

For Immediate Release  
June 13, 2023  
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## **REFORMA Announces 2023 Elizabeth Martinez Lifetime Achievement Award Winner**

Los Angeles, CA - REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking, is proud to announce the recipients of the 2023 Elizabeth Martinez Lifetime Achievement (LAA) Award.

The Elizabeth Martinez Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA) was created to recognize those who have achieved excellence in librarianship over an extended (over 20 years) period of service and who have made significant and lasting contributions to REFORMA, as well as to the Latino and the Spanish-speaking communities.

**The winner of the 2023 Elizabeth Martinez Lifetime Achievement (LAA) Award is Lucia Martinez Gonzalez.**

Lucia Gonzalez came from Cuba to the US with her parents and sister as refugees. She was 11 years old and didn't know the language. In 1983 she obtained her Bachelor's Degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and in 1988 her MLIS from the University of South Florida, Tampa. She is the author of *The Bossy Gallito*, 1996 Pura Belpré Children's Literature Honor Medal; *Señor Cat's Romance and Other Favorite Stories from Latin America*, and *The Storyteller's Candle*, 2009 Pura Belpré Children's Literature Honor Medal. Lucia served as Chair of REFORMA's Children & YA Services Committee from 2006-2016; is a co-founding member of Noche de Cuentos; two-time recipient of Library Journal's Movers & Shakers Award, the 2010-11 Past-President of REFORMA; and the 2020-21 President of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC). She is inspired by the pioneering work of Pura Belpré and the visionary librarians who were, and continue to be, innovators in providing services to immigrant families and who understand the importance of honoring culture and preserving stories.



Our winner will be honored in-person at the REFORMA Scholarship Fundraiser & Awards Celebration on June 25, 2023 (ticketed event) For more details on the event visit [reform.org](https://reform.org).

*REFORMA is a national organization of library and information professionals committed to promoting the development of library collections that include Spanish language and Latino oriented materials. The organization strongly advocates for culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate library services, programs and materials to meet the information and cultural needs of the Latino community.*

*For more information on REFORMA, visit [reforma.org](http://reforma.org).*

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