
Mai-Elka Prado Gil

Mai-Elka Prado Gil is the creator of the Afro-Latino Festival of New York. The Festival is one of the most genuine and influencing spaces for culture and community in NY.

As a cultural organizer, her work is focused on developing platforms and content curations that unite multicultural audiences. Mai-Elka works closely with activists, culture producers, non-profit organizations, musicians and institutional leaders in the U.S., Panamá, Colombia and Perú; to raise the visibility of Black communities from Latin America and their diasporas. Her work has been an integral part of the representation and conversation about Afrolatinidad in the US since 2011.



Director, Producer & Curator

“My passion is building community”

Mai-Elka began documenting and preserving Black Panamanian perspectives on community, race and racism. From that experience she realized that despite there being so many Afrolatinos in New York and the Northeastern U.S. there wasn't a platform that publicly celebrated us and that was built by us.

As an artist she wanted to create a space for Afrolatinx creatives and performers to showcase their work. For other preservers of cultural heritage to come together, for fellow entrepreneurs, and of course for families. The Festival is a reflection of the community. That community is local and regional but she has also made sure to connect with cultural organizers throughout the Western Hemisphere. Our diaspora is borderless in its reality and its essence.



Artist: Singer-songwriter

“Art is recognition”

Her creative vision is all derived from a desire to celebrate and affirm who she am in its multitudes. Woman. Black. Latina. Creator. Mother and Immigrant. She sings, documents and produces events centering the experiences that are seldom provided space to be heard. Two of the tenets of the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent are recognition and development. Her cultural heritage is reflected through the music she creates. Its uniqueness and familiarity speaks to a diaspora sound of African maroons and indigenous rebels. More than 500 years of cultural heritage influences her work. In addition, she is an artist that supports the works of other artists. By creating an incubator ecosystem for Black Latinx arts and creatives, it has provided opportunities for many to secure engagements with larger institutions. Her works have been included in exciting projects of Black Latin American culture with Grammy Nominee Petrona Martinez and Magín Diaz of Colombia, Enerolisa Nuñez of the Dominican Republic and many more.

