

# MARIANA BANDERA

mariana@passages.earth | 954-871-7815 | 1616 Colorado st. Houston, TX 77007

www.passages.earth

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## SUMMARY

As an anthropologist, I bring my expertise to contribute to the research and analytical needs of organizations. My specialization lies in facilitating valuable insights through qualitative research and survey methods, ensuring that the data collected provides clarity and a deep understanding of humanity.

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## EDUCATION

### BA in Liberal Arts

December 2014

University of Texas at Austin

- Major in Anthropology
- Minor: Latin American Studies

### Sanisera Archaeology Field School

2019

Advanced Osteology: Necropolis Graves, Menorca, Spain

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### 2022-2024 Program Director: LavaLove Cacao

- Led a team in developing and implementing programs with Ajijabs, Mayan Spiritual leaders, that promote educational and cultural exchange between spiritual guides in Lake Atitlan and international visitors through workshops and ceremonies.

### 2020-2023 Project Management & Production Consultant

Social Impact Organizations: Geoversity, CityKids, Chopra Foundation, MINGA Indigena, Global Unity.

- Spearheaded strategy and managed multiple social and environmental initiatives involving research, funding, and digital marketing.
- Pioneered Geo2030 with Panamanian Government, enlisting 1,000+ Biocultural leaders, overseeing communications and marketing efforts.
- Programmed and executed culturally significant events at COP26, highlighting indigenous narratives and artistic climate advocacy.
- Fostered key partnerships with organizations like MINGA Indigena and Guna Yala Congress to drive impactful community projects.
- Developed and marketed interdisciplinary 5-week programs with Indigenous leaders, educators, and experts.

### 2019-2021 Assistant Community Researcher

Geoversity + Friends of the Rainforest in Madroño.

- Assisted Fulbright preliminary research alongside Jessica Wakauma Ausinheiler, focusing on sustainable economic opportunities for small-scale entrepreneurs and environmental & sustainability education in the Madrono Community, Mamoni Valley, Panama.
- Conducted ethnographic research, in-depth interviews, literary reviews, data analysis and created reports for community-led & Indigenous-led program development in sustainability and environmental awareness.
- Facilitated funding opportunities through stakeholder engagement, and grant development efforts, leading to larger program creation and volunteer and fellowship opportunities at Geoversity's educational programs for youth leaders.

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **2019-2020 Academic Program Advisor**

**(COVID)** Institute for American Universities

- Collaborated with faculty and esteemed guest lecturers to formulate innovative study abroad programs in Spain, ensuring alignment with students' academic goals and enhancing the overall learning experience.
- Oversaw student applications for newly developed programs, providing personalized guidance and support to facilitate a seamless study abroad application process.
- Contributed to curriculum development, with a specific focus on designing tailored programs to cater to the unique needs of archaeology students, fostering their academic growth and cultural immersion.
- Played a pivotal role in supporting the development, marketing, and production of study abroad programs in Barcelona and Madrid, driving increased enrollment and promoting the Institute's global engagement initiatives.

### **2015-2019 Archaeological Project Lead**

California State Parks, Southern Service Center

- Directed the creation of comprehensive reports and supervised excavation, surveying, monitoring, recording, updating, and preservation of archaeological sites in multiple State Parks across southern California.
- Managed and maintained the Geographic Information System (GIS) for the California State Parks Southern Service Center, ensuring accurate inventorying of archaeological sites at a state level.
- Conducted fieldwork, data collection, and contributed to the analysis and interpretation of findings.
- Fostered communication and collaboration between staff, Native American Monitors, and Interns building strong communication channels to ensure alignment and coordination.

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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EXPERIENCE

**2015-2019** Excavated, surveyed, monitored, recorded and updated archaeological sites throughout southern California's State Parks as an Archaeological Specialist for the California State Parks Southern Service Center.

**2016-2019** Supervised and managed the geographic information system (GIS) to inventory the archaeological sites at a state level for the California State Parks Southern Service Center.

**2017** Surveyed, monitored and recorded archaeological sites throughout California for Chambers Group inc. in order to mitigate construction project areas.

**2016** Faculty Student Collaboration Research with Professor Jose Aguilar . M.A., RPA; conducted archaeological research within El Diablito, La Rumorosa site in Mexico. Findings and preliminary reports were translated from Spanish to English.

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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EXPERIENCE

- 2016** Participated in surveying and recording potential impacts to archaeological sites within coastal lands of Southern California due to sea level rise and erosion; ongoing project since 2001.

*Project Directors: Karen Lacy and Marla Mealy.*

## MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

- 2015** Led and supervised the research, conservation and processing of the Mata Ortiz Ceramics Project at the Museum of Man. Conducted ethnographic interviews with Juan Quezada's Grandson.

*Curator: Karen Lacy*

- 2015** Assisted in the analysis of faunal material from sites around Pacific Beach and La Jolla, California for the department of Zooarchaeology at the Museum of Natural History, San Diego, California.

*Archaeologist: Dr. Susan Arter & Dr. Aaron Sasson*

## PUBLISHED REPORTS

Collier, Joanna; Del Rosario, Alyssa and Bandera, Mariana. 2014. Archaeological Survey Report for the Renovations for public use Project, Border Field State Park, San Diego, California. On file at SSC, DPR, CA State Parks.

Aguilar, Jose. Translated by Mariana Bandera. 2017. Arqueoastronomical Observations Completed in the Archaeological sites of El Hombre en el Cuadro and El Indio Batequi. Preliminary Report.

## ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2019-2020** Assisted Fulbright preliminary research alongside Jessica Wakauma Ausinheiler, focusing on sustainable economic opportunities for small-scale entrepreneurs and environmental & sustainability education in the Madrono Community, Mamoni Valley, Panama.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2019-2023** *Passages. Earth.*

*Designed coursework on pre-Columbian cosmovisions, cross-cultural ceremonies, and ethnobotany. Courses included:*

- Introduction to the Anahuac: *Uncovering pre-colombian cosmovisions*
- Our Natural Rights of Passage: *cross cultural exploration of ceremony throughout a human's life*
- Reimagining Death: *Cross cultural exploration of the cosmovision of death*
- Skin of corn, Heart of Cacao: *the ethnobotony of corn and Cacao within the Anahuac*

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## AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2014** The University of Texas  
College of Liberal Arts Scholarship (1,000.00 USD)
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## LANGUAGES

- English (Fluent)
  - Spanish (Fluent)
  - French (Advanced)
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## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- *Society for California Archaeology (SCA)*
- *American Anthropological Association (AAA)*
- *Geoversity Foundation*
- *Global Unity*
- *Open Future Coalition*
- *Sapiens*
- *Chakruna Institute*
- *Passages*