

A VIRTUAL GALA



**HISPA**  
**3 Kings**  
Banquet



**January 13**  
**2022**

[www.hispa.org](http://www.hispa.org)

# HISPA 2022

## Three Kings Banquet – Agenda



**January 12th, 2022**

**12:00 P.M. Virtual Celebration Platform Opens: <https://3kings2022.hispa.org/>**

*Welcoming Remarks – Lobby*

Yvonne Shepard, Chair of HISPA Board of Directors

*Virtual Celebration Platform Tutorial Video – Lobby*

**January 13th, 2022**

**7:00 P.M. Opening Session - Link: [Theater](#)**

*Master of Ceremonies*

Rod Colon, Director of HISPA Volunteer Management

*Musical Performance*

Anthony Rodriguez, Music Producer and Telly Award Winning Film Composer

*Poetry*

Joaquín Zihuatanejo, Award-Winning Poet, Writer, and Teacher

*Welcome Message and CORAZON Award Presentation*

Dr. Ivonne Díaz-Claisse, CEO of HISPA

*Keynote Address*

Dr. Mary Fernández, Non-Profit Consultant and President of Temple B'nai Or

*Annual Partner Remarks*

Dr. Jamal Watson, Director of ETS Center for Advocacy and Philanthropy

**7:25 P.M. Banquet Hall Booth and Zoom Networking - Link: [Banquet Hall](#)**

Guests may chat with others by selecting a Banquet Hall booth and clicking the Networking link. Celebrate with: HISPA, Verizon, Bloomberg, Bristol Myers Squibb, Merck, PSEG, the U.S. Navy, PNC Bank, UPS, Amazon, ETS, Norm Brodsky College of Business, or

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Prudential.

**8:00 P.M. Awards Ceremony - Link: [Theater](#)**

*HISPA Awards Presentation*

Kathleen Larkin, HISPA Board of Directors

- *SHARE Award - Role Model of the Year: Dr. Michelle Hernandez*
  - Annual Co-Founding Supporter Remarks: Carmen Villar, Vice President of Social Business Innovation at Merck
- *INSPIRE Award - Champion of the Year: Captain Roy Love, President of ANSO*
  - Annual Co-Founding Partner Remarks: Rear Admiral Dennis Velez, Commander of Navy Recruiting Command
- *TRANSFORM Award - Sponsor of the Year: Bloomberg*
  - Remarks: Divina Tucci, Program Manager at Bloomberg Corporate Philanthropy
- *Leadership in Mentoring Award: Verizon*
  - Remarks: Jose Aleman, Facilities Technician at Verizon

*Closing Remarks*

Addriana Montalvo-Andujar, Director of HISPA Educational Programs

*Musical Performance*

Ernesto Alejandro and Ernesto Espin, Duo Fe-Ecuador

**8:15 P.M. Dance Party with Pioneer of the Electric Harp, Kiki Bello**

We invite you to join our dance party in Zoom

**Link: [Zoom](#)**

Or, you may enjoy the performance from the Theater

**Link: [Theater](#)**

**8:30 P.M. Silent Auction Opens - Link: [Silent Auction](#)**

Your support means HISPA's can reach more schools to impact more students. The silent auction will close on January 17, 2022, at 8:30 p.m.



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### BIOGRAPHIES

#### **Anthony Rodriguez**

Music Producer and Telly Award Winning Film Composer

Independent musician and artist Anthony Rodriguez brings a unique color to Latin music. His recent release includes a re-score of "Deliver Us" from the movie "Prince of Egypt." This re-score was also mastered at the iconic studio in London, Air Studios. His previous release from 2015 "Shackles Salsa" was nominated for Best Song in The Independent Music Awards. With music productions lined up, Anthony is now adding film scoring to his arsenal and has scored a full documentary titled "Sazon Guzman" released on Vimeo, and soon on Film Festivals.

#### **Joaquín Zihuatanejo**

Award-Winning Poet, Writer, and Teacher

Joaquín Zihuatanejo is an award-winning poet, writer, and teacher from Dallas, Texas. He was the winner of the 2017 Anhinga Press-Robert Dana Prize for Poetry. His latest poetry collection, *Arsonist*, was published by Anhinga Press in 2018. His work has been featured in *Prairie Schooner*, *Sonora Review*, *Huizache*, and *Southwestern American Literature* among other journals and anthologies. Joaquín received his MFA from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. His work has been featured on NBC, HBO, and NPR in *Historias* and *The National Teachers Initiative*. Equally comfortable on a TED stage or a high school auditorium stage Joaquín makes his living by traveling and offering workshops and readings to middle school, high school, and university students all over the country. Joaquín is the only poet on the planet to win the Individual World Poetry Slam Championship held in North America and the World Cup of Poetry Slam Championship held in Paris, France making him, for a time, the number one ranked slam poet on the Planet. Joaquín's latest book, *Dollars for Scholars*, is a work of nonfiction that is a guide to help scholars transition from high school senior to college freshman with greater ease and

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an emphasis on the well-written scholarship essay and the scholarship process. Joaquín has two passions in his life, his partner Aída and poetry, always in that order.

