

Education:

- 2011 Columbia College Chicago**
Master in Fine Arts - Film and Video w/ Documentary Concentration
- 2004 Southern Illinois University Carbondale**
Bachelor in Arts - Cinema and Photo w/ Theatre Minor
- 2001 William Rainey Harper College**
Associates in Arts

Media Experience:

- 2015 Do Not Submit** - Audio documentary for Vocalo
Food for Thought - Editor - Webseries
- 2014 Andina Lives** - Associate Producer - Opera and Feature documentary
Chicago Liars Contest - Video Editor - Live Storytelling Showcase
- 2013 My Father's Knee** - Director - Documentary web series - In Progress
The Big Idea Science Show - Cinematographer, Associate Producer - Web series
- 2012 The Cinematic Garden** - Director - Web series
Maritima - Director - Experimental short
Meet in a Public Place - Editor - Narrative short
- 2011 Familia Bom Bril** - Director - Documentary short
Against All Odds - Cinematographer, Editor - Documentary short
Corazon a Corazon - Associate Producer, Editor - Documentary short
Detention - Cinematographer - Experimental short
- 2010 Kylie Two Weeks** - Director - Experimental short
The Mission - Actor - Award-winning short mockumentary
Ice Cream RV - Actor - Narrative short
- 2009 Glassmaker** - Director, Editor - Documentary short
Farm 2 Fork - Co-Producer - Documentary short
A Lotto Love - Production Manager - Narrative short
- 2008 Bisnieta** - Director, Cinematographer, Editor - Documentary short
A Man's Image - Assistant Director - Narrative short
- 2007 Abuela** - Director, Editor - Narrative short
Brujerias - Director, Cinematographer, Editor - Narrative short
Rumblings of Imminence - Associate Producer, Additional Camera - PBS Doc
- 2006 Turnout** - Director, Cinematographer, Editor - Feature documentary
Mayday Chicago 2006 - Director, Cinematographer, Editor - Experimental short
Faith in Justice - Director, Cinematographer, Editor - Documentary short
- 2005 For the Love of Movies** - Production Assistant - Feature documentary
- 2004 Shabuya** - Director, Cinematographer, Editor - 36 min documentary
In the Shadows - Director - Experimental short
- 2003 Simon Arri: Domestic Anthropologist** - Director - 16mm short

Awards: Vocalo Storytelling Workshop (2015) Kartemquin's Diverse Voices in Docs (2013) WBEZ Pritzker Fellowship Finalist (2012) Ego Fest - Best Documentary (2011) Columbia College Chicago Latino Student Film Fest - 1st Place (2009) Changing Worlds - Immigrant and Refugee Achievement Award for the Arts (2005) International Student Documentary Competition Finalist(2005) Who's Who at Colleges and Universities - Southern Illinois University (2005) Merit Award - After Hours Film Society (2003)

Film Festivals: On the Mend Film Festival, Chicago Latino Film Festival, Latino Student Short Film Festival, Reality Bytes Film Fest, South Loop Film Fest, Ole Muddy Film Festival, Big Muddy Film Festival, Ego Fest, Indie Incubator, North Shore Film Fest

Screenings and Exhibitions:

Assembling Discoveries - Jan Bryant Gallery
Growing Your Own - Water Street Studios
Uniting America Screening at The Illinois Immigrant Intergration Summit
Columbia College Chicago Thesis Showcase
Chicago Filmmakers - Columbia Showcase
Harper College - Multi-Cultural Week Screening
Southern Illinois University - Hispanic Heritage Month Screening
Rumblings of Imminense aired multiple times on local PBS affiliates
The West Chicago City Museum - Photo and Video Installations
Morton Community College - Digital and Traditional Photography Installations
Nostalgia - B&W Prints
Art Xposium - Digital Photography

Participation and Affiliations:

Sixty Inches from Center (2013-2015)

Contribute video and photography about Chicago Art with suburban perspective.

Youth Speaks (2013-2015)

Lead video editor of online content for Brave New Voices poetry competition.

Kartemquin Films (2013)

Participated inaugural class of Diverse Voices in Documentary Program.

The Contreras-Gabriel Project (2011-Present)

Co-founded a curatorial website with a focus on contemporary art and documentary.

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (2004-2013)

Produced many short videos and screened my documentaries at their events.

Illinois Leadership Council (2011-2013)

Spoke to over 100 high school students about the role of diversity in my life.

People Made Visible (2011)

Co-Founded The Keepers Community Garden in West Chicago, IL.

Viva Documentary - Student organization (2008-2010)

Co-Founded an online hub for documentary film students, faculty and alumni.

Big Muddy Film Festival - Southern Illinois University (2003-2004)

Planned, promoted and executed one of the oldest, student-run film festivals in the U.S.

Teaching Experience:

2013 - Present - William Rainey Harper College - Adjunct Faculty

Teaching Intro to Film at the community college level. Faculty advisor to Film Club.

2009 - 2013 - Community TV Network - Video Instructor

Taught video production and media literacy to underprivileged youth in alternative High Schools.

2011 - 2012 - After School Matters - Video Instructor

Recruited and lead apprentices through 10-week video.

2009 - 2010 - Columbia College Chicago - Adjunct Faculty

Taught foundation level courses, Production 1, Production 2 and Moving Image Production 2

2008 - 2009 - Michael Rabiger Center for Documentary - Teacher's Assistant

Advised students about technical and narrative aspects of their projects.

Bio:

Mario Contreras is a multi-disciplinary artist with a foundation in non-fiction photo and video. His first documentary followed a bus of students, workers and activists on the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride of 2003. *Shabuya* was an official selection of The Chicago Latino Film Festival and earned recognition from Changing Worlds. Mario has since earned an MFA from Columbia College Chicago and co-founded The Contreras-Gabriel Project.

Mario currently produces digital content for Sixty Inches from Center, a Chicago arts blog with a focus on the margins. He's produced, directed and edited stories across mediums, genres and production models. Most recently, he participated in the Vocalo Storytelling Workshop where he produced an audio documentary through a collaboration with Vocalo and The Chicago Community Trust. He also performed in a live storytelling event called StoryLab. Before that, he was in the inaugural class for Diverse Voices in Docs, an indie-film incubator through Kartemquin Films.

The Contreras-Gabriel Project, which he operates with his wife and partner, Diana Gabriel, is a trans-media platform for the mutual benefit of artists and audiences. They're part of a growing network of Chicago independent artists, educators and activists that believe in the power of Art to heal social ills. Aside from his work as an artist, he's also an educator and organizer. Art is the means through which Mario shares stories to create understanding between people with entrenched ideologies.