



María G. Méndez Guijarro

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OBJECTIVE

Leveraging a JD, a Master's in Planning, and a Bachelor's in Political Science to offer a comprehensive approach to urban resilience and sustainable development. With expertise in research, data analysis, and program management, I provide evidence-based strategies for building resilient, inclusive urban environments.

EXPERIENCE

Urban Planning & Research Specialist

Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust
2022 - Current

- Contributed to the design and implementation of the methodology for the Caribbean Center for Rising Seas program.
- Led proposal development for the program, including defining project context, budgeting, and procurement efforts.
- Conducted comprehensive research on urban planning trends and data analysis, focusing on adaptation strategies for sea level rise and climate resilience within the program..
- Developed effective strategies for collecting data and analyzed data related to sea level rise, coastal vulnerabilities, and community demographics, to develop informed strategies for climate resilience and adaptation planning.
- Identified and engaged key stakeholders, ensuring diverse perspectives are considered in community engagement and planning efforts.
- Managed effort on the CCRS team in a collaborative study on Leveraging Earth Observation Data to Support Environmental Justice : A Puerto Rico Case Study.

Research & Data Analyst

Estudios Técnicos, Inc. / Professional Services

2021 - 2022

- Deliver research and data analysis services to support the development and execution of Municipal Recovery Plans.
- Evaluate community needs, vulnerabilities, and priorities, guiding the recovery planning process.
- Work closely with multidisciplinary teams to incorporate data-driven insights into recovery planning.
- Contribute to tasks related to data collection, entry, and management for planning and

Regional Community Planning Associate

Foundation for Puerto Rico 2020 - 2021

- Collaborate with community stakeholders to craft robust resilience plans, synthesizing valuable input from residents, local officials, and organizations.
- Engage in dynamic collaboration with over 15 community stakeholders to craft resilient urban plans.

EDUCATION

San Juan, Puerto Rico
2020 - 2024

Doctor of Law

Inter American University of Puerto Rico

Mayagüez, Puerto Rico
2011 - 2015

Bachelor's in Political Sciences

Universidad de PR, Recinto Universitario de Mayagüez

Minor - International Relations

San Juan, Puerto Rico
2016 - 2019

Master's in Urban Planning

Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Río Piedras

SKILLS

- Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement
- Report Writing & Proofreading
- Data Analysis
- Program Support & Management
- Community Outreach
- Communication
- Conflict Resolution

LANGUAGES

Spanish
Native

English
Native

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

- Méndez Guijarro, M. G. "Puerto Rico: A Case Study Initiative on Amphibious Infrastructure for the Caribbean." Presentation at the 4th International Conference on Amphibious and Floating Architecture, Cottbus, Germany. October 9-11, 2023
- Méndez Guijarro, M. G., Raub, K. B., & Flynn, S. E. (2023). "Empowering Environmental Justice, Climate Adaptation, and Lasting Resilience in Salinas, Puerto Rico: Lessons Learned from a Community-Engaged Exploration of Earth Observation Data Applications." Presentation at the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting 2023, George R. Moscone Convention Center, San Francisco, CA, USA. December 11-15, 2023.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Activities and societies for Law School terms: 2020 - 2023

- Business Law and Trade Association
- President 2021/2022 // Operations Assistant 2020/2021

Activities and societies achieved during the Master's degree terms for the years 2016 - 2019:

- President of the Graduate School of Planning's Student Council (2017-2018)
- Golden Key International Honor Society (2016+)
- Teaching & Research Assistant (2017-2019)

Activities and societies for Bachelor's degree school terms: 2011 - 2015

- Mu Alpha Phi Sorority: Beta Chapter // Summer 2011, Treasurer // Treasurer of the Year Achievement
- University Institute for the Development of Communities: Researcher 2015, Mentor - 2016

PUBLICATIONS

Méndez Guijarro, María G. (2019). Plan for Coastal Community Resilience in the Municipality of Añasco: Extreme Weather Events or Natural Disasters. Graduate School of Planning, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus.

Pérez Echávez, Y. M., Méndez Guijarro, M. G., & Aldarondo Jones, K. (2016). Causes and effects of the commercial and economic closure of Puerto Las Américas in a municipality in the southern area of Puerto Rico. Department of Social Sciences, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus.