

# *Defensores de la Cuenca*

presentation to:

**CHESAPEAKE BAY & WATER  
RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE**

May 17, 2024





# *Meet the Presenter*

**ABEL OLIVO**

**CO FOUNDER - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



DEFENSORES DE LA CUENCA

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[WWW.DEFENSORESDELACUENCA.ORG](http://WWW.DEFENSORESDELACUENCA.ORG)



*Quienes Somos*

## CREATING SHARED EXPERIENCES

Enjoying nature and the watershed in community

## BUILDING A KNOWLEDGE BANK

Sharing what we know about our natural world for a more informed community

## BUILDING A NETWORK OF LEADERS

We need more Latin@s leading in their communities today, for tomorrow

[WWW.DEFENSORESDELACUENCA.ORG](http://WWW.DEFENSORESDELACUENCA.ORG)



## OUR GROWING COMMUNITY

# 19.1%

OR 62.1 MILLION IN 2020,  
ESTIMATED TO GROW TO 28%  
OR 111 MILLION BY 2060







# Latin@/es Across the DMV

41.9%

MANASSAS  
PARK

54.9%

RIVERDALE  
PARK

COLUMBIA  
HEIGHTS





# *Recognizing the Barriers*

## **YOUR COMPETITION**

### LANGUAGE

Working to overcome the language gap

### TRUST

The political climate over the last three years really has Latin@s nervous to try new things

### TIME

6 day work week and church leave room for little else





# Clase Alfa - La Academia de Defensores





CAPSTONE PROJECTS:





# Embajadores de los Árboles





Recruiting

Timing

Opportunity

Skills development

practical experience

community  
engagement

postive  
connections

connection to  
the environment

curriculum  
development



# CLIMATE CREW

- 10 month program - programa de 10 meses
- \$15/hour
- work in the community - trabaja en la comunidad
- leadership training - formación en liderazgo
- environmental literacy - aprendizaje ambiental
- supports a cleaner and healthier environment - apoya un medio ambiente más sano

**CONTRATANDO AHORA**



**REGISTER NOW  
APLICA AHORA**

[www.defensoresdelacuenca.org](http://www.defensoresdelacuenca.org)  
202-240-2830



**QUALIFICATIONS -REQUISITOS:**

- graduation within 4 years of high school - haberse graduado de "high school" con no mas de 4 años ✓
- work permit - tener permiso de trabajo ✓
- received a MD public school diploma or GED diploma de "High School" pública en MD o el GED ✓



# Green Jobs Defensores Youth Corps



Greater Baltimore  
Wilderness  
Coalition

Chesapeake  
Conservancy  
EXPLORE. CONSERVE. INNOVATE

GROW  
HOME

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION  
NFWF

UNITED STATES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Chesapeake Bay Program  
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund



# *Aims and Focus*

## **GOALS WORTH ACHIEVING**



### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

Involvement in EJ  
often leads to getting  
to know potential  
partners

### **PARTNERSHIPS**

Partnerships help  
bring about Cultural  
Competency

### **CULTURAL COMPETENCY**

Being culturally  
competent allows you  
to create an inviting  
space

### **DIVERSIFYING INTERNALLY**

Being inviting often  
leads to a more  
welcoming and  
supportive work  
environment for  
diverse perspectives



Do the best you can until  
you know better. Then  
when you know better, do  
better.

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MAYA ANGELOU







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