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@AFCAnatura



# MOVING FORWARD TO THE RESILIENCE ERA

## AFC+A PROFILE

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### Americas For Conservation + the Arts

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Advancing community resilience through a citizenry of environmental stewards for public health, and leveraging arts and culture for conservation gains.



**AFC+A**  
AMERICAS for CONSERVATION  
+ the ARTS

# WELCOME!

## Our Mission

Advancing community resilience, a citizenry of environmental stewards for public health, leveraging arts and culture for conservation gains.

## Our Vision

All communities must have equal access to education and a healthy environment Arts grow and sustain healthy communities and social justice Intersectionality is the foundation for transformational change

## Our Core Values

**JUSTICE**, demands equality of opportunity

**RESILIENCE**, overcomes adversity

**INCLUSIVENESS**, advances justice

**COLLABORATION**, powers intersectionality

**INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS**, grow resilience and transformational change

**AUTHENTIC LEADERSHIP**, speaks Jemez Principles

**EMPOWERMENT**, stems from all our Core Values



City of Denver Office of Sustainability Love This Place Award



ALEF proclamation by Colorado Governor John Wright Hickenlooper



Signed Mayor's Monarch Pledge by City of Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock



City of Denver Mayor's Awards of Excellence in Arts & Culture Imagine 2020





# CAMP TABONU

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# ABOUT AFC+A

**Americas for Conservation +the Arts is an environmental non profit advancing community resilience through a citizenry of environmental stewards for public health, and leveraging arts and culture for conservation gains.**



**A Latino-led, founded 501(c)(3) environmental non-profit, AFC+A is Colorado and Puerto Rico based with an international reach.**

## OUR CHALLENGES

We advance a diverse conservation movement for environmental and public health, advocacy, and culturally relevant education initiatives that address the needs of previously underserved and underrepresented communities in the green movement. The Latino community in the US is suffering the brunt of the effects of air pollution and climate change. Statistics show Latinos are at the forefront of the climate crisis and are disproportionately impacted by climate change related issues

- Hispanics were reported as uninsured, compared to 10.4% of non-Latino Whites
- 1 in 5 Latino adults are unable to pay for asthma medicines, furthering the disproportionate impacts of air pollution.
- Of the top 10 most polluted cities in the nation, six count Latinos as 40 % or more of their populations.
- 66% Latinos live in areas that fall below the EPA's air quality safety standards 72% in Colorado.

- Hispanic children are 70% more likely to be admitted to the hospital and twice as likely to die from asthma as non-Hispanics.
- Latinos are 30% more likely to visit a hospital due to asthma compared to non-Latino Whites.
- Latinos are three times as likely to die of asthma.
- Latinos represent the highest uninsured rates of any racial/ethnic group in the US. In 2012.
- Today minorities make up 40% of the US population but only 13% of environmental organizations.
- Latinos are the majority of 200 metropolitan districts in the US and live in areas with high vehicle traffic and power plant activity often violating clean air rules
- Of the country's 58 million Latinos, half live in the 15 worst areas for ground-level ozone pollution-
- Half of the nation's crop and livestock production workers and a third of construction workers are Latinos, working in outdoor jobs that put us at high risk from extreme heat.
- Farm and construction workers who feed us and shelter us account for 60% of job-related heat deaths, and Latinos are three-fold more at risk of dying from the heat on the job than non-Hispanics.

# OUR VALUES

## NON WHITES PREDICTED TO OUTNUMBER WHITES BY 2045



## NON WHITES MAKE UP:



## LATINOS ON THE FRONT LINE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

- 66% of Latinos live in areas that fall below EPA's air quality standards (EPA)
- Latinos are 3X as likely to die of Asthma (EPA)

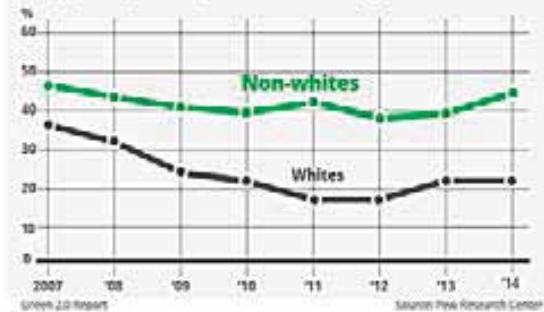
## LATINO CONNECTION TO ECO ISSUES

- 93% of Latinos believe in Global Warming (Pew 2012)
- 92% of Latinos favor clean, renewable energy (Sierra Club NCLR 2012)
- 92% of Latinos view outdoor recreation as a central part of their community's way of life (Sierra Club NCLR 2012)

- Latinos spend **22 hours** a week outside which is comparable with outdoor enthusiasts (OIA)
- Latinos spend **\$592** per person/year on outdoor apparel and gear v. \$465 for the average consumer (OIA ConsumerVue)

## The Racial Gap on Climate Change

Percentage of Americans who think global warming should be a 'top priority' for the president and Congress



# OUR SOLUTIONS

afcanatura.org  
**ALEF**  
An initiative of AFC+A  
**AMERICAS LATINO ECO FESTIVAL**  
americaslatinoecofestival.org  
ECO

afcanatura.org  
An initiative of AFC+A  
**EL LABORATORIO**

LATINA ENVIRONMENTAL GIVING CIRCLE  
AFC+A Initiative  
afcanatura.org

**MANDEL VILAR PRESS**  
Advancing Diversity and Conservation in Publishing  
AFC+A Initiative  
afcanatura.org

AFC+A Initiative • afcanatura.org  
**U-CAN**  
Partnership  
UAS

afcanatura.org  
Spirit of the Sun  
**EWAN**  
Elder Wisdom for Arts & Nature  
CREA RESULTS  
UAS

