

Introduction of Josh Gonzalez

Josh Gonzalez was born and raised in LaGrange, KY. He briefly moved away and spent some time in Texas and California but came back to Louisville. He went to the University of Louisville. Since high school, he has been involved with Social Justice issues including advocating and mentoring, specifically, for the Latino Community in Kentucky. He currently co-owns FOKO a five star restaurant in the Logan Street Market in Louisville which features “a soulful blend of Mexico and the American South.

Josh organizes and teaches at Latin dance events throughout the city. He enjoys spreading the love of food and dance, using them as a vehicle for learning and appreciating one another. He practices yoga, enjoys running and dancing.

He is passionate about social justice. He is also passionate about empowering today’s youth and helping them realize their unlimited potential. Josh participated in a lot of history and archaeology programs in his youth at the Oldham County History Center which gave him perspective about his own life which he described in the following:

Dr. Theiss, at the Oldham County History Center, has been a very influential person in my life, always believing in my potential. She made me feel like I was just as American as everyone else. Being brown, while living in LaGrange in the 90’s, I did not always feel that way. I have been told, “This is America and you have to speak English”. I was seen as weird because of the food I brought to school. I was automatically villainized with the rhetoric that Mexican’s are dirty or are here to steal. Participating in the Oldham County History Center programs made me feel that I was also American and provided me a powerful learning opportunity. Touring the Bibb / Gatewood plantation while in middle school opened my eyes to what black folks have had to endure, a history not talked about enough in our school systems and a history that happened in our own backyards. I am a firm believer in community education, and that it is necessary for our betterment as human beings and as a society.