

Speaker 1: I grew up in Miami Beach. When I was little, I don't know if I wanted to be particularly anything. I think, in a lot of ways, life happened to me. Both of my parents were raised in Cuba, and they kind of did whatever they had to do to survive in this country, as many immigrant families have to do. My dad a lot of times says, "I'm in the business of making money." That's his business, you know. A lot of people who grew up in the communist regime in Cuba, the regime kind of destroyed a lot of concepts of creating culture or sustaining culture, and so my parents grew up in that. One of the best skills that I learned that's probably a cultural skill is gratitude, and I think it's a Cuban cultural thing, too. It's just being a people person, right, how to connect with people.

Miami's a really complicated space for education because there's so few schools here, so a lot of the people who come here, a lot of people who were raised here, have to make their own space for thinking and education, because they're not being particularly supported on an institutional level. Things like book clubs, things like independent cinemas, things like independent bookstores, are really great. But I went to school in San Francisco and I studied film there.

I think video is such a powerful tool. In Miami, probably some of the biggest conversations that I hear and that I've been involved with are particularly around immigration, racial justice, and prison reform or prison abolition, because it lives out in their everyday lives, whether it's just walking down the street or in their creative work. A lot of people who are organizers, who work with nonprofits, are also creatives who work in photography, work in fashion, work in drawing, painting, you name it. Video has something that a lot of other art mediums don't have, which is the power to tell a story through time, that it's a medium for the masses. In 10 years, I want to be a filmmaker. I want to make movies. I would like to be in a position to provide people the resources that they need to educate and liberate themselves, and I think film is probably the most important tool that we have.