### **Dr. Mary Fernández**

Keynote Speaker and HISPA 2021 Corazón Award Recipient

During a three-decade career, Dr. Mary Fernández has been a non-profit leader, a research computer scientist, and technology leader, a passionate mentor of students in STEM fields, and a champion for diversity and inclusion in STEM. Mary completed her two-decade corporate career as Assistant Vice President at AT&T Research then joined the social impact sector as CEO of MentorNet. Today, Mary consults with social-impact organizations on strategy, board management, and leadership development. Mary is the current president of Temple B’nai Or in Morristown, NJ, and a member of the national board of directors of [18doors.org](http://18doors.org), an organization that serves interfaith couples and families exploring Jewish life. Mary earned the Ph.D. in computer science at Princeton University and is currently pursuing executive education in nonprofit leadership at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

### **Dr. Michelle Hernandez, Merck**

SHARE Award - Role Model of the Year

Dr. Michelle Hernandez is Associate Director of Occupational Toxicology in the Merck Research Laboratories Preclinical Development group where she provides technical guidance on a broad range of occupational, environmental and product safety topics. Michelle received her Ph.D. from New York University and holds MS degrees in Exposure Assessment from New York University and Molecular Biology from Montclair State University. She has worked as a consultant to life science, medical device, and contract research companies for the last decade, and is highly active in the promotion of toxicology to undergraduate and graduate students, as well as a community mentor to up and coming science professionals.

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### **Rear Admiral Dennis Velez**

Commander of Navy Recruiting Command

Velez has served in various roles at sea and ashore, including senior military assistant to the 76th Secretary of the Navy. Rear Adm. Velez received the Navy League of the United States 2016 John Paul Jones Award for Inspirational Leadership. His military decorations include the Defense Superior Service, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service, the Navy Commendation, and the Navy Achievement Medals. He is most proud of his appointment as an honorary chief petty officer by CMDCM Steve Fontenot onboard USS Donald Cook.

### **Captain Roy Love, ANSO**

INSPIRE Award - Champion of the Year

Capt. Roy Love was born in the Dominican Republic and moved to the U.S. in 1983. In 1988 he graduated from Townsend Harris HS in N.Y. Following HS, Love enlisted in the U.S. Navy and attended the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) Program in San Diego, California, in 1989. In 1993, he graduated from the State University of New York (SUNY) Maritime College, earning a bachelor's degree in Marine Transportation/Business Administration, and received his naval commission via ROTC.

His sea duty assignments are numerous. He has served as a Division Officer aboard the USS GALLERY and USS CAPE ST. GEORGE. He served as a Department Head at Naval Beach Group Two, USS STEPHEN W. GROVES and COMDESRON 26. In 2004 he served on the Commander Seventh Fleet Staff as Assistant Operations Officer, Fleet Scheduler, and Assistant to the Fleet Navigator. In 2006, he reported as the Executive Officer of USS JOHN L HALL.

He attended the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, earning a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies in 2008. He deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2009 on an Individual Assignment in support of the ARMY



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304th Sustainment Brigade, managing and distributing fuel across all of Iraq to support U.S. and allied forces.

CAPT Love reported as the Captain of the Fast Frigate USS BOONE (FFG 28) in June 2010, where he led the ship in winning the Battle Efficiency award in 2011. CAPT Love is the first Dominican American to lead a US Naval Warship. He completed his tour on BOONE in December 2011 and assumed Command of Afloat Training Group Mayport in Jacksonville, Florida. CAPT Love served in the Joint Staff, Joint Chiefs of Staff, as Joint Division Chief for PACOM, NORTHCOM, and SOUTHCOM, under the Deputy Director for Regional Operations (J35) from 2014-2016.

In August 2016, he assumed command of Naval Base San Diego (NBSD), the second-largest Naval Base in the U.S. CAPT Love is the first Hispanic to lead the installation. He culminated his tour as Commanding Officer of NBSD in July 2019, after leading the base in winning the Commander in Chief Installation Excellence Award.

