

Irene Vilar

Irene Vilar is an award winning author and Guggenheim fellow, publisher, environmental activist, and founder and executive director of the Colorado based non profit Americas for Conservation + the Arts 501(c)(3). Vilar serves on the advisory council of the Colorado Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry as well as on the boards of the Latino Alliance for Literacy Advancement and the Jaipur Literary Festival. She is also a member of the Denver Foundation Environmental Affinity Group (EAG). Vilar has been an active public speaker for multicultural literacy, reproductive and mental health, environmental justice, and access/equity issues in connecting communities to the outdoors. Since the publishing of Vilar's first book in 1996, she has given numerous academic lectures and workshops on writing, reproductive health, and environmental justice. Vilar gave the keynote at the 2010 National Convention of State Senators and Legislators Hispanic Caucus on Latino Mental Health, "Severe Depressive Disorder: Overcoming Adversity and Stigma". Vilar is also a member of the Oxford Union Debate Society and a recipient of the City of Denver Office of Sustainability Community Builder 2016 Love This Place Award as well as the 2017 Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Arts & Culture Imagine 2020.