



About Me

Award-winning journalist and editor dedicated to telling impactful, community-centered stories. I previously served as an editor at TheBody and TheBodyPro, where I covered HIV-related issues and created the Digital Health Award-winning series, "[Really Honest Answers: Newly Diagnosed with HIV](#)." Prior to that, I was associate editor at The North Star, where I also co-hosted the podcast, "[America the Voiceless](#)." My work has appeared in outlets including Newsweek and City Limits, and I have led editorial and newsletter strategy for several major platforms.

Professional Skills

Research: Lexis Nexis, PACER, NYC Open data, Spokeo, Public records research, Fact-checking, SEO, AP Style

Platforms: WordPress, Monday.com, Photoshop, Canva, Mailchimp, Substack, CMS, Microsoft 365, Zencast audio editing, Canon 70D

Languages: English, Conversational Spanish

Education

Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY: M.A. Journalism: Urban Reporting, December 2016

Mercy College: B.A. in Media Studies/Journalism, May 2015

Connect

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MARIA ELENA PEREZ

Editor and Producer

Professional Experience

EDITOR

TheBody and TheBodyPro | July 2021- March 2026

- Edited, assigned, pitched, and published health and HIV-focused content, delivering accurate information, amplifying community voices, and combating stigma
- Led end-to-end newsletter strategy, overseeing editorial planning, content editing, and distribution for TheBody's weekly email
- Conceptualized and launched TheBody's "Really Honest Answers" video series, highlighting activists living with HIV and their guidance for people who have been recently diagnosed
- Collaborated with contributors, editors, and external partners to create and deliver engaging, accessible video content across multiple formats and platforms

ASSOCIATE EDITOR & REPORTER | PODCAST HOST & PRODUCER

The North Star | April 2019 - March 2021

- Assigned and edited daily coverage on race, politics, immigration, and criminal justice, coordinating across the newsroom during breaking news cycles
- Reported and pitched stories on racism, police brutality, and civil rights under tight deadlines
- Produced and co-hosted America the Voiceless, a weekly podcast on disenfranchised communities during the 2020 election, booking and interviewing activists, attorneys, and organizers
- Selected to speak at the 2020 Online News Association Conference on launching a podcast during COVID-19 and building cohesive cross-platform storytelling

BREAKING NEWS REPORTER

Newsweek | September 2017-April 2019

- Reported daily breaking news stories, including the one-year anniversary of the Parkland shooting and interviewing Martin Luther King III on the 50th anniversary of his father's assassination
- Followed Hurricane Maria and the aftermath of the storm in Puerto Rico, including the lack of mental health resources on the island following the hurricane
- Covered daily breaking news to drive over 1M uniques in monthly web traffic