

Biography for Carolina Moratti:

Carolina Moratti is a force to be reckoned with; single mother, chef, translator, community organizer, food justice advocate, event host, phlebotomy technician, and enthusiastic ally to all who need her help. She applies her experience in marketing, community work, public speaking, and community management to grow the people of New Brunswick, her beloved adopted hometown. She is co-founder of Sisterwork, Promesa Project, and Local Strength, providing education, community service, and clothing giveaway opportunities to the public. Through her work, she aims to empower survivors of gender violence, immigrant mothers, and their families to thrive in the face of adverse experiences.

Born to a family of restaurateurs in Arequipa, Peru, Carolina learned from her grandmother how to prepare traditional Peruvian recipes and how to welcome people into and run a community hub. She moved to New Jersey in 2005, and shortly after became a single mother to her son Abraham. Immersing herself in learning English, she saw how important language skills are for creating a new life in a new country. Her experiences as a single mother led her to co-found Sisterwork, a bilingual organization focusing on immigrant families that combats systemic inequity through intergenerational justice work. A newer initiative, Promesa Project, provides prom dresses free of charge to high schoolers; the project gave away over 200 dresses in 2022 and is expecting to give away even more in 2023. She also co-founded Local Strength, a nonprofit that develops events and community initiatives promoting physical, mental, and personal well-being—the group’s first two events in 2023 provided clothing and household necessities to over 150 families. Her monthly “Free Community Raffle” promotes the work of local entrepreneurs and artisans.

Carolina is perhaps best known as a fierce advocate for food justice: during the pandemic, Moratti began several initiatives directly addressing community food security. Although she was already coordinating with Sisterwork and coLAB Arts to bring meals and necessities to about a dozen families, during the pandemic this rose to more than 50 families and included diapers and baby formula. She started “Birthday in a Box,” which provides community children with a birthday cake, decorations, candy, and party favors, all delivered to the child’s doorstep. Her son Abraham, now 17, often accompanies her and is an eloquent community presenter in his own right. In 2020 she became the first guest chef and then host of “Share Your Foodways,” a Middlesex County-produced video and presentation series that addresses food security through the lens of food and culture. For more than a year she hosted the live-streaming series “Cooking Outside the Box” with coLAB Arts, in which she hosted a guest chef and taught viewers how to cook for a family with \$20.00 or less.

As a community advocate, Moratti has organized flag-raising for Mexico and Peru at the Middlesex County Administration Building, the first time either country was honored in this way in the County. In New Brunswick, she has been an entertainer for the

monthly Mercado Esperanza (“Esperanza Market,” with coLAB Arts) and has served as a bilingual culinary educator at Elijah's Promise, as well as being an active member of New Brunswick Tomorrow's Esperanza Project. She is also a founding member of New Brunswick’s first company of Latin theater, Teatro Esperanza, which trains community members and their children in becoming actors and all aspects of theater production.

She serves on several boards and committees and is a Committeewoman for the Democratic Party in the City of New Brunswick. In 2023, Carolina was voted one of the “Top Latinos in New Jersey” and honored by the Peruvian Consulate in New Jersey for her community leadership. She has been a featured speaker at the American Folklore Society Annual Meeting (2021, 2022)