**PUERTO RICO**  
Resilience Project  
AFC+A Initiative  
afcanatura.org

AFC+A Initiative  
afcanatura.org  
**PROMOTORES VERDES**  
In partnership with:  
CREA RESULTS  
UAS

AFC+A Initiative • afcanatura.org  
**HERMANAS DEL RIO**  
RIVER SISTERS

**Artist Market**  
AFC+A Initiative  
afcanatura.org

# INTRODUCTION FROM THE DIRECTORS

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*The history of **Americas for Conservation + the Arts** is young, somewhat emotional, and filled with longing but its story is very old, almost ancient: the need to reconcile peoples and places for a sustainable future.*

**- Irene Vilar - AFC+A Founder**

We are extremely grateful for the support Americas for Conservation + the Arts (AFC+A) has received throughout recent years helping us grow into the organization that we are today: The first and only Boricua founded and led environmental organization of its size in the United States and one of only a handful of Latino founded and led. Today brown citizens make up 40% of the US population but only 10% of environmental organizations.

Supporting organizations like AFC+A is a direct action to bridge this shameful gap and advance a sustainable future where those sitting at the decision making table regarding the stewardship of our natural resources reflect equity and inclusion. Anything else is not only undemocratic, is bad economics.

2018 was a successful year for our organization. We have continued to tackle environmental problems from many angles and used Arte y Cultura as a communication channel for environmental awareness and shared values, and 60% of these efforts are powered by a volunteer force . All our programs aim at environmental and multicultural education and a diverse, non-segregated, and inclusive conservation agenda.

We have brought impactful change to our communities through ten programs. Several of our initiatives have received multiple national press features, including The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, Smithsonian Magazine, Huffington Post, CNN, NBC, ABC, Telemundo, FOX News, The Village Voice.



Between 2016 and 2018, (1) the **City of Denver Office of Sustainability Love This Place Award**, for our work as community builders (2) the **ALEF proclamation by Colorado Governor John Wright Hickenlooper** (3) the signed **Mayors Monarch Pledge by City of Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock** (4) **the City of Denver Mayor's Awards of Excellence in Arts & Culture Imagine 2020**.



We believe advancing diversity is the most important conservation strategy and that the richness of our Latino American culture is our most important asset in the work that lies ahead. Our culture is grounded on reverence for Mother Earth. Preservationist and protectionist values resonate in our religions, our social structures, our agricultural practices, and our arts and crafts; especially in our arts. And we know that being good stewards of our natural resources powers sustainable economies and healthy livelihoods.

This is why we at AFC+A are excited for 2019 as we partner with CREA Results, its promotores de la salud movement, and their impactful Unidad de Salud Movil (Mobile Health Unit) to grow our flagship program of environmental health stewards powering families with the capacity to champion the health benefits of connecting to nature and taking on career pathways in conservation to safeguard public health.

And yet, while AFC+A is a Puerto Rican & Latino based organization, our expanding organization of volunteers, supporters and donors continues to grow in its diversity. Our team of over twenty professional leaders is half women and represents 7 Countries of the Americas. Mother Earth provides the air we breathe and the water we drink without any consideration of race, color, nationality or religion. Your generous, tax deductible support can help AFC+A educate and prepare our children to support, enjoy and demand a sustainable and healthy future for themselves and their children.

### **Irene Vilar**

AFC+A Founder & CEO  
Guggenheim Fellow

### **Fernando Pineda**

CREA Results,  
AFC+A Co Director

# OUR TEAM

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As of 31 December 2018, AFC+A's AFCA team consists of 15 paid employees and 10 core volunteers professional support staff. Approximately 60 percent are based at headquarters in Boulder, CO., while the remainder work in offices in Puerto Rico. Our experts come from a diverse range of professional backgrounds, including engineering, filmmaker, policy, academia, legal and business management.

**Board of Directors**    **IRS#32-0261204**  
**CO-Registration # 20143025925**

**Irene Vilar**, PRESIDENT  
**Robert Mandel**, VICE PRESIDENT  
**Mirta Ojito**, OFFICER  
**Doug Unger**, OFFICER  
**SoYoung Lee**, OFFICER  
**Toti Cadavid**, SECRETARY  
**Keirstin K. Beck**, TREASURER

## Team

**Irene Vilar** - Founder & CEO (Puerto Rico)  
**Fernando Pineda** - Co Director (Mexico)  
**Zuza Bohley** - Education & Deputy Director (Germany)  
**Jonathan Cintrón** - AFC+A COO (Puerto Rico)  
**Rocío De Prado** - Founder Executive Associate & Special Events Curator (Mexico)  
**Carey Mason** - Development Director (USA)  
**Lhotse Springer** - Evaluation/Reporting (Bolivia)  
**Jorge Figueroa** - El Laboratorio, Advisor (Puerto Rico)  
**Nita González** - Hermanas Del Río Director USA (USA)  
**Auraluz Guzman** - U-CAN Puerto Rico Director (Puerto Rico)  
**Nancy Saldaña** - El Laboratorio, Principal (Mexico)  
**Paul Cawood Hellmund** - El Laboratorio, Principal (Panama)  
**Dana Coelho** - Youth + Community Engagement Catalyst (USA)  
**German González** - Community Outreach Spanish Media (Mexico)  
**Armando González-Mijares** - Marketing Director (Venezuela)  
**Dr. Robert Mandel** - Publisher, Mandel Vilar Press (USA)  
**Niki Eways** - ALEF Production (USA)  
**Elizabeth Riggs** - Art Exhibits (USA)  
**Piloto** - Artivism Education (Mexico)  
**Falco** - Creative Director (Cuba)  
**Alexis De Los Santos** - Emotional Intelligence Educator (Mexico)

