

## 44th Annual Arts Awards Maritza Rosa

Maritza Rosa is a true champion for her community, dedicating her life to ensuring that everyone has access to the resources they need to succeed. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Maritza began her studies at the Inter American University in Rio Piedras and then transferred to Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, NY, where she obtained her Bachelors of Science Degree in Urban Bilingual Education, a Master's Degree of Science in Education at Long Island University and her Six Year at Bridgeport University.

Maritza's career as an educator began in the New York Public Schools System before moving to Connecticut in 1982. She has since worked for the New Haven Public Schools System, where she has held various roles, including teacher, Social Developer, Curriculum Developer, and Administrator Intern. At the time of her retirement, Ms. Rosa was the Program Manager at Roberto Clemente Leadership Academy. Her dedication to her colleagues, students, and parents has earned her the respect of the community. Ms. Rosa has been actively involved in many organizations throughout the state of Connecticut. She has served on the Board of Directors for Casa Cultural Julia de Burgos, Connecticut Association of Bilingual Educators, Greater New Haven Art Council, Intercambio Deportivo Luis A. Espada, Ex-President of Latino Youth Development, Areyto Inc., the Connecticut Puerto Rican State Parade Inc, and current board member of ARTE, Inc. Her dedication and achievements have earned her numerous awards, including recognition from the Get in Touch Foundation, New Haven Board of Alders Black and Hispanic Caucus, JUNTA for Progressive Action, and the New Haven Hispanic Firefighters Association, among others.

Maritza is currently the Leader of Hope House, an outreach program rooted in providing ancillary services to the homeless population and families in need. During the pandemic, the Hope House food pantry was a staple in many families' lives, and the plan is to expand on that. She currently works at Conte West Hills School as a parent liaison, supporting parents and students alike.

Aside from her work, Maritza's goal is to educate women on the importance of Breast Cancer prevention. As a cancer survivor herself, she understands the importance of being an advocate for other women. Maritza is the proud mother of two beautiful young women, Iris and Maritza, who have been her inspiration in working with the Hispanic youth of the City of New Haven.

Maritza Rosa is a true inspiration to all who encounter her, and her unwavering dedication to her community has left a lasting impact. Her passion for education, community involvement, and advocacy serves as a reminder of the value of service and the power of one person to make a difference.