

MANO PROJECT

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 efforts.

MEET OUR PARTNERS



"I'm currently working on writing articles, creating a podcast, and translating a publication for the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation program into Spanish. I've been able to interview and connect with project managers all over the country. I've also met volunteers and organization leaders and learned firsthand the impact the program has on communities."

Alisson Vera
MANO Project intern, Washington, D.C.

Alison is one of hundreds of young professionals who have participated in Hispanic Access Foundation's MANO (My Access to Network Opportunities) Project. By brokering meaningful paid internships with federal agencies across the country, Hispanic Access is giving people of color the opportunity to advance in their careers.



THE MANO PROJECT EXTENDS A HELPING HAND

Launched in 2015, Hispanic Access' MANO Project serves to connect, build, and develop thoughtful Latino and other minority leaders who share a passion for serving and strengthening their communities. With MANO, Hispanic Access brokers partnerships with federal agencies and recruits current college students or graduates (ages 18 to 35) across the country to serve in rigorous federal internships and fellowships.

A special feature of the MANO Project is that all internships are paid – allowing low-income individuals the opportunity to enjoy a leg up in their careers they otherwise could not afford. Fernando Lara, a first-generation college student who is working his way through school, shares, “Before learning about the MANO Project, I saw similar internships. However, they were unpaid, and I could not participate because I wouldn’t have had time to do the internship, work, and still go to school. Thankfully, MANO’s paid internship has paved the way for me to actually get into a field I’m passionate about without the burden of wondering if I was going to be able to pay the rent.”

As of today, more than 450 alumni have participated in the MANO Project, and our current cohort includes 115 interns serving at least six months in the National Park Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Forest Service.



Currently, the MANO Project is planning our first-ever suite of job placement services for program alumni. This professional development suite will include seminars on building a personal brand, parlaying bicultural strengths, networking with other professionals, drafting a professional resume, and improving interview skills. Participating alumni will also enjoy mentoring opportunities and the opportunity to participate in a virtual job fair featuring dozens of potential employers across the country.

Hispanic Access Foundation is also aiming to expand the MANO Project into the private sector. We are currently seeking out corporations who prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion to partner with us in placing young minority professionals in meaningful paid internships in their organizations.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Helping young minority professionals to advance in their career paths can be surprisingly cost effective. For \$52,140, Hispanic Access is able to offer an array of job placement services—including professional development seminars, mentoring, and job fairs—to 100 MANO Project alumni. This translates to just \$521 per person.

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.

