

REFORMA Northeast Chapter
is proud to announce the
2022 Pura Belpré Librarian of the Year Award Recipient

Congratulations!

Louis Muñoz Jr.

Reference/Adult Services Librarian i
Morristown Library, New Jersey



Born in the U.S. but also raised in his parents' native Puerto Rico, Luis Carlos "Louis" Muñoz Jr. has experienced first-hand many of the issues faced by immigrants and persons of color. A first-generation college graduate, Louis earned an Associate of Arts in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Essex County College in NJ and a Bachelor of Science in History from Excelsior College in NY, graduating summa cum laude. After working in a variety of careers, including serving in the U. S. Army and as a kindergarten teacher, Louis decided to pursue librarianship. While working on his Master of Library Science at Pratt Institute in New York and as a Librarian Trainee at Brooklyn (NY) Public Library, Louis was introduced by his mentor in the IMLS-grant funded Public Urban Library Service Education (PULSE) diversity initiative to several members of REFORMA Northeast (RNE). They encouraged him to join REFORMA. With his interests in working with multicultural and diverse populations and EDI, Louis worked at BPL's Central Library helping other immigrants and traditionally underserved/underrepresented populations in the Multilingual Center. Louis then became a Mentor (and Presenter) in the Multicultural Internship Program, another IMLS-grant program designed to introduce NYC minority high school students to the library profession.

Since 2015, Louis has been working as a Reference/Adult Services Librarian in Morristown, New Jersey. His work there includes outreach to the Latino community as well as being a member of the Latino Oral History Project and recently helping to launch a Spanish-language edition of the online and physical newsletters to extend the library's reach and accessibility. Outside of his library, Louis has been a presenter at various conferences, including ALA and JCLC; a member of various local and national task forces on diversity and diversity initiatives; and has been an enthusiastic participant in RNE, REFORMA National, and ALA, where he is finishing a second three-year term on ALA Council ending this year.