

STAFF



Adrienne Mohan, Executive Director

Adrienne Mohan is the Executive Director of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. She oversees the non-profit land trust annual budget of \$2.1 million, management and maintenance of 1600 acres of public land serving a populated region of southern Los Angeles County with 40 miles of multi-use trails, the operation of two nature centers, and the delivery of community programming; maintaining productive relationships with stakeholders, community members, government staff and officials; directing, supervising and evaluating the planning, organizing and operations of public service programs; providing detailed budgets and cost projections for programs and projects and monitors budget; preparing all board agendas, staff reports, financial statements and presentations.

Background and qualifications:

- Adrienne brings over 15+ years of experience in land conservation and ecosystem management, and non-profit board management
- Adrienne has earned Masters in Geography from California State University, Long Beach
- Before her current role, Adrienne served as the Conservancy's Conservation Director
- Adrienne joined the Land Conservancy staff in March 2010.

ADMINISTRATION



Jill Wittman, Administrative Assistant

Jill Wittman is responsible for managing the general office and administrative needs for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. Her responsibilities include support for the entire office. Jill is the primary telephone contact for incoming calls, handles general administrative responsibilities, maintains the PVPLC website, assists with maintenance of records and files, and keeps employee records.

Background and qualifications:

- Jill has a background in general office management and human resources.
- AA degree in Apparel Manufacturing Management from the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising
- Jill spent the past 15 years working in the fashion industry in Los Angeles and the South Bay Area.
- She was born and raised in Torrance, where she currently resides.
- Jill joined the Land Conservancy staff in September 2009.

LAND STEWARDSHIP



Cris Sarabia, Conservation Director

Cris Sarabia is the Conservation Director for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. Cris oversees the Stewardship Program staff and conservation projects including habitat restoration, species protection, and management of the Preserves and open spaces.

Background and qualifications:

- Master of Science in Geographic Information Science and a B.A in Environmental Science and Policy from California State University, Long Beach
- Specialized in the management and restoration of coastal sage scrub habitat, coastal salt marshes, coastal dunes and marine habitats for over the past four years.
- Experience in developing naturalist education programs, California native plant propagation and community-based restorations within the non-profit sector.
- Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner by the Society for Ecological Restoration, Qualified Applicator Licensed, and Certified Wildlife Protector from The Wildlife Training Institute
- Cris joined the Land Conservancy staff in February 2009.



Johnny Perez, Stewardship Manager

Johnny Perez is the Stewardship Manager for the Land Conservancy. Johnny has been with the Land Conservancy seasonally as Stewardship Technician since 2013, and become a full-time staff in spring 2015, where he helped restore coastal sage scrub habitat by removing non-native plants and planted thousands of plants each year. During his work on the nature preserves, he has shared information about the restoration with hikers and trained volunteers during

outdoor volunteer days. In January 2016, Johnny joined our naturalist team and worked on sharing knowledge about local nature and conservation with the community. In October 2017, Johnny became the Field Operations Specialist where he focuses on implementing trail management and rehabilitation projects, maintaining signs, kiosks and other property infrastructure, and ensuring safe enjoyment of visitors hiking within our managed lands. In June 2019, Johnny became the Stewardship Manager where he oversees the development, implementation, and maintenance of various habitat restoration projects throughout the peninsula. In this position, he also oversees the maintenance and restoration of the PVPLC's diverse network of trails.

Background and qualifications:

- In 2015, Johnny completed training to become a certified California Naturalist through the University of California Extension Program.
- Johnny is pursuing a degree focused on environmental biology and ecology.



Austin Parker, Stewardship Associate

Austin Parker is the Stewardship Associate for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. Austin performs biological monitoring, mapping, and reporting for stewardship activities as well as overseeing citizen science monitoring programs.

