



November 6, 2018

City Employee Passionate About Bringing Performing Arts Events to the Fontana Community



Fontana, Calif.- She may be new to the City of Fontana, but Community Services Coordinator Michelle Pinedo is already making a difference in the community doing what she loves - working in performing arts. If you attended the recent La Gran Fiesta at Miller Park Amphitheater, Michelle was behind this first-time event.

"I am extremely proud of the inaugural Hispanic Heritage Celebration," shares Michelle. "We were able to coordinate the event from scratch and watch it all come to fruition as a team. Different divisions and departments assisted with successfully executing the event for the community and it was a pleasure collaborating with everyone."

Before joining the City of Fontana, Michelle was the Director of Club Programs at Manhattan Beach Country Club. She is happy to be pursuing her passion of music and dance in Fontana. "I was

extremely excited to see a position open up in the Cultural Arts Division, because I grew up in the performing arts," explains Michelle.

Michelle began dancing classical ballet, modern jazz and folklorico as a child. Focused on improving her skills, she tested annually with the prestigious Royal Academy of Dance. Her passion continued as a student at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts as a Dance major. Michelle continued dancing after high school and joined a Latin dance team, usually performing Salsa at events.

As the Community Services Coordinator in the Cultural Arts Division, Michelle oversees cultural arts classes, events and programming, the Mobile Recreation unit, Noches con Ritmo, Youth Community Theater, Fontana Arts Camp, the library partnership, Center Stage theater and Steelworkers' Auditorium. "I really enjoy introducing residents to a variety of cultural arts experiences," states Michelle. "I find it to be extremely rewarding."

Michelle is also passionate about traveling, exploring and learning about different cultures. Most people don't know that she once went on a three-month backpacking trip with no cell phone. She landed in San Jose, Costa Rica and took buses back to Los Angeles, with a quick detour to Cuba. She also visited Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico on that trip. Next on her bucket list are Greece and Vietnam. During a quiet weekend, you will find her riding her beach cruiser on The Strand in the South Bay.

Michelle and her team are busy working on a full list of cultural arts events in the remainder of 2018 and in 2019. Events include a Jazz Concert at Miller Amphitheater in early February, performances hosted by the Youth Community Theater at Steelworkers' Auditorium in November and May, the Fontana Arts Festival during the last weekend of July at Fontana Park and much more.

Michelle has been selected as the City of Fontana Employee Spotlight for the month of November based on nominations from her peers who describe her as an "amazing addition to the City who will do everything in her nature to help enrich the City and the Cultural Arts Division."

To learn more about the cultural arts events, please visit Arts.Fontana.org.