

# At Large Director - Ana Maria Rincon

## Short Bio

(158 words)

Ana Rincón is a Colombian-born community organizer who has lived in Mexico for 17 years—12 years in Mexico City and the last five in Oaxaca. After hearing about the local library for years from foreign friends, she visited San José Pacífico and officially joined Libros Para Pueblos last year. Today she serves on the library's outreach committee, and is currently helping plan the institution's 60th-anniversary celebrations. In her role at Libros Para Pueblos she cultivates donor relationships, leads library tours, coordinates logistics, and oversees monitoring-and-evaluation, giving her a firsthand grasp of day-to-day library operations and challenges in Mexico. Previously she managed administration and logistics for a social-documentary production company in Oaxaca and ran the Gonzo Soccer academy, empowering girls through sport across Colombia, Mexico, and the United States. Ana's skills lie in strong organization, patience in conflict-resolution that encourages group consensus, and a team-oriented focus on knowledge-sharing. Her vision is to connect Oaxacan university and high-school students with the library's English-language academic resources, expanding scholarly access in the region.

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## Long Bio

(454 words)

Born in Santa Marta on Colombia's Caribbean coast, Ana Rincón grew up surrounded by the seaside colors and magical-realism narratives that would later shape her literary taste. She moved to Mexico seventeen years ago, spending twelve years in Mexico City before relocating five years ago to Oaxaca with her husband, drawn by the region's quieter pace, vibrant culture, and the mountain village of San José del Pacífico. Through foreign friends she had heard of the local children's library for years. After finally visiting, she joined Libros Para Pueblos in 2023 and quickly became an active member of its outreach committee, where she is currently helping to coordinate the library's 60th-anniversary celebrations.

Ana's responsibilities at Libros Para Pueblos span from donor cultivation, organizing public library tours, and managing event logistics, to supervising monitoring-and-evaluation systems. This hands-on involvement has given her a comprehensive, firsthand understanding of the library's daily operations and the logistical hurdles faced by community-based cultural institutions in Mexico. Her work directly supports the library's mission to provide free, high-quality reading spaces for children and families, especially those lacking access to English-language academic texts.

Before her Oaxaca chapter, Ana worked for a documentary-production company that produced socially-focused films. Though her title was officially administration, she handled all the behind-the-scenes work including budget tracking, travel coordination, and crew scheduling which kept productions on task and on budget, and allowed filmmakers to focus on storytelling. The role deepened her appreciation for Oaxaca's cultural diversity and sharpened her organizational expertise.

Earlier still, Ana coordinated the Gonzo Soccer academy in Mexico City, a network of girls' soccer programs operating in Colombia, Mexico, and the United States. The initiative sought to empower young women through sport, mentorship, and education, reinforcing Ana's belief that extracurricular opportunities are essential pathways to confidence and future leadership.

Ana's key strengths are rooted in her current library sector experience and her proven ability to orchestrate complex logistical projects. She approaches conflict resolution with the patience she cultivated by growing from a reactive youth to a reflective adult. Recognizing that every perspective holds value, she gives people time and space to explore alternatives, guiding groups toward consensus without imposing her own view. This mature, inclusive style has proved effective in volunteer meetings, donor negotiations, and community workshops.

Teamwork and knowledge-sharing are central to Ana's ethos. She actively mentors newer volunteers, ensuring that institutional knowledge is distributed rather than siloed, and she consistently seeks to draw out the best in her colleagues. Looking ahead, Ana envisions a concrete bridge between Oaxacan university and high-school students and the library's English-language academic collection—resources that are often unavailable in local curricula. By facilitating access to these texts, she hopes to expand scholarly opportunities and promote bilingual academic excellence throughout the region.

Through her blend of cross-cultural experience, logistical acumen, and a clear vision for educational equity, Ana Rincón continues to strengthen Libros Para Pueblos and the broader Oaxaca community.