

Our Community
Our Strength
Our Story

**El/La Para TransLatinas
Annual Report 2020-2022**



Letter to Our Beloved Community

Querida Comunidad,

This is a letter of gratitude and fierce appreciation.

Hardship has been ever-present for us. But so has our collective wisdom, our collective power, our collective resiliency; they rise every day like the morning sun.

We are two years out from a global pandemic; decades struggling with an HIV pandemic; and centuries facing the pandemic of hate, a neverending attack that continues to touch each and every one of us to the core. **Yet here we stand together, in community, stronger and more connected than ever before.** You, dear community, have given El/La Para TransLatinas your trust, your kindness, and your support in more ways than these pages can record. For that, we are eternally grateful.

We hope you are as proud of the accomplishments recorded in the following Annual Report 2020+ as we are. Make no mistake: there is more work to be done. We are as committed as ever to continue growing and learning together, and improving our programs, services, and the lives of each and every one of our trans, intersex, and gender-diverse Latinx siblings.

With love and respect,

Your family at El/La Para TransLatinas



Miroshka H.

El/La participant and recipient of our 2021 Jovana Luna Memorial Award for outstanding commitment to the translatina community



“our work for our community never stopped”

2020+ In Review

The beginning of 2020 paralyzed our society in myriad ways. Industries halted. Community and social spaces closed. We were isolated from our family and friends. While El/La Para TransLatinas was forced to close our program doors in March 2020 due to San Francisco’s shelter-in-place mandate, **our work for our community never stopped.**

We continued providing critical services like case management, linkages, and accompaniments to our community without disruption. **We moved all of our workshops online, allowing us to reach even more people across the Bay Area,** creating opportunities for much-needed social engagement on our Facebook page and thwarting the sudden and harsh isolation faced by so many of our participants. **We also started a warm line to connect with participants and learn from our community what they needed:** food, medicine, or simply a caring voice on the other side of the phone.



\$216,000

in **Visa Gift Cards**



\$35,000

in **hygiene kits**, distributed directly to participants through our COVID-19 Rapid Response Program



175

non-duplicated **participants** who received financial support



26

individual COVID-19 Rapid Response **outreach events**



(left to right)

Victoria Castro, El/La's Program Manager

Sthefany Galante, El/La's Outreach Coordinator

Mizty L., El/La participant

Tania Jimenez, El/La's former Program Manager

Paulina R., El/La participant

COVID-19 Rapid Response outreach event, November 2021

photo credit:
Niko Storment @niko_storment

Holistic Wellness & Safety

“we embrace and acknowledge the value of every part of our needs: physical, emotional, social, spiritual, financial, and more”

TransLatinas exist at the intersection of transphobia, sexism, racism, xenophobia and classism. **The average life expectancy of a transwoman of color in the US is 35 years old.** El/La Para TransLatinas’ programs and case management have always been holistic because our community could not thrive otherwise; we embrace and acknowledge the value of every part of our needs: physical, emotional, social, spiritual, financial, and more. We know that we cannot provide HIV prevention services without also linking transLatinas to shelter, food, housing, education, legal documentation (gender and name change, political asylum), transgender culturally-competent medical care, mental health services, and most importantly, a community invested in her wellbeing and growth.

Our experience has proven that once a translatina has gone through our case management services, has access to basic resources, and her leadership is supported, then she is on her path to achieve both personal and professional goals, as well as advocate for her rights and those of our community.



Case Management

- **7,069 Case Management Sessions** with 224 individual (non-duplicated) participants

HIV Prevention/PrEP

- **183 HIV Prevention Groups** with 223 individual participants
- **46 PrEP Navigation Groups** with 143 individual participants
- **6,895 1-1 Peer Counseling Sessions** with 218 individual participants
- **178 Outreach Sessions** with 1,260 participants

Violence Prevention & Wellness

- **76 Violence Prevention Groups** with 186 individual participants
- **78 Health & Rights Groups** with 174 individual participants



(left to right)

Pauly Ruiz, El/La's Violence Prevention Peer Case Manager

Sthefany Galante, El/La's Outreach Coordinator

Paola E., El/La's Participant

Historic moment! El/La staff members and participant are the first trans Mexicans in San Francisco to receive their adjusted birth certificates with their chosen names that align with their gender identity. Thanks to the actions of El/La, together with the Mexican Consulate in San Francisco, these translatinas were able to have their documents corrected. This moment opens the way for many other Mexican trans people to go through this process.

