

I'm Gabriella Cortes-Alban, a multisector strategist igniting social impact through the arts. I am a senior at the University of Central Florida pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with concentrations in commerce, public affairs, nonprofit management, and performing arts administration. I combine my academic training with a professional career as a performing artist to bring innovative perspectives to fundraising, program development, and public communications.

With my mission to catalyze community resilience through programming that uses my love for art for public advocacy, the core values that drive my life are purpose, authenticity, passion, intention, and impact. My unique experiences working in the nonprofit sector, healthcare industry, public speaking, youth mentorship, mental health alleviation, and peer education curriculum combined with my training in latin dance and musical performance at a professional level provide me with fresh perspectives that inspire innovative approaches to organizational development, community engagement, and fundraising initiatives. These skills allow me to complement my passion for artistic performance with developing initiatives in collaboration with and consulting with local business and nonprofits with strategic planning and public relations. Building on this work, I apply my personal teaching philosophy by designing dance workshops that harness the power of movement and music to channel emotions, heal trauma, and enrich lives. I am currently partnering with Coach Lee's Camp in 10 Orange County schools to launch an after-school dance program that integrates mental health and personal development. Staying deeply connected to my artistry, I also work as an independent performer and collaborator with companies such as Eklectic Entertainment, Stepflix Entertainment, and Adanse Productions, contributing as a dancer, instrumentalist, and vocalist to corporate, theme park, and live performance projects.

Grateful for the opportunities that allowed me to grow, I am passionate about providing equitable support to those who do not have the same. I put this philosophy into action through *Sembrando Arte, Cosechando Esperanzas*, a project that uses entertainment to fund youth programs addressing mental health through arts and culture. I aspire for this program to grow, using big scale entertainment to have a platform and advocate for the bridging the gaps in communities surrounding education, healthcare, and holistic wellbeing.

To continue growing, I am committed to advancing both my artistry and my impact as a social entrepreneur. I plan to expand my expertise in program leadership, nonprofit management, curriculum design, and trauma-informed arts integration for mental health, while continuing to refine my artistic craft.. My work with Coach Lee's after-school program, my capstone project *Sembrando Arte, Cosechando Esperanzas*, and my subcontracting with local nonprofits are all providing the foundation and experience to take on larger, more ambitious initiatives. I am committed to staying relevant by taking courses, attending seminars, and real life practice. Artistically, I am developing a distinctive brand through performances that blend singing, violin, and salsa dance. By recording and sharing these shows with local agencies, I aim to establish my own platform as an artist, which I can use to amplify and sustain my philanthropic work.

My vision for future success is to expand my career into a brand that has books, public speaking, podcasting to share inspirational stories, arts-integration wellness workshops, performing on diverse stages, all while keeping the purpose of creating meaningful change through sustainable community programs. At the heart of this vision is to challenge society's

black-and-white standards and instead invite people to see life in full color by bridging communities, amplifying voices, and creating change through the power of art.