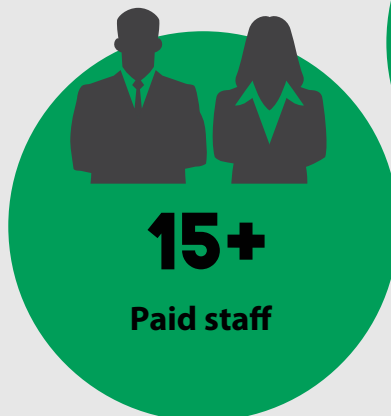


**Board of Directors Hacienda # 412997**  
**Registro # 1079786-0026**

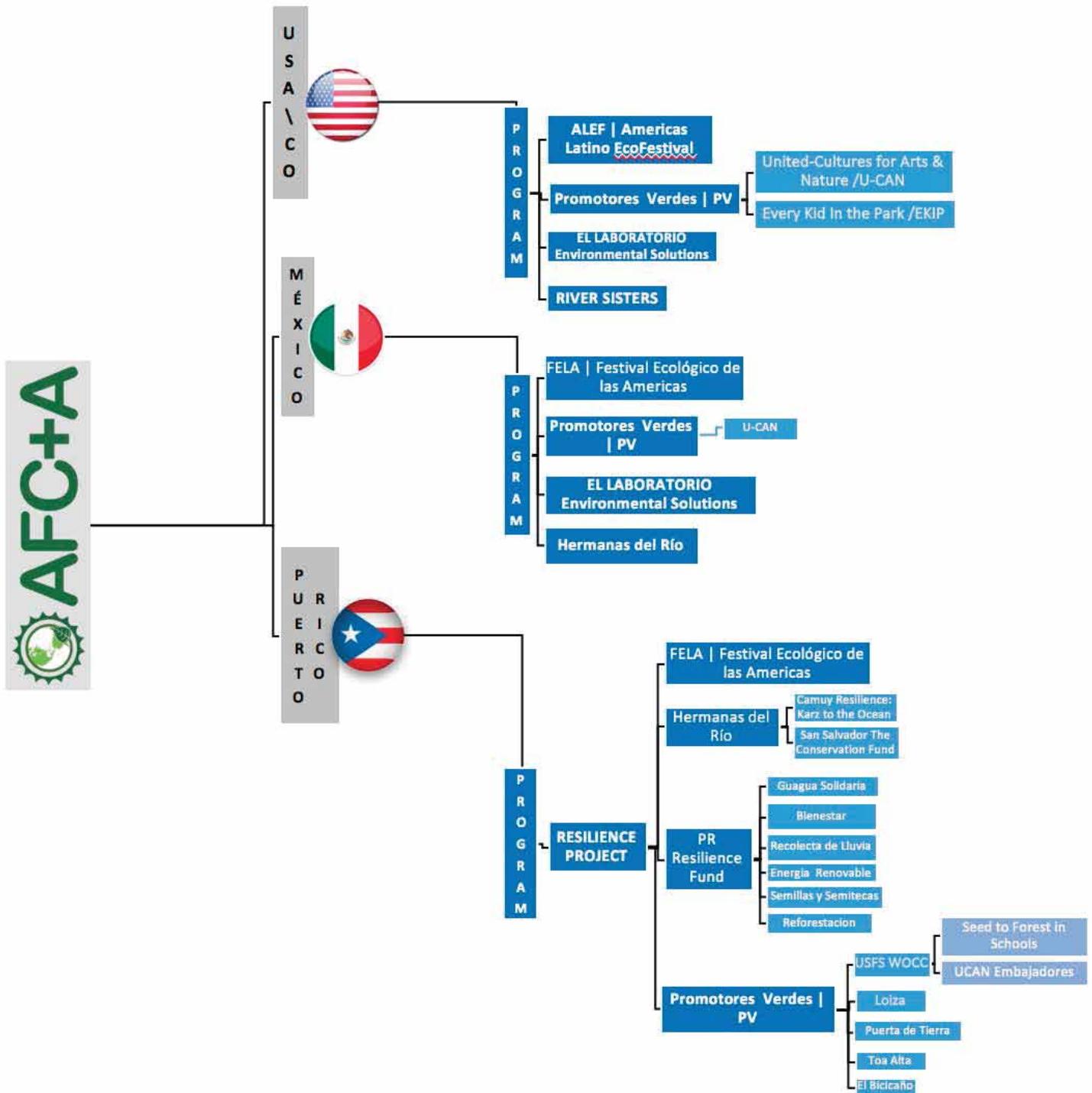
**Irene Vilar**, PRESIDENT  
**Fernando Pineda**, VICE PRESIDENT  
**Jorge Figueroa**, OFFICER  
**Lcda. Ana Toledo**, TREASURER  
**Jonathan Cintrón**, SECRETARY

#### AFC+A Puerto Rico

**Carlos J. Torres** - AFCA PR Director (Puerto Rico)  
**Lcda. Ana Toledo** - AFCA PR Deputy (Puerto Rico)  
**Brenda Plume** - Operation Director (Puerto Rico)  
**Ana Trujillo** - AFCA PR Programs Coordinator (Venezuela)  
**Juan Rosario** - AFCA PR Advisor (Puerto Rico)  
**Malcom Ferrer** - Artivist Director (Puerto Rico)  
**Maricelis Rivera** - Media & Public Relations (Puerto Rico)  
**Michael Martinez** - Promotor Verde (Puerto Rico)  
**Michelle Vargas** - Promotor Verde (Puerto Rico)



