



VIBIANNO (VIB) GONZALEZ

In his/their own words

**“Perseverance
leads to change”**

connections ↓
...creative ways
testimonios ✨
•self-advocacy
community...

YOUR
VOICE
MATTERS

In your opinion, what are some of the contributions of the trans community to society?

[Our] Community has provided an example and a real living and breathing look at what it's like to live beyond the binary and cultivate a life of affirmation; where we're creating more connections in more creative ways, creating more resources, creating more self-advocacy, and more connections to other folks.

We also slip through the cracks in the system in so many ways and show up on the other side to break binaries, and out of breaking those binaries we've created perseverance that has led to changes in health care, in harm reduction, in housing access, in access to so many resources and livelihoods for the good of all of us, not just the trans community, but as human beings.

What do you believe is your gift to the world?

My creativity and my compassion are among my gifts to the community and the world. A lot of folks close to me would argue that another gift is my talkative nature and ability to communicate with folks throughout a lot of tough conversations. This talkative nature has allowed me to continue this niche work and take part in this amazing part of our community. Pláticas y testimonios among our trans community have fostered resiliency strategies that have

**...pláticas
resources ♡
perseverance...
✿ reimagine**

allowed us to survive throughout generations and life spans that we couldn't picture before. I'm incredibly honored that my talkative nature can offer these testimonios and connect us as a community in my work.

Can you briefly tell us about a positive transformative moment in your life?

I've thought a lot about transformative moments and as a trans person they come along in strings of events. I can't help but think as a person that is trans, that is brown, that comes from the borderlands and has lived to the age of 30, that I've outlived so many transformative events during my life. I've been lucky to survive a string of transformative events that have been fostered by the love, the creativity and the perseverance of my community. It's the glimpses of love, of hope and of support, from my family when I was coming out, from my students that would correct the pronouns of other teachers who were working with me at the high school where I first came out; all of those incidental moments and even the moments when I had to learn to be there for myself or catch myself and ask for help when I needed it. That transformative moment of love that keep showing its glimmer throughout my life and reminding me of where I am and the growth I've made has made all the difference in my life.

**“I learned to be
there for myself
and ask for help
when needed”**

**Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
How can organizations/society support
you in that pursuit?**

I see myself recovering from a wonderful conversation and presentation on the surgery doula program at Callen-Lorde and all the folks we've been able to help through their gender-affirming surgery process. I'm really hoping that I have the chance at that time to spread the word about all of this amazing work and how we're able to restructure and rework the things that we sometimes navigate to in trans health care but that can also be reimagined in ways that can facilitate and affirm our process and our journey. The community can support this work and what we're doing to get there five years from now by continuing to restructure the resources that we have, put the resources in the hands of trans folks, nothing for us without us. So that we are the ones who are making decisions about our health care, about our living situations, about access. So restructure the funds, get the money into trans folks' hands and make sure that we have that power, and that we're not only sitting at the table, but heading up the projects for our own health care.



TRANS VISIBILITY

Vib is currently a TGNB Surgery Doula & Patient Navigator at Callen-Lorde.