

# TLN 10 most influential Hispanic Canadians 2024

Keynote by U.S. Consul General and high-end entertainment

*Copa Airlines, Deloitte, Latina Beer and others sponsored the program*

**Toronto, November 8, 2024** – The TLN 10 Most Influential Hispanic Canadians were announced last night shining a spotlight on excellence, resilience, and cultural pride. Highlights from the evening included powerful welcome remarks from Anaida Poilievre, online publisher and wife of Conservative Party of Canada leader Pierre Poilievre; an inspiring keynote from Baxter Hunt, U.S. Consul General in Toronto; and performances from the Mexican Folk Ballet and by award-winning jazz prodigy Hilario Duran, past program awardee - all hosted by TLN's own Camila Gonzalez.

The program was presented by TLN Media Group with the Canadian Hispanic Business Alliance. The event was attended by over 200 people including past awardees and Consuls from Spanish speaking countries. Sponsors included Copa Airlines, Deloitte, Latina Beer, Connect Education, PowerXL, Booth Levels, Kasa Frida, Chile Unido, Caffé Barbone, Chef Luciano Schipano, The Financial Forum, Real Empanada, Harvest Planet, Canadian Hispanic Congress, Villa Charities, Salsa in Toronto Festival, Univision Canada and TLN Television. The awardees, including two new categories (People's Choice & Social Media Influencer), are listed below - bios and pictures follow.

- Alejandra Ruiz (Col/ON): President, Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now
- Ana Gabriela Juarez (Gua/ON): President, CTA Environmental Consultants
- Dr. Carlos Silva (Mex/QC): Canada Research Chair and Director of Quebec's Institut Courtois
- Claudio Rojas (Ven/ON): CEO, National Angel Capital Organization
- Cristina Flores (Mex/ON): Board Member, World Rugby Federation
- Daniel Tisch Echavarria (Spa/Uru/ON): CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce
- Felipe Tellez (Col/ON): BIPOC music composer and teacher
- Dr. Horacio Osiovich (Arg/BC): Neonatologist, BC Women's Hospital
- Isabel Perez (Ecu/ON): Director, Funding, Canadian Mental Health Association
- Sinara Rozo (Col/ON): Director, Alucine Latin Film & Media Arts
  - Cristina Caballero (Col/ON): Journalist and digital media strategist – *People's choice award*
  - Carlos Brito (Ecu/ON): *Social Media Influencer*

"As part of TLN Media Group's 40th anniversary celebrations, we are proud to present the TLN 10 Most Influential Hispanic Canadians Awards in partnership with program creator Mauricio Ospina," said Aldo Di Felice, President of TLN Media Group. "Felicitaciones to all of this year's award recipients."

Laura Marin, Sales Manager Canada for Copa Airlines said: "Copa Airlines, with 77 years of service as a leading airline in the Americas, extends its heartfelt congratulations to this year's winners. We take great pride in being the airline that connects the vibrant Hispanic communities of Toronto and Montreal to over 55 destinations across Latin America and the Caribbean".

TLN 10 most influential Hispanic Canadians now boasts 160 awardees from 18 countries in 6 provinces. The program has been personally recognized by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Prime and Cabinet Ministers, and the Parliament of Canada – among others. The program raised the profile and secured \$230,000 in scholarships for the community and locked in business and housing opportunities during the 2015 Pan American Games. For more information, please visit [www.tln.ca/top10/](http://www.tln.ca/top10/) and/or [www.HispanicBusiness.ca](http://www.HispanicBusiness.ca)

# 10 hispano-canadienses más influyentes de TLN 2024

## Intervención de Cónsul General de USA y entretenimiento de alto nivel

Toronto, 8 de noviembre de 2024 – Anoche se anunciaron los 10 hispanos canadienses más influyentes de Canadá, destacando la excelencia y el orgullo cultural. La velada incluyó poderosas palabras de bienvenida de Anaida Poilievre, editora en línea y esposa del líder del Partido Conservador de Canadá Pierre Poilievre; un inspirador discurso de Baxter Hunt, Cónsul General de los Estados Unidos en Toronto; y actuaciones del Ballet Folclórico Mexicano y del prodigio del jazz Hilario Durán, anterior ganador del programa; con Camila González de TLN como maestra de ceremonias.

