

Dulce María López

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BINATIONAL POLICY & STRATEGY MANAGER **U.S.–Mexico Migration | Labor | Rural Development**

Bilingual (Spanish/English) policy and strategy manager with 7+ years leading cross-border initiatives across the United States and Mexico. Designs programs, builds coalitions, and translates community-based research into policy and philanthropic strategy advancing migration, labor, Indigenous rights, and rural development. Experience managing \$130K+ portfolios and 20+ institutional partnerships across academia, civil society, and philanthropy.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Program & Project Management • Policy Analysis & Research • Grant & Budget Management • Stakeholder & Coalition Management • Convening Design & Facilitation • Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) • Bilingual Strategic Communications • Migration & Labor Policy (H-2A) • USMCA • Rural Development & Environmental Justice • Cross-Border Collaboration • Monitoring & Reporting • Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) • Human rights advocacy • Asana

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UCLA Labor Center — Global Solidarity Program | Los Angeles, CA, 01/2024 – Present

Project Manager (06/2025 – Present)

Project Assistant & Graduate Researcher (01/2024 – 06/2025)

- Led strategy and implementation of a \$130K binational initiative advancing H-2A labor policy and farmworker rights across 20+ partner organizations in the United States and Mexico.
- Produced policy briefs and strategic recommendations adopted by program leadership to strengthen coalition strategy and inform funder reporting.
- Designed and facilitated three binational convenings, bringing together researchers, practitioners, and policy advocates across the U.S. and Mexico.
- Expanded program reach beyond the U.S.–Mexico corridor by designing and leading a \$10,000 regional convening in El Salvador with academic institutions and stakeholders from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador.
- Guided program direction and funding strategy, and secured continued multi-year funder support by advising leadership on program design, implementation planning, and policy-impact opportunities.

Dulce.Artivist | Los Angeles, CA, 06/2014 – Present

Founder & Strategy Director

- Built and led a team of 5 (2 interns, 3 contractors) across communications, operations, and volunteer engagement.
- Founded and directed a binational strategy initiative reaching 100K+ people monthly through policy engagement, grantmaking, and public convenings on migration, environmental justice, and Indigenous rights.
- Led cross-border initiatives that convened policymakers, civil society leaders, and grassroots organizations, including a convening at the Mexican Congress that generated coverage from 5+ international media outlets and \$6,000 mural projects for border immigrants and indigenous people in collaboration with UCLA and local government.
- Delivered direct financial support to grassroots organizers, measured by \$6,000+ in microgrants distributed to community leaders in California and Mexico, by founding and managing a transnational cultural-strategy initiative.
- Built organizational visibility and credibility, measured by 8+ institutional presentations and consistent media coverage in N+, Al Jazeera, and Conexión Migrante, by representing initiatives as public speaker and bilingual communications lead.
- Invited by the Instituto Electoral y de Participación Ciudadana del Estado de Jalisco to advise on immigrant voting strategy — recognized 2026 with the honor Distinguida Jaliscience en el Extranjero.

Change Consulting | Oakland, CA, 04/2019 – 01/2024

Senior Visual Communications Manager (07/2020 – 01/2024)

Operations & Communications Coordinator (04/2019 – 07/2020)

- Grew client social media reach by 10,000+ new Instagram followers within one year, by leading full-scale rebranding including logo design, visual identity, and social media strategy for the 1Billion4BlackGirls philanthropic campaign.
- Extended brand visibility for social justice organizations and foundations through storytelling and content strategy across three U.S. states, such as the California Black Freedom Fund's campaign, reaching over 3 million people.
- Expanded Spanish-speaking audiences' access to policy information, measured by engagement and press coverage across four social-justice client accounts, by producing and directing bilingual (English/Spanish) marketing and deliverables content.

- Authored the agency's first Creative Department Manual, standardizing production workflow for nonprofit and foundation clients focused on racial justice by streamlining workflow and managing two contractors.

Art For Social Change (AFSC) | Berkeley, CA, 10/2014 – 06/2019

Coordinator (10/2016 – 06/2019)

Communications Associate (10/2014 – 10/2016)

- Supported program sustainability by managing a board of members and co-leading fundraising initiatives supporting global causes and student development.
- Strengthened cross-border programmatic reach on migration, human rights, and gender-based violence, measured by new nonprofit and grassroots partnerships across the U.S. and Latin America, by coordinating community arts and public-engagement initiatives.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Marketing & Communications Assistant, Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley (06/2016 – 03/2018)** — Grew newsletter subscriber reach through inclusive multimedia content and staff training on data-sharing systems.
- **Research Assistant & Mentor, FARO de Oriente, Mexico City (07/2018 – 12/2018)** — Gathered data for an English and Spanish report to inform founders and governmental institutes. Designed and taught highest enrollment English course for low-income Spanish-speaking students.
- **Research Assistant, Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (URAP), UC Berkeley (02/2016 – 06/2018)** — Analyzed and translated interview data on a rural Indigenous farming community in El Bajío, Mexico, informing graduate globalization research.
- **Public Relations Co-Director, ASUC Raza Endorsement Cabinet, UC Berkeley (09/2014 – 05/2015)** — Grew senate-seat applicants 200% year-over-year through student-resource databases and social campaigns.

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles — M.A., Latin American Studies, 2025

Capstone research: trade agreements, environmental change, and water politics in the tequila industry of Jalisco, Mexico.
Leader in Sustainability Certificate.

University of California, Berkeley — B.A., Media Studies; Minor, Practice of Art, 2018

Study Abroad: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (Fall 2018); Universidad de La Habana, Cuba (Spring 2017)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

U.S. Vertical Border & Immigrant Resistance through Creative Transnational Organizing — SanArte Seattle, 2025

Impact of Transnational Agroindustries in Southern Jalisco — UCLA, 2025

Cultural Policy and NAFTA — UCLA Law School, 2025

Cultural Strategists for Policy Research — DePaul University, 2025

Hija Ausente: U.S.-Mexico history through immigrant Stories — UC San Diego Cross-Cultural Center, 2025

Commencement Speaker — UC Berkeley, 2018

U.S.–Mexico Narcotráfico: Impact on Culture — UC Davis Student of Color Conference & UC Berkeley Students for Sensible Drug Policy, 2015 & 2018

LANGUAGES, TECHNICAL SKILLS, & VOLUNTEER WORK

Languages: Spanish (Native) • English (Fluent)

Technical: Asana • Adobe Creative Suite • Google Workspace • Google Analytics • Mailchimp • Canva • Zoom • Slack

Board & Volunteer: Board Member, School of the Americas Watch (program oversight, Honduras and Mexico) • Al Otro Lado, migrant and asylum-seeker support