinx

(Español)

Thu Dec 3, 10:30 - 11:10 am ET

*It is a fact that the experience of the Latinx community with nature ought to be further enhanced. We need to learn what this recently enacted Act is all about. How will it benefit us. What do we need to do to truly start taking advantage of it. What different parties need to do so we can take the benefits home. These three speakers have been very close to the Act either because they participated in preparation, discussions, and analyses of it. These three speakers have been for a long time working on environmental aspects related to our Latinx community and have insights about the Act's meaning and usefulness to us Latinx. Join us to gain a perspective and come out empowered to enjoy more and benefit from the great outdoors we have and are entitled to enjoy.*



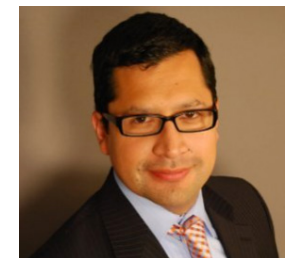
**Brenda Gallegos**

Conservation Program Associate Hispanic Access Foundation

Brenda (she/her/hers) was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. As a child, Brenda primarily focused on her studies. She was not exposed to the outdoors until attending school field trips to the Carlsbad Caverns National Monument, White Sands National Monument, and Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Gallegos graduated with an Associate's Degree

of Arts in Science before graduating high school in May of 2011. She graduated with a Bachelor's of Biological Sciences focused in Ecology and Evolutionary Theory from the University of Texas at El Paso. She then attended Sul Ross State University, graduating with a Master of Science Degree in Range and Wildlife Management. Brenda began working with New Mexico Specialized Wildlife Services in New Mexico as a

wildlife biologist. She learned about Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks (FOMDP) through her work and joined the organization as a Tribal VISTA, later becoming the Associate Director. She has worked on several conservation issues from the LWCF to the ANTIQUITIES Act of 2019. Brenda has also worked on introducing the outdoors to underprivileged youth by establishing outdoors clubs in public schools. Brenda continues her passion in conservation at the Hispanic Access Foundation.

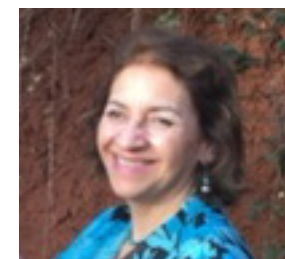


**Felipe Benitez**

Executive Director Corazon Latino

Felipe has more than 15 years of experience designing and implementing strategic communications programs to enhance and protect the reputations of organizations, governments, companies, and brands. Through his prior work with leading organizations like United Way Worldwide, Fenton Communications, and Ogilvy Public Relations, Mr. Benitez has

designed and implemented communications and outreach strategies for advocacy campaigns worldwide, from protecting the fundamental rights of indigenous groups in the Amazon to fighting climate change to helping protect the rights of immigrants in the United States.



**Josefina (Jo) Doumbia**

Principal Environmental/Social Specialist, IFC/World Bank

Josefina (she/her) has spent over 25 years focused on the preservation of environment and communities around the world. As a key member of the World Bank Sustainability agenda, she has worked to preserve and mitigate negative impacts from projects financed by the institution in emerging and deprived economies. Jo has witnessed

first-hand potentially devastating impacts on rivers, creeks, air, biodiversity spots, and most importantly how those could affect nearby communities. Josefina has traveled for work over 60 countries and has assessed projects that range from infrastructure to manufacturing to agribusiness, in urban, rural, semirural settings.

Josefina has been an advocate for gaining/reclaiming urban/semi-urban spaces for nature. For the last seven years, she has been an active Virginia Masters Naturalist helping to transform backyards into native sanctuaries (supporting the Audubon at home program), participating in removal of invasive species and help educating communities on the integration of good earth stewardship practices. One of Josefina's paramount interests is to integrate Spanish language use in all of her environmental advocacy work. She is currently transforming her own backyard into a nature sanctuary.



**Molly Multedo**

President of Acquazul

Molly has worked in environmental journalism and science education since 1987 and has been associated with Spanish-language educational media for much of her career. She has a master's degree in journalism and international affairs from Columbia University.

She is the founding director of Acquazul, a nonprofit that creates multilingual broadcast and digital media on social and environmental issues for distribution throughout the Americas.

Her recent work includes Latino Verde, a Spanish-language radio and digital media series created to heighten public awareness of Latinx environmental professionals and their work through storytelling. Molly developed Latino Verde under auspices of World Voices Media in collaboration with The Earth Institute at Columbia University, Project Drawdown, and Yale Climate Connections with the generous support of the

Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. It was distributed nationally via Hispanic Communications Network (HCN).

Molly is also a regular contributor to Yale Climate Connections, a nonpartisan, multimedia service providing daily broadcast radio programming and original web-based reporting, commentary, and analysis on the issue of climate change, one of the greatest challenges and stories confronting modern society.