Background and qualifications:

- B.A. in Environmental Studies with a minor in International Relations from University of San Diego
- M.A. in Biology from Miami University Ohio via San Diego Zoo Global studying the ecology of urban raptor species
- USFWS 10(A)1(a) endangered species monitoring permit for the Federally Threatened California gnatcatcher
- National Park Service Wildland Fire Fireline Resource Advisor (REAF/READ), Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Biologist (BABI) and Firefighter Type 2
- Experience includes:
 - Monitoring many at-risk bird populations such as California gnatcatcher, coastal cactus wren, least Bell's vireo, burrowing owl, and peregrine falcon, among other species.
 - Urban wildlife monitoring and research including bats, herpetofauna, feral cats, southern mule deer, gray fox and coyote
 - Rare plant monitoring and vegetation assessments in coastal southern California habitats
 - Habitat management restoration and management within various southern California ecosystems
- Austin joined the Land Conservancy staff in May 2019



Hugo Morales, Stewardship Technician Lead

Hugo Morales is the Stewardship Technician Lead. He works on all PVPLC-managed properties.

Background and qualifications:

- Certified Irrigation Repair Technician
- Hugo is training in trail installation and maintenance for PVPLC preserves
- Skilled in the identification of Southern California native plants and habitat restoration techniques
- Hugo has been working with the PVPLC since spring 2008



Humberto Calderon, Stewardship Technician

Humberto Calderon is a Stewardship Technician. He works on all PVPLC-managed properties.

Background and qualifications:

- Humberto helped with the initial installation and maintenance of White Point and the habitat areas of Oceanfront Estates
- Skilled in the identification of Southern California native plants
- Humberto joined the Land Conservancy in October 2006



Neli Gonzalez, Lead Nursery Technician

Neli Gonzalez assists in the plant nursery, with plant propagation, seed preparation and general upkeep.

Background and qualifications:

- Neli has acquired an extensive knowledge of native plant propagation, seed collection, and nursery maintenance during her time with the PVPLC.
- Neli is an aspiring graphic artist, attending college in pursuit of this goal.
- Neli has been working with the PVPLC for more than three years.

EDUCATION & SCIENCE



Holly Gray, Education Director

Holly Gray is the Education Director for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. She is responsible for a variety of tasks focused on implementing school-based education programs at various locations throughout the Peninsula and surrounding cities, and additional operations at PVPLC nature centers. Holly spent her childhood exploring the open spaces of the Palos Verdes Peninsula and is now dedicated to sharing the importance of our unique local habitats with others.

Background and qualifications:

- B.A. in Environmental Studies & Biology and Postgraduate Certificate in Science Communication from University of California, Santa Cruz.
- M.S. in Biology from University of Nebraska studying anthropogenic impacts on seabird diets
- Designed and implements an online science education program for Algalita Marine Research Institute.

- Over 11 years of experience teaching and supervising volunteers at Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.
- 3 years of experience as the Lead Educator and Program Co-Director of a wetland ecology education program for the Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society.
- Native plant propagation and restoration experience working for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy's Native Plant Nursery, Natural Landscapes, and Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's Native Plant Demonstration Garden.
- 6 years of experience as the Program Leader for Youth Hosteling International's "Discover Your World" education program.



Zoe Allen, Lead Educator

Zoe Allen is the Lead Educator for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. She is responsible for a variety of tasks focused on implementing school-based education programs at various locations throughout the Peninsula and surrounding cities, and additional operations at the PVPLC nature centers. Zoe grew up in San Pedro and spent much of her

life exploring the local flora and fauna of the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Background and qualifications:

- B.S. in Marine Biology from California State University, Long Beach
- Currently pursuing an M.S. in Science Education, with an option in Informal Education at California State University, Long Beach
- Over 5 years of experience as an informal science educator at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, Roundhouse Aquarium Teaching Center, and Marine Science Floating Lab
- Developed and implemented curriculum and virtual classes for AltaSea at the Port of Los Angeles
- Over 5 years of experience conducting field surveys at the Cabrillo Coastal Park and along the Palos Verdes Peninsula
- Volunteered for the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium as a naturalist and lab intern for several years

DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS



Susan Wilcox, Director of Development

Susan oversees the marketing and communications activities as well as the community outreach events and is directly involved in planning the fundraising activities while refining these to fit in the mission of the conservancy.