El programa fue presentado por TLN Media Group y el Canadian Hispanic Business Alliance. Al evento asistieron más de 200 personas, incluidos antiguos premiados y cónsules de países de habla hispana. Los patrocinadores incluyeron Copa Airlines, Deloitte, Latina Beer, Connect Education, PowerXL, Booth Levels, Kasa Frida, Chile Unido, Caffé Barbone, Chef Luciano Schipano, Real Empanada, The Financial Forum, Canadian Hispanic Congress, Villa Harvest Planet, Villa Charities, Salsa in Toronto Festival, Univision Canada y TLN Television. Los premiados, incluidas dos nuevas categorías (People's Choice e Influencer de redes sociales), van a continuación - biografías e imágenes más adelante.

- Alejandra Ruiz (Col/ON): Presidenta, Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now
- Ana Gabriela Juárez (Gua/ON): Presidenta, CTA Environmental Consultants
- Dr. Carlos Silva (Mex/QC): Catedrático de investigación de Canadá y Director de Institut Courtois
- Claudio Rojas (Ven/ON): CEO, National Angel Capital Organization
- Cristina Flores (Mex/ON): Miembro del Consejo Directivo, Federación Mundial de Rugby
- Daniel Tisch Echavarría (Spa/Uru/ON): CEO, Cámara de Comercio de Ontario
- Felipe Téllez (Col/ON): Compositor y profesor de música BIPOC
- Dr. Horacio Osioviich (Arg/BC): Experto en neonatología, BC Women's Hospital
- Isabel Perez (Ecu/ON): Directora, Sostenimiento, Canadian Mental Health Association
- Sinara Rozo (Col/ON): Directora, Alucine Latin Film & Media Arts
  - *Cristina Caballero* (Col/ON): Periodista y estrategia en medios digitales – Voto popular
  - *Carlos Brito* (Ecu/ON): Influenciador de Medios Sociales - Ganador

“Como parte de las celebraciones del 40 aniversario de TLN Media Group, estamos orgullosos de presentar los premios TLN a los 10 hispanos canadienses más influyentes en asociación con el creador del programa Mauricio Ospina”, dijo Aldo Di Felice, presidente de TLN Media Group. “Felicitaciones a todos los ganadores de los premios de este año”.

Laura Marín, Gerente de Ventas para Canadá de Copa Airlines dijo: “Copa Airlines, con 77 años de servicio como aerolínea líder en América, extiende sus más sinceras felicitaciones a los ganadores de este año. Estamos muy orgullosos de ser la aerolínea que conecta las vibrantes comunidades hispanas de Toronto y Montreal con más de 55 destinos en América Latina y el Caribe”.

Los ‘10 hispanos de mayor influencia en Canadá’ cuenta con 160 galardonados de 18 países de origen en 6 provincias. El programa ha sido reconocido personalmente por el secretario general de la Organización de los Estados Americanos, primeros ministros, ministros del gabinete, alcaldes y el Parlamento de Canadá. Este programa ha recaudado \$230,000 en becas para la comunidad, elevando al tiempo el perfil de la comunidad, y asegurando oportunidades comerciales y de vivienda durante los Juegos Panamericanos de 2015. Mas información en [www.tln.ca/top10/](http://www.tln.ca/top10/) y [www.HispanicBusiness.ca](http://www.HispanicBusiness.ca).

# 10 Hispaniques les plus influents au Canada TLN 2024

Intervention du Consul Général des USA et animations de haut niveau

Toronto, le 8 novembre 2024 – Hier soir, les 10 Canadiens hispaniques les plus influents au Canada ont été annoncés, soulignant l'excellence et la fierté culturelle. La soirée comprenait des mots de bienvenue puissants d'Anaida Poilievre, rédactrice en ligne et épouse du chef du Parti conservateur du Canada Pierre Poilievre ; un discours inspirant de Baxter Hunt, consul général des États-Unis à Toronto ; et des performances du ballet folklorique mexicain et du prodige du jazz Hilario Durán, précédent lauréat du programme ; avec Camila González de TLN comme maîtresse de cérémonie.