# OUR STRUCTURE







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RESILIENCE  
PROJECT

FELA | Festival Ecológico de las Americas

Hermanas del Río

- Camuy Resilience: Karz to the Ocean
- San Salvador The Conservation Fund

PR Resilience Fund

- Guagua Solidaria
- Bienestar
- Recolecta de Lluvia
- Energía Renovable
- Semillas y Semitecas
- Reforestacion

Promotores Verdes | PV

- USPS WOCG
- Loiza
- Puerta de Tierra
- Toa Alta
- El Bicaño

- Seed to Forest in Schools
- UCAN Embajadores

# OUR PROGRAMS

Advancing community resilience through a citizenry of environmental stewards for public health, and leveraging arts and culture for conservation gains.



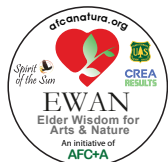
**Americas Latino Eco-Festival | ALEF | FELA México | FELA Puerto Rico** - The award winning festival is a Latino hosted multicultural event elevating the voices of communities of color and of women in conservation and cultural leadership, fostering collaboration to better tackle environmental problems and using art and culture to message shared values. Visit [www.americaslatinoecofestival.org](http://www.americaslatinoecofestival.org)



**Promotores Verdes | PV** - Co founded with CREA Results and in partnership with the US Forest Service, Promotores Verdes grows FAMILY-BASED champions of the health benefits of connecting to nature and of forging career pathways in outdoors recreation and conservation to safeguard public health.



**United Cultures for Art + Nature Youth Congress | U-CAN CO | U-CAN PR** is the Promotores Verdes youth program to build a more inclusive generation of conservation stewards through mentorship, cultural expression, and a careers pipeline.



**Elder Wisdom for Arts & Nature EWAN** - A coalition of Native American and Latino elders united through nature experiences for the preservation of cultural knowledge that powers resilience and inter generational mentorship.



**Puerto Rico Resilience Project | PRRP** - is an effective action plan bringing together grassroots, environmental organizations, and government agencies to advance local food systems, energy independence, reforestation, cultural and ecological preservation and, a new economy of outdoors recreation.



**El Laboratorio** - A latino-led solution generator incubator-accelerator brings people together from different cultures and disciplines to find creative solutions to some of the most intractable environmental challenges facing the Americas.



**Hermanas del Rio/River Sisters Partnership** - A movement led by the People, to celebrate and restore our Rivers from their source to the sea . The partnership establishes a new framework for freshwater restoration based on intercultural collaboration between cities and towns that share the same rivers.



**Mandel Vilar Press | MVP** - The publishing arm of AFC+A, MVP is dedicated to connecting the literature of the Americas and advancing diversity and conservation in books. Visit [www.mvpress.org](http://www.mvpress.org).



**Latina Environmental Giving Circle | LEGC** - The Latina Environmental Giving Circle is powering Latina environmental entrepreneurship through a coalition of longtime Latina leaders pooling their power-base in service of the urgent environmental challenges facing our planet.



**Artist Marketplace | AM** An alternative online store showcasing the arts for justice, political commentary, and poetic resistance. Visit [www.artistmarketafca.org](http://www.artistmarketafca.org)



# ALEF

Today minorities make up 40% of the US population but only 13% of environmental organizations, so ALEF's unique contribution to reducing the "Environmental Inclusion Gap," is more important and urgent than ever.

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



Jared Polis - Governor State of Colorado

## AMERICAS LATINO ECO FESTIVAL

**Unique** - ALEF is the largest and only event of its kind in the US uniting environmental conservation with Latino leadership and families. Donor support keeps ALEF free and open to the public.

**Authentic** - ALEF speakers and attendees are mostly Latino. The festival's special blend of Advocacy, Arts, Networking, and Education is designed by Latinos and made available to all that support environmental conservation. What better place for a genuine connection?

**Established** - ALEF has been supported by loyal donors like Whole Foods Market, Kaiser Permanente, World Wildlife Federation, US Forest Service, City of Denver, AARP, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Denver Art Museum, Bonfils Stanton Foundation, Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy.

**Visible** - ALEF attracts all ages, cultures, and celebrities like Edward James Olmos, Bianca Jagger, and Junot Diaz. No wonder ALEF was featured in more than 20 English and Spanish national media in 2016-2017 and gained over 50 million media impressions.

**High Impact** - Since 2013, ALEF has been attended by over 12,000 people, engaged over 2,500 Latino advocates, educated 3,800 K-12 school children, and seeded over 65 intersectional program collaborations.



ALEF IV Denver, Colorado

# FELA Puerto Rico



**Launched on the 1st year Anniversary of Hurricane Maria, ALEF's Chapter in Puerto Rico Features Restoration Brigades in Public Parks led by 6,000+ Students from Across 230+ Schools.**

**FESTIVAL ECOLÓGICO DE LAS AMÉRICAS**  
Capítulo Puerto Rico de AFC+A

Sábado, 13 de OCTUBRE  
Archivo General, sala A  
Parque Luis Muñoz Rivera

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DIÁLOGO COMUNITARIO

**Brigada Puerta de Tierra: La Juventud que nos ilumina** 2-3:30 pm

Charla con los jóvenes de B PDT, COLECTIVO de ARTE de BASE COMUNITARIA formado en su mayoría por niños y jóvenes residentes del barrio Puerta de Tierra trabajando por el RESCATE de su BARRIO, su HISTORIA y su GENTE a través del cuidado del barrio y la reactivación de áreas abandonadas.