Fluent in Spanish and Portuguese, she currently divides her time between Santa Fe, New Mexico in the United States and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where she and her husband, Fernando, raised their three children.

## A conversation on becoming Latinx anti-racists in our environmental movement

Fri Dec 4, 10:00 - 10:30 am ET

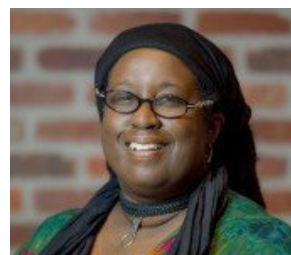
*People of color in the environmental movement are indeed one community with many voices. But some voices, especially Black, Indigenous, African-American, Afro-Latinx, and other Afrodendants have been, and continue to be, marginalized in our movement. Marginalization of Black and other environmentalist voices of color is wide ranging: from the failure to equitably address and financially support the health and climate impact needs of environmental justice and other frontline grassroots organizations, to the lack of Black and other people of color in decision-making/formal power positions in top leadership and boards of large national environmental organizations. In this panel session, we will 1) discuss the ways in which Black, Afro-Latinx, and other voices of color are marginalized or excluded from decision-making processes in the environmental movement, 2) discuss how Latinx environmentalists can work together to overcome the legacy of anti-Black racism and colorism, and 3) discuss how to work together to transform our movement, organizations, and our work in ways that are explicitly anti-racist.*



**Adi Martínez-Román**  
Senior Policy Analyst on Puerto Rico, OxFam America

Adi (she/her/hers) has been the Senior Policy Analyst – Puerto Rico for Oxfam América since June 2019. Before coming to Oxfam, she was the Executive Director of the Fundación Fondo de Acceso a la Justicia in Puerto Rico for two years, and the Auxiliary Dean of Students of the University of Puerto Rico Law School for seven years, where she also taught several courses on the Legal

Profession, Law and Poverty, and Law and Social Change. She is currently the President and founder of Firms, Unidos y Resilientes con la Abogacía (FURIA, Inc.), a non-profit that accompanies assist low-income community leaders in Puerto Rico on their advocacy endeavors. She holds a bachelor's degree from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public Policy and International Affairs, a law degree from the University of Puerto Rico and received both her Masters of Law and Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the Instituto Bartolomé de las Casas of the Universidad Carlos III of Madrid (Spain).



**Jacqueline Patterson**  
Sr Director, Environmental and Climate Justice Program, NAACP

Jacqueline (she/her/hers) is the Director of the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program. Since 2007, Patterson has served as coordinator & co-founder of Women of Color United. Jacqui Patterson has worked as a researcher, program manager, coordinator, advocate and activist working on women's rights, violence against women, HIV&AIDS, racial justice, economic justice, and environmental and climate justice. Patterson holds a

master's degree in social work from the University of Maryland and a master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University.



**Juan Declet-Barreto**  
Climate Vulnerability Social Scientist, Union of Concerned Scientists

Juan (he/him/his) received his PhD in environmental science from Arizona State University and currently works as a climate vulnerability social scientist in the Climate and Energy Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists. Juan has focused his community-based research on identifying populations most vulnerable to climate change and other socio-environmental hazards.

Juan also seeks to untangle the roles of racism and marginalization in causing and prolonging climate vulnerability, with an ultimate goal of finding equitable, anti-racist solutions to disparities in health and well-being caused by climate and other environmental hazards, especially on populations of color.



**Pedro Cruz**  
Senior Representative, Labor and Economic Justice Program, Sierra Club

Pedro (he/him/his) is the Acting Director for the Sierra Club's Healthy Communities Campaign Pedro works with allies in the labor, economic and racial justice movements to create family-sustaining union jobs in clean infrastructure, especially in low-income and communities of color. Previously, he worked in campaigns ranging from access to renewable

energy, equity in public transportation, and immigrant workers rights. He was a founder member of the Living Wage Action Coalition and was awarded a fellowship by the Kalmanovitz Institute for Working Families at Georgetown University, where he helped to

establish a collective of day laborers and developed and coordinated a wage theft curriculum.

