



CONSERVATION PROGRAM

BUILDING BRIDGES. CHANGING LIVES.

Hispanic Access Foundation's mission is to connect Latinos and others with partners and opportunities to improve lives and create an equitable society. A national nonprofit organization, we envision a future where every Latino in America enjoys good physical health and a healthy natural environment, a high-quality education, economic success, and civic engagement in his or her community with the sum of improving the future of our country.

Our founder and CEO, Maite Arce, immigrated as a young girl with her family to the U.S. from Mexico in search of a better life. While working in the nonprofit sector for many years, Maite realized how much easier life could have been for her parents had they had access to information, resources, and personalized guidance to help them navigate the surroundings of their adopted country. To help other families like her own, Maite founded Hispanic Access.

A multi-issue organization, our work spans from health outreach to educational opportunity, financial literacy, and environmental justice. Among our accomplishments, we have created meaningful federal internships for hundreds of young Latino professionals, helped to establish seven national monuments, built and trained a network of faith leaders representing more than 150,000 Latino churches, and assisted Latinos in receiving free health services. We frame our work through a social justice lens, elevating Latino voices that might otherwise be unheard.

Altogether, our work received more than 1,400 media mentions in 2021—on radio, television, and in print—and our CEO was invited to the White House in recognition of our environmental justice efforts.

CAMPAIGNING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Hispanic Access' conservation work brings Latino voices to the forefront of conservation policy and stewardship. Despite being among the fastest growing populations throughout the U.S., and in some areas the primary driver of population and economic growth, Latino communities are often absent from environmental decision making, even as they are particularly vulnerable to the consequences of climate disasters.

At the same time, Latinos consistently poll higher than other demographics in terms of their concern for climate change, support for nature protections, and love of the ocean. Hispanic Access harnesses this potential and activates Latino community leaders as climate and conservation advocacy leaders. We recruit, train, and mobilize Latino grassroots and grassroots leaders to advocate for change in the areas of ocean, public lands, waterways, and climate change.

CONSERVATION MATTERS



"Thank you, Hispanic Access Foundation, for giving me access to Congress that I otherwise wouldn't have."

Pablo Pantoja, Forest Service Advisory Council member

Pablo Pantoja is one of scores of environmental advocates recruited and trained by Hispanic Access Foundation. Through special initiatives such as Latino Advocacy Week and Latino Conservation Week, and through our work with elected officials, grassroots and pastoral leaders, and Latino communities, Hispanic Access is preserving American lands, waterways, and ocean while advocating for a just transition to a clean climate future.





DRIVING PUBLIC POLICY

Hispanic Access holds virtual fly-ins and public events; writes op-eds, support and sign-on letters, quotes, and press releases; collects comments; and leads and provides support to joint campaigns and coalitions. Our network advocates and team members meet regularly with congressional offices and collaborate with the relevant legislative committees and with the Biden administration. Hispanic Access also works to ensure that equity and justice considerations are incorporated into proposed environmental and climate legislation.



SPEARHEADING EVENTS

Each year, we organize Latino Conservation Week, which connects Latinos to the outdoors through hundreds of recreational events such as bird watching, fishing, and invasive species clean-ups; Latino Advocacy Week, which rallies Latinos across the nation to advocate for environmental protections on Capitol Hill; and Our Heritage, Our Planet film festival, which showcases dozens of environmental films by people of color.



CREATING RESOURCES AND TOOLS

Hispanic Access' wide array of resources and tools enable Latinos to become stronger, more informed advocates. Each year, we release our Conservation Policy Toolkit and Latino Advocacy Toolkit as well as other reports and white papers. We underwrite environmental films, commission polling on Latinos and the environment, create videos and graphics, tell stories through social media and blogs, and provide guidance on advocacy messaging.



MOBILIZING NETWORKS

Hispanic Access is at the forefront of mobilizing the general Latino public. Our environmental networks and groups include the Por la Creación (For Creation) faith-based Alliance and its advisory council, our Ocean Advisory Council, our Latino Climate Council, our Latino Conservation Week ambassadors, our Latino Heritage Scholars, and our U.S. Forest Service Advisory Council.

LOOKING FORWARD

Hispanic Access has ambitious goals for 2022. We are working to address the "nature gap" that exists between people of color and access to the outdoors; establish climate and disaster resilience for vulnerable communities; promote climate mitigation through a just transition lens; and ensure equity, justice and public health considerations in all conservation and climate efforts.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Ensuring that all members of our society enjoy the benefits of a healthy natural environment can be surprisingly inexpensive. **Last year, for example, Hispanic Access spent approximately \$160,000 to organize Latino Conservation Week.** This translated to only \$775 per event for exciting activities such as bird watching, whale watching, invasive species clean-ups, and more—including publicity, food, transportation, swag, and insurance costs. To stage Latino Advocacy Week in 2022—developing a toolkit, arranging for virtual meetings, and paying stipends to speakers and participants—required only \$52,800.

We invite you to contact our Director of Development, Luke Miguel Argleben, at luke@hispanicaccess.org or (571) 205-6264 (Eastern Time), to discuss opportunities for partnership.