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**Taller B PDT alcoholado reforzado** 5:15-6:30

Este es el primer producto elaborado por Plaza Vivero, proyecto de B PDT que representa un rescate del conocimiento tradicional y medicinal del barrio de Puerta de Tierra.



#pormiisla





# FELA Mexico

Launched in October 2018, ALEF's Mexican Chapter in Alliance with La Granja Ecologica Didactica Dos Puertas in Taxco, Guerrero Features Multi Sectorial Programming in Partnership with Universities, Municipalities, and Grassroots Organizations.



FELA Hosts: Mayor and First Lady of Taxco, Mexico



# U-CAN



Launched in 2017, the summer camp of Promotores Verdes, United Cultures for Arts + Nature Green Ambassadors powers the next generation of diverse leaders by igniting a deep-rooted and lasting passion for conservation anchored in science, arts, and culture.

The one week long outdoors immersion camp offers a curriculum built to empower youth to take action in their communities to promote healthy lifestyles, sustainable practices, environmental stewardship, and skills for outdoors recreation interpretation and leadership. U-CAN provides these young ambassadors with support through mentorship and fosters self expression and growth.

This environment enables students to enhance emotional intelligence, navigate adversity, build personal resilience, and strength in themselves that is necessary to protect our resilient natural world and its limited resources.



UCAN Puerto Rico 2018



UCAN Colorado 2018

**United Cultures for Arts + Nature is the Promotores Verdes youth program building a more inclusive generation of conservation stewards through mentorship, cultural expression, and a careers pipeline.**



The Nature Conservancy 



# Promotores Verdes

## Advancing a culture of recreation, conservation, and public health anchored in nature experiences and a sustainable outdoors economy

This unique intergenerational program integrates CREA Results' Community Health Promoters work and AFC+A's arts- and culture-infused environmental educational programming. Promotores Verdes grows employable champions of the health benefits of connecting to nature, forging career pathways in outdoors recreation, conservation, and stewardship of our natural resources.

The program educates on the interdependence of human and environmental health and our need to protect the natural resources that safeguard the health of our families and communities.

The curriculum is mediated through outdoors experiences and integrates Leave No Trace principles, healthy lifestyle choices, active living and fitness, Get Outdoors campaigns, restoration activities, careers pipeline education, shared meals, and community circles. As in the Promotores Verdes youth program, U-CAN Green Ambassadors, community circles encourage the development of personal and community resilience.



# Puerto Rico Resilience Project



**AFC+A launched the Resiliency Fund and its Guagua Solidaria (solidarity bus) with farming brigades to help revitalize local food systems and the agro ecology sector of the island within 72 hours of Hurricane Maria's landfall. La Guagua Solidaria-- a 24 months campaign to assist in the recuperation of 200 agroecology farming projects-- came to life as a repurposed old eco tourist van outfitted with a handmade roof rack and a mobile tool shed.**



Boricua, Centro Comunal Villas del Sol, El Ancon, Loiza, among others.



Powered by volunteer force, the Guatemalan born movimiento "campesino a campesino" solidarity approach, and a holistic strategy of relief support, the bus has in brigade form impacted sixty five food projects in its first year by not only restoring and rehabilitating, but also by increasing the sustainability of systems. La Guagua builds latrines, prunes trees, sets up rainwater catchment systems—pushes polyculture and crop diversity with heirloom seeds, supports in development of waste management systems to increase nutrient recycling and improve biological farm processes (including composting techniques and humanure), and advances reforestation efforts (with a focus on pollinators), all depending on the needs of each particular farm.

The inspiring work of the Fund through its eco bus brigades has helped launch multiple resilience initiatives that are now housed under the Puerto Rico Resilience Project (PRRP).

Through AFC+A's current five year master agreement with the US Forest Service (2016-2021) that includes an expansion contract for food security literacy on the island (2018-2020) PRRP will be growing sister buses for advancing educational initiatives to promote community resiliency. As of December 2018, AFC+A Puerto Rico is leading ten resiliency projects in Puerta de Tierra, Santurce, Toa Baja, El Bicanico in Cano Martin Pena, Las Monjas, Camuy, Orocovis.

Our projects are in partnership with multiple collaborators such as *USFS, The Conservation Fund, UMET, University of Puerto Rico, G8, USFS Institute of Tropical Forestry, Brigada Puerta de Tierra, Unidos por Puerto Rico, Municipality of Camuy, Association de Agricultores Camuyanos, Festival de la Palabra, Para La Naturaleza, Boricua, Centro Comunal Villas del Sol, El Ancon, Loiza*, among others.



# El Laboratorio

**A Latino-led solution generator, incubator, accelerator finding creative solutions to some of the most intractable environmental challenges facing the Americas**



- A Latino-led solution generator, incubator, accelerator-anchored in social capital.
- A binational group of experts that enjoy working together to develop and implement transdisciplinary solutions from soups to nuts for the betterment of our communities.
- An approach that brings multiple disciplines and angles to solution-making, including a profoundly integrated sense of the needs and aspirations of local communities.
- Work from a river basin, watershed-level.
- Training of citizens and stakeholders in the full project cycle of complex planning processes and projects: from solution generation to implementation, measurement and verification, and adaptive management.
- Focus on innovative strategies, projects, and policies that meet local, regional and binational needs.
- Acknowledging that yesterday's solutions are poor fits for today's and tomorrow's problems. (E.g., climate change and innovation mean the old patterns no longer apply.)
- Advancing sensitivity to diverse cultures with issues (related to conservation) whose solutions need cultural sensitivity.
- Designed to "jumpstart" planning processes and build local capacity, but not to dominate from the outside.
- Reliable partners that can be fast in to aid and advise, and then out when not needed.