Le programme a été présenté par TLN Media Group et la Canadian Hispanic Business Alliance. Plus de 200 personnes ont assisté à l'événement, parmi lesquelles d'anciens lauréats et consuls de pays hispanophones. Les sponsors comprenaient Copa Airlines, Deloitte, Latina Beer, Connect Education, PowerXL, Booth Levels, Kasa Frida, Chile Unido, Caffé Barbone, le chef Luciano Schipano, The Financial Forum, Real Empanada, Canadian Hispanic Congress, Villa Harvest Planet, Villa Charities, Salsa in Toronto Festival, Univision Canada et TLN Television. Les gagnants, les deux derniers dans des catégories spéciales, ci-dessous - biographies et photographies à la fin.

- Alejandra Ruiz (Col/ON): Présidente, Assoc. des organismes comm. pour la réforme maintenant
- Ana Gabriela Juárez (Gua/ON): Présidente, CTA Environmental Consultants
- Dr. Carlos Silva (Mex/QC): Chaire de recherche du Canada et directrice de l'Institut Courtois
- Claudio Rojas (Ven/ON): CEO, National Angel Capital Organization
- Cristina Flores (Mex/ON): Membre du conseil d'administration de la Fédération mondiale de rugby
- Daniel Tisch Echavarría (Spa/Uru/ON): PDG, Chambre de commerce de l'Ontario
- Felipe Tellez (Col/ON): Compositeur et professeur de musique BIPOC
- Dr. Horacio Osiovič (Arg/BC): Experte en néonatalogie, BC Women's Hospital
- Isabel Perez (Ecu/ON): Directeur, maintien, Association canadienne pour la santé mentale
- Sinara Rozo (Col/ON): Directrice, Alucine Latin Film & Media Arts
  - *Cristina Caballero* (Col/ON): Journaliste et stratège médias numériques – Vote populaire
  - *Carlos Brito* (Ecu/ON): Influenceur des médias sociaux - gagnant

« Dans le cadre des célébrations du 40e anniversaire de TLN Media Group, nous sommes fiers de présenter les TLN Top 10 Most Influential Canadian Hispanic Awards en partenariat avec le créateur de l'émission Mauricio Ospina », a déclaré Aldo Di Felice, président de TLN Media Group. "Félicitations à tous les lauréats de cette année."

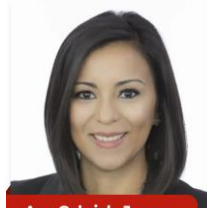
Laura Marin, directrice des ventes Canada pour Copa Airlines, dit: «Copa Airlines, avec 77 années de service en tant que compagnie aérienne leader dans les Amériques, adresse ses sincères félicitations aux gagnants de cette année. Nous sommes très fiers d'être la compagnie aérienne qui relie les communautés hispaniques dynamiques de Toronto et de Montréal à plus de 55 destinations en Amérique latine et dans les Caraïbes ».

Le TLN 10 Canadiens hispaniques les plus influents compte 150 lauréats de 18 pays dans 6 provinces. Le programme a été personnellement reconnu par le secrétaire général de l'Organisation des États américains, les premiers ministres et le Cabinet et le Parlement du Canada. De plus, le programme a obtenu 230 000 \$ en bourses d'études pour la communauté, rehaussé le profil de la communauté et verrouillé des opportunités d'affaires et de logement pendant les Jeux panaméricains de 2015. Plus d'informations sur [www.HispanicBusiness.ca](http://www.HispanicBusiness.ca) et [www.tln.ca/top10/](http://www.tln.ca/top10/).

PICTURE and BIOS (next page)



**Alejandra Ruiz**  
 President ACORN Canada



**Ana Gabriela Juarez**  
 President, CTA Environmental Consultat



**Dr. Carlos Silva**  
 Director of the Institut Courtois



**Claudio Rojas**  
 CEO, National Angel Capital Org



**Cristina Flores**  
 Board Member, World Rugby Federation



**Daniel Tisch Echevarria**  
 CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce



**Felipe Tellez**  
 BIPOC music composer and teacher



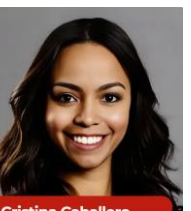
**Dr. Horacio Osioovich**  
 Neonatologist, BC Women's Hospital



**Isabel Perez Doherty**  
 Dir., Funding, Can Mental Health Asst



**Sinara Roza**  
 aluCine Latin Film+Media Arts Festival



**Cristina Caballero**  
 Journalist, digital media strategist



**Carlos Brito**  
 @torontolatinos



# THANK YOU

We are very grateful to the following partners who have contributed their time, money and hearts to fostering our cause.



