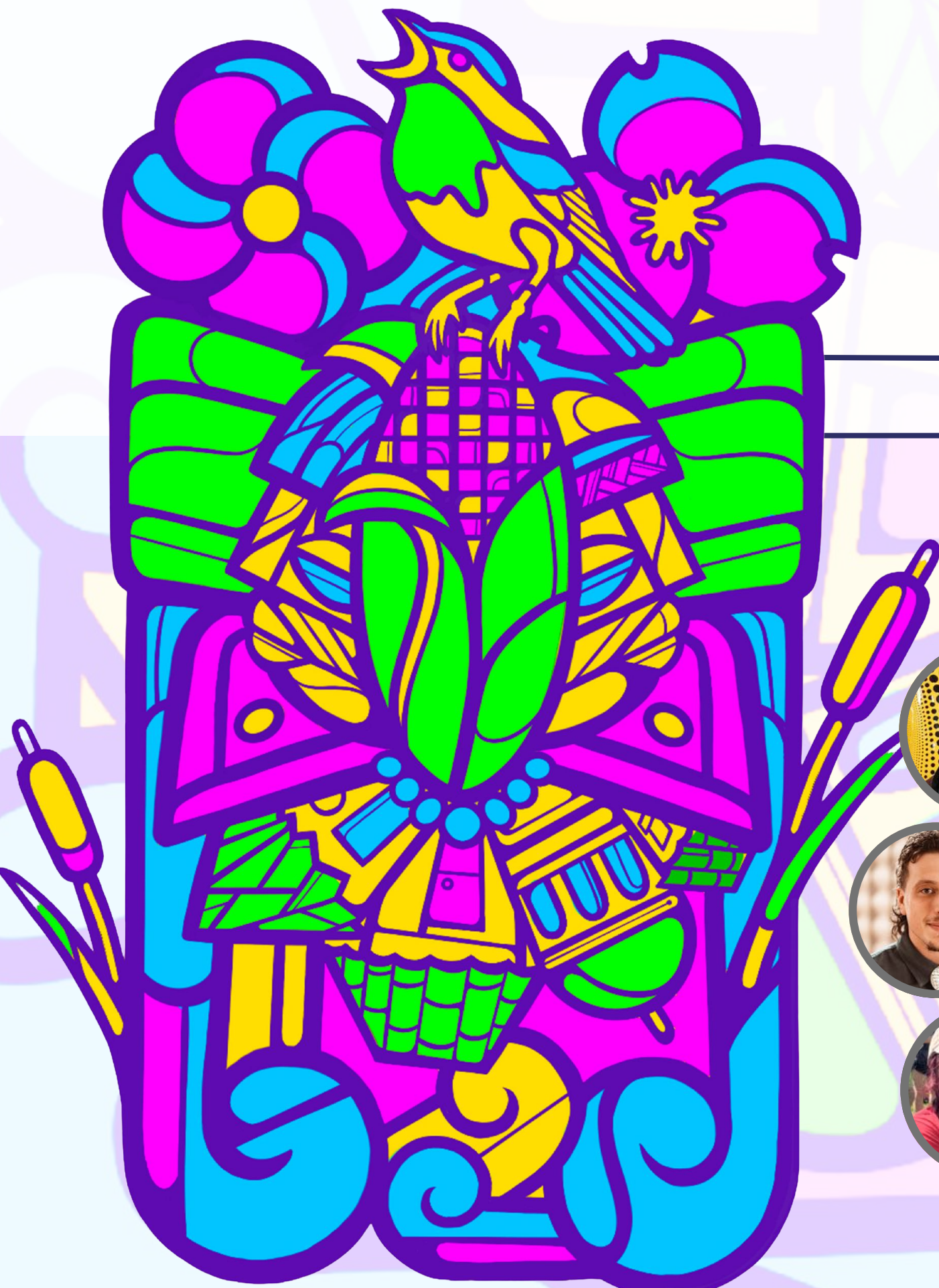




NATURALLY LATINOS

March 26, 27 and 28, 2026

POST CONFERENCE REPORT



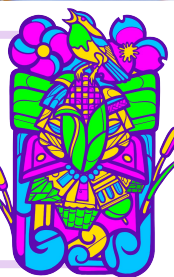


ABOUT NATURALLY LATINOS

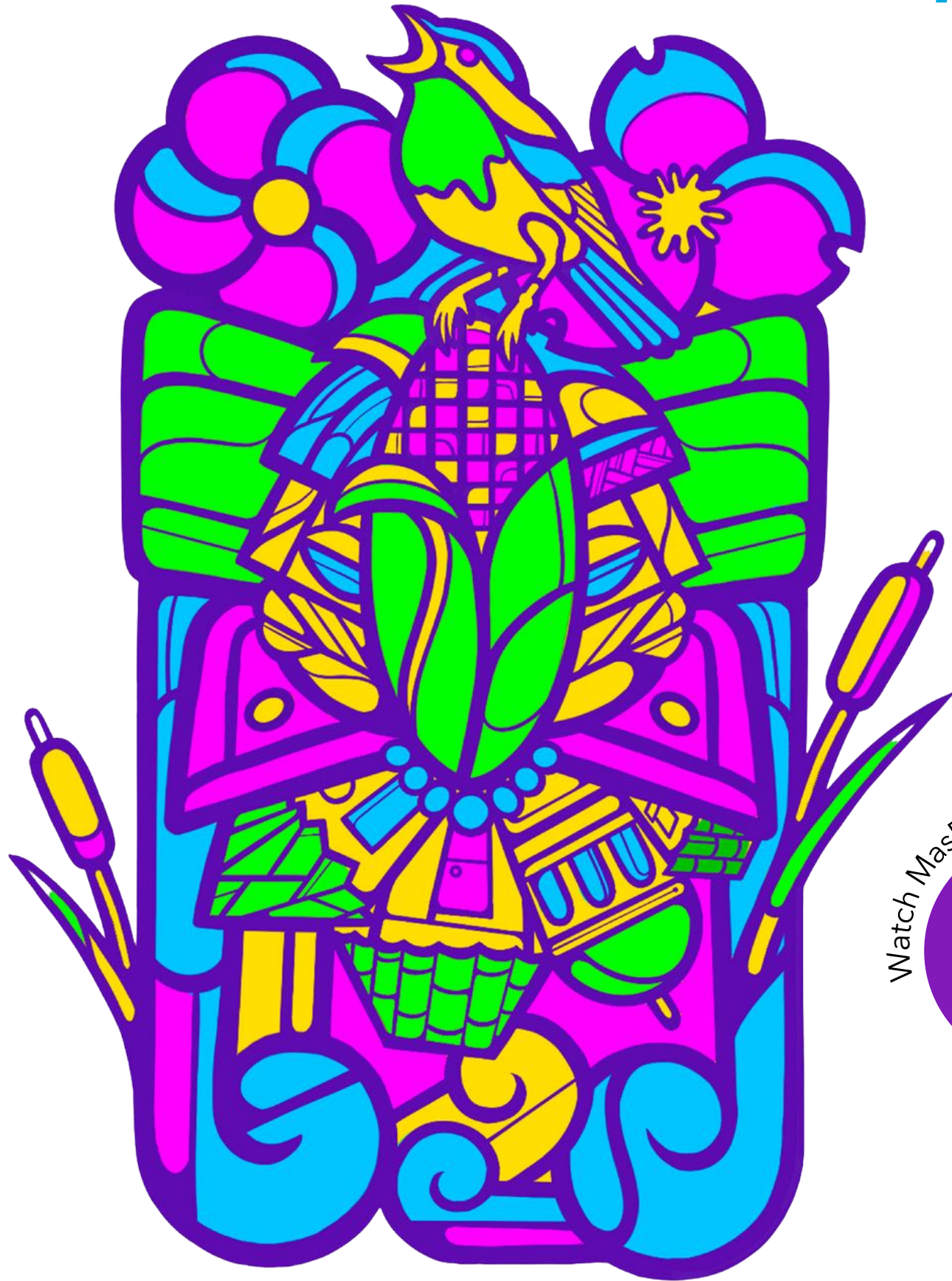
*A Nature Forward
Conference*

Since its launch in 2017, Naturally Latinos has become one of the nation's premier environmental forums showcasing diversity, inclusion, and equity. Although centered primarily on issues impacting the Capital Region, the event's focus on environmental justice, empowerment, and belonging in nature resonates with diverse nature professionals and advocates from coast to coast and around the globe who face similar challenges in their own communities.

Naturally Latinos is held every other year, rotating with its sister Taking Nature Black conference.



ABOUT THE LOGO FOR OUR 2026 THEME



In the corn field we sit, the wind and water trickle down stream.

Our village is past the piedra path, where the Blackburnian warblers chirp and the cottontails are fluffy.