## Naturally Naturalists

Fri Dec 4, 10:30 - 11:10 am ET

*Located in the heart of mighty Potomac River basin, and possessing many remarkable protected areas and greenspaces, the DMV area is a quite biodiverse metropolitan region. Being located in the nation's capital, the region also has a relatively high population of professionals working on biodiversity conservation issues. These folks are working on everything, from the hyperlocal issues affecting DC to the big planetary issues of the Anthropocene. With all this human and natural capital available, where are the Latinx folks and what stories can they tell us about biodiversity? In this session we will focus on discussing the intersection of the local biodiversity conservation issues (with some references to Latin America as well) and the local Latinx professionals that are working hard educating the public about biodiversity, as well as exploring, protecting and restoring it for the future generations. We will focus on the natural history aspects of the topic and the passion we share about it as Latinx naturalists transplanted in the DMV.*



**Alonso Abugattas**  
Natural Resources Manager  
Arlington County

Alonso (he/him/his) has worked as a professional naturalist and environmental interpreter in several jurisdictions, including Alexandria, Fairfax, Maryland-National Capitol Park and Planning Commission, and Arlington, where he was Acting Director of the Long Branch Nature Center. Currently, he is the Natural Resources Manager for Arlington County. He has

launched two, and is an instructor for five, Master Naturalist Programs in Maryland and Virginia. He has held various positions in the Virginia Native Plant

Society, including President of the Potowmack Chapter. A member of the identification team for the Virginia Herpetological Society, he is the author of *The Reptiles and Amphibians of the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area*. The Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families has named him a “Connect With Kids’ Champion.” As a longtime Co-Chair of the Beltway Chapter of the National Association for Interpretation, he is a Certified Heritage Interpreter and has received regional and national awards, including the Regional Interpretive Manager of the Year and the national Master Interpretive Manager. He has also been awarded the Thomas Say Interpretive Media Award for his social media outlets: Capital Naturalist: Blog, YouTube Channel, Naturalist Facebook Group, and @CapNaturalist on Twitter.



**Andrés Anchondo**

Conservation Specialist -  
American Bird Conservancy /  
Board Member DC Audubon

Andrés (he/him/his) is originally from Chihuahua, Mexico. He works as a Conservation Specialist for American Bird Conservancy, protecting migratory birds in their wintering grounds throughout Latin America. Andrés manages projects in Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela. He was introduced to the world of birds in 2014 by a Peace Corps Volunteer in

Mexico. A few months after moving to Washington, D.C. in 2016, he became the first international Board Member with D.C. Audubon Society, an all-volunteer organization that promotes the appreciation and conservation of birds and their habitats. He serves as the Chair of the Diversity and Outreach Committee, where he shares his love for birds with the diverse D.C. community.



**Jorge Bogantes Montero**

Natural Resources Specialist,  
Anacostia Watershed Society

Jorge (he/him/his) was born and raised in Costa Rica and has a Bachelor of Science degree in natural resource management and protection from the Universidad Estatal a Distancia in San Jose, Costa Rica. Before coming to the United States, Jorge worked the field of tropical biodiversity conservation. He is currently a Natural Resources Specialist at the Anacostia

Watershed Society in Bladensburg, MD, where he leads ecological restoration efforts on public parklands in the Anacostia River watershed, including wetland restoration, tree plantings, meadow creation, submerged aquatic vegetation propagation, mussel propagation, wildlife monitoring, and invasive plant management.



**Serenella Linares**

Manager of Virtual Programs,  
Audubon Naturalist Society

Serenella (she/her/hers) is the Manager of Virtual Programs at Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) and Co-Chair of Naturally Latinos, is dedicated to sparking curiosity about nature and inspiring nature stewardship through environmental education. Serenella is known around ANS for being expert in two things: making learning fun and mycology

(mushroom knowledge).

Serenella Linares has been working with ANS since 2015 and was recently promoted to Virtual Programs Manager. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Linares developed programs that included bilingual videos to be used as educational tools for both English and Spanish speakers simultaneously. Serenella also manages the Naturalist Hour talks series, in which experts and nature enthusiasts come together to learn and stay connected online. Her previous work at ANS includes collaborating with schools and teaching nature-themed summer camps. Prior to joining ANS, Ms. Linares worked with the Prince George’s County Department of Parks and Recreation serving predominantly African-American and Hispanic communities. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in biology from Universidad Metropolitana de Puerto Rico, a Master’s degree in atmospheric science from Howard University, and graduate training in mycology from University of Maryland. When Ms. Linares is not teaching, she explores urban natural areas, photographs plants, insects, and fungi, and participates in community science projects.

## Climate change impacts and resilience of Latino populations in the US and Latin America

(Español)

Fri Dec 4, 10:30 - 11:10 am ET

*From California, to the Gulf Coast, to South America, extreme weather events augmented by climate change are threatening the lives and wellbeing of people of Latin America or of Latin American heritage. The impacts of hurricanes, droughts, inland and coastal flooding, heat waves, wildfires, and sea level-rise have inequitably burdened Latinos all across América. In this panel, we will discuss the ways in which climate change is overburdening Latinos, the need for intertwined climate and energy resilience solutions, and opportunities for action to reduce climate change drivers and equitably increase climatic and energetic resilience as a way out of the climate crisis.*



**José Pablo Ortiz Partida, PhD**

Western States Climate Scientist, Union of Concerned Scientists -  
climate change in CA

Pablo (he/him/his) received his Bachelor of Science degree in environmental engineering from Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente (ITESO), in Mexico and earned his Ph.D. in hydrology and water resources science from the University of California, Davis. Pablo is currently a climate and water scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists. He

plans, designs, and carries out primary analyses of how changing climate patterns impact key sectors and populations, with a focus on precipitation and water supply changes. Pablo also develops strategies for vulnerable sectors and communities in California to adapt to the current and projected impacts of climate change, primarily related to water.