### **Alejandra Ruiz Verga (ON/Col):** President ACORN Canada, national anti-poverty advocate

A housing worker originally from Colombia, Alejandra has been involved with ACORN since 2015 becoming its president this year. ACORN Canada is the most important national organization of low and moderate-income people with 177,000+ members organized into 30 neighbourhood chapters in 10 regions across 6 provinces. Alejandra is regularly quoted in mainstream media including the Globe and Mail, CBC, and the Toronto Star. Alejandra has led meetings and actions on issues such as childcare, remittances, and employment insurance reform with a strong passion for affordable housing, tenant rights and state of good repair issues. Since 2004, ACORN Canada has won several important victories across the country on issues related to housing, payday lending legislation, raises in the minimum wage, affordable internet programs, disability rights and more. In housing, ACORN has won hundreds of millions in repairs, stopped displacement, and won protections like landlord licensing and registration, municipal anti-tenant displacement laws, stricter rent control laws, inclusionary zoning and more. In fair banking, ACORN won several ballots against predatory lenders and recently the federal government launched a consultation to lower the interest rates of installment loans. On internet access, ACORN launched the Internet for All campaign in 2013 which calls for affordable, high-speed internet for all low-income people and fixed-income seniors. Other issues being by ACORN fought include childcare access and social assistance.

### **Ana Gabriela Juarez (ON/Gua):** President, CTA Environmental Consultants

Ana Gabriela Juárez was recognized in 2022 by Woman in Mining UK as one of the 100 Most Inspirational Women in mining globally. She holds the distinction of being the first Guatemalan and one of the pioneering Central American women to serve on the board of a publicly traded mining company, at Royal Road Minerals. With over 20 years of experience in the mining industry, Ana has consistently championed environmental sustainability and responsible mining practices. Based in Toronto, Ana is the President of CTA Environmental Consultants' Canadian operations, with additional offices in Mexico, Chile, and Guatemala. She is the founder of Women in Mining Central America, a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing gender diversity and empowerment within the mining sector. Ana's professional excellence is matched by her commitment to education and empowerment. Through Women in Mining Central America, she has spearheaded mentorship programs and educational initiatives, significantly enhancing STEM education for aspiring young professionals. Her groundbreaking book, *Ana's Adventures at the Mine: The Secret of La Esperanza*, has achieved bestseller status in 38 Amazon categories worldwide and is available in English, Portuguese, Arabic, and Spanish. This book, aimed at inspiring young girls to explore mining careers, underscores Ana's dedication to fostering the next generation of industry leaders.

### **Dr. Carlos Silva (Mex/QC):** Canada Research Chair and Director of the Institut Courtois

Prof. Carlos Silva Acuña is a leading global figure in materials physics, with specific expertise on ultrafast spectroscopies to unveil the most consequential properties of new exotic materials. He is the Director of the Institut Courtois, a premier research center focused on new materials, quantum physics, robotics and artificial intelligence (AI), and professor in the Département de Physique at the Université de Montréal. He holds a Canada Excellence Research Chair in Light-Matter Interactions, the country's most prestigious research and funding program. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and the American Physical Society. Of Mexican descent, he holds dual bachelor's degrees in physics and chemistry and a Ph.D. in chemical physics from the University of Minnesota. He has worked as a postdoctoral fellow and EPSRC Advanced Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge, and as a visiting professor at Imperial College London, the Italian Institute of Technology, Centro de Investigación y Estudios Avanzados (CINVESTAV, Unidad Mérida), where he is currently appointed and Honorary Professor Applied Physics, and the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM, Institute for Materials Research). From 2005 to 2018, he was a professor in the Department of Physics at the University of Montreal, where he established an ultrafast laser spectroscopy laboratory and held a Canada Research Chair in Organic Semiconductor Materials. From 2018-2023, he was a professor of chemistry, physics, and materials science at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he was also co-director of the Center for Organic Photonics and Electronics.

