

Get to Know Your Hispanic/Latinx Environmentalists!



Nemonte Nenquimo

Nemonte Nenquimo is an indigenous Waorani woman and co-founder of an indigenous-led nonprofit called Ceibo Alliance. Nemonte pushes to defend Waorani territory. The Waorani people are hunter harvesters and depend on the Amazon for their well-being. Oil companies have pushed the Waorani people into one-tenth of their original territory. The presence of oil companies has contributed to oil spills and degradation of the habitat. Nemonte started to document areas of the Waorani territory that has medicinal plants and sacred areas. Nemonte has also amplified the voices of her community in the media to reach the world.

Mark! Lopez

Mark! addresses environmental injustices in the East LA area. East LA's battery recycling plant is called "Excite" which expels toxic fumes from the lead in batteries that pollute the air quality in the community. The lead levels in the air are harmful leading to health complications like cancer. Mark!'s mission was to alert the public about the injustices happening in their neighborhood. This raised awareness allowed soil testing and it revealed the lead levels were alarming. The Excite plant closed because of its production of hazardous waste.



Libia Gueso

Libia Gueso is a social worker and co-founder of the Process of Black Communities (PCN). Libia fought for the rights of the Afro-Colombian community that the government was trying to displace the community that lives on the coast of Buenaventura. She also wanted to protect the Colombia Pacific Rainforest from gold mining, and logging. She worked closely with people who lived along the Yurumanguí River to promote sustainable practices. Despite the dangers of being an outspoken activist, she seeks to preserve the Afro-Colombian culture and the environment.)



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Berta Cáceres

A Berta Cáceres is one of the leading organizers for indigenous lands, and conservationist in the early 90's. She was the co-founder of Council Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH). She worked on a project to prevent the building of a dam across a sacred river in Honduras. The dam would prevent local indigenous tribe called the Lenca people from receiving medical, and food supplies. Unfortunately, she was assassinated in 2016.

Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš

Marce is an environmental justice advocate who found her love for the earth through commercial fishing. She is the Founder of Azul an organization working with Latinos to conserve marine resources. Azul has helped to construct policy on shark fin ban and plastic ban in California.



Rodrigo Tot

Rodrigo Tot is a farmer and indigenous leader for the Q'eqchi' people. In the 1960s as the mining industry grows nickel deposits are discovered on Q'eqchi' land. The rivers were becoming polluted and farms become less productive. Rodrigo noticed that the land ownership was turned to the mining industry. He collected information to prove indigenous ownership. In 2011 Rodrigo was able to restore property rights for the Q'eqchi' people.

"We must be united because if not we cannot win. Its only unity that gives us strength where we can all feel supported to fight for the common good."
- Rodrigo Tot (2017 Goldman Environmental Prize, Guatemala Documentary)

