



**BORICUA FESTIVAL COMMITTEE, INC.  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11232**

February 24, 2020

Re: Dr. Antonia Pantoja Youth Leadership and Service Award

Dear Community Representatives:

On Saturday, June 27, 2020 the Boricua Festival Committee, Inc. - "*Salsa at the Waterfront*" will be held in Brooklyn, New York at Pier 4, at 58th Street and 1st Avenue in Sunset Park. Together with our festival and concert we will celebrate and acknowledge local youth who embody the civic and cultural contributions made by the late Dr. Antonia Pantoja to the Puerto Rican community, in the form of the ***Dr. Antonia Pantoja Youth Leadership and Service Award***.

Dr. Pantoja was the founder of ASPIRA, Inc., the Puerto Rican Forum and Boricua College. She was a strong, dedicated Puerto Rican Woman and educator, who was concerned with the high dropout rate of Puerto Rican youth in New York City during the 50's and 60's and fought to establish bilingual education in the United States.

In her honor the Boricua Festival Committee will celebrate and acknowledge local Puerto Rican youth whose work, leadership and service has made a significant impact in their community. We invite you to submit your nomination of a young person whom you believe is deserving of such an award. He or she will be recognized at the festival on **Saturday, June 27, 2020.**

Read the guidelines and instructions on the next page. If you have any questions please direct them to [leadershipandserviceaward@gmail.com](mailto:leadershipandserviceaward@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Pat Ruiz  
Co-Founder and President

Melissa del Valle Ortiz and Crecensio Morales  
Co Chairs Scholarship Award

**Boricua Festival Committee Inc. - 2020 Salsa at the Waterfront**

[www.boricuafestivalny.org](http://www.boricuafestivalny.org)



## **Dr. Antonia Pantoja Youth leadership and Service Award**

### **Eligibility & Guidelines**

**Dr. Antonia Pantoja--1922-2002**

*"I have a responsibility that is self-imposed. It's a responsibility to teach people who are like me, who are poor people who have no understanding of the fact that they can produce wealth."*

Dr. Antonia Pantoja, born in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1922. Studied at the University of Puerto Rico where she obtained her teaching credentials in 1942. Upon graduating from the University of Puerto Rico, she worked as a schoolteacher for two years in Puerto Rico where she cultivated a profound interest in education and addressing the needs of disadvantaged children.

Her most notable contribution-the creation of ASPIRA in 1961. This was the result of considerable hard work and collaboration with educators and social work professionals who shared her concern with the high dropout rate of Puerto Rican youth in New York City during the '50s and '60s. ASPIRA flourished into a major national organization dedicated to empowering communities and especially Puerto Rican youth to have a say in and control of their future. ASPIRA (which means aspire in Spanish) conveyed in its name the expectation that Puerto Rican youth could succeed if they dared to ASPIRE.

#### **Purpose**

In dedication to Dr. Antonia Pantoja, the Boricua Festival Committee, Inc. will recognize Puerto Rican youth for their commitment, achievements and whose work and service has made a significant impact on their community. He or she will be awarded with "Dr. Antonia Pantoja Youth Leadership and Service Award" at the Boricua Festival - Salsa at the Waterfront event on Saturday, June 27, 2020.

#### **Eligibility**

1. Be of Puerto Rican descent
2. Be between the ages of 17 to 21
3. Must be engaged in their volunteer work, either in a professional or voluntary capacity
4. Be enrolled in high school or an accredited college or university
5. **Must be present at the Boricua Festival on Saturday June 27th or forfeit recognition**

#### **Instructions**

1. Tell us in a brief paragraph (500 words or less) why this young person should be selected as an awardee
2. Complete application and submit **via email to [LeadershipServiceAward@gmail.com](mailto:LeadershipServiceAward@gmail.com)** with the subject line, "*Dr. Antonia Pantoja Youth leadership and Service Award*" by **5pm Fri, June 12th** or by mail to: Boricua Festival Committee, Inc. P.O. Box 320016, Brooklyn NY 11232, **post marked no later than Friday, June 12, 2020.**

**Boricua Festival Committee Inc. - 2020 Salsa at the Waterfront**  
**[www.boricuafestivalny.org](http://www.boricuafestivalny.org)**



***Dr. Antonia Pantoja Youth Leadership and Service Award***  
**Nomination Form**

Submit your nominations via email to [Leadershipserviceaward@gmail.com](mailto:Leadershipserviceaward@gmail.com) with the subject line, "*Dr. Antonia Pantoja Youth Leadership and Service Award*" or

**On a separate sheet**, in no more than 500 words, tell us why this person should be selected to receive the *Dr. Antonia Pantoja Youth Leadership and Service Award*. While background information is important, be sure to focus on their community service work and the impact they have had on other persons or their community.

**NOTE:** Nominations should be by community persons, teachers, guidance counselors, and/or professors, who personally know their work, leadership and commitment to their community. Submissions can be self-nominated but must include the contact information of a program/project leader and or teacher.

**Nominator Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School or Organization: (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Full Organizational/School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone or Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee Information**

Nominees Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School (required): \_\_\_\_\_

Neighborhood and Borough of residence (example: Bedstuy, BK) \_\_\_\_\_

Day time Phone or Cell # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_