



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Eugene Public Library Foundation Announces *In Conversation with: José Spellman-Lopez*

EUGENE, Ore. – May 5, 2021. Eugene Public Library Foundation is pleased to announce the next virtual event in a monthly event series featuring experts and enthusiasts from around the world speaking on topics of local, national and global interest. On Friday, May 14, 2021, José Spellman-Lopez will engage the audience in the **ever delightful quest for knowledge** through an inspiring lunch break conversation.

All lecture series events are free and open to the public, and begin at 12pm using Zoom on the second Friday of each month. The Zoom room will open at 11:45am. Advanced registration is required and can be found at <https://www.eplfoundation.org/inconversation>. Registration open until 10am the day of the event.

May 14, 2021

In Conversation with: José Spellman-Lopez, Urban Gardener (Philadelphia) *Planting Seeds: Building Intergenerational and Cross-Cultural Community Through the Urban Gardens*

José Spellman-Lopez grew up in Los Angeles and was intrigued by gardening/growing things so he found his way to OSU to have opportunities he didn't have to connect with nature in LA. He will present on building intergenerational and cross-cultural community through gardening.

He was a previous garden manager of Norris Square Neighborhood Project's urban gardens. These gardens are featured in the Smithsonian's archives as heritage gardens and are highlighted throughout the world as community-driven cultural gardening rooted in the Puerto Rican diaspora of North Philadelphia. Partnering closely with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and the Mural Arts Program, the gardens are landmarks, gathering spaces, and outdoor classrooms.

Jose Spellman-Lopez, is an urban gardener and moved to Philadelphia after completing his undergraduate degree in Agricultural Science from Oregon State University. Jose incorporates his experience guiding youth in garden spaces to empower them to explore their surroundings and to help them navigate their food growing options.

Eugene Public Library Foundation supports Eugene Public Library in its efforts to inspire lifelong learning and to enrich the entire community. We secure and responsibly manage contributions from individuals, businesses, and foundations to build community support for our Eugene Public Library. For more information on the Foundation, please visit <http://eplfoundation.org/>, or call the Foundation office, (541) 338-7018.