# MVP



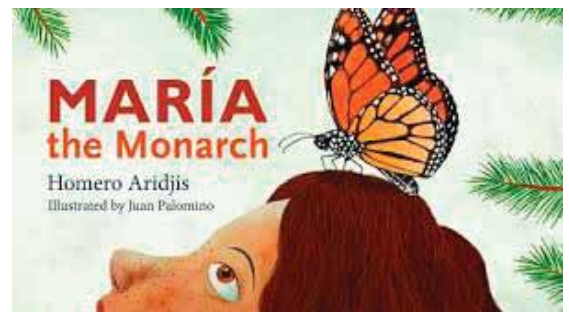
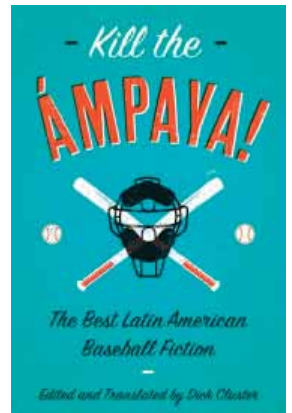
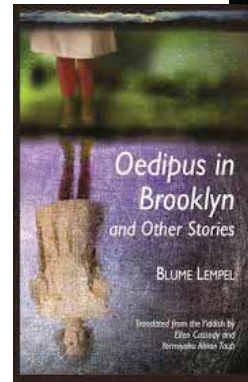
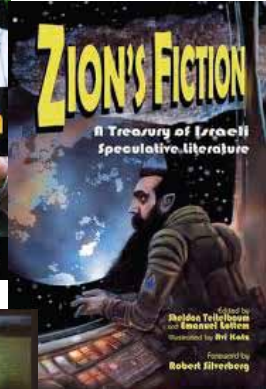
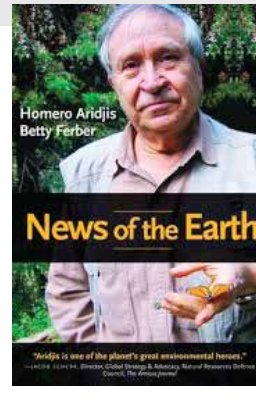
**The non profit publishing arm of AFC+A, Mandel Vilar Press is dedicated to connecting literature of the Americas and advancing diversity and conservation in book culture.**

MVP believes that promoting literature across cultures is crucial to opening our cultural borders. Its availability plays a vital role in maintaining a healthy and vibrant democracy with cultural literacy at its core.

MVP books reflect the themes embedded in the mission of AFC+A: environmental awareness and justice; migrations; adaptation; integration and intergenerational and cross-cultural dialogue.

MVP and its New Shade of Green Series promote a culture of appreciation and respect for the environment through ground breaking fiction and nonfiction that deepen our connection to the natural world, serve as a call to action, broaden our understanding of human footprints on the environment, and offer innovative solutions for building social capacity, innovation, and resilience.

Founded in 2015, MVP has published over 25 books and received numerous reviews and awards, including features in The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, ESPN and the prestigious 2018 *Skipping Stones International Award*, the *NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry Award*, and the 2018 *MLA Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize in Yiddish Studies*.



# ARTivist Market

## POWERING CONSERVATION & DEMOCRACY THROUGH ARTIVISM inspiration. reflection. awareness. action

The Artivist Market is an alternative communications platform in the form of an online store. <https://www.artivistmarketafca.org> Our store connects art and justice with political commentary and examines social and cultural identity, poverty, and ecological topics. The member artists embrace a satirical approach and invite new forms of resistance and action that move beyond traditional paths of activism. International artists have participated in our awardwinning annual Americas Latino Eco Festival throughout the last six years (2013-2018) and/or collaborated with our annual International Eco Drawing Arts Contest.



# Journey for Climate Justice



## Powering Justice through adventure

**"Journeyers evaluate and give verbal and visual testimonial accounts of local impacts..."**

A Journey has a purpose, tells a story of human achievement, is challenging, inspirational, founded in discovery and change, and interacts with nature. For the advocacy of an issue like climate justice, this program has immense potential.

A Journey is a path of growth, making it a perfect platform for nurturing an international community of advocates for climate justice. A Journey has the unique ability to inspire awe, both in the journeyers and the people they share their experiences with. Awe is a powerful state of mind. Awe is capable of leading people to cooperate, share resources, and sacrifice for others, all of which are requirements for our collective life and liberation from the unsustainable path of climate change inaction.





# Hermanas del Rio Partnership

**A movement led by the People to celebrate and restore our rivers from their source to the sea, that reclaims our humanity by reconnecting ourselves with the wonder and promise of water and life.**



The Hermanas del Rio/River Sisters Partnership is a goodwill leadership exchange effort and binational collaborative projects that advance the restoration of the Colorado River and celebrates the hydrological, economic, and social interdependencies of urban Colorado River water users from the Colorado River's source to the sea.

