

### Short biography



I moved to the US from my native Colombia in 1994. I earned a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a MA in Interdisciplinary Arts at Columbia College. In 2004 I became a National Board Certified Teacher in Art and renewed in 2014 while in Boston, making me the only NBCT in Art in Boston Public Schools [BPS]. I have been an art educator for 25 years. I taught in Chicago and Miami and, at the Mario Umana Academy in East Boston where, in addition to being the sole Art Teacher, I served as a Teach Plus/T3 Teacher Leader facilitating and leading the work of the Specialties team.

In 2012, I earned a Masters in Arts in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where I was honored with the 'Leadership in Education Award.' After graduating from Harvard, I became an Education Pioneers' Graduate School Fellow. I worked at BPS central office under the guidance of the Chief Academic Officer, developing a tool for school

administrators to assess culturally responsive practices in the classroom. This tool focused on channeling efforts to supporting teachers in closing the opportunity gap through the gradual implementation of research-based practices that improve the performance of underachieving students -mostly students of color, multi language learners, and students from historically marginalized groups.

I am a founding member of the BPS ALANA (African, LatinX, Asian, and Native American) affinity group. In 2014 I also became an instructor and mentor in the areas of Visual Arts and Specialties for the BPS Accelerated Community to Teacher (ACTT) Program, an initiative of the Office of Human Capital to increase the number of top teachers in the district who reflect the racial, cultural and linguistic diversity of our students and our community. I served as the ACTT lead designer and program coordinator from 2015-2019.

In 2017, I was awarded a Conant Fellowship to pursue a second graduate degree at the Harvard Graduate School of Education where I received a Master of Education in School Leadership -Principal Licensure strand. Upon graduating, I have been serving as the Director of Professional Learning and Instruction at the Boston Arts Academy where I continue to facilitate the Instructional Leadership Team while leading efforts in the areas of professional development, instructional coaching, educator evaluation, educator licensure and recruitment and cultivation.

My interest in environmental justice has been closely aligned to the work I have been doing around Anti-Racist practices in schools, and around diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging at the district and school level. I am particularly interested in the systemic racism in urban development, and ways in which community grassroot movements, and the arts have been used to address food deserts in our urban cities, most specifically in Chicago and the Greatest Boston Area.

My daughter, who recently graduated from Brandeis with a degree in Environmental Studies and who is interested in pursuing a career in Environmental Law has also been a great influence and inspiration in my understanding of our global climate crisis and environmental justice, most specifically on environmental racism. I am seeing ways in which my own work around DEI and my commitment to anti-racist practices are clearly aligned to the economic, environmental, and physical and mental health in our own communities, all of which require demanding a safe, clean community and sustainable work, leisure and learning environments