50 51

Agresión y Violencia Sexual

Este 16 de Marzo a las 5 pm, hora del Pacífico. Transmisión Digital en vivo desde la página de El/La para TransLatinas

Dulce García

40 years
SAN FRANCISCO
WOMEN AGAINST RAPE
SFWAR





50 51

Los Abogados ALR

Este 18 de Febrero a las 5 pm, hora del Pacífico. Transmisión Digital en vivo desde la página de El/La para TransLatinas

Abogados de inmigración

ALRP

AIDS Legal Referral Panel




50 51

¿Qué hacer después de un diagnóstico de VIH?

Este 9 de Febrero a las 5 pm, hora del pacífico. Transmisión Digital en vivo desde la página de El/La para TransLatinas

EmergeSF

Paola Espinoza

Norma Griyoti




50 51

Platica con Tania y Jessy Ruiz de MNHC

Les esperamos este Jueves 9 de Diciembre en punto de las 5:00 pm (horario del pacífico). Transmisión digital desde esta la página de El/La para TransLatinas.

MNHC
Mission Neighborhood Health Center
MISSION NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE CENTER





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Cómo Aplicar para Apartamentos de Lotería

Este 17 de Marzo a las 5 pm, hora del Pacífico. Transmisión Digital en vivo desde la página de El/La para TransLatinas

Por: Jenny meda

APPLY FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN SAN FRANCISCO








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City College

Este 10 de Diciembre a las 5 pm, hora del pacífico. Transmisión Digital en vivo desde la página de El/La para TransLatinas

Pau Crego

CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO

50 51

Coping Skills
Herramientas De Supervivencia

Este os de Noviembre a las 5 pm, hora del pacífico. Transmisión Digital en vivo desde la página de El/La para TransLatinas

Sthefany

Jesús Heberto Guillén

POZPLANE1
The HIV Magazine For Us For Us - NOV 2021






50 51

TALLERES EN ESPAÑOL

LA SALUD DEL CEREBRO
sesiones semanales, los martes

¿Cómo Funciona Nuestro Cerebro y Como Cambia con la Edad?

Martes 23 de Noviembre
6:00 PM a 7:00 PM

Regístrate via **Zoom**

Envía texto o llama al
415.542.6678

Sergio Lanata
ólogo e Investigador, UCSF

MNHC
Well Institute for Neurosciences
Memory and Aging Centre

GLOBAL BRAIN HEALTH INSTITUTE







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TRANS GENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
November 28th

Este 17 de Noviembre a las 5 pm hora del pacífico. Transmisión Digital en vivo desde la página de El/La para TransLatinas

TRANS WELLNESS




Holistic Wellness & Safety

When our physical space closed in March 2020, we immediately began offering our holistic programming in a virtual format on El/La's Facebook page. In the last two years, we have offered over 400 online workshops, classes, and social events through Facebook Live. Presented by El/La staff, individual allies, and organizational partners, these virtual offerings ranged from LGBTQI+ Latinx mental health during the pandemic, immigration and citizenship, HIV management, financial security, and more—meeting the needs of our community even as those needs changed due to COVID.



Collective Healing, Collective Liberation, Collective Power

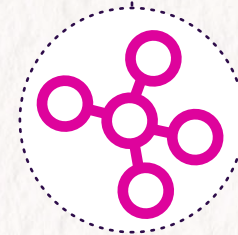
At the heart of El/La's mission and vision is the belief of collective work, collective liberation, and collective healing. **We know that in community we can always do more, and we will always go further.** Every single time a Latinx LGBTQI+ sibling achieves their asylum, gets access to services with dignity and respect, gets a job, enrolls in school, or achieves any other dream with the support of our work, those are the moments when we know we are making a difference, because every single member of our community is valued and loved.

We know that El/La's program is effective because new and old translatina participants keep coming to our space, year after year, and the majority of our outreach is through word of mouth. **Translatinas invite other translatinas to El/La because we consider it our home and a safe space.** Our peer-led services mitigate further crisis/trauma and provide consistent and long-lasting bonds that lead to finding chosen family, healing, personal and professional growth, self-empowerment and liberation.

