

# Nancy Melendez

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Nancy Melendez  
November 09, 2023  
Professor Jeremy Couillard  
Project Lab

Carrie Gilmour  
Program Manager  
Writer Journalist Internship  
The Borgen Project  
Optimal Workplace Inc.  
321 Employment Avenue.  
San Francisco, CA

Dear Ms Gilmour,

I am excited to apply for a Writer Journalist Internship at the Borgen Project. As a college student majoring in New Media Technology, Journalism at LaGuardia Community College, I enjoy being creative on a computer, photography and creative writing. I think I would make a great fit in this internship.

Writing, researching and advocacy are things I find important in my own work. My passion in the lowriding culture is a form of expression in my cultural identity. Growing up I often found myself surrounded by cruisers with my father. Attending a parade in New York City in 2023, it's a celebration of the battle of Puebla in 1862. They have folkloric ballet, mariachi, famous artists, lowrider bikes and cars. I was marked with a feeling like no other as I turned around and watched hundreds of people embracing the Mexican flag. My father couldn't attend, I was constantly hearing in my head the voices of my mother and father saying "send me pictures." As a child of immigrant parents whose parents can't attend because of work or not being able to travel, I understood why it was so important for my parents that I send them pictures of everywhere I went. Me and my father spent hours working on bikes. It seemed unfair that I could attend and not my father who was born in Puebla, this event was 20 minutes away from home and yet my father was miles away. My father wasn't able to attend because he works upstate for the entire summer. My father travels upstate as one of the main chefs at a restaurant. He has to work upstate because in the summer his hours get cut off so his job can hire seasonal employees. This saves the company a lot more money than increasing their full time employees' salary. I felt the responsibility to preserve, to share the traditions, the history, and hundreds of stories that the Mexican flag carried through my camera lens. My camera allowed me to preserve and share the vibrant colors of my culture and commemorate them. Photography has opened an opportunity for me to document my experience and my deep connection to my culture.

Just like I am able to pay homage to my culture I would like to honor the stories that need to be heard. My passion for nail art and extensive experience in customer service as well as being bilingual has helped me obtain valuable insight about my clients' lives. I have a client who continued an abusive marriage because of her limitations in English. I was happy to hear how she left the abusive marriage. I acknowledge that this is an ongoing cycle in Mexican cultures as well, where people relentlessly refuse to terminate a relationship where they are unhappy due to their socio-economic circumstances. It's easier to stay in an abusive relationship than afford an apartment on your own. It's an issue Mexican women and men constantly face out of fear. I would like to help these women and men identify with these stories, not only to discuss their struggles but also to convey the courage they demonstrated in facing domestic violence. Their experiences deserve to be narrated and unveiled as courage and accomplishments.

I am a storyteller dedicated to demonstrating a recollection of what it's like to belong in a Mexican American culture and heritage. Through my work, I aim to unveil the vibrant tapestry of experiences, emotions and traditions that displays the Mexican American cultural blends. As a member of the generation that straddles the line, understanding both worlds, I find inspiration in the famous phrase, "Ni de aqui ni de alla," which translates to "Neither here nor there." In my art, I aspire to convey the intricate blend of identities. I want people to see what I see through my creative journey. I want to build a bridge, connecting the past and the present, in hopes of inviting others to join me in this exploration and inspire those who, like me, have grown at the crossroads between The Mexican and American border. I believe that with my ambition, interest and passion for writing that my experience can make a valuable contribution to your team.

Thank you!