I daydream flying con las mariposas blancas de West Virginia, over the mountain walls to see Tia Sol and Papa Luz.

They ask me to bring them Broadleaf arrowhead and swamp rosemallow flowers.

Ellos aprecian mucho a la naturaleza.

Together we sip from the stream and doze back to sleep.

MasPaz

Artist

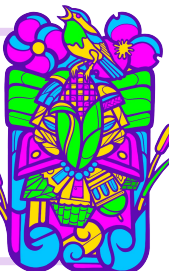


Colombian-born Federico Frum is a multidisciplinary artist based in Washington, DC. Known internationally as MasPaz (which means “more peace” in Spanish), his amazing, beautiful, and thought-provoking work has been featured in galleries across the US and Latin America. His distinctive street murals, which he has created in places around the world, explore environmental issues and indigenous peoples.

MasPaz has been a faithful friend of the Naturally Latinos Conference and has designed a distinctive graphic for this year’s theme, “Fortaleciendo comunidades y ecosistemas.” The piece honors nature, with elements including a migratory Blackburnian warbler, corn, cattails along a riverbank, and more. People and communities are also represented. MasPaz wrote the poem above to describe his influences.



Watch MasPaz share his inspiration



NATURALLY LATINOS 2026: **THEME & SPEAKERS**

Conference chair Gina Ghertner chose this year's conference theme, "Fortaleciendo Comunidades y Ecosistemas (Strengthening Communities and Ecosystems)," to highlight the work that many Latinos are doing to benefit our communities and bring nature back to urban spaces. "This theme is centered in community," Gina explains. "We are focused on how we can equip ourselves to face changes, and how nature can be healing in difficult times." The 2026 Naturally Latinos Conference included a virtual day, one in-person conference day in downtown Silver Spring, MD, and one day of outdoor nature experiences.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



DR. GABRIELA D. LEMUS
Executive Director
Maryland Latinos Unidos



ISAIAS HERNANDEZ
Environmentalist & Educator
Queer Brown Vegan



DR. JUAN DECLET-BARRETO
Senior Social Scientist for Climate Vulnerability
Union of Concerned Scientists



PRISCILLA OLIVEIRA
Outreach & Inclusion Manager
The Watershed Institute



LORENA SAAVEDRA SMITH
Pacha philosopher
Author, Awaken Your Roots



ORIETTA ESTRADA
Storyteller & Community Builder
NLC Environmental Champion

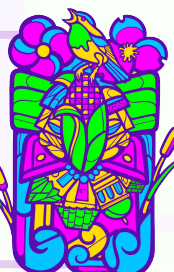


[View Photos](#)

"It was an amazing experience to be part of such a powerful and inspiring event." Attendee Feedback



2026



NATURALLY LATINOS 2026: PRESENTERS (Virtual)



Rev. Lissette Gonzalez Sosa
Sanctuary + Seed



Pastor Alex Arana
Rise Ministry



Dra. María de la Luz Vera
Hispanic Access Foundation



Marvin Pimentel
Defensores de la Cuenca



Cristina Flores
Flowers x Flores



Sebi Medina-Tayac
Red Cedar Farms



Aleksandra George
Environmental Justice Lawyer



Edith López Estrada
Siembra Arte

Guardianes de la tierra y el agua: Transformando la fe en acción
Stewards of Land & Water: Turning Faith into Action

Plants as Storytellers: Cultivating Connections to Nature
Las plantas como narradoras: Cultivando conexiones con la naturaleza



Cintia Cabib
Producer/Cinematographer



César Maxit
Visual Artist



Chris Herrera
Artist and Advocate



Eduardo Coyotzi Zarate
Moderator



Cristina Garcia
Latinxs in Sustainability



Cesar Garzon
Swamp Rose Co-op



Lucia Middleton
The Watershed Institute



Lindolfo Carballo
WE ARE CASA



Ana Arriaza
Montgomery County DEP

Artistic Expression and Empowerment **Expresión artística y empoderamiento**

Desarrollando habilidades, aprovechando oportunniddes **Building Skills, Seizing Opportunities**

Welcome Remarks by



Andres F. Jimenez
Mason District Supervisor



Sarah Davidson
Nature Forward Board President



Gina Ghertner
Conference Chair



[View Photos](#)



NATURALLY LATINOS 2026: PRESENTERS (In Person)



Pri Oliveira and Dr. Juan Declet-Barreto deliver a fireside chat-style presentation titled "Science, Justice, and Collective Power: Addressing Climate Impacts in At-Risk Communities," focusing on public policy approaches to protecting vulnerable communities from the harmful effects of climate change.



