

Maritza Ugarte

Milwaukee Police Department - Community Engagement Manager

Maritza Ugarte moved to Milwaukee, WI, in 2002 with her family. She graduated from Pulaski High School as a proud MPS alumnus. Ugarte later attained her Bachelor's Degree from UW-Milwaukee as a first-generation college student. Ugarte started as a youth participant and later was hired as a Youth Specialist for about 7 years at the Milwaukee Christian Center's Youth Program (Kosciuszko Community Center Location), now known as Milwaukee Community Crossroads. There, she led various youth-based projects with a focus on wellness, exploring future careers, and overall youth development.

Through her work at the Milwaukee Christian Center, she was introduced to the work of Safe & Sound and later joined the team as a Community Organizer in 2013. Ugarte accredits her love for Milwaukee to her work experience at Safe & Sound, as she got to meet and work along some amazing people and saw the city through the lens of everyday people that, despite challenging circumstances, are trying to improve the quality of life of their family. Ugarte was able to apply her skills and continued learning through different roles at Safe & Sound, eventually serving as Program Director.

In 2022, Ugarte transitioned from the non-profit sector to working for City of Milwaukee when she joined the Fire and Police Commission as their Community Outreach Coordinator. Soon after, she was promoted to serve as one of the FPC Investigators. Ugarte also currently serves as a board member for CORE El Centro, which provides access to integrative healing services to community members.

Ugarte still resides in the city of Milwaukee with her family and looks forward to reintegrating back into community-facing work in her new role as Community Engagement Manager for the Milwaukee Police Department.