Bio:

Dionne is a Latina woman born and raised in a marginalized neighborhood in East Salinas, California. She is 48 years old and a mother of 4 sons and 1 adopted daughter. She currently lives in Pacific Grove, Ca. She is the Founding Director of The Wahine Project a non profit organization whose mission is to eliminate the barriers that prevent a diversity of girls from a relationship with the ocean and with one another. Surfing transformed her life when she picked it up as an adult. She has since sought to share the liberating and empowering experience of surfing through The Wahine Project. Dionne sees surfing as a powerful vehicle for connecting girls to their own self-empowerment as well as a way to connect communities of diverse girls to nature and the ocean. Founded in 2010, The Wahine Project has brought served over 10,000 girls in partnerships throughout the world. Dionne believes that a relationship with the ocean will allow girls to live their fullest and happiest lives.

Quick Abstract:

I would like to bring the participants into the moment when they first experienced nature. How did those first experiences bring them to the work that they do now. Share a bit about my personal story/history connecting with nature, bring in cultural background, being female and share with them how those experiences brought me to start the Wahine Project and how the work that we do will ensure that the work that they do now can be continued by the diversity of young people. I will touch on some of the workshops they are attending and make that relevant to our work on the beach and what we teach. I want to leave them inspired to continue their work as well and to encourage them to keep connecting to nature, the blue mind state to inspire and encourage them.