## HERMANAS DEL RIO/RIVER SISTERS PARTNERS

- José Enrique Reina Lizárraga, Mayor, City of San Luis Rio Colorado
- Michael B. Hancock, Mayor, City and County of Denver
- Hon. Alfonso Tambo Cecena, Governor, Cocopah Indian Tribe
- Jim Lochhead, Chief Executive Officer, Denver Water
- Osvel Hinojosa, Director of the Water and Wetlands Program, Pronatura Noroeste
- Irene Vilar, Executive Director, Americas for Conservation + the Arts
- Dr. Jorge Ramirez, Chief of Hydrology, Geophysics and Environmental Impact Department, Autonomous University of Baja, California
- C. Jesus Antonio Navarro Acosta, Director General, the Water, Wastewater and Sanitation Utility of San Luis Rio Colorado
- Paul Cawood Hellmund, Urbanist
- Nancy Saldana, Urbanist
- Rick Sargent, Artist
- Manuel Cuen Gamboa, Artist
- Brian Vogt, Chief Executive Officer, Denver Botanic Gardens
- Beth Hendrix, Executive Director, Denver Sister Cities International

## MEXICO COORDINATOR

Yuliana Dimas, Pronatura Noroeste A.C.

## US COORDINATOR

Jorge Figueroa, El Laboratorio

## US ADVISOR

Nita Gonzales, Americas for Conservation + the Arts



# AFC+A Puerto Rico

## Puerto Rico Solidarity Brigades

### Guagua Solidaria 1.0

October 2017 - October 2018

The Puerto Resilience Fund and The Guagua Solidaria is a 24 months, 200 food projects, primarily benefiting farmers and the communities that are served by them while at the same time advancing the restoration and protection of the natural resources and ecosystems that are critical for long-term food security of rural and urban communities in Puerto Rico. In its first year the Guagua concentrated on immediate relief efforts powered by a core staff of five members and volunteer brigades that were often foreign and not Puerto Rican based.



### Guagua Solidaria 2.0

November 2018 - April 2020

After a first year audit of vision and impact, AFC +A reconfigures the structure of the brigades to include only one core staff-rather than five-and sub contract professional staff for the specific needs of each farm. Brigades' volunteers are recruited from open convocatory in each municipality and near region advancing in the process AFC+A's Promotores Verdes program. Phase two reduces cost of each brigade by 75% and considerably increases rate of response to the farm and quality of service/professionalism and support given to the farmer. This phase also builds more capacity for Puerto Rican' paid volunteer worker force.





Project Name:

**Recuperación Agrícola,  
International Red Cross.  
November 2018 - April 2020**

Guagua Solidaria 2.0

Location:

Whole Island of Puerto Rico



Project Name:

**Promotores Verdes "Arte con Sentido"  
After School Program Escuela  
Especializada en Liderazgo y  
Transformación Social  
Emilio del Toro y Cuebas  
November 2017 - Present**

Promotores Verdes

Location:

Caño Martin Peña , G8, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico



Project Name:

**Proyecto Ruta de Reflexión  
(18 Murals & Four Promotores Verdes  
Youth Bicano Guides Chapter)  
December 2018 - August 2019**

Promotores Verdes

Location:

Caño Martin Peña, G8,Hato Rey , Puerto Rico



Project Name:

**Promotores Verdes Activism @ Centro  
Comunal Villas del Sol  
March 2018 - Present**

Promotores Verdes

Location:

Comunidad Villas del Sol, Toa Baja , Puerto Rico



Project Name:

## UCAN Youth Congress July 2018

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Promotores Verdes WOCC Youth with USFS, IITF.

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Location:

Jayuya , Puerto Rico

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Project Name:

## Promotores Verdes Ecology, Energy, Food, and Reforestation @ Centro Comunal VDS November 2018 - Present

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Promotores Verdes with USFS

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Location:

Comunidad Villas del Sol, Toa Baja, Puerto Rico







Project Name:

**UCAN @ El Ancón July 2018 - Present**

Promotores Verdes WOCC Youth with USFS and IITF.

Location:

Loiza Puerto Rico

**Promotores Verdes' UCAN Youth Ambassadors assist in reforestation and the revitalization of a historic, iconic community building for a community and artists work space**



Project Name:

**Festival Ecológico de las Américas, FELA, October 2018**

**Ongping FELA: Monthly Agromovil - Proceres & Mercado Agro Ecológico @Bosquecito de la Lectura in the Park (Coming Soon January 2019)**

AFC+A

Location:

Puerta de Tierra, Luis Munoz Rivera Park, Puerto Rico



Berwind School is an existing agricultural and community-based project that consists of teachers, parents, university staff, and mentors who serve as liaisons between the school project and other projects.

The University of Puerto Rico community garden Huerto Semilla and its core team of facilitators are already working hand in hand with the school. Our USFS scope of work at the school supports with educational workshops and a youth promotores verdes chapter allowing it to scale and be more successful, as well as supporting collaborative efforts that will continue in the future.

Project Name:

## **Seed to Forest Education May 2018 - May 2019**

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Promotores Verdes with USFS WOCC

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Location:

Montessori Casa del Niño Res. Luis Llorens Torres

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The urban school project named Casa de Niño serves a low-income community in metropolitan areas of San Juan. This project is located in the school backyard using around 150 sq. ft., where 27 kids learn how to cultivate vegetables and flowers, preparing the land to cultivate and harvest.



