

Southwest Region

Quarterly Report –December 2021

Sara Ayers-Rigsby, MA, RPA, Director

Natalie A. De La Torre Salas, MA, RPA, Public Archaeologist

HIGHLIGHTS

Viability: Welcome Natalie A. De La Torre Salas!



Photo 1: Instagram post introducing De La Torre Salas

In January, FPAN SW welcomed Natalie A. De La Torre Salas, MA, RPA, as Public Archaeology Coordinator for the region. Natalie is a Puerto Rican native hailing from Cabo Rojo. She received her BA in Anthropology from the University of Puerto Rico and her MA in Public Archaeology from the University College London. There, inspired by her prior experience of living through the impacts of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico in 2017, she studied how heritage professionals re-engaged with communities after the hurricane and which lessons learned from this experience could be used to develop community-based disaster risk management. De La Torre Salas also

served as a research affiliate for the Santo Domingo Center of Excellence for Latin American Research at the British Museum. Prior to coming to FPAN, De La Torre Salas was working in Fort Myers as an archaeological monitor on a restoration project in the Everglades.

De La Torre Salas is excited to help project the region's archaeological heritage and cultural sites, and develop programming both in English and Spanish. Welcome, Natalie!



Assistance to the Division of Historical Resources: Ayers-Rigsby and De La Torre Salas assist aquatic preserves staff with annual site monitoring

In January, Ayers-Rigsby and De La Torre Salas assisted staff at the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves with their annual monitoring of archaeological sites. Every year, CHAP staff attempts to visit sites in order to assess their level of stability and if any threats to site preservation have been observed.

Progress on Strategic Plan Objectives

- Thinking Like A Network/Assistance to Local Governments
 - FPAN SW Staff assisted SE team in delivery of programs in the region including participating in archaeology day at Arch Creek Park.
- Viability: De La Torre Salas has worked to extend FPAN's audience outreach in the region by creating social media posts in Spanish.