**Pablo Méndez Lázaro, PhD**

Associate Professor, Environmental Health Department, Graduate School of Public Health at the University of Puerto Rico-Medical Sciences Campus – climate change impacts in PR

Pablo is an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Health of the University of Puerto Rico, Graduate School of Public Health. His research focuses on evaluating the impacts of climate and extreme weather events on public health and socio-ecological systems. Pablo is an active Member of the Puerto Rico Climate Change Council and a Member of the Executive Committee on Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Government of Puerto Rico. He is a co-author of

the United States Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4) for the Caribbean Region (Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands) and has ongoing research projects funded by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Science Foundation (NSF).



**Paula García**

Bilingual Senior Energy Analyst, Union of Concerned Scientists – climate and energy resilience in PR and CA

Paula (she/her/hers) was born and raised in Colombia. She has a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, Colombia, and a Master of Arts in sustainable international development from Brandeis University in Waltham, MA. Paula is currently a bilingual senior energy analyst in the Climate and Energy Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists where she evalu-

ates energy resource and climate solutions in the electricity sector and works to further public understanding of clean energy technologies, policies, and markets. In this role, Paula is committed to advancing energy justice and sustainable development. She also serves on the Boston Area Solar Energy Association's Board of Directors.

## Tres Comadres: Changing narratives in the outdoors

Fri Dec 4, 10:30 - 11:10 am ET

*The outdoors is a different experience for everyone. Many factors can define how you experience the outdoors, including but not limited to personal story, background, geography and accessibility. Join us to explore how these three Latinas are changing the narratives of our communities in the outdoors by putting them at the center through their work with The Trust for Public Land.*



**Daniela Peterson**

Community Strategies, Senior Advisor, Chattanooga, TN

Daniela works at the Trust for Public Land since 2018 bringing a strategic, informed approach to their work with communities. As a brown, immigrant social worker from Chile, Daniela's personal, professional, and volunteer experiences have given her a comprehensive understanding of community dynamics, especially relating to disenfranchised populations. As a Social Worker, and 15 years of

experience working with non-profits, city government, a juvenile detention center, and public schools, Daniela has adeptly cultivated both neighborhood and institutional partnerships that bring stakeholders like residents, community leaders, and faith-based organizations to the forefront of the planning process. Leveraging the vision and creativity of local artists, Daniela's work provides space for all ages to lend a voice and a hand in community development. She lives with her husband Paul, and dog Willow.



**Robinson Torres Salinas**

PhD, Assistant Professor, Universidad de Concepción, Chile – climate change and indigenous movements in South America

Robinson (he/him/his) is a Professor of Sociology at the Universidad de Concepción in Concepción, Chile. Dr. Torres Salinas researches the struggles for water and other natural resources governance in Latin America through the lenses of political ecology, social development, and environmental sociology. He has a PhD in Environmental & Social Sciences from Arizona State University.

# CAFECITO CHAT

A YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORKING EVENT AT #NLC3

¿CUANDO? THURSDAY 12/3 FROM 12PM TO 1PM

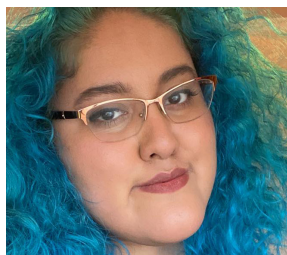


**Dayana Molina**

Community Organizer –  
Parks Design & Development  
Los Angeles, CA

Dayana (she/her) is a passionate and dedicated community advocate working as Community Organizer at The Trust for Public Land in Los Angeles. Dayana gained the incredible hands-on experience and knowledge of community engagement and park advocacy she now brings to TPL working in her own community from the age of 13. Dayana partners with community leaders and

volunteer groups in Los Angeles who work on improving and beautifying their community through parks and open space.



**Lizbeth Rivera-Estrada**

Community Organizer  
Wenatchee, WA

Lizbeth was born in Nayarit, Mexico and lives in Wenatchee, WA. Lizbeth is a self identifying decolonial feminists. She is also a student, mentor, and lives with a mission to elevate, amplify and heal the young, immigrant, students that make up the beautiful and resilient communities in Washington but have historically been underserved and

silenced. Lizbeth is also a co-founder of Parque Padriños, a grassroots group formed in Wenatchee, WA to advocate for their community to have access to a remodeled, beautiful, and culturally resonating park in South Wenatchee and that has grown to promote awareness and access to resources for their community.