### **Claudio Rojas (ON/Ven):** CEO, National Angel Capital Organization

As head of the National Angel Capital Organization (NACO), Claudio leads 4,000 angel investors that have invested \$1.54 billion into more than 2,000 portfolio companies. An innovative and socially conscious organization itself, NACO last year launched a national women's initiative to support women entrepreneurs across the country. NACO also supports 50 incubators and accelerators, and 45 angel groups. A seasoned investor with 16 years of professional experience, Claudio is passionate about empowering entrepreneurs with increased access to capital and transforming Canada into the world's leading innovation economy. His Venezuelan heritage profoundly influences his community involvement for women and immigrants. Under his guidance, NACO partnered with Canada's Start-up Visa program, welcoming hundreds of newcomer entrepreneurs. Claudio also leads NACO's National Women's Initiative - a program that enhances national connectivity, education and capital accessibility, and mobilizes more women angel investors. Claudio is a CFA Charterholder with an MBA from the Ivey Business School, JD from Western University, and is a lawyer and member of the Law Society of Ontario, Institute of Corporate Directors, and the European Corporate Governance Institute. He is a published author in the UBC Law Review, with a forthcoming publication with Forbes Books, and his work has been featured by the University of Oxford. Beyond his professional life, Claudio is a devoted husband and father to two young daughters, ages three weeks and four years old.

### **Cristina Flores Justic (Mex/ON):** Board Member, World Rugby Fed'on & Cdn Int'l Council

A trailblazer for women's rugby in Canada and internationally, a diplomat, leader and philanthropist, Cristina arrived in Canada in 1976 from Mexico. Currently, she is one of 18 women elected worldwide on the World Rugby Council (WRC) as a member of the Regional Committee representing North American Rugby (Canada, USA, Mexico and the Caribbean), and a member of their Audit & Risk committee. The WRC is an international federation comprising more than 500 million fans and eight million players, within 132 member federations. Cristina served on the WRC's Governance Workgroup and as Chair of the

Finance Committee. She has been on various Boards, including Rugby Canada and the Mexican Rugby Federation. Cristina is also a Board Member and Treasurer at the prestigious Canadian International Council (Toronto branch), a Canadian think tank on foreign relations and a forum for discussion on Canada's place in the world. As a diplomat, she was the Consul in charge of Academic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation with the Mexican Consulate in Toronto and in Montreal. In leadership, she held the title of Executive Director of the influential Canadian Council for the Americas. Fluent in Spanish, French and English, she has a degree in Physical Education from UNB and Psychology from McMaster, and a designation in Corporate Governance from the Institute of Corporate Directors. Cristina volunteers in Hamilton, Ontario with the Police Victim Services, St. Joseph's Hospital and the Hamilton Philharmonic.

### **Daniel Tish Echavarria (Uru/Spa/ON): President & CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce**

As CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce with 60,000 business members, Daniel Tisch Echevarria (APR, FCPRS, ICD.D) is a business, public policy and community leader with executive and governance roles in the public, private and non-profit sectors. Daniel spent 20 years as an entrepreneur, building Argyle Communications from a small boutique into Canada's largest management-owned communications advisory firm with \$38M in revenue, 155 employees and ten North American offices. Argyle earned Canadian or global Agency of the Year honours six times between 2017 and 2023. Daniel was also chair of the Global Alliance for Public Relations and Communication Management, the confederation of communications professional associations in 70 countries; he significantly expanded engagement with professionals in Spain, Mexico, Puerto Rico and South America. Earlier, he worked in the Canadian government including serving as Senior Policy Advisor and Acting Chief of Staff to Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs and member of the Canadian delegation to the G7 Economic Summit. Daniel is an adjunct faculty member at Queen's University's Smith School of Business, where He's delivered an acclaimed leadership course for 25 years. He holds B.A. and M.B.A. degrees from Queen's, and ICD.D designation in corporate governance from the University of Toronto. Born in Spain to an Uruguayan family and raised in Toronto, Daniel has been Vicechair of Queen's University Board of Trustees, a Governor of North York General Hospital, and a longtime Scout leader. Frequently quoted in the media, he keynoted the 2023 TLN 10 Most Influential Hispanic Canadian awards 2023.

