

Peer Learning Exchange: Cultural Hubs and Community Anchors

Bios

Danny Peralta, THE POINT CDC

Danny Peralta has been Executive Managing Director of THE POINT Community Development Corporation since 2015, overseeing daily operations of programs and partnerships. Danny came to THE POINT in 2002 to learn black and white photography at ICP at THE POINT, becoming the Director of Arts and Education in 2018, leading the integration of its environmental justice, cultural and youth development programming. THE POINT is dedicated to youth development and the cultural and economic revitalization of the Hunts Point section of the South Bronx. Celebrating over 20 years of service, THE POINT offers a multi-faceted approach to asset-based community development. Its programming falls within three main headings all aimed at the comprehensive revitalization of the Hunts Point community: Youth Development, Arts and Culture, and Community Development.

Rosalba Rolón, Pregones Theater/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater

Rosalba Rolón is Artistic Director of Pregones Theater/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater, with venues in The Bronx and in Manhattan's Broadway District. She is a director/dramaturg specializing in adaptations through ensemble work. Some of her work includes *Dancing In My Cockroach Killers* and creative collaborations such as *Betsy!* with Roadside Theater/KY and *With Have Iré*, with artists from NY/SF/Cuba. Distinctions include: Doris Duke Artist Award, United States Artists Fellowship, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs Citizens Committee Member, Tony Awards Nominating Committee Member; and a Faculty of the Leadership Institutes of the National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures, and of Arts Professionals National Conference.

Hatuey Ramos-Fermín, The Laundromat Project's Kelly Street Collaborative

Hatuey Ramos-Fermín has been the Director of Programs and Community Engagement at The Laundromat Project since 2015. He is an artist, educator, and cultural producer based in The Bronx. He previously worked as Curator of Education at The Bronx Museum of Arts, and as an educator at The Center for Urban Pedagogy. He is an alumni of The LP's Create Change Residency Program. He received his BA from the University of Puerto Rico and his MFA from St. Joost Art and Design Academy. In partnership with Workforce Housing Group, Kelly Street Garden, and Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association, The Laundromat Project has transformed a 2 bedroom apartment on Kelly Street in Longwood, South Bronx into a thriving creative community hub, with artist studios, arts programming, and community partnerships that allow us to engage the larger Kelly Street community.

Yajaira Saavedra, La Morada

Yajaira Saavedra is a Mott Haven, Bronx based community activist. Along with her family at La Morada, she is a fierce advocate against Ruben Diaz's displacement and anti-immigration policies, Keith Rubenstein and Majora Carter's gentrification tactics, and further industrialization of the waterfront through corporations like Fresh Direct. Yajaira is Native American of Mixtec decent. She has helped organize national campaigns to abolish ICE, stop deportation cases, and promote immigration legislation, all while still washing the dishes at La Morada. Yajaira loves to garden in her spare time. La Morada is a family-owned and operated Mexican (Oaxacan) Restaurant in the South Bronx comprised of undocumented workers. Our goal is to preserve and share indigenous Mexican cuisine with our neighbors and friends and we invite you to dine with us. We love sharing culture, art, community initiatives, and actively participate in social justice causes.

Molly Garfinkel, City Lore

Molly Garfinkel directs City Lore's Place Matters project, where she manages programs in cultural resource management, public history programs, museum education, exhibition curation, and traditional arts presentation. Her research explores Western and non-Western building traditions, theories of cultural landscapes, and histories of urbanism and city planning. Garfinkel lectures widely, and has published articles in the University of Oregon's *CultureWork* broadside, *Voices*, the Journal of the New York Folklore Society, and the University of Pennsylvania's *LA+* design journal. She holds a BA in Art History from Wesleyan University and an MA in Architectural History from the University of Virginia.

In 2015 and 2016, with support from the Ford Foundation, City Lore's Place Matters program undertook an initiative called Community Anchors. The Community Anchors Initiative works to sustain religious institutions, social clubs, and small businesses serving as cultural centers for communities. Through this unique program, they were able to document and honor, as well as financially support, ten sites throughout the city in their creative placemaking efforts, and to explore the broader issues faced by similar organizations that galvanize community activity through the arts. In 2018, with help from an NEA Research grant, they are continuing this work in five other cities across the country. Link to the report: <http://citylore.org/placematters/community-anchors/>

Bios as provided by participants.