# LUNCHTIME ROUNDTABLES

Please join fellow attendees for an in-depth conversation where you share your ideas, joys, challenges, and expertise. Lunchtime roundtables will be on Wednesday and Thursday, 12-12:30 pm ET. Bring your lunch, a snack, or a Cafecito. The first twenty people interacting in a Roundtable can turn on their cameras and microphones and participate live. Others can participate by chatting. Roundtables will not be recorded.

Topic & Description	Moderator
<b>Wednesday Dec 02, 12 - 12:30pm Roundtables</b>	
Supporting an annual scholarship for Black & Latinx Birders of the DMV & DE	Orietta Estrada
What does it take to get environmental groups to actually use Spanish?	Joe Toolan & Jo Doumbia
Public Lands & the 30x30 Resolution to Save Nature: Are you working on legislation or policy for the permanent protection of Federally managed public lands? Or do you want to? ¡Almorcemos juntos!	Olivia Juarez
What's in a name? Re-examining the legacy of John James Audubon: A discussion about the newly publicized history of John James Audubon, and the organizations (ANS included) that share his name.	Lisa Alexander
<b>Thursday Dec 03, 12 - 12:30pm Roundtables</b>	
Storytelling through Art in Latinx Environmental Outreach: Art activates our minds and hearts allowing us to take a holistic approach to problem solving through storytelling. We will discuss inclusive outreach, creative placemaking and the intersections of science and art	Gabrielle Roffe
Cafecito Chat Young professional networking tables (pre-registration required) (12 - 1 pm)	Denisse Guitarra
Queer Latinx in-depth: Join this morning's panelists for an in-depth Q&A/discussion session following the Queer Latinx panel.	Joe Toolan

# ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS

The Naturally Latinos Conference Planning Committee is honored to recognize these leaders for nature as Environmental Champions making contributions everyday within their communities. Enjoy their stories below



## Abel Olivo

### REGIONAL CHAMPION

Co-founder and Executive Director  
Defensores De La Cuenca

Abel Olivo (he/him/el) is a dedicated promoter of environmental education and access to nature for the well-being of Latin@ communities. A long-time resident of the Washington, D.C. area, Olivo has animated many organizations with his expertise in government affairs, education, and the environment. Most recently, he has co-founded Defensores De La Cuenca to celebrate and strengthen Latin@ recreational access to the region's watersheds and popular understanding of watershed ecology. As an innovator in creating environmental experiences for Latin@s, Olivo presented his insights at the North American Association for Environmental Education in October 2019. Olivo also served as Director for Community Outreach and Partnerships for Corazón Latino, a national organization promoting environmental access; he draws on years of experience as a lobbyist for this role.

Olivo's activism centers on Prince George's County, Maryland, where Latin@ residents have increasingly found a home, representing a growth of 7%-20% of the county population during 2000-2020.

Olivo has nurtured Latin@s by creating and supporting many opportunities for children and families to access nature, for example by serving on the planning committee of the popular Festival del Rio Anacostia in years past, or by coordinating park clean-ups, during this COVID era. or by teaching youth environmental education through Project Learning Tree.

He also shares his methods with regional professionals, such as through the online workshop he co-led at the 15th annual Chesapeake Environmental Forum, in October, titled "Meaningful Connections to the Latino Community."

For abundant energy, creativity and effectiveness at engaging Latin@ communities, Audubon Naturalist Society is honored to celebrate Abel Olivo as a Regional Champion





## Alonso Abugattas

REGIONAL CHAMPION

Natural Resources Manager  
Arlington County

Alonso has worked as a professional naturalist and environmental interpreter in several jurisdictions, including Alexandria, Fairfax, Maryland-National Capitol Park and Planning Commission, and Arlington, where he was Acting Director of the Long Branch Nature Center. Currently, he is the Natural Resources Manager for Arlington County. He has launched two, and is an instructor for five, Master Naturalist Programs in Maryland and Virginia. He has held various positions in the Virginia Native Plant Society, including President of the Potomack Chapter. A member of the identification team for the Virginia Herpetological Society, he is the author of *The Reptiles and Amphibians of the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area*. The Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families has named him a “Connect With Kids’ Champion.”



As a longtime Co-Chair of the Beltway Chapter of the National Association for Interpretation, he is a Certified Heritage Interpreter and has received regional and national awards, including the Regional Interpretive Manager of the Year and the national Master Interpretive Manager. He has also been awarded the Thomas Say Interpretive Media Award for his social media outlets: Capital Naturalist Blog, Capital Naturalist YouTube Channel, Capital Naturalist Facebook Group, and @CapNaturalist on Twitter.