Project Name:

## **Seed to Forest Education April 2018- May 2019**

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Promotores Verdes with USFS WOCC

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Location:

Loiza, Puerto Rico

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Project Name:

**Rescate Agro-Cultura Comunidad San Salvador, Caguas**  
**October 2018-December 2019**

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Promotores Verdes with The Conservation Fund, USFS, and Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust

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Brigades and workshops advancing food sovereignty and revitalization of local ago+cultural economy and well-being. Workshops taught by community elders, who will pass to the youth the farming history and traditional farming techniques used for centuries in the San Salvador community



Project Name:

**KARST TO OCEAN RESILIENCY CORRIDOR**  
**January 2019-December 2021**

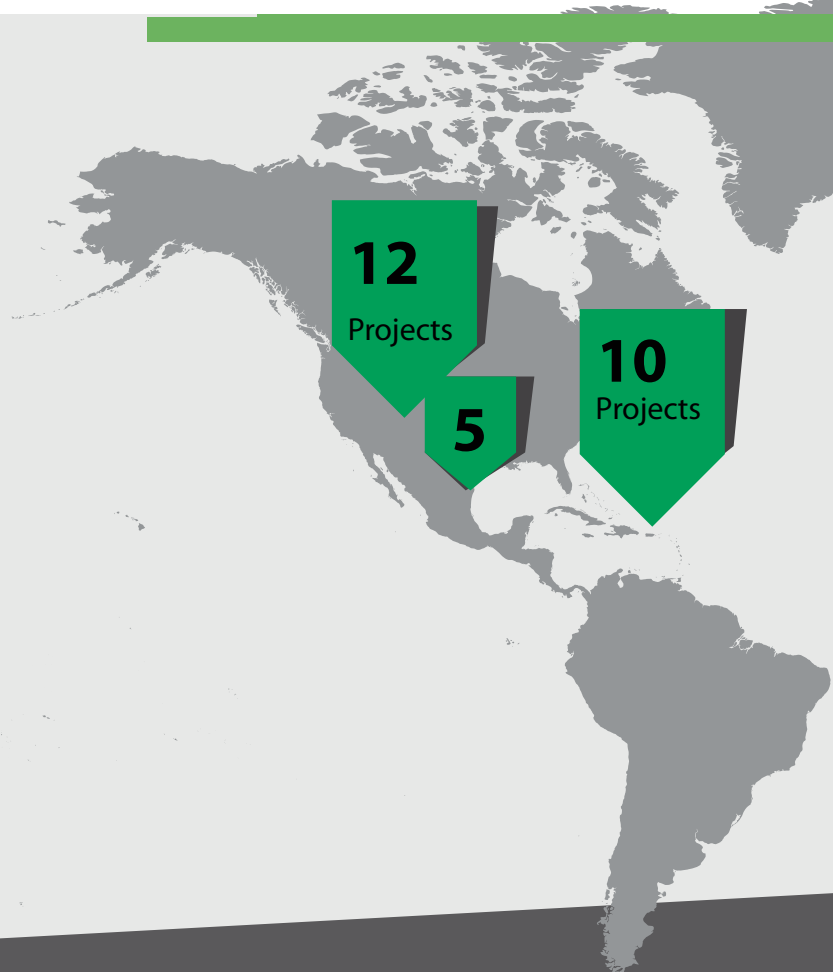
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Promotores Verdes with Camuy Municipality, USDA, EPA, USFS, IITF, Asociacion Agricultores Camuyanos, UPR-Mayaguez Extension Agricola, NREL

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Ten innovative projects increasing the resiliency of the food systems, ecosystems, and outdoor recreation industry of the Camuy River Basin, from the Karst mountains to the Atlantic Ocean

# OUR WORK AREAS



## COLORADO

## MEXICO

## PUERTO RICO







25+  
Projects

## 25+ Projects

By operating in three different locations, AFC+A is able to provide vast opportunities for engagement in the outdoors and stewardship through the variety of projects and initiatives we offer. Since 2012 we've been growing educational programs, healthy food system projects, and created volunteer opportunities for the communities from the three branches in which we operate.

3  
Locations

## 3 Locations

AFC+A operates throughout North America in Colorado, Puerto Rico, and Mexico. This enables us to have a greater impact and coordinate between regions to enhance community connections across borders. Having partners spanning throughout the Americas, AFC+A values the power of intersectional collaboration in elevating our shared values and ideals.

200+  
volunteers

## 200+ Volunteers

AFC+A is a volunteer-driven organization that depends upon those believing and supporting our mission to drive the vision forward. From the annual Americas Latino Eco Festival to our work restoring farms on the ground in Puerto Rico, our extensive network of volunteers provides AFC+A with the capacity to reach more people and create a bigger impact on our educational and stewardship efforts.

# OUR PARTNERS



COLORADO  
Outdoor Recreation  
Industry Office



DENVER  
ARTS & VENUES



hispanicfederation



Universidad Metropolitana

DENVER BOTANIC  
GARDENS

UMET



ecomadres

GREENLATINOS + MOMS CLEAN AIR FORCE



GREENLATINOS  
LATINO ENVIRONMENTAL AND  
CONSERVATION ADVOCATES





# CONTACT US

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## Keep In Touch

### AFC+A

Non-profit Organization

**Area of Interest:** Environment, Education, Participatory Democracy, Arts

**Organization Name:** Americas for Conservation + the Arts

**Tax Exempt Status:** 501©(3) EIN 32-0241204 July 2012

**Mission Statement:** Advancing community resilience, a citizenry of environmental stewards, leveraging arts and culture for conservation gains.

**Address:** 215 Lakeshore Park Road, Boulder, Colorado 80302

**Telephone:** 303-330-6597

**Email:** [general@americasforconservation.org](mailto:general@americasforconservation.org)

**Website:** [www.afcanatura.org](http://www.afcanatura.org)

**Contact:** Irene Vilar, CEO



**AFC+A**  
AMERICAS for CONSERVATION  
+ the ARTS

## Puerto Rico Offices

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### AFC+A Metro

P.O. Box 13934  
San Juan, Puerto Rico. 00908

### AFC+A Sur

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**AFC+A**  
AMERICAS for CONSERVATION  
+ the ARTS

[www.afcanatura.org](http://www.afcanatura.org)