

Sergio Lopez, Climate and Urban Partnerships Lead, TNC Oregon

Sergio Lopez works to address issues of equity and inclusion in community green infrastructure throughout Portland, Oregon, seeking long-term solutions for climate disparities that impact community health. Prior to joining TNC, Sergio studied cultural anthropology at Portland State University. He currently serves on the board of the Portland Audubon, as well as a volunteer community disc jockey with Freeform Portland.

Q: Tell us about your background and why you're motivated to center DEIJ in your work.

A: I am a first-generation individual that grew up in a low-income Spanish-speaking household. I spent my summers in my dad's hometown in rural Jalisco, Mexico, and I didn't learn English until second grade. Two decades later, I finished my Bachelor of Science degree in Cultural Anthropology at Portland State University and began my professional career. The combination of my heritage and education has led me to a passionate career that centers around people, culture, and environmental justice.

Q: How does Connecting Canopies demonstrate an accountable response from TNC?

A: Connecting Canopies has become a great opportunity for TNC to build relationships with c-community-based organizations and earn trust within diverse communities across the Portland Metro Region.

Q: What excites or inspires you about the future of your work and DEIJ at TNC?

A: The commitment and passion towards equitable work within our urban landscape. TNC is committed to working with our low-income and BIPOC communities in efforts to conserve our communities and health. The Oregon BU, as well as the [North America Cities Network](#), have shown great support and enthusiasm in the work around DEIJ and Urban Conservation.