Alonso’s passion for Nature education and the countless people that he has been able to educate through his many years of experience make Alonso a Regional Environmental Champion

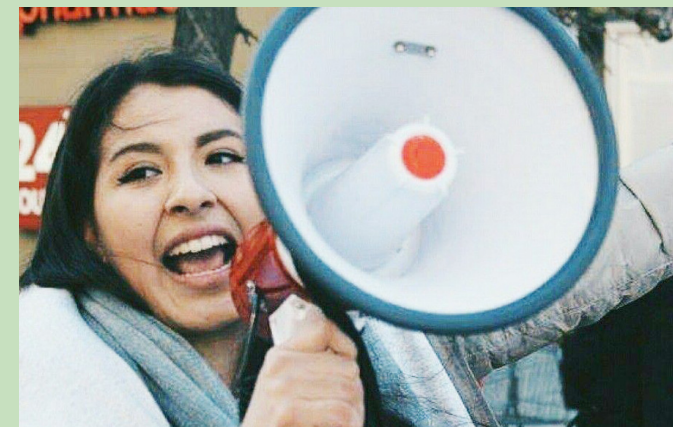


## Brenda Pérez Amador

LOCAL CHAMPION

Graduate Student  
Water Resources Management, UDC

Brenda Pérez Amador (she/her/ella) is an award-winning community activist who is passionate about the environment and immigration. She has been awarded both the Empowering the Future Award from the Washington Peace Center, the Princeton Prize in Race Relations, was a recent Green Fellow at the DC Department of Energy & Environment, and is currently earning a master’s degree in water resources management. Pérez, who is a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipient, came to the United States at age 10, and has been deeply involved in community advocacy. Pérez was featured in the Smithsonian documentary “Risers,” a film about how two young students navigated the challenges they faced being young undocumented immigrants. When asked in a 2015 Latinas Interview, what the difference between dreamers and risers are, she responded: “We’re not dreaming anymore. We’re rising. We’re stepping up to the plate.” To support her through the academic challenges and



bullying that came with not speaking English upon her arrival to the US, she became a leading voice in the Student Multiethnic Action Research Team (SMART), a project of Many Languages One Voice (MLOV), and eventually a lead student organizer. In that role, she spoke out about the needs of immigrant English Language Learners in DC Public Schools. After college she continued her work with MLOV focusing on youth organizing and also served as its deputy director. Pérez has also worked with City Blossoms, an urban gardening organization in DC, as part of the Mighty Greens program. With this organization, she has worked with community youth to promote entrepreneurship and food co-op practices, while maintaining cultural sensitivity and relevance in the community despite language barriers.



Recognizing that climate change is a time sensitive issue, she strives to be inclusive and open up spaces for action in communities that have been impacted. “Communities of color and communities with economic differences have been impacted disproportionately. In order to resolve that, we need to make these issues more intersectional,” says Pérez. “I want to build unity in our communities by looking at the intersectionality of issues like immigration and the environment.”

Pérez brings multiethnic and multilingual communities together while putting youth participation at the forefront. She helps young people in the community develop the skills they need to become community organizers, leaders, and to advocate for language justice and other aspects of community advocacy.



**Carlos Lam**  
LOCAL CHAMPION

Founder and President • Asociación Guatemaltecos Sin Frontera  
Director of Community Outreach • Defensores de la Cuenca

Carlos is the Founder and President of the Asociación Guatemaltecos Sin Fronteras, Carlos Lam works tirelessly to support the underserved in the Latino community. He runs campaigns to assist those in need after natural disasters in Central America and to assist communities at home hit hard by COVID-19. Lam's activism does not stop there. He is the Director of Community Outreach for Defensores de la Cuenca, an organization that is dedicated to connecting the Latinx community with the natural world.

Lam, whose community activism began at a young age in Guatemala, has been serving underrepresented communities for most of his life. His gateway into community advocacy began in his early teens, during Las Posadas, when he was invited by church youth to participate in a gift drive for children. That experience led him to participate in community outreach through the church, that led to a series of events that brought him and his advocacy to the United States.

Lam, who studied political science, philosophy, and theology, in addition to spending five years studying to become a Catholic Priest, understood that his calling was to participate in the Latino community to support social justice and grow community participation in environmental issues. He worked for over a decade and a half in the non-profit sector across Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica promoting socio-economic equity. In Guatemala, he worked to keep young people out of gangs and away

from drugs by running youth camps and coordinating recreational activities, all while sharing the importance of taking care of the Earth. Lam also worked on a UNESCO project promoting the culture of Guatemala and peace building in a torn community. "This was important because after 35 years of conflict in Guatemala, there was a lot of division, so I worked teaching communication and tolerance," says Lam. Lack of economic opportunities and violence toward Lam's family, including the murder of his younger brother, led him to the decision to immigrate to the US in 2004.

