## **Gina Hulings**

Director - Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs / Tourism Development



Gina Hulings is a first generation American. Gina was born to a Peruvian Mother, Pepita Carrion Rebelo and Portuguese Father, Joseph Rebelo, who met studying at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She has an older brother, Marcus Rebelo, and they were both born and raised in California. It was through her parents and grandparents where she began to learn the importance of culture, heritage, and education. By the time Gina was 14 years old, she was fluent in Portuguese, English, and Spanish.

Gina began her career in advertising after graduating from Northeastern University in Boston. She called New York Daily News home for 11 years. Here is where she refined her skills and knowledge in business development, arts and heritage, multi-cultural development, tourism, and travel. Managing the customization of both print and digital creative and growing digital sales revenue year after year, she became Director in a fast paced, ever-changing environment. Her ability to adapt and lead, and most importantly her ability to establish quality and thoughtful relationships, was seamless.

Gina has served as the Director of the Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs/Tourism Development since February 2018. Since then, she has grown her office into a flourishing team, which has produced successful art, historical, cultural and heritage programs, projects, and publications all under her vision and direction. Most recently, Gina has overseen a commemorative project over the last year to erect a sculpture in honor of WWII hero, Stephen R. Gregg. The unveiling will take place in July 2021.

Gina has fostered the local art and rich historical communities of Hudson County through publicity, planning, organizing, and directing activities, as well as grant application and administration. Her foresight is big picture; she finalized developing and cultivating the 10-year cultural plan for Hudson County in 2021. This tremendous feat took over a year of research, analysis and design. She is the driving force behind Tourism Development's VisitHudson.org and social platforms, making sure all creative and publications are ADA compliant. According the 2019 Tourism Economic Impact report, Hudson County is now the second county in the State of New Jersey to have largest growth in visitor spending.

Her office sponsors a multitude of annual events and programs throughout all twelve municipalities. She serves as a volunteer on various County-driven advisory boards and committees where she contributes to the development, conservation, environmental, historic preservation, parks and recreation, arts communities, business communities, and the overall mission and goals of each individual organization and entity.

The Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs / Tourism Development focuses on six different branches such as Promotion of the Arts, Tourism Development, Promotion of Local History, Cultural Heritage, Film and Television, and most recently has added Arts in Education to its portfolio. Gina is dedicated to seeing through the vision that all of these areas are successful and become a resource to Hudson County residents, visitors, and organizations.

As Gina is an integral part of Hudson County's progress, she is the heart of her own family. Gina is the mom of adorable and fun-loving two-year-old twins, Austin and Harper, stepmom to a kindhearted and beautiful daughter, Kayleigh, and loving wife to Jersey City Lieutenant, Michael Hulings. In her spare time, Gina has been a bassist for several bands over the span of 20 years and continues to play shows in the tri-state area. She also gets excited to snowboard in new locations in the winter months.