

## Bio

mark! Lopez (He/Him/His) comes from a family with a long history of activism. He was raised in the Madres del Este de Los Angeles Santa Isabel (Mothers of East LA Santa Isabel – MELASI), an organization co-founded by his grandparents, Juana Beatriz Gutierrez and Ricardo Gutierrez. This set his trajectory as a community activist. He engaged in a wide array of student activism at UC Santa Cruz where he earned his B.A. in Environmental Studies, and taught university courses at UC Santa Cruz, Cal State Northridge, and UCLA Extension. mark! earned his M.A. from the Chican@ Studies Department at Cal State Northridge, where he completed his Masters thesis titled *The Fire: Decolonizing “Environmental Justice.”*<sup>1</sup> mark! joined East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice as a member three years before joining the staff. After serving as Lead Organizer for East Yard Communities and Co-Director with EYCEJ Co-Founder Angelo Logan, mark! served as the Executive Director for over 6 years. He is now serving as Eastside Community Organizer & Special Projects Coordinator. He organizes in the area where he was born, raised and continues to live. mark! is the 2017 North American Recipient of the Goldman Environmental Prize.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://scholarworks.csun.edu/bitstream/handle/10211.3/152202/Lopez-Mark-thesis-2015.pdf;jsessionid=13D031EEF68C1E3BFB5BB938C5AD93F6.server1?sequence=1>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.goldmanprize.org/recipient/mark-lopez/>