Drawing from his life's work, Lam integrates environmental conservation into the Latino community and by connecting the community, the culture, and the environment, he has created capacity across the Maryland and DC region for Latinx participation, "We cannot talk about any of the things without the other, it's all connected." He has focused his efforts and talents on supporting the Latinx community and environmental stewardship at local and region levels, throughout the DC metropolitan region.



As a partner of regional conservation organizations, such as the Anacostia Watershed Society, he has connected Latinx businesses with area festivals such as the Festival del Rio Anacostia. His connections have put aspects of Guatemalan culture, such as music and folk dancing in the spotlight. As Director of Community Outreach for Defensores de la Cuenca, he has been able to connect his humanitarian efforts within the Latino community with his passion for environmental advocacy. Lam enriches the community by connecting the public with regional greenspaces, coordinating outreach events, and encouraging members of Latinx communities to become environmental stewards. His work unifying the social and environmental spheres is what makes him a Naturally Latinos Environmental Champion.



**Carlos C. Sanchez-Gonzalez**  
YOUTH CHAMPION

Leader, Free Your Voice  
Leader, South Baltimore County Land Trust

Carlos Sanchez Gonzalez (him/he) is a current sophomore at Benjamin Franklin High School which is located in Baltimore City. He began his journey with Free Your Voice, a youth advocacy group that focuses on human rights and the struggle for environmental justice, in early 2019. Carlos and his colleagues helped to form the South Baltimore Community Land Trust which is a tool used to address the vacant and blight-



ed land that we see throughout the city. In addition, Carlos and the other members of Free Your Voice were instrumental in the creation of the very first Fair Development Plan for Zero Waste which places an emphasis on equity and ensuring underserved communities are no longer dumping grounds. From his involvement, Carlos has been actively advocating for and testifying at city council hearings about the need to end incineration in Baltimore City and pursue a Zero Waste Future.



Carlos has always been a leader in his community and continues to advocate for clean air, which is a human right.

He has been featured in various films including Unbreathable and most recently was featured in the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) Master Zero Waste Plan video.





## Julian Carrillo

LEGACY CHAMPION

Julian Carrillo was born January 9 of 1962 in the community of Coloradas de la Virgen, Chihuahua, Mexico. Julian was part of the indigenous community called Raramuri or Tharahumara, who live in the region of the Sierra Tarahumara. This region, is a biodiversity hot spot and has a rich a culture. Because of these, the region has been an area of economic interest specially for the forestry, mining, and truism.



Julian was a territory defender and an environmental activist who among other community members, defended his territory and the natural resources of the community against illegal logging, and mining. Also, inside his community from 2013-2018 he was the “president of communal assets” where his job was to take care of the territory, and the natural resources.

Due the activism he carried out, Julian and members of his family, was victim of various threats and attacks. In 2014 he received a protection by the Mexican Federal Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalist and in early 2018 was forced to leave his community.

Julian was killed on October 24, 2018 at the age of 56 when he returned to his community for the funeral of his daughter. Now, his family and many other members of his community have been victims of forced displacement and they keep being activists of their land, the indigenous rights, and the forest.



## Pinar Ateş Sinopoulos-Lloyd

NATIONAL CHAMPION  
Queer Nature

Pinar (they/them) is an Indigenous multi-species futurist, mentor, wildlife tracker and trans eco-philosopher; co-founder of Queer Nature, an “organism” stewarding earth-based queer community through ancestral skills, nature-connection and rites of passage. Enchanted by the liminal, Pinar is a future transcestor of Huanca Quechua, Turkish and Chinese lineages. A central prayer that guides them is envisioning decolonially-informed queer ancestral-futurism through interspecies accountability and the remediation of human supremacy in the Chthulucene. They are in a lifelong apprenticeship to the ecotone of riparian systems.



Their relationship with transness, hybridity, neurodivergence, Indigeneity, ecological kinship and belonging guided their work in developing Queer Ecopsychology through a decolonial lens. As a survival skills mentor, one of their core missions is to uplift and amplify the brilliant “survival skills” that BIPOC, 2SLGBTQ+ and other systematically targeted populations already have in their resilient bodies and stories of survivance.



They are a Council Member of Intersectional Environmentalist and a member of Diversify Outdoors coalition. They also are adjunct faculty at the WE Immersion at Weaving Earth and facilitate and design multi-day programs at Colorado College and the University of Colorado Boulder.

Follow their work on IG via @queerquechua + @queernature [www.queernature.org](http://www.queernature.org)



## Sindy Benavides

NATIONAL CHAMPION

LULAC  
Chief Executive Officer

Sindy Benavides has integrated environmental justice into a career of advocating for Latin@ communities nationally. Benavides has raised the voices of Latin@s through her executive experience during the Tim Kaine administration in Virginia in the early 2000s, right through helping to shape participation in the 2012 presidential campaign.