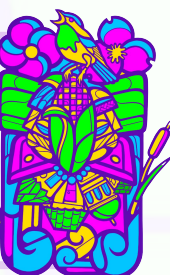
Naturally Latinos Conference Chair Gina Ghertner



Joe Toolan, Orietta Estrada, and Lorena Saavedra Smith present an engaging, interactive, and motivating session titled "Reconciliation & Replanting: Strength through Cultural Identity to Reclaim Our Place in Nature's Cycle."



Keynote speaker Dr. Gabriela D. Lemus, Nature Forward Executive Director Alison Pearce, and Montgomery County Council President Natali Fani-González



NATURALLY LATINOS 2026: PRESENTERS (In Person)



Felipe Benítez
Corazón Latino



Ruby Stemmler
ecoLatinos



Abel Olivo
Defensores de la Cuenca



Josefina (Jo) Doumbia
Board, Nature Forward

Historias de organizaciones ambientales: De las raíces al movimiento Tales of Environmental Organizations: From Roots to Movement



Nancy Reyes
Graduate Student



Zozy Grijalva
Student



Maya Quant
Student



[View Photos](#)

Ecosystems of Care: Youth Leading Community-Centered Climate Action Ecosistemas de cuidado: Jóvenes liderando la acción climática centrada en la comunidad



Jo Doumbia, Felipe Benítez, Ruby Stemmler and Abel Olivo



Valeria Espinoza
Montgomery Parks



J. Abraham Lopez Trejo
Defensores de la Cuenca



Naiyiri-Blu Brooker
NYC Parks & Recreation



Silvia Nuñez
Montgomery Parks



Kaila Canteñs
Anacostia Watershed Society

Culturally Responsive Approaches: The Key to Promote Environmental Action Enfoques culturales: La clave para promover la acción ambiental



NATURALLY LATINOS 2026: PRESENTERS (In Person)



Los Nuevos Diablos Cumbia de D.M.V



Youth panelists Nancy Reyes, Maya Quant and Xozy Grijalva



Ruby Stemmler of ecoLatinos



Naiyiri-Blu Booker of NYC Parks and Recreation



Nature Forward Executive Director Alison Pearce



NATURALLY LATINOS 2026 IMPACT: ATTENDEES

The conference's nearly 300 attendees enjoyed an outstanding lineup of presenters covering critical topics related to nature, culture, and community engagement. Participants also took advantage of opportunities to connect and network in person and via Whova, our virtual platform. Nature field trips on the third day of the conference offered even more time for connecting and learning.



CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

291 VIRTUAL & IN PERSON

COMMUNITY BOARD

369 TOTAL MESSAGES

AGENDA VIEWS

1,254

ATTENDEE INTERACTIONS

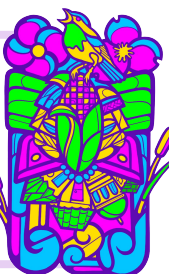
343 ONE-ON-ONE ATTENDEE MESSAGES SHARED ONLINE

"Thank you for such a seamless and engaging event."

Anh Phan
NOVA Parks



2026



NATURALLY LATINOS IMPACT: REACH

Robust web traffic, dynamic social media engagement, plus earned and paid media in the DC region helped to build awareness and excitement for the 2026 Naturally Latinos Conference and its presenters and sponsors. Additional outreach included email marketing and our Nature Forward Quarterly (12K readership).

WEBPAGE VIEWS

natureforward.org/naturally-latinos-2026

9,137 UNIQUE VIEWS
NOV. 1 - MAR. 28



AGENDA WEBPAGE VIEWS

5,909



SPEAKER WEBPAGE VIEWS

5,481



MEDIA COVERAGE



T44 WASHINGTON, DC

[Click to watch coverage on Telemundo Washington DC](#)

