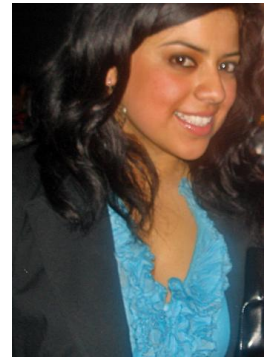


Youth Speak Collective Staff Spotlight



Name: Mayra Esparza

Title: Youth Services Coordinator

Education: University of California, Davis
B.A. in Native & Latin American Hemispheric Studies, History

Hometown: Pacoima, CA

Family: My family consists of my amazing Mother, three older sisters and two younger brothers. I'm the fourth of six children.

Hobbies:

Hip-Hop. Though, I love to explore new music all the time. Music inspires me on every level, intellectually, physically and emotionally. On the other hand, I absolutely love watching basketball and the NBA! I have a lot of love for the Los Angeles Lakers.

How did you come to Youth Speak Collective?

I started working with Youth Speak Collective in February of 2008 and it has been one of my greatest blessings. I work in my community and for the future and well being of our nation's future leaders.

What is your role at Youth Speak Collective?

I am the Youth Services Coordinator, my role is to manage our youth programs and ensure that we stay true to our YSC beliefs, goals and mission. My goal is to ensure that everyone in our community will feel safe and proud of where they come from. As a community, we have a long way to go, but my role within the organization is one step closer to achieving this goal.

What is the best part of your role?

The best part of my role is that I get to interact with youth and get to see the talented young minds of our future leaders. Every day is a new a reason for me to have hope for my community and the progress we are making.

What is your favorite TV Channel?

I love watching Basketball, (ESPN, Fox Sports West) and of course, I'm a geek and I love watching Law & Order on TNT.

Favorite place you have been and why?

My favorite place in the whole wide world is Mexico City. I had the opportunity to study abroad there in 2006 after the Presidential elections. It was quite a remarkable time to live in the epicenter of a nation's capital after such a controversial electoral process. To date, it has been one of the most memorable experiences I've ever had.

Where is the next place you would like to go?

I'd love to take a trip throughout all of Latin America, especially Cuba and the surrounding islands.

What makes you laugh/cry?

Dave Chappelle makes me laugh.