As CEO of LULAC, Benavides has been a leader in holding the EPA to account in its attempts to sustain



the use of a pesticide that causes cancer and brain damage among people living and working in the fields. During this COVID era, her exacting work paid off, as courts upheld a ban on the use of chlorpyrifos. This success culminates years of activity raising the voices of Latin@s in the movement for environmental justice.



FRIDAY AFTERNOON  
MUSICAL GUEST:

# MARIMBA PRINCESA XINABAJUL



The Marimba Band Princesa Xinabajul is made up of Guatemalans with extensive musical experience, who combine Guatemalan folk music with Latin American popular music in order to connect us to our countries and cultures. Princesa Xinabajul was founded in 2016 by entrepreneur Jesus Macario Mateo, originally from Huehuetenango, Guatemala. With the beautiful notes of the traditional Marimba, an instrument declared a Cultural Patrimony of the Americas by the Organization of American States, Princesa Xinabajul enlightens and enlivens cultural, social, and community events in the Washington, DC area, including Naturally Latinos 2020. Please join them in celebrating our culture!

La Marimba Princesa Xinabajul está integrada por Guatemaltecos con amplia experiencia musical que interpretan música folklórica Guatemalteca y también música popular latinoamericana y así conectarnos con nuestros países y sus culturas. La banda nace en el 2016 por iniciativa de un emprendedor Guatemalteco Jesus Macario Mateo originario de Huehuetenango, Guatemala. Con las dulces notas de la Marimba, instrumento declarado como Patrimonio Cultural de las Américas por la Organización de Estados Americanos, se pretende alegrar y amenizar eventos culturales, sociales y comunitarios incluyendo esta conferencia Naturalmente Latinos 2020. ¡Celebremos nuestra cultura!

## Diamond



## Gemstone



## Gold



## Copper



## Pebble



## Our Planning Committee

**Serenella Linares Rivera**  
Manager of Virtual Learning,  
ANS (co-chair)

**Eliza Cava**  
Director of Conservation,  
ANS (co-chair)

**Angineeki Jones**  
Director of Learning,  
Mariland Non-profits

**Denis Josefina Perez-Ordoñez**  
Environmental Educator,  
ANS

**Denisse Guitarra**  
Maryland Conservation Advocate,  
ANS

**Francisco Ollervides**  
Executive Director,  
Green Leadership Trust

**Gabrielle Roffe**  
Manager of Equity and Community  
Engagement, Chesapeake Conservancy

**Geraldine Dávila Gonzalez**  
Program Specialist, Library of Congress

**Joe Tooland**  
Outreach and Education Program Assistant /  
Central Atlantic Community Cultivator,  
Chesapeake Bay Trust / OUT 4 Sustainability

**Jorge Bogantes**  
Natural Resources Specialist,  
Anacostia Watershed Society

**Josefina (Jo) Doumbia**  
Principal Environmental/Social Specialist,  
IFC/World Bank

**Lin Orin**  
Grant Specialist  
Audubon Naturalist Society

**Michelle Ramirez**  
Multicultural Outreach Coordinator,  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

**Ruby Rivera**  
Conservation Partnerships Manager,  
The Nature Conservancy

## Staff & Volunteers

**Alycia Reed**  
**Ben Israel**  
Photographer/  
Videographer, ANS

**Betsy Mendelsohn**  
**Caroline Brewer**  
Director of Communications  
& Marketing, ANS

**Crystal Rivera Pagán**  
Conference Planner  
**Orietta Estrada**

**Renee Grebe**  
Northern Virginia  
Conservation Advocate,  
ANS

**Vince Robinson**  
Social Media Manager, ANS

**Sara Corral**  
Program Designer



8940 Jones Mill Road  
Chevy Chase,  
Maryland 20815

[anshome.org](http://anshome.org)

Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) is the oldest independent environmental organization in the DC metro region. Since 1897, ANS has been advocating to protect local streams and watersheds and reaching the region's next generations of nature stewards with environmental education.

ANS members have a passion for nature, love of being outdoors and keen interest in learning about and protecting the natural world. With membership people enjoy discounts on nature programs (for children, families and adults), Nature Travel and in the Audubon Naturalist Shop at Woodend Nature Sanctuary (ANS Headquarters); Membership also grants you access to invitations to exclusive members only, nature-inspired events throughout the year; and ANS publications, such as the Naturalist Quarterly and monthly Audubon eNews.

Become a member today. Join ANS online from [anshome.org](http://anshome.org).

**Save the Date for** | **February 23 - 27, 2021**  
**Taking Nature Black - virtual**



ANS Mission

To inspire residents of the greater Washington, DC, region to appreciate, understand, and protect their natural environment through outdoor experiences, education, and advocacy.



ANS Vision

To create a larger and more diverse community of people who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it.

Use social media hashtag  
**#NaturallyLatinos3**  
and **#NLC3**  
today and after the conference.

AudubonNaturalistSociety

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