Our Luchadoras Leadership Development Program is the embodiment of our trans community supporting and uplifting each other, creating opportunities for each Luchadora to step into their power as they are given access to the tools, skills, and networks they need to achieve their personal and professional goals. Our 2022 Luchadoras cohort is the 8th installment of the program, and aims to equip translatinx immigrants with the key skills necessary to attain the next step in their career goals to create a thriving and connected community of translatinx immigrants who are thriving economically.



**8 years of
Luchadoras**



**8
cohorts**



**58
graduates**

Luchadoras, Past and Present



Sthefany Galante

El/La's Outreach Coordinator and Luchadoras trainer



Jessycka C.

Luchadora Graduate



Paola Milán R.

Luchadora Graduate



Jessy R.

Luchadora Graduate



Juan Alberto C.

Luchadora Graduate



Visibility & Advocacy

Together, we raise our voices, exercise our power, and demand justice, equity, and liberation for translatinas and all of our LGBTQI+ siblings.

Being a part of El/La's staff is not just a job. **Advocating for the rights of our trans, intersex, and gender-diverse community is our daily purpose and passion into which we pour our hearts.** It isn't just words on a page either—we know if we want to create a just and equitable world for our LGBTQI+ Latinx siblings, we must ACT.

With ally organizations by our side, El/La is on the frontlines of the fight calling for the release of all trans people from ICE custody to #EndTransDetention; we are at the White House reminding our President and leaders that there is No Pride In Detention; we are on the streets of New York City demanding an end to rape culture, including victim blaming and slut shaming of sexual assault victims; we are calling on legislators to ensure LGBTQI+ people receive the critical medical and direct supportive services we need and deserve, during the global pandemic and beyond.

Last summer, El/La's Executive Director Nicole Santamaría was sworn into the San Francisco Human Rights Commission's Trans Advisory Council by Mayor London Breed, to work to bring a broader global approach to ending discrimination and violence against the Black, Brown and immigrant trans community in the city. And this past March 2022, Nicole represented El/La at The White House for International Trans Day of Visibility, positioning the voices of trans migrants and the abuses experienced in ICE detention centers.



39
Public
Visibility
Events



269
Institutional &
Collaborative
Meetings Attended
by Staff



135
Institutional &
Collaborative
Meetings Attended
by Translatina
Participants



No Pride in Detention Protest

El/La staff and participants join ally organizations, including Familia TQLM, for a No Pride in Detention Protest in Washington, DC, June 2021

Victoria Castro

El/La's Program Manager, holds a trans flag as she speaks at an #AbolishICE rally in San Francisco. Photo Credit: John Ferrannini.

El/La Celebrates 15 Years!

The past two years have been exceptionally challenging for everyone, our staff and participants included. Yet we still found ways to rise up, to support one another, and to center trans joy and resilience. **In October of 2021, El/La invited our friends and allies to celebrate that joy, resiliency, and the legacy of the translatina community and El/La with our QuinceañEl/La: Powerful, Free & Beautiful.**

The virtual event included fabulous performances from El/La participants; a quinceañera-inspired photo shoot, featuring El/La participants; testimonials from translatinas whose lives we have touched; and more! In the end, **we raised over \$22,000**, funds that will directly support our ongoing case management, HIV prevention & PrEP navigation services, violence prevention education workshops, professional development opportunities and more, so that we may better serve our community.





**El/La participants at The Palace of Fine Arts, San Francisco
QuinceañEl/La photo shoot**

Honoring Trans Power

We are humbled to share that El/La's dedication and determination over the past two years have not gone unnoticed. And while our work would—and will—continue, regardless of recognition, we also believe that these kinds of acknowledgments and awards have power: **They bear witness to our lives, to the purpose we have here, and to the legacies that our LGBTQI+ ancestors have left us.** We are grateful that our work has been celebrated with the following accolades in the last 2+ years:

Transgender Day of Visibility Forerunner Award

Recognizing the great services and vitality with which they are provided by El/La to the trans and gender non-conforming community. (March 2020)

San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission's Grassroots Leader Award

Given to El/La in honor of our exceptional leadership and direct services to the Latinx trans and gender-diverse community. (June 2021)

Community Service Award by Bar Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF)

The nation's oldest and largest LGBTQI+ bar association, in recognition of El/La Para TransLatinas' accomplishments in promoting the improvement of in the quality of life of translatinas. (March 2021)