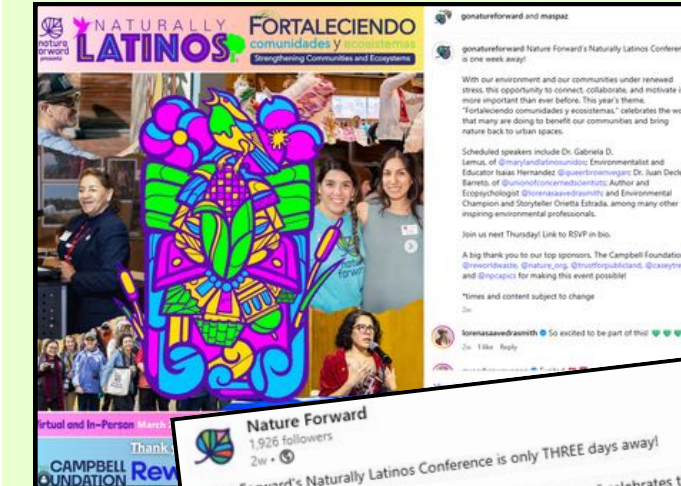


SOCIAL MEDIA



COMBINED IMPACT ACROSS FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, TIKTOK, LINKEDIN, YOUTUBE and BLUESKY

59 POSTS
57.4K REACH



5,595 ENGAGEMENT



NATURALLY LATINOS 2026 IMPACT: SPONSORS

During a time when some companies and organizations have backed away from diversity and inclusion initiatives, our 35 dedicated sponsors chose to step up.

"We are so proud to participate...
Congratulations on a great three days!!!"

Glenstone



SPONSOR IMPRESSIONS

78.2K

VIA BANNER ADS AND EXPOSURE
ON OUR VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
PLATFORM AND WEBSITE

VIRTUAL BOOTH VISITS

355

JOB POSTINGS

28

"Thank you so much
for organizing such a fantastic event.
I had a great time connecting with
other attendees."



Lindolfo Carballo
WE ARE CASA



¡Gracias!



Thank you!

Community Sponsors



Supporting Sponsors



Contributing Sponsors



In-Kind Sponsors



At a time of turmoil and challenge, your support of this event helped change lives. Critical spaces like Nature Forward's Naturally Latinos and Taking Nature Black Conferences are not possible without your dedicated belief in and support of spaces that uplift everyone.

¡Gracias!



Thank you!

Naturally Latinos Advisory Committee



Ana Arriaza



Jo Doumbia



Brenda V. Pérez Amador



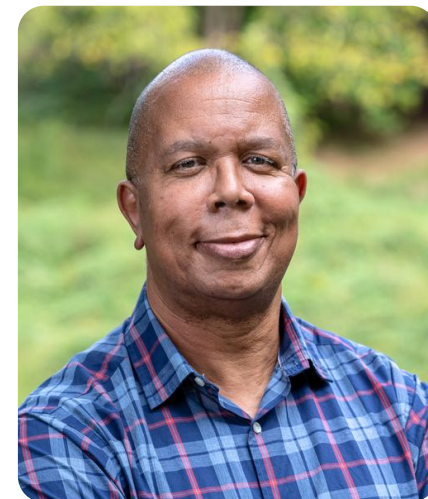
Marvin Pimentel



Joe Toolan



Gina Ghertner
Conference Chair



Vince Robinson
Associate Chair



Talissa Bavaresco
*Special Event &
Sponsorship Manager*

We are deeply grateful for the talent, vision, and leadership of our dedicated Naturally Latinos Advisory Committee members. Their time, creativity, and wisdom help make this event meaningful and memorable.

Thanks also to the Nature Forward staff, Board, and volunteers who help make this conference happen.

Your support of the Naturally Latinos Conference as a sponsor, attendee, volunteer, or supporter helps Nature Forward:



Educate tens of thousands of children about the natural world and foster a lifelong love of nature



Raise awareness about climate change threats and help build climate resilience in our community



Advocate for green energy and green infrastructure policies across the DC region

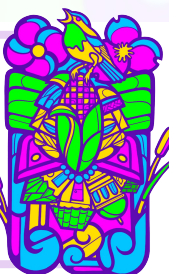


Protect and restore biodiversity and habitats for wildlife and ensure access to nature for all people

¡Muchas gracias!



2026





NATURALLY LATINOS[®] CONFERENCE

RETURNS 2028

COMING 2027

TAKING NATURE BLACK[®]

Information about sponsorship opportunities for both events is at natureforward.org/conferences-sponsorships

Nature Forward earns top ratings from independent non-profit evaluators for accountability, transparency, and financial best practices.



Donations to Nature Forward are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

THANK YOU, Latino Outdoors, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, and Glenstone Museum for leading bilingual nature experiences on March 28th. A Social Hike with Latino Outdoors guided attendees on a visit to Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. Montgomery County DEP showed participants "What happens when a landfill is full" during a tour of the capped Oaks landfill. And attendees experienced nature and art at Glenstone Museum.