

Tania Rosario-Méndez

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Profile

An honest and trustworthy professional with 20 years of experience in the non-profit sector. Diligent, methodical, and resourceful, she has a solid background integrating project management, cultural and community work, popular education and activism for women and girls' rights. Flexible to changing scenarios that require immediate problem solving and prioritization; able to work under pressure.

Experience

Jul / 2016-present EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **Taller Salud Inc.**, Loíza, Puerto Rico / www.tallersalud.com
Chief executive officer of the organization.
Tasks:

- Lead the work of the organization based on its vision, mission, and philosophy, promoting open discussions and generating spaces that foster consensus and teamwork.
- Carry out a development strategy to meet annual fundraising goals
- Direct and guarantee the compliance of goals outlined in the organization's strategic plan with support from the Board
- Oversight of all the programmatic and administrative work.

Achievements:

- Lead a community response to Hurricane Fiona that distributed over one million dollars in water, food, supplies, medical & housing assistance reaching over 8,000 families in 18 municipalities of Puerto Rico and resulting in the establishment of three Resilient Community Hubs.
- Lead a community response to the COVID-19 pandemic that reached over 12,000 families in 5 municipalities in Puerto Rico with food, access to broadband, medical assistance, and remote services for gender-based victims.
- Lead a community response to the emergency of Hurricanes Irma and María that distributed over three million dollars in water, food, supplies, medical & housing assistance reaching over 20,000 families in 15 municipalities of Puerto Rico.
- Since 2016 Taller Salud has won the Pioneer Organization in Health Equity Award (2016, Puerto Rico Public Health Conference); the Tina Hills Special Edition for Hurricane Maria Award (2018, Fundación Angel Ramos); the Richard Holbrooke Humanitarian Award (2019, Refugees International) and the Tina Hills Annual Award for outstanding Work in the Non-Profit Sector (2021, Fundación Angel Ramos), Invincible Partner of the Year Award (2022, Planned Parenthood Federation of America).

Jun / 2015-
Jul / 2016

COORDINATOR OF EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, **Coordinadora Paz para la Mujer, Inc.** (Puerto Rican Coalition against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault), San Juan, Puerto Rico / www.pazparalamujer.org
Coordination of educational services and technical assistance that the Coalition offers to its member organizations.
Tasks:

- Design and execution of work plans, program reports and evaluations.

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- Selection, hiring and supervision of independent contractors to offer educational services and technical assistance in the programmed areas.

Achievements:

- Implemented a TASK FORCE for drug trafficking and domestic violence at the island level promote a coordinated work of public policy, education, and awareness.
- She was invited to participate as a speaker at the National Sexual Assault Conference for her work with Obstetric Violence.

Oct/2012-
Jun/2015

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR **Taller Salud Inc.**, Loíza, Puerto Rico / www.tallersalud.com

Operational direction of the organization's programs that promote through direct service: the sexual and reproductive health of women, the prevention of sexual assault and child abuse and the prevention of risk behaviors in adolescents.

Tasks:

- Support the Executive Director in the administrative and operational tasks deemed necessary, including the fundraising through the identification and drafting of proposals.
- Responsible for recruitment, training, supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the staff in charge of the programs.
- Design and drafting of work plans, program budgets, progress reports and quantitative and qualitative evaluations.
- Design, adaptation, and supervision of health education curricula specialized in sex ed and violence prevention with participatory education methodologies anchored in human rights approaches and harm reduction strategies.
- Representation of the organization in national, regional, and global instances that advocate for human rights with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive rights.

Achievements:

- Only 18 months after being hired as Program Facilitator, she was promoted to the Program Director position.
- She instituted a system of bimonthly programmatic meetings that allowed greater cohesion between programs, strengthened teamwork and interpersonal dynamics. and increased the productivity and sense of belonging of the employees.
- Designed, identified, and achieved approval of funds for three new programs: Prenatal Community Peer Educators, Grandmothers raising children and Comprehensive Sexual Education.

Abr/2011 –
Sept/2012

PROGRAMATIC FACILITATOR **Taller Salud Inc.**, Loíza, Puerto Rico / www.tallersalud.com

General coordination of "A right to grow in peace" program aimed at reinforcing nonviolent upbringing skills to decrease child abuse rates in Puerto Rico northeast region.

Tasks:

- Serve as speaker and group facilitator.
- Manage outreach efforts, and foster alliances with other NGO's

2000-2011

PROJECT MANAGER/CULTURAL EVENTS INDEPENDENT PRODUCER, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Develop artistic, educational and community organization projects either self-produced or commissioned by clients.

Some featured projects:

Filius Institute (UPR-RP), San Juan, Puerto Rico (2008-2010)

Tasks:

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- Design and facilitate a methodology to strengthen communication skills through art aimed at children and young people with functional diversity.
- Develop with health professionals, social workers, and researchers a bio-psychosocial support program for young people and their families.

Communication Project for Special Communities (PROCOM) / WIPR - Channel 6, San Juan, Puerto Rico (2002-2009)

Popular education and community organization project dedicated to providing social communication tools in the "Special Communities"

Tasks:

- Design and facilitate a popular education and risk reduction methodology aimed at young people and adults, through theater and film.
- Request, obtain and administer public funds to offer artistic residences from 3 to 6 months in 8 special communities around the island.