San Francisco Pride 2021 Lifetime Community Grand Marshal

San Francisco Pride 2021 selects Nicole Santamaría as a Lifetime Community Grand Marshal, acknowledging her 17+ years of service to the LGBTQI+ community. (June 2021)

Oasis Legal Service's Sylvia Rivera Legacy Award

To recognize and honor El/La's Executive Director, Nicole Santamaría, as an individual who has dedicated themselves to doing the vital day-to-day work needed to protect and advocate for members of the LGBTQI+ community. (May 2021)

2021 Senate District 11 COVID-19 Heroes Award

Given to El/La Para TransLatinas for outstanding service to our community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. (December 2021)



Nicole Santamaría

El/La's Executive Director is sworn into the LGBTQI+ Advisory Committee for the City and County of San Francisco by Mayor London Breed, June 2021

Witness Us: The Hearts & Hands Behind El/La

We are the translatina community serving our community. Five out of seven of our frontline staff, including our Executive Director, are translatinas. Many of us began as participants and/or volunteers of the program. We are familiar with our community's long-term and day-to-day needs, because they are *our* needs. We have experienced discrimination, homelessness, violence, hunger, joblessness, isolation, and more. **This personal knowledge has shaped the program into what it is today.** We know that what we need to thrive is high-touch, long-term, intersectional, holistic services by members of our own community, with the support of dedicated allies.

El/La is committed to uplifting our community from within; encouraging and embracing opportunities for personal and professional development is a foundation of our team culture. We are so proud of our dedicated staff and how much they have grown since 2020:

Our supremely dedicated Director of Case Management, **Julia C. Cepeda Martínez**, has been serving El/La Para TransLatinas' participants since 2015, and continues to grow our network of partners and service providers to meet their holistic needs. She is buoyed by her dynamic colleague, **Pauly Ruiz**, El/La's Violence Prevention Peer Case Manager, who will complete 5 years on our team in October 2022.

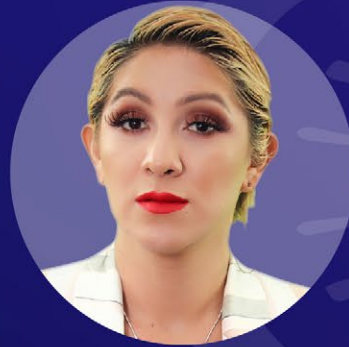
This year, **Tania Jiménez** transitioned out of her position as Program Manager, and former Health Educator and PrEP Navigator **Victoria Castro** transitioned into the role. Victoria has quickly brought her own style and expertise to our programming, and we love to watch her shine. Speaking of shining, **Sthefany Galante**, our Outreach Coordinator, is currently training to become a Home Health Aide with Arriba Juntos, a longtime partner of El/La, in order to broaden her skills and abilities and better serve the trans, intersex, and gender-diverse communities.

Fiercely dedicated to learning and professional development, El/La's former Salesforce Data Administrator **Sofía Sabina Ríos Dorantes** brings her exceptional work ethic to her new role as Operations & Data Office Manager, supporting El/La's day-to-day administration while maintaining meticulous records of all of our programs in Salesforce.

El/La's Executive Director **Nicole Santamaría** has strengthened El/La's advocacy as part of San Francisco's Human Rights Commission's Trans Advisory Council. She has raised translatina visibility at SF Pride events and with elected officials, both local and national. And alongside other dedicated leaders, she has been diving deeper into anti-violence and social justice work as a member of Movement to End Violence's (MEV) Cohort 5, to envision a world free of violence. Nicole shares, "I could describe my leadership strengths rooted in a deep compassion to take the time to build a relationship with every single person I/we serve, so everyone can feel seen, loved and cared, recognizing the value as individuals tied up within the collective."

Joining El/La's team this year are **Marilou Inzunza** as Director of Finance and Operations, and **Roberto Morales Baez**, as Health Educator and PrEP Navigator. Marilou is committed, dynamic, and highly motivated, bringing over 10 years of hands-on experience in operations management to El/La. Roberto has been a dedicated El/La volunteer for many years, and is excited to now provide direct HIV prevention and PrEP services to our community as a staff member. Behind the scenes, our Administrative Team keeps our grantmaking, finances, and other essential projects running smoothly, including **Susana Cáceres** (Senior Advisor), **Conchita Campos** (Administrator, transitioning out this year) and **Frances Prochilo** (Special Projects Manager).

