

FACES OF WID



Name: Emilia Salazar

Title: Leadership Annual Giving Officer, Wheelock College

WID Role (or prior WID role): Member, Membership Committee

Hometown: Phoenix, AZ

Lives Currently: Boston, MA

Education: Longy School of Music of Bard College, Flute Performance

Hobbies: Baking, yoga, spoiling my two cats

When and how did you join the development field? What path brought you to your current role?

I started out as a classically trained musician and my goal as an artist was always to improve the lives of others by creating shared experiences through story telling. Then, through an internship at my college that turned into a full-time staff position, I found fundraising. In development, I had an opportunity to connect with other people and create a bigger positive impact in the world through telling mission-driven stories. I was hooked. In my current role, I get to ignite the passion of our donors and help them play a role in creating a better world. It's a great privilege to do this work every day.

Why did you join WID and how long have you been a member?

I first joined WID at the encouragement of my supervisor in 2013. Attending WID programs immediately ignited the perpetual student in me. Four years later, I still feel giddy about each event I attend. WID continues to be meaningful to me because it is a great community as well as a source of wonderful learning experiences.

Do you have a favorite WID moment or memory?

I do! I will not forget attending Simone Joyaux's session on board development in March 2017. I have admired Simone's work for years and had seen her present before, but this time I was brave enough to introduce myself and profess my fan-girl status. It was amazing.

What work story do you tell over and over?

One of my favorite work stories involves taking a couple who supported a family-centric program on a site tour. The look on their faces when they saw how their gift was impacting vulnerable children at critical moments in life was beyond rewarding. My favorite part of development is making the impact of a mission come alive for donors and this was one of those moments!

What advice would you offer to someone new to the field of development?

First, take the time to learn about different aspects of development work. There are many roles, and it's important to find one where you can use your strengths and talents to the best benefit of the mission you serve. Second, treasure and steward your donors and colleagues alike. They are your best allies in making the positive change our communities need. Third, remember the passion that brought you here in the first place. You have the power to create a better world, and we all need you to do just that.