



The Gang Crackdown – Panelist Bios

Marcela Gaviria, Writer, Director and Producer

Marcela Gaviria is a journalist and filmmaker with Rain Media in New York City. Over the past decade, she has produced more than 30 hours for FRONTLINE, PBS' flagship current affairs series, covering the rise of Al Qaeda, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the culture of risk-taking on Wall Street and America's heroin epidemic. Gaviria has earned every award in broadcast journalism multiple times, including seven Emmy Awards, three George Foster Peabody Awards, three duPont-Columbia Awards, four Writer's Guild of America Awards, three Overseas Press Club Awards and the prestigious George Polk Award. In 2015 Gaviria was awarded two Emmys, the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award and the Investigative Reporters and Editors Award for *Firestone and The Warlord*, her 90-minute investigation on Charles Taylor and the deal he made with the American tire giant. Gaviria has produced some of FRONTLINE's most hard-hitting films, including *A Subprime Education*, *Chasing Heroin*, *Firestone and the Warlord*, *The Retirement Gamble*, *The War Briefing* and *The Medicated Child*. Gaviria obtained her BA from Brown University and her MA from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University.

WALTER BARRIENTOS, Long Island Organizing Director, MRNY

Walter Barrientos joined Make The Road New York in 2014 and currently serves as the Long Island Organizing Director where he leads the organization's issue campaigns and membership building strategy. Walter also oversees the Long Island strategy for Make The Road New York's sister organization, Make The Road Action (MRAF). He comes to MRNY with extensive experience working with immigrant communities, both as a grantmaker and an organizer. Walter first came to Make the Road as youth organizing intern in the summer of 2005 and has since served on staff at Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees and the North Star Fund. He is a founding board member of the United We Dream Network and the New York State Youth Leadership Council. Walter is currently completing a Masters degree from the Baruch College School of Public Affairs. Originally from Guatemala, Walter was raised on Long Island after arriving there with his parents and sister at the age of eleven. He currently serves on the board of Resource Generation and was named among New York Nonprofit Media's 40 Under 40 Rising Stars in 2015.

Sgt. Steven Lundquist, Commanding Officer, Suffolk County Sheriff's Office Gang Intelligence Unit

Steven Lundquist is a 25-year veteran of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, located on Long Island, New York. Lundquist is a Sergeant Investigator and has been assigned to the Gang Intelligence Unit for the past 13 years. During his career, he has testified as a gang expert in several criminal trials and has appeared on the MSNBC show *Lockdown*. Lundquist has also lectured on gangs to college students as well as law enforcement groups.

Alex Sanchez, Former Gang Member & Executive Director of Homies Unidos

Alex Sanchez is co-founder of Homies Unidos in Los Angeles, where he has developed and implemented innovative violence prevention and intervention programs since 1998, and has led the organization as executive director since 2006. Sanchez's commitment to disenfranchised youth and their families in the Latino and largely Central American communities of the Pico Union, Westlake and Koreatown areas of Los Angeles, is rooted in his personal journey, which includes gang involvement in his youth. Sanchez's family migrated to Los Angeles, California, at the end of the 1970s, during the height of military repression in El Salvador. After being involved in gangs and serving time in state prison, he was deported in 1994 to El Salvador, where he met the founder of Homies Unidos, Magdaleno Rose Avila, and others striving for social change. This turning point marked Sanchez's commitment to improve his life and to help other youth do the same. He brought that message to California and helped found Homies Unidos in Los Angeles in 1998.

Raney Aronson-Rath, Executive Producer, FRONTLINE

Raney Aronson-Rath is the executive producer of FRONTLINE, PBS' flagship investigative journalism series, and is a leading voice on the future of journalism. She has been internationally recognized for her work to expand FRONTLINE's reporting capacity and reimagining the documentary form across multiple platforms. From the emergence of ISIS in Syria to the hidden history of the NFL and concussions to the secret reality of rape on the job for immigrant women, Aronson-Rath oversees FRONTLINE's acclaimed reporting and directs the series' evolution and editorial vision. She has developed and managed dozens of in-depth, cross-platform journalism partnerships with outlets including ProPublica, *The New York Times* and Univision. Under her leadership, FRONTLINE has won every major award in broadcast journalism and dramatically expanded its digital footprint. Aronson-Rath earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin and her master's from Columbia Journalism School.