

Centering Disability Justice in Intergenerational Movement Building

**November 20, 2025
10-11am Pacific / 1-2pm Eastern**

Featured Speaker Biography

Fabienne Eliacin

Parent Advocate & Organizer

Fabienne is a parent advocate and a mother of a disabled teenager who is dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to a holistic, high-quality, reading access, mentally prepared and equitable education experience. Through her own experience and in depth research on the causes and consequences of education inequality in urban school communities, I understood that parents need to be in the center and to learn about this issue and to work alongside education stakeholders in order to truly make change.

Over the years, Fabienne has worked to promote systemic change in Boston area schools through community organizing, and programing, equipping parents to effective education advocacy.

Fabienne sat on many boards over the years, she recently was appointed as a member of the Boston Arts Academy Board of Trustees, she was appointed by Governor Charlie Baker to be on the Families and Children Requiring Assistance Advisory Board. She is a parent leader for Decoding Dyslexia. A founding member for Collaborative Parent Leader Action Network (CPLAN), member of the SchoolFacts Boston Family Advisory Board, member of Boston Speedpac and also advocate for children with mental health



to get the adequate services that they need. Lastly, she is a troop leader for 14 young Divas in the Roxbury area.

Fabienne was one of the members who organized in the Boston area on the Dyslexia bill for early screening. Fabienne is committed to empowering parents through knowledge given what she describes as a “huge learning curve” as it pertains to becoming familiar with the conversation in the community to truly understand how schools can better serve students. Additionally, she is devoted to ensuring that schools are culturally responsive to the needs of the students and families they serve. Specifically, Fabienne is interested in working with schools to ensure they use equitable practices that offer equitable educational opportunities and support children with their mental health. Such an approach characterizes students’ unique cultural differences as valuable aspects of the learning environment and provides schools with the foundation that offers equitable educational opportunities for all students to thrive academically, socially, and mentally.

María R. Palacios

SinsInvalid and the Crip Solidarity Network

María R. Palacios is a poet, author, spoken word performer, motivational speaker, social change advocate, disability rights activist, mentor, and workshop facilitator whose work has appeared on numerous multi-media publications, conferences, and live events over the last thirty-five years. María’s work centers around illustrating the power and beauty of disabled people without negating the truths surrounding the ableism and oppression faced by disabled communities around the world.



Maria's work includes various genres of art ranging from written collections of rebellious poetic story telling, to passionate spoken word pieces and sarcastic illustrations of disability themed cartoons aimed at calling out ableism.

Maria R. Palacios is one of the Capitol Crawlers from the iconic march of 1990 that passed the ADA. Her advocacy, since then, has taken many forms eventually morphing into her current voice --a voice unafraid of sharing the survival stories of the disabled people the world wants to forget. Maria has been a performer with Sins Invalid since 2007 and is currently their Spanish Language Community Organizer.

In the artistic world, Maria R. Palacios is known as the Goddess on Wheels.



Francisco (aka Pancho) Argüelles (Moderator)

*Senior Director for Network and
Powerbuilding, The Praxis Project*

Francisco (aka Pancho) Argüelles Paz y Puente was born in Mexico City and lives in Houston, TX since 1997. He has worked on human rights in Mexico, Central America, and the United States for the last forty years: as a rural teacher in Chiapas, supporting Guatemalan refugees, co-founding Universidad Campesina in Nicaragua, and with rural cooperatives in Central Mexico. Pancho served on the board of the NNIRR where he co-authored the popular education curriculum BRIDGE and has also collaborated with the Highlander Center for many years, including serving on its board from 2018-2024. In Houston he co-founded Fe y Justicia Worker Center and served as the executive director of Living Hope

Wheelchair Association for ten years. With the support of the Community Justice Exchange he recently published the video “Becoming Free of the Cage Within”, about the intersection of Radical Healing, Abolition and Popular Education. In 2023 he became the Senior Director for Network and Power Building with The Praxis Project where he provides accompaniment, technical assistance and capacity building to community power building organizations. He holds a Bachelor Degree on Education from UNAM (Autonomous National University of Mexico) and a Master on Science on Multicultural Education from University of Houston – Clear Lake.

Francisco (alias Pancho) Argüelles Paz y Puente nació en la Ciudad de México y vive en Houston, TX desde 1997. Ha trabajado en derechos humanos en México, Centroamérica y Estados Unidos durante los últimos cuarenta años: como maestro rural en Chiapas, apoyando a los refugiados guatemaltecos, cofundando la Universidad Campesina en Nicaragua y con cooperativas rurales en el centro de México. Pancho formó parte de la junta directiva del NNIRR, donde fue coautor del currículum de educación popular BRIDGE: y también ha colaborado con el Highlander Center durante muchos años, incluido su servicio en la mesa directiva de 2018 a 2024. En Houston cofundó el Centro de Trabajadores Fe y Justicia y se desempeñó como director ejecutivo de Living Hope Wheelchair Association durante diez años. Con el apoyo de Community Justice Exchange, recientemente publicó el video "Liberarse de la jaula interior", sobre la intersección de la educación popular, la sanación radical y la abolición. En 2023 se convirtió en Director de Redes y Construcción de Poder en el Proyecto Praxis, donde brinda acompañamiento, asistencia técnica y desarrollo de

capacidades a organizaciones comunitarias de construcción de poder. Es Licenciado en Pedagogía por la UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México) y tiene una Maestría en Ciencias en Educación Multicultural por la Universidad de Houston – Clear Lake.