

Community Archives Center Tacoma Community House Oral History Interviews Transcript

Velasquez, Alejandra Angarita. Interview date 05/11/2022.

dindria: [00:00](#) Okay. Hello?

Alejandra Velasquez: [00:01](#) Hello, my name is Alejandra is L A L G A D R I

dindria: [00:16](#) Okay.

Alejandra Velasquez: [00:18](#) Today is May 11th, 2022. We are located in Tacoma Community House.

dindria: [00:29](#) All right, I'm going to ask the questions. Sorry. It's okay. There we go. Perfect. What, where are you from? Door? Yeah. Excuse me. Thanks, dindria. Sorry about that. So sorry, Alejandro. <laugh>, where are you from? Where is your home country?

Alejandra Velasquez: [00:58](#) Well, I am from Colombia and specifically in, I from Aracataca.

dindria: [01:08](#) Tell us about it.

Alejandra Velasquez: [01:09](#) Colombia is a beautiful country, have different cultures, and the people is very kind and happy. I'm sorry. I am very nervous.

dindria: [01:20](#) <laugh>. No, that's okay. Take your time. What do you love about Colombia?

Alejandra Velasquez: [01:27](#) I love about Colombia, the different landscape. Have a long mountains and rivers. Eh, it is a beautiful country.

dindria: [01:39](#) <laugh>. All right. I always ask, is Washington State similar to Columbia or different?

Alejandra Velasquez: [01:47](#) Yeah, it's a little bit same, but Columbia have different land case, half mounts have, half plains have, uh mm. Um, nevados have, yeah.

dindria: [02:05](#) Yeah. <laugh>. Right on. Thank you for describing it. Who is your family and describe them?

Alejandra Velasquez: [02:14](#) My family is a typical family. Family from plains, eh, they love the mead and the typical music from plains is horrible and dancing a lot horrible, eh, and my family love to singing and different concerts for horrible

dindria: [02:43](#) <laugh>. All right. Do you dance and sing?

Alejandra Velasquez: [02:46](#) Yeah, I dance. I dance in Harpo. It's a typical dance from this area.

dindria: [02:52](#) All right. I have not known that one. I will have to see it. You will have to dance. <laugh>. Um, what did you think about the United States before you got here?

Alejandra Velasquez: [03:07](#) Wow. It's a good question. <laugh>, I think about United States have the, the best stalls for many things. For example, I am agriculture engineering, and I think, so United States is the first country in this area, in, in agriculture. And have, uh, more advanced technology for different things.

dindria: [03:33](#) Right on. When you got here, was it the same or different as what you thought?

Alejandra Velasquez: [03:40](#) I think so. Is the same indifferent too than both?

dindria: [03:45](#) Yes. Tell me what, what was the same and what was different?

Alejandra Velasquez: [03:50](#) Um, the same is, is, um, yeah, have a lot technology for, for farmers, but it's different because, uh, have different cultures in Comparison with my country. Yes. Yeah.

dindria: [04:07](#) Ah, that's a really good point. We have different people that come to our countries, right? Yeah. Yes. Um, what was your first American experience when you first came to the United States or Tacoma, Washington? What did you do or how did you feel?

Alejandra Velasquez: [04:27](#) Well, my first American experience was in Nebraska and I saw, uh, the typical crop in this area is soybean crop. And I saw I love the best irrigation in the world, and yeah. And I feel happy because I never see this system for irrigation.

dindria: [04:58](#) Right on. I have a lot I can learn from you because I do not know very much about irrigation, <laugh>, or about

agriculture. But you saw this in Nebraska? Yes. And they were growing soybean. Okay. That is interesting. I didn't know that. <laugh>. Um, what food do you enjoy? What's your favorite food

Alejandra Velasquez: [05:24](#)

In United States or my country?

dindria: [05:26](#)

Sure. Both.

Alejandra Velasquez: [05:27](#)

Well, in United States, my favorite food is burritos. I love burritos is so delicious. And in my country, my favorite food is bendeja paisa.

dindria: [05:41](#)

Okay. What is bendeja paisa?

Alejandra Velasquez: [05:44](#)

Bendeja paisa is a typical food, half rice, beans, uh, plantain, meat, eggs. Avocado. Yeah.

dindria: [05:58](#)

Oh, you're making me hungry, <laugh>. That sounds delicious. We're gonna have to have like a food fest. Um, what is your favorite music or song?

Alejandra Velasquez: [06:10](#)

My favorite music here in United States is Tennessee Whiskey.

dindria: [06:16](#)

Oh, okay. Excellent. I think I know a song from them.

Alejandra Velasquez: [06:22](#)

Chris Stapleton, yeah. Is the singer.

dindria: [06:25](#)

That's right. What's one of the songs?

Alejandra Velasquez: [06:28](#)

Sorry, what?

dindria: [06:29](#)

What the name of the song?

Alejandra Velasquez: [06:31](#)

Tennessee Whiskey.

dindria: [06:31](#)

It is the name of the song. Yes. And the name of the artist?

Alejandra Velasquez: [06:35](#)

Uh, the name of the artist is Chris. Chris Stapleton.

dindria: [06:40](#)

Oh, Chris Stapleton. That's right. Um, Tennessee Whiskey. Okay. Now I am remembering he has a strong voice. Yeah. He's like, he's really good at his voice. Um, okay, now we get into the last two questions. Why do you want to tell your story today?

Alejandra Velasquez: [07:01](#) Hmm. I want tell my story because I learn a new language and stay in a different country, and sometimes it's hard and I say to the other Hispanic people Mm. That they, they can learn a new language and, and sorry, I'm very nervous.

dindria: [07:27](#) <laugh>. You're doing excellent.

Alejandra Velasquez: [07:29](#) Yeah. And the people can, um, learn a new language if the dream can be happen.

dindria: [07:37](#) Ah, I love that. So your dream can happen. Yes. That leads into the, the next question really good about dreams. What is your future? What do you want your future to be?

Alejandra Velasquez: [07:50](#) Well, I, I wanted my future study my master degree in science, neurology, and, uh, cont uh, share my, um, researchers or my projects in, in environmental with the world.

dindria: [08:13](#) Oh, wow. I love that. So when you go to school, it's not just about you learning, it's about sharing what you learn with everyone else.

Alejandra Velasquez: [08:22](#) Exactly, yes. And my country.

dindria: [08:25](#) Okay. So you want to share it in English and in Spanish. Yes. And in Colombia as well? Oh, okay. Um, what kind of, I'm gonna add a question.

Alejandra Velasquez: [08:36](#) Okay.

dindria: [08:36](#) What kind of crops do you have in Columbia?

Alejandra Velasquez: [08:40](#) What kind? Well, I, in Colombia have, uh, avocado has, yeah. Uh, sugar cane. Yeah. Um, grapes, uh, is avico is when half grapes,

dindria: [08:58](#) Uh, yeah.

Alejandra Velasquez: [09:00](#) Sorry, my name is

dindria: [09:01](#) Very bad. No, I wish I knew more Spanish, so I would learn what avico means. Um, we have so many grapes in Washington for making wine. Yeah, yeah, exactly. Wait, but there's like some of the grapes that you just eat. Yeah.

<laugh>. Yeah, exactly. So the different kind of grapes.
Um, thank you so much. Thank you.