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Maven Leadership Collective

# CODA

Maven Leadership Collective  
2024 Impact Report

M.7

(3:22)

## You Can Lead A Horse

Maven Iliana Santillan, (she|her),

Executive Director, El Pueblo

Maven Nadege Green (she|her), Producer

Iliana Santillan (00:00):

My name is Iliana Santillan.

Speaker 2 (00:03):

[foreign language 00:00:04]. You can come over here in the shade.

Iliana Santillan (00:06):

So I was really nervous. I haven't been horseback riding in I don't even know how long. And the one time I did it, I had someone hold the horse. So when we got there and I saw the horses, I was just like, whoa. Thank you. The rancher person, he was like, "You." And then I was just assigned to Bruna, and then the other caretaker of the horses was like, "Oh, her name is Bruna."

Speaker 3 (00:30):

This is Jama Breesa, Bruma.

Iliana Santillan (00:35):

Bruma. And when I got on her, I was just like, okay. And I was talking to her in Spanish and caressing her. I was like, all right, we're doing this. And just really trying to bond with her and figuring out how we were going to go through this journey. I didn't know what was ahead. I had no idea there were uphill, downhill.

(00:56):

I felt like my horse kind of absorbed a little bit of my personality. I'm an Aries and I lead, and I felt like Bruna was right away up at the front, but then there was a moment where we had to slow down. She went off, she was just going downhill, and she went off. It's time to scale back and pace. She stopped and I took a really deep breath and I was like, what, what was that? And it was just like an analogy to my life. I'm going at a pace that I can't go and I don't know the path and it's scary. And so understanding that it's okay to stop, and I need to stop and I need to pace, and I will still enjoy the journey.

(01:45):

I was seeing lots of trees. I was seeing the dirt, the rocks, and I was just in awe at the scenery and the complexity of the sea, and then it was the jungle. And just seeing it all together in once was really helpful. And then I also really enjoyed not leading. It was really cool to just be in the back and just waiting for folks and for once, not feeling the pressure.

(02:22):

I think I don't give myself permission. I feel like everything to me is fast-forward. Everything has to be fast-forward. I never really stop. Even for me to stand still, it's really challenging to just stop and pause and breathe and drink water. So I feel like it was just really challenging to allow myself to do that. And just that simple lesson, horseback riding one day has such a huge impact on what my future will look like. I know I have to stop. I know I have to drink water. I know that it will feel like I'm going to fall off, but I'm not going to fall off because I got this and I have control over it, and it's okay. Nobody's going to... And Bruna just felt like, I don't know, again, the universe works in mysterious ways. It was just like a beautiful match, and I felt like we understood each other and she taught me something that I really needed to learn.