

ALBA LA MAR

I am a Manabita Afrodescendant born on Lənape Haki-nk who uses they/she pronouns and was named Alba, meaning “first light of the day.” My parents were educators and, as far back as I remember, I was surrounded by children that they nurtured and nourished the same as my siblings and I. The elders of my Manabí community instilled in me a strong sense of justice and responsibility for the collective thriving of all living beings. Since 2006, I have formally taught a wide variety of subject matters to birth through college-aged students and preservice teachers while also developing social and environmental justice curriculum, teacher resources, and workshops with a focus on culturally relevant, sustaining and revitalizing pedagogies in Florida, New York City, Shanghai, China, Michigan, and California. During my time teaching in NYC as I studied and obtained my Master of Science in Bilingual Elementary Education, I centered my efforts on Black Liberation and Indigenous Sovereignty focusing my activism and activism on pushing for structural changes in education. Through grassroots organizing with groups such as the New York City of Radical Educators, the Movement of Rank and File Educators Caucus and the Black Lives Matter at School, my commitment to anti-racism and liberatory praxis have strengthened. I am presently an anti-racist curriculum writer for the Defending the Early Years non-profit organization and a doctoral candidate in Curriculum, Instruction and Teacher Education researching the thriving of Black and Brown youth through the examination of the counternarratives from art on contested spaces (e.g. tattoos, graffiti, Hip Hop).