Re-housing Project of the Cantera Peninsula / San Juan, Puerto Rico (2000-2001)

Tasks:

- Design and facilitate a popular education methodology through theater directed to mobilize the community to actions for the dredging of the Caño Martín Peña and the relocation of residents at greater risk.

Art, popular education, and community organizing projects

2008-2016

FOUNDER **Mujer Cambiante**, San Juan, Puerto Rico / www.mujiercambiante.com

Project that advocates for the integral health of girls and women through self-knowledge, art and activism.

Achievements:

- Create a methodology that integrates art tools to promote the self-knowledge about the menstrual cycle to over 300 girls, young women, and adult women.
- Offer prenatal education and support during childbirth and postpartum to over 100 families.
- Obtain and manage public and private funds to offer the project at a low cost.
- Design actions and campaigns of cyber-activism in favor of equity, health and sexual and reproductive rights of girls, young women, and adult women.

2002-2016

FOUNDER **Círculo de Memoria**, San Juan, Puerto Rico / www.circulodememoria.com

Art project of oral history and intergenerational dialogue for elderly people.

Achievements:

- Create a transdisciplinary methodology that uses multiple stimuli to recover, restore and transform the memories of the participants. Preserve these memories in printed publications or audio or video pieces to promote the health of the elderly.
- Obtain and manage public and private funds to offer the project free of charge to over 1000 elderly people from various communities in the country.
- Write and direct the documentary "Stones: memories of an urban river" that uses this methodology to rescue oral history about the Piedras River (2012).
- Write and direct the documentary "Entering the circle of memory" (2014) that uses this methodology to rescue the oral history of the transformation of Puerto Rico among the 1930-1960 (2014).
- Produce radio pods "Old is the wind" where older women narrate their childhood anecdotes and of what life was like in yesterday's Puerto Rico (2015).

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Education

- 2015-2017 **University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus**
Master in Public Health
Magna Cum Laude
- 1995 -2000 **University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus**
BA in Humanities, Majors: Drama and History
Magna Cum Laude
Winner of the “Leopoldo Santiago Lavandero” Award for Academic Achievements

Certifications

- 2019 *Global Ambassadors Program, Vital Voices, San Juan, Puerto Rico*
- 2015 *Abortion Doula, Boston Doula Project & Taller Salud, San Juan, Puerto Rico*
- 2013-2014 *Community Development and Leadership, Graduate Certificate, Instituto de Liderazgo, Empresarismo y Ciudadanía, Universidad Sagrado Corazón*
- 2014 *Strategies for Social Change, AIDS United, San Juan Puerto Rico*
- 2012-2013 *Community Based Participatory Research, Professional Certificate, Puerto Rico Translational Consortium for Clinical Research, San Juan, Puerto Rico*
- 2011 *Group Facilitator for Grandparents Raising Children, Relatives as Parents Program, Brookdale Foundation, Denver, Colorado, USA*
- 2011 *Community Mobilizing for a Puerto Rico free from HIV Latino Aids Commission, San Juan, Puerto Rico*
- 2010 *Pospartum Trauma Prevention, Birthing From Within™, New Mexico, USA*
- 2008 *Menstrual Cycle Educator, La Tienda Roja™, Formación Online, Amigas Do Parto, Brasil*
- 2007-2010 *Childbirth Educator and Doula, Birthing From Within™ Santa Barbara, California, USA*
- 2004 *Prenatal Educator, Asociación Perinatal Nacional, Madrid, España*
- 2003 *Birth and Pospartum Doula Doula Caribe, San Juan, Puerto Rico*
- 2003 *Theatre Semiotics, Casa Malayerba, Quito, Ecuador*
- 2001 *Forum Theatre, Theatre of the oppressed Center, Prof. Augusto Boal, Río de Janeiro, Brasil*
- 1999 *Cultural Anthropology, Grupo Yuyachkani, Lima, Perú*
- 1998 *Theatre as a popular education tool, Movimiento de Expresión Campesina MECATE, Managua, Nicaragua*
- 1997 *Community Theatre, Bread & Puppet Theatre, Prof. Peter Schuman, Vermont, USA*

Boards and Professional Associations

- 2020-present Puerto Rico’s Gender Equality Observatory, Founder & Board Member
- 2019-present The Maria Fund, Founder & Board Member
- 2017-present Latin American and Caribbean Women’s Health Network (LACWHN), Board Member
- 2020-2023 Puerto Rico Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Board Member
- 2020-2021 Ciencia PR-Aquí nos cuidamos (COVID-19 Special Project), Advisory Board Member

Awards and Recognitions

Ted Talk Youth Speaker (2019); Vital Voices Mentee (2019); Urban Angel Award from the New York Theological Society (2020); Rafael & Celestina Cordero Award for Shapers of hope from the Puerto Rico Community Foundation (2021).

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Skills

Experience in staff supervision, program compliance, and organizational development. Extensive knowledge in design, implementation, evaluation and management of projects and programs. Bilingual (English-Spanish). Proper management of the Internet and MAC and PC platforms. Extensive experience in collection and administration of private and public funds. Excellent communication, writing, editing and translation skills. Extensive experience in the development of interdisciplinary curricula, participatory methodologies, and community work. Excellent leadership skills, organization, teamwork, and time management.