Background and qualifications:

- M.B.A. in Marketing from the University of Southern California
- B.A. in Literature from the University of California at Berkeley

- Over 30 years of experience working in the non-profit world including conference planning, student recruitment, program evaluation, marketing and development.
- Over 24 years of experience in fundraising including campaign planning, endowment and annual fund development
- Over ten years of experience in forming a small non-profit entity which presented cultural and educational events while focusing on audience development and community outreach at the historic Warner Grand Theatre in San Pedro
- Commendation from the City of Los Angeles - 2009
- Susan was born in France and lived in Fontainebleau as well as in Heidelberg, Germany before coming to California. Her interests include hiking, bicycling, gardening, reading and animals.



Louise Olfarnes, Manager of Marketing Communications

Louise Olfarnes provides marketing support for the organization in the area of marketing communications, event planning, and database management. She is responsible for producing the newsletter and other publicity materials and supervises outreach activities.

Background and qualifications:

- M.A. in International Affairs from the American University (1989)
- B.A. in Political Science from the University of California at Santa Barbara (1986)
- Fifteen years professional experience in non-profit development, fundraising and communications most recently for the Executive Service Corps of Southern California.
- Louise was previously the development officer for the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children (affiliate of the IRC), Global Kids, Inc. and Doctors of the World-USA, in New York. She was also a former foreign policy staff assistant in the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.
- Louise grew up in San Pedro, CA and has lived and worked in Washington, D.C., New York City, Cambridge, Geneva, Oslo, Montevideo and, most recently, Mexico City, where she was Vice President of Communications for the Newcomers' Organization (2006-2007).
- Louise joined the Land Conservancy staff in January 2009.



Julian Ponce, Development Associate

Julian Ponce is the Development Associate and supports the administrative needs of the development office. This includes management of donor records, correspondence, grant requests, event logistics and required reporting to funders.

Background and qualifications:

- Julian has over 30 years of non-profit administrative experience which includes 17 years of management and executive experience with the University of California. He has also served as Director of Finance or Administration for other non-profits in the areas of legal services, education, social justice, the performing arts and community housing.
- He has a BA in Political Science from Yale College and a JD/MBA from UC Berkeley. He is also a retired CPA.
- Julian's interest in land conservation and ecology comes from serving for over three years as a docent at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. He is a third-generation resident of LA County and joined the Land Conservancy in May 2021.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS



Brittany Goldsmith, Volunteer Program Manager

Brittany Goldsmith is the Volunteer Program Manager for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. At the Conservancy, Brittany is responsible for organizing and recruiting volunteers to help with planned land stewardship and outreach initiatives. Brittany also plans and executes events that recognize the volunteers' efforts.

Background and qualifications:

- B.S. in Wildlife Biology with a concentration in Conservation Biology from Colorado State University.
- M.S. in Rangeland Ecology and Management from Montana State University. During this time Brittany was a graduate teaching assistant in soil science and GPS mapping courses.
- Served as an AmeriCorps member teaching watershed science and conservation in Knoxville Tennessee public schools.
- Worked as an Outdoor Science Instructor for the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.
- Experience with non-profit land conservancies thru positions as Outreach Assistant and Conservation Easement Monitor for the Colorado Chapter of The Nature Conservancy as well as Community Stewardship Coordinator for the Irvine Ranch Conservancy.

- Brittany joined the Land Conservancy staff in April 2015.



Megan Wolff, Volunteer Coordinator

Megan Roy is the Volunteer Coordinator of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. Megan organizes and leads outdoor volunteer programs including Saturday Volunteer Days, scout projects, and conservation-related special projects.

Background and qualifications:

- B.S. in Environmental Studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara
- Five years of experience in habitat restoration and program outreach including restoration projects in California coastal sage scrub, saltwater marsh, coastal dune and grassland habitats.
- Experience in program leadership and volunteer coordination for numerous nonprofits and agencies
- Experience in environmental consulting and land management
- Megan joined the Land Conservancy staff in March 2016