### **Felipe Tellez (ON/Col): BIPOC music composer and University teacher**

In Canada since 2016, Felipe Téllez is an accomplished composer and educator with an extensive background in film music composition, concert music, and audio production. His work has been performed by orchestras around the world such as the Bogotá Philharmonic, the Colombian National Symphony Orchestra, the Mississauga Symphony Orchestra and the Canadian Studio Symphony. His work, richly inspired by his Colombian heritage, has been featured in the Canadian Opera Company's Free Concert Series during Latin Heritage month and has garnered commissions from the Ontario Pops Orchestra. His piece "Romanza" for Violin and Orchestra premiered to acclaim by the Greater Toronto Philharmonic (2022), which would later be expanded into a Violin Concerto. Notably, he composed for the Colombian movie "Estimados Señores" about the women's suffrage movement in mid-twentieth century Colombia, pending premiere. Recently he composed on the Canadian-Nigerian production Orah, which was selected for TIFF 2023 and the film US-Canadian 'Tomorrow', which recently premiered in California's Cinequest Festival 2023. Felipe holds a Master's degree from Berklee College of Music in Spain, and a Double Major from Universidad de los Andes in Colombia, Felipe earned a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Toronto. His has teaching positions at Sheridan College, Centennial College, University of Toronto, and Toronto Metropolitan University, where he imparts knowledge in Orchestration for Film, Arranging, and Music Theory. He also actively engages in mentoring through the Toronto Arts Foundation's Newcomer and Refugee Artist Mentorship Program.

### **Dr. Horacio Osiovich (Arg/BC): Clinical Professor, UBC, Neonatologist, BC Women's Hospital**

With over 35 years of clinical experience, Dr. Horacio Osiovich provides care for the sickest newborns suffering from a wide variety of clinical and surgical conditions. He was named Honorary Fellow by the Global Newborn Society for exceptional achievements in academic excellence, organizational leadership and social contributions. As Division Head of Neonatology, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and Program Director of the Neonatal Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program at UBC, he has trained many current leaders in Neonatology from all over the world. Each year, over 30,000 babies are born prematurely in Canada. Each child is at risk of long-term health and developmental issues, including hearing loss, vision impairments, behavioural, learning and neurological disorders like cerebral palsy. Mothers of premature infants are also significantly affected, with up to 60% experiencing postpartum depression. Dr. Osiovich is a member of the Board of Directors and Foundation of EpicLatino, a network of 33 neonatal intensive care units in aim of improving quality of neonatal care throughout Latin America by carrying out innovative and multidisciplinary research. He introduced Acute Care of at-Risk Newborns, an educational program developed in Canada designed to guide the care for sick or at risk neonates, in many countries in Latin America. Dr. Osiovich graduated from University of Buenos Aires in Argentina. He completed pediatric residency at Queen's University and neonatal training at both the Universities of Miami and Alberta. Dr. Osiovich has over 200 manuscripts, abstracts and book chapters, and over 100 lectures and workshops at international conferences.

### **Isabel Perez Doherty (Ecu/ON): Canadian Director, Funding, Canadian Mental Health Asst'n**

Isabel is the National Director of Fund Development at the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Canada's oldest and largest community mental health organization. Established in 1918, CMHA has an extensive reach, operating in over 330 communities across all provinces and the Yukon. Originally from Ecuador, Isabel is a dedicated social impact leader and expert in fundraising, benefiting Canadians nationwide. In recognition, she was honored as a Fellow by the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Canada in 2018. Isabel has played a crucial role in raising millions for various social impact initiatives. Before joining CMHA, Isabel served as the Director of Philanthropy and Strategic Impact at YWCA Canada, the nation's largest provider of women's shelters and services. YWCA Canada operates 32 member associations across 300

communities, serving over 1 million women, girls, and their families. Isabel also held the role of Director of Philanthropy at Community Food Centres Canada, which collaborates with more than 350 partners to deliver essential food programs to vulnerable communities. Her educational background includes degrees in Economics, International Development and Management of Civil Society Organizations and Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability from institutions such as the Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Ecuador in Quito, Universidad Pontificia de Comillas in Madrid, London South Bank University in London, England and St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto. Since arriving in Canada in 2015, Isabel has made Toronto and the Greater Toronto Area her home, where she continues to drive meaningful change through her work.

