

## Madellen Garcia

### Personal statement

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to run for Vice President/President Elect of REFORMA Northeast Chapter. I have been a member of REFORMA since 2012, but in the last three years I have become more active in the Chapter attending meetings where I have had the opportunity to meet new people and develop new relationships.



If elected, during my Vice Presidency I will support the President in his efforts to carry out the mission and goals of REFORMA, and would work with the Executive Board members to serve our members. Additionally, I will focus on increasing our membership by reaching out to those who might be under the false impression that in order to join REFORMA you must be a librarian, a director or that you must speak Spanish. I would also like to recruit library school students to join REFORMA before they graduate by communicating with all of the library schools in the Northeast region asking for the opportunity to speak to students so that we can inform them about the benefits of joining the organization and invite them to attend REFORMA meetings or events.

This experience will give me the opportunity not only to grow personally and professionally but also to help with equity, diversification and inclusion. I think we can learn from each other and inspire new generations of library workers and library advocates who share our objective to promote library and information services to Latinos and the Spanish-speaking.

Looking forward to working together and continue the REFORMA Northeast Chapter mission!

### Bio

Madellen Garcia has been working at Queens Public Library for the past 24 years; first at various community libraries as a Customer Service Aide and then she began working at the New Americans Program (NAP), where she has worked for 17 years. NAP's main focus is to help the immigrant community adapt to life in the United States by offering educational workshops and cultural programs to the Latino and Spanish-speaking community. Madellen's role within the New Americans Program, besides managing the office, is to assist with programs. She helps create, promote, monitor, and the evaluate programs offered by NAP. She also assists with translation of promotional materials in Spanish and attends community events to promote the library's services to the Latino and Spanish-speaking community.

Madellen has been a member of REFORMA for the past 3+ years and is also a member of the Ethnic Services Round Table (ESRT) of the New York Library Association (NYLA) and a member of Library Support Staff Round Table (LSSRT) at ALA.

REFORMA Northeast Chapter  
VP Nominee – 2023-2024