



SAN DIEGO'S MOST INSPIRING STORIES

THE TRUE RENEGADES

THE NON-SNOBBY SAN DIEGO DINING *Trending*

A GENTLEMEN'S GUIDE TO SAN DIEGO'S BEST SAN DIEGO'S MOST INSPIRING STORIES

15 POSITIVELY BRILLIANT MINI RECIPE VIDEOS

DECEMBER 14, 2017

Meet Carolina Martinez of Environmental Health Coalition



SD VOYAGER STAFF



SHARE



TWEET



PIN



Today we'd like to introduce you to Carolina Martinez.

Carolina, let's start with your story. We'd love to hear how you

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PICTURE PERFECT FRIDAYS



AN ARTISTIC VOYAGE: EXPLORING LOCAL CREATIVE AND ARTISTIC WORKS



FUN THINGS TO DO IN SAN DIEGO



THE SD COLLECTION

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got started
and how
**the
journey
has been
so far.**

I was born
and raised
in
Colombia. I
came here
when I was
14 years
old.

Immigrating
to the
United
States was
one of the
most
challenging
and
transformative
experiences.

My
teachers
and
counselors
did not
think I
could go to
a 4-year
university
right after
high

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school. I
was tracked
to work in
the service
industry
and placed
in cooking
classes,
typing, and
really low-
level math
courses.
Little did
they know
that I come
from a
lineage of
warriors
and
survivors
who also
had to
overcome
discriminating
practices.
So, at
home my
parents did
everything
possible to
make me
believe I
was meant
to go to
college and

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that's
where my
career
fighting for
justice and
liberation
began.

I found my
coping
mechanism
in
organizing.
As a
student, I
mostly
identified
with others
committed
to put on
the best
parties in
town while
working
collectively
against
injustices.
In that
process I
found
home in
the
environmental
justice
movement.

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Grounded
in the civil
rights
movement,
environmental
justice
organizes
against
structural
racism that
is placing
low income
communities
at the
forefront of
toxic
pollution
and climate
change.

**We're
always
bombarded
by how
great it is
to pursue
your
passion,
etc – but
we've
spoken
with
enough
people to
know that**

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it's not
always

easy.

**Overall,
would you
say things
have been
easy for
you?**

Doing
justice
work is
challenging
but also
very
liberating.

As an
immigrant,
it is
challenging
and key to
feel a sense
of place,
community,
and
belonging.

Fortunately,
movement
building
has allowed
me to
connect
with most
amazing
and caring

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individuals,
who have
helped in
my search
for
liberation.

**We'd love
to hear
more
about your
business.**

I work for
the
Environmental
Health
Coalition
(EHC) as
the
Associate
Director of
Policy,
empowering
community
members
to demand
toxic-free
neighborhoods
and a
healthy
and safe
place to
live, work
and play.

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As the only
environmental

justice
organization
in the San
Diego/Tijuana
region,
EHC works
with
residents
who live in
the most
polluted
neighborhoods.

Our team
and our
work are
dedicated
to
achieving
environmental
and social
justice, and
we know
that is only
accomplished
when
empowered
communities
act
together to
make
change.
EHC
supports

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broad
efforts that
create a
just society
and fosters
a healthy
and
sustainable
quality of
life for all
people.

**What were
you like
growing
up?**

I used to be
really quiet
and shy. I
think I'm
still, but
working on
policy
advocacy
has
required
me to step
out of my
comfort
zone.

**Contact
Info:**

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- **Address:** 2727 Hoover Ave. Suite 2, National City CA 91950
- **Website:** www.environmentalhealth.org
- **Phone:** 619-474-0220
- **Email:** CarolinaM@environmentalhealth.org
- **Instagram:** www.instagram.com/ehcsandiego
- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/ehcsandiego
- **Twitter:** www.twitter.com/EHCSanDiego



Getting in touch:
SDVoyager is built on recommendations from the

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community;
it's how we
uncover
hidden
gems, so if
you know
someone
who
deserves
recognition
please let
us know
[here.](#)

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SDVoyager

San Diego is an incredible city - but it's so large and so vast and so diverse that all of us are missing out on tons of great people, businesses, organizations, events and more.

SD Voyager wants to highlight the best of San Diego - from freelance makeup artists that will dazzle you to the best Meetup groups in town.



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