

**Join us to listen, learn, discuss, and ask questions about:
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice & Accessibility**

**Creating Welcoming and Safe Spaces Outdoors
May 19, 2021, 3:30 – 4:30**

Speaker Biographies



Charisa Morris has worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for over 20 years. A multi-generational DC/Maryland resident, she devoted her life to conservation after a childhood filled with stories of which neighborhood streets used to be forests, streams, and fields when her great-great-grandparents had lived on the same landscape; and of which present-day barren streams used to be full of aquatic life as recently as when her father was a child. She earned a Forestry and Wildlife BS from Virginia Tech and built experience as a consultation and recovery biologist at the USFWS Chesapeake Bay Field Office before returning to Virginia Tech for a Fisheries and Wildlife MS. Most of her work at both the field level and later in headquarters as an endangered species biologist, Chief of Migratory Bird Conservation, USFWS Chief of Staff, and now Deputy Assistant Director of the Science Applications Program has focused on making science-supported decision making more consumable and achievable by those we service. Her mission has been to use technology to deliver information and clarify expectations to empower partners, the public, and the federal family to make sound conservation decisions that protect and conserve landscapes and species.



Michelle Ramirez is from Bogota, Colombia and moved with her family to the US in 2000. She studied at the University of Maryland- College Park and graduated with a B.S. in Environmental Science and Policy with a concentration in Wildlife Ecology and Management. She began her career with Maryland State Parks in 2014 - 2018, she realized that her passion was working outdoors and teaching children how to appreciate and understand nature. In 2018 a position of Multicultural Outreach Coordinator was created as part of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and it was the perfect mix of all the jobs Michelle had been doing. She is now project manager for Es Mi Parque, and is working towards diversifying visitors and staff in Maryland natural resources.

Moderated by Dr. Mamie Parker, MA Parker & Associates

Hosted by Curtis Bennett, MAEOE Advisory Council