

“Monica Rojas is a well-known community leader and has led a movement that gave us, the Garifuna people, the opportunity to be known, paving the path for us to start our own organization. Her leadership and innovation have given some of the most underprivileged communities from the African diaspora here in Seattle, hope and a face.”

~ Wilbor Guerrero, President, Garinagu Houngua.

“Monica’s leadership fuels a new faith among defeated hearts. Her brilliant way of building bridges between art and community has generated diverse platforms of help activating a creative energy in those who have been lucky to witness her art. Her work has a liberating impact on me. She has given me the opportunity to grow while discovering my own creative voice.”

~ Milvia Pacheco, Afro-Venezuelan performing artist.

“Within the pantheon of Afro-Peruvian culture Monica Rojas is an innovator for she repeatedly takes risks by creating original works that push the boundaries of the cannon. By being a percussionist, bandleader, and project director, she is redefining the role of women within the Afro-Peruvian community. By exploring the dynamic instruments of her tradition to speak on colonialism and globalization Monica has redefined what it means to be Afro-Peruvian in Seattle or Peru for that matter”

~ Martha Gonzalez, Quetzal Chicano Rock Band.

““Fun and especially positive for my mixed-race family. I brought my boys to see [DE INGA Y MANDINGA] and they were enthralled, which is pretty great, considering they’re both under the age of ten! I especially loved seeing the younger performers on stage.””

– Audience member, December 2012

“The African roots in the Son Jarocho music [from Veracruz, Mexico] has been highlighted thanks to the collaboration we had with the DE CAJÓN Project... This has enriched our vision and has awakened our responsibility towards that cultural legacy”

– Member of the Seattle Fandango Project

“Monica Rojas and DE CAJÓN Project’s artistic work is one of the main experiences of Afro-Peruvians internationally... it elevates us as humans...it is a commendable work, a huge effort, and it is a valuable example for future generations.”

– Director, Cultural Heritage Division, Museo Afroperuano Zaña-Peru

““DE CAJÓN Project has been a life-saving and life-changing experience for my children. It has given them a connection to their roots and culture despite the fact that we are so far from Peru... they've found their place in what it means to be Peruvian; and more than anything... it has provided my kids with security and confidence in themselves as well as pride and a love for Peru.””

**– Mother of three second-generation
Peruvian children**