**Sinara Rozo Perdomo (ON/Ven):** Alucine Director, arts administrator, curator, educator

Sinara is a Toronto-based arts administrator, curator, educator, and mother, and the founder of Alucine Latin Film + Media Arts Festival and its parent company Southern Currents. Founded in Toronto in 1995, AluCine is the longest-running Latin film festival in Canada, providing a voice for numerous filmmakers, youth, emerging and queer artists, who would otherwise go unheard. Southern Currents as a sustainable organization that reciprocates the dedication of staff, volunteers, and artists. Over the past 23 years, AluCine has become the leading exhibitor of coveted Latin works with a film repertoire including over 1,000 premieres and over 40 art exhibitions in the GTA. In addition to screening films in Canada and abroad, AluCine has been hosting performances and new media installations, symposia, panel discussions and talks from visiting artists. Sinara has been working in artist-run environments for over 25 years. Her curatorial work has been featured at several festivals in Peru, Mexico, Hungary, Colombia, Brazil, Germany, the USA, and Canada. Sinara has served as a jury member for distinctive film festivals in Toronto including imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, InsideOut, Images Festival, and Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival - among others. In recent years, Sinara has deepened her investment in media arts administration by participating in several advisory and jury committees for the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council. She holds a B.F.A. (Hons) in Film and TV production from Universidad Catolica Andres Bello (Venezuela) and an M.F.A. in (film production) from York University.

SPECIAL AWARDS

**Cristina Caballero (ON/Col):** Journalist and digital media strategist - People's Choice

Cristina is an exemplary journalist with expertise in digital media, passionate about innovation, and committed to educating and empowering the Hispanic community. With a B.A. in Journalism from The Universidad Tecnológica de Bolivar and a M.A. in Digital Marketing from The International University of La Rioja in 2014, Cristina has over 12 years of experience. Beginning her career in Colombia, she established a solid foundation in journalism, covering local and international news. Her expertise propelled her to spearhead digital strategies for national broadcasters RCNTV, NTN24, Nuestra Tele, and MundoFox. In Canada since 2019, Cristina made a significant impact at Underknown, a digital-first media company focused on educating new generations in science. Through her strategic vision, she transformed a small start-up into a global entity with a significant Spanish-speaking presence, earning multiple awards for factual content and recognition as Deloitte's fastest-growing company. Her dedication to excellence has been recognized by the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, the LATAM Digital Media WAN-IFRA, the Inter American Press Association, and the RTDNA Canada Award for Best News - Live Special Event, a six-hour-long live stream to raise funds for Doctors Without Borders during the pandemic. Cristina is a passionate mentor, empowering Black digital content creators and business students. She leveraged her expertise at Google Canada, where she led health initiatives on YouTube, collaborating with major hospitals to combat misinformation and provide high-quality health information. Most recently, she assumed the role of News Partner Manager, supporting the Canadian news ecosystem in the digital age.

**Carlos Brito (Ecu/ON):** *Social Media Influencer*

Toronto Latinos is the largest community of Latinos online in Canada. In early 2016 we began brainstorming about the idea of creating our own line of caps and t-shirts. In June of that year, our BARRIO caps hit the market and we never looked back. Our t-shirts were next, and the results were the same. Almost 400 units sold in our first two months. We knew we had created something special. A Latin streetwear brand that 'La Gente' was waiting for. Something we can wear with pride. Our merchandise have been worn by some of the most popular Latin people on the planet. In 2017 we held our first annual Barrio Boat Cruise. It was our introduction in the event space. We've had eight in total. In 2021 we had five over five weekends. Eight consecutive 'sell outs'. We now host some of the most successful Latin Events in the country. In 2019 we held our first Festival. MAS Latin Festival. The festival was headlined by Justin Quiles and Yan Collazo...over 3000 people. It was a huge success. We have since renamed our festival the Barrio Latin Music Festival. In 2019 we started the Barrio Scholarship Fund. In 2020 we selected the first recipient. The entire process was a life-changing experience. It is now our mandate to grow the Fund to assist as many young Latino students as possible. Also, in 2020 we started Barrio Digital Media. This project's mandate is to give new artists the promotion they need to launch their brand. For this project, we've teamed up with Miguel Anthony who has worked with artists all over the world. Barrio Digital Media (BDM) is a free digital marketing service for Latin Artists and Latin businesses who are looking to increase their online presence in the Toronto Latin scene and the world.