THE TEAM



Victoria Castro
Program Manager



Julia C. Cepeda Martinez
Director of Case Management



Sthefany Galante
Outreach Coordinator



Marilou Inzunza
Director of Finance &
Operations



Roberto Morales Baez
Health Educator &
PrEP Navigator



Pauly Ruiz
Violence Prevention
Peer Case Manager



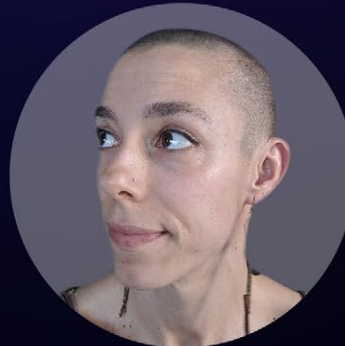
Sofia Sabina Ríos Dorantes
Operations &
Data Office Manager



Conchita Campos
Administrator



Susana Cáceres
Senior Advisor



Frances Prochilo
Special Projects Manager



Nicole Santamaría
Executive Director

With Gratitude

We know that we have not and cannot do this work alone. We are grateful for the many individuals, organizations, and foundations who have believed in us and supported our work with financial contributions. Thank you!

Monthly Donors

Latishia James-Portis
Gabriel Manzo, JR
Henry Milich
Ray Strickler
Vered Meir
Audrey Kuo
John Melichar
Samuel Judge
Rachel Ketola

Individual Donors

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Struby Struble
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Rachel Ketola
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Lara Antonello
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Gabi Estrada
Natalie Wilson

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Marianna Yamamoto
Kathryn Black
Aireale Rodgers
Nat Ruiz Tofano
Sofia Dorantes
Laurin Y. Mayeno
Devon Ysaguirre
Kimberly Williams
Lidia Caceres
Alex Sanchez
Lili Shidlovski
Colleen FitzSimons
Melanie Cervantes
James Hall
Blase Hents
Carolina Morales
Michael Sui
Danielle West
Ron Wong
Anand Deshpande
Tina Aguirre
Harmony Niles
Margo Faulk
Fresh White
Shamsi Soltani
Emilo Orozco
Quiver Watts

Boog Bookey
Monica Esopi
Lito Sandoval
Maiya Zwerling
Jonathan Mindrum
Lois Lorentzen
Melanie Lacy-Kusters
Alexandra Findlay
Kelly Fernandez
Benjamin Snow

Funds Foundations City & County

San Francisco Human Rights Commission
San Francisco Department on the Status of Women
San Francisco Department of Public Health
San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing & Community Development
Horizons Foundation
Tides Foundation
Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice
Borealis Philanthropy
Collective Future Fund
Destination Tomorrow
NoVo Foundation

Radical Imagination
Family Foundation
ViiV Healthcare
Hispanic Federation
Women's Foundation of California
Latino Community Foundation
Manzanita Foundation
Equality California
Urgent Action Fund
Transgender Strategy Center
Kinkade Family Foundation
Blue Heart Action Fund for Resilience, Engagement & Equity Initiative (AIDS United & Elton John AIDS Foundation)
San Francisco Foundation
SF LGBT Center
Peacock Rebellion
San Francisco Office of Transgender Initiatives
Four Freedoms Fund (Neo Philanthropy)
Barry Taylor Philanthropic Fund
American Educational Research Association
California Dignity for Families Fund

In Loving Memory of Our Trans Siblings Lost During the Pandemic

There are many ways that hatred steals our siblings from us. **When we don't have access to education, job opportunities, or healthcare, we are condemned to live in extreme poverty.** We have lost valuable members of our community during the pandemic, since the TransLatina community is one of the most marginalized communities. We honor the memory of these lives. And to our trans family who remains, we say thank you. Thank you for the marvelous gift to the world that is your life, but most of all, thank you for teaching all of us about the meaning of bravery and the meaning of authenticity.

Natalia Gazca

Lorena Borjas

Luisa A. Espinoza

And those who remain unknown...

Presente!



Sthefany Galante

El/La's Outreach Coordinator
kneels in front of Transgender Day of
Remembrance altar, November 2021
at Manny's in San Francisco