



BY/POR  
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RED SUGARCANE PRESS ANNOUNCES

***VICKI AND A SUMMER OF CHANGE!***

Inspired by Actual Events

***¡VICKI Y UN VERANO DE CAMBIO!***

Inspirado en eventos reales

Inspired by actual historical events, the book recounts the story of what happened in East Harlem, New York in 1969 when members of the Young Lords Organization unite with residents to make positive changes in the neighborhood. The Young Lords organized in Puerto Rican communities across the United States pursuing justice and human rights.

The story follows Vicki and her older sister, Valencia, who live in East Harlem. Rotting garbage overwhelms the streets because city sanitation trucks rarely pick up the trash. Determined to make a change, Young Lords start sweeping the streets. Neighbors with brooms jump in eagerly, and Vicki joins them. "You're never too young to make a difference!" her sister says. Together they discover they too can help change their community and the world.

The beautifully illustrated English/Spanish book is for children 5 to 8 years old. It presents social justice themes in an accessible and age-appropriate way.

**Title:** *Vicki and A Summer of Change!*

*¡Vicki y un verano de cambio!*

**Bilingual:** English/Spanish

**Authors:** Raquel M. Ortiz and Iris Morales

**Audience:** Children 5 to 8 years old

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Book is available online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Ingramspark

**Co-Authors**

Raquel M. Ortiz is an educator and award-winning children's book author.

Iris Morales is an activist, educator, author, and was a leading member of the Young Lords Organization.

**Artwork**

The artwork was produced by Somos Arte design studios led by Edgardo Miranda-Rodriguez. Team artists include illustrator Sabrina Cintron and colorist Eliana Falcon.

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## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Raquel M. Ortiz was born and raised in Lorain, Ohio. Her parents are from Puerto Rico. Dr. Ortiz creates educational materials for the Puerto Rican Heritage Cultural Ambassadors Program for the Center for Puerto Rican Studies (Hunter College). She is the author of *Sofi and the Magic, Musical Mural / Sofi y el mágico mural musical*, *Planting Flags on Division Street / Sembrando banderas en la calle Division*, *Sofi Paints her Dreams / Sofi pinta sus sueños* and *When Julia Danced Bomba / Cuando Julia bailaba bomba*. For more information, visit: <https://colorespublishing.wordpress.com/about/>



Iris Morales is an educator, activist, attorney, and author. She was a leading member of the Young Lords Organization. Among her work, she has been a classroom teacher, designed literacy workshops for elementary school children, and created youth media programs. Her writings center on the history and experiences of the Puerto Rican and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) Diasporas in the Americas, and she produces educational projects with artists and activists for Red Sugarcane Press. For more information, visit: <https://irismoralesnyc.wordpress.com/>

## ABOUT THE ARTWORK

The artwork was produced by *Somos Arte* design studios led by Edgardo Miranda-Rodriguez as creative director, an award-winning graphic novelist and creator of *La Borinqueña*, the comic book superhero who uses her superpowers to save the environment and her beloved Puerto Rico. Studio team members include Sabrina Cintron as illustrator and colorist Eliana Falcon. For more information, visit: <https://www.somosarte.com/>

## About Red Sugarcane Press

RED SUGARCANE PRESS, INC. is an independent press dedicated to presenting and documenting the rich history and culture of the Puerto Rican and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) in the Americas. We publish authors whose writings represent diverse voices, break new ground, educate, and entertain. Our publications offer a range of genres: poetry collections, plays, history, women's studies, and anthologies. Red Sugarcane Press seeks to inspire the exchange of ideas and promote the struggle for human liberation.