His final assignment in the U.S. Navy was as Executive Assistant to Commander Navy Installations Command, who leads 10 Navy Regions and 70 Naval Installations worldwide, with over 50,000 employees and over \$200 Billion in assets, and a \$10B annual operating budget. Captain Love retired from the U.S. Navy after 29 years on active duty.

CAPT Love's military awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, and various U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard unit and service awards.

He is currently serving as President of the Association of Naval Services Officers (ANSO). ANSO is a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to the recruitment, retention, and promotion of Hispanics and Latinos across all United States Sea Services ranks. Founded in 1981 by the first Secretary of the Navy of Hispanic descent, the Honorable Eduardo Hidalgo, the Association of Naval Services Officers has long served as a mentoring and career development-focused organization. In addition to supporting outreach within America's underserved communities, ANSO directly supports Hispanic/Latino(a) members in their decision to remain in their respective services and help those who separate or retire find outside employment through its extensive network.

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Dedicated to the principles of lifelong learning and motivated to pay it forward always, he is a certified Resilience Building Leadership Professional (RBLP) Trainer dedicated to helping organizations create senior leaders that can build resilient teams, facilitate team learning, and support organizational learning.

He is also certified Motorcycle Safety Foundation Rider Coach, Motorcycle Safety Instructor, Iron Butt Association, The World's Toughest Motorcycle Riders, long-distance and endurance motorcyclist, and Founder and CEO of The Road Eagle LLC, which is working to create the first online Bi-Lingual Motorcycle Magazine dedicated to Latino Riders.

### **Divina Tucci, Bloomberg Corporate Philanthropy**

TRANSFORM Award - Sponsor of the Year: Bloomberg

Divina Tucci serves as a Program Manager for the Corporate Philanthropy Team at Bloomberg. She began her career at Bloomberg back in 2013 as a Summer Intern and has enjoyed several roles at the company since then including Global Customer Service Representative and Diversity Recruiter. Divina is also dedicated to Bloomberg's Diversity & Inclusion initiatives and serves as the Community Engagement pillar lead for the New Jersey chapter of the Bloomberg Latinx Community. Divina was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, and enjoys visiting Puerto Rico with her family as often as she can. As a first-generation college graduate, Divina has just realized her longtime goal of gaining a Master of Arts in Industrial & Organizational Psychology this Spring. When not working, you can find Divina in the kitchen experimenting with new vegan recipes or lounging in the yard with a good book!

### **Ernesto Alejandro (son) and Ernesto Espin (father)**

Due Fe-Ecuador

For the past 19 years, Ernesto son and father have worked in their community providing guitar and cultural classes to people of all ages in the tri-state area of NY, NJ, and CT. They have been members of non-profits such as the Institute of Latin American Art and Juventud Ecuatoriana. Non-profit organizations aimed to educate and empower individuals in our area.



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Music has been at the center of this father and son relationship. The deep desire to contribute to their communities stems from the understanding that music has the power to heal, to empower, to inspire, people with a message of hope through their songs, and that underneath we all share a cultural connection. “It’s our desire that music transcends any barriers, differences, and that it could be used as a gift of generations and communities to continue sharing with love, the roots of where we came from and who we are”

### **Kiki Bello**

Pioneer of the Electric Harp

Kiki Bello, is a Colombian singer-songwriter, harpist and music business entrepreneur based in Miami, FL. She has been worldwide acclaimed as the pioneer of the Electric Harp in the Latin music industry. Many celebrities have shared and commented on her music. Her videos have collected more than 150 Million views all over social media.

Kiki Bello has been the opening act for many celebrities including Cissy Houston, Zacarias Ferreira, Elvis Martinez, Binomio de Oro, Jorge Celedón, John Alex Castaño, Cholo Valderrama, among others. Kiki Bello has released 4 albums.

Kiki has been interviewed on Latin TV networks such as Telemundo, Univision, NBC, ABC, News 12 NJ, Caracol Colombia, and RCN, bringing her into global recognition. Kiki holds the record on the “Most Viewed” harp cover on social media with the song “Despacito” with approximately 130+ million views combined on multiple pages on Facebook, YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, and WhatsApp.

Kiki is the founder of the American manufacturing company Harpy Harps USA®, which sells electric-acoustic harps all over the world. Kiki Bello graduated with Cum Laude honors from Music Business at William Paterson University and Bergen Community College of New Jersey.