



Michelle Martinez

Michelle Martinez is an environmental justice activist born in Detroit and raised by the Latino Diaspora. Since 2006, she has worked in local communities of color to build power to halt climate change, and the detrimental effects of pollution in post-industrial Detroit. Working across issues of race, gender, and nationality, she has built and led coalitions using art / media, land-based programming, popular education, voter engagement, and corporate accountability tactics to shape policy solutions. In 2019 she helped bottomlined the March for the Green New Deal in Detroit Michigan during the Democratic National Debate.

Currently, she is the Acting Executive Director of Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition, which advocates for climate and environmental justice for communities disproportionately impacted by environmental toxins. She was a 2017 Equity Fellow at Wayne State University Law School's Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights and received the Top 25 Latinx Leaders from the State of Michigan, Hispanic Latino Commission in 2019 and in 2020 she received the Youth Activist Award from the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights. She earned her MS in Environmental Policy from the University of Michigan School of Nature Resources and Environment, now SEAS, in 2008 and BA in English Literature also from U of M in 2003.