

# Yadira Capaz

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## EDUCATION

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**Institute of Contemporary Art Miami**, Miami, FL October 2017 - December 2019

*Post-grad studies at the Art + Research Center*

6 semesters of the museum's graduate-level mini-courses

**New York University**, New York, NY June 2017

*Interactive Telecommunications Program (ITP) Camp*

Summer program in creative technology

**Barnard College of Columbia University**, New York, NY September 2013 – May 2017

*Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies with a Concentration in Dance*

**GPA:** 3.9/4.0, Department Honors, Magna Cum Laude **Dean's List:** 5 Semesters

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

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Capaz, Yadira, (2022). "A Guide to 'Environmental Art Social Practice' for creating Art as Activism through Participatory Action Research, Landscape Design, and Community Engagement." Medium. [medium.com/@fluxcapazitor](https://medium.com/@fluxcapazitor).

Capaz, Yadira, (2022). "Resiliency Toolkit for Creating Community Hubs in Case of Climate Disaster." Catalyst Miami. [catalystmiami.org/library](https://catalystmiami.org/library).

Capaz, Yadira, (2017). "Artist as Citizen, Artist as Urbanist: Exercising the Right to the City through Urban Interventions." Urban Studies Student Journal at Barnard College: Senior Thesis Feature.

Capaz, Yadira, (2016). "Resisting Gentrification: Leveraging the Arts to Make Just Cities through Creative Placemaking and Social Practice Art." Urban Studies Student Journal at Barnard College: Junior Colloquium Feature.

## PRESENTATIONS AT INSTITUTIONS

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**Florida International University**, Miami, FL

March 2024

*Invited as guest lecturer for the Eco-Art class taught by Fereshteh Toosi.*

"Artist as Urban Alchemist: Ecological Restoration and Community Building through Public Art"

**St. Andrew's School**, Boca Raton, FL

January 2023

*Invited as guest lecturer for the World Religions class taught by Thomas Stabb.*

"Labyrinth Ritual for Connecting to your Roots as an Ancient Way of Knowing"

**Istituto Marangoni Miami**, Miami, FL

December 2022

*Invited as guest lecturer for the Fashion & Illustration class taught by Anabella Bergero.*

"Care with Me: A Design Thinking Workshop for Switching Lanes from Fast Fashion to Sustainable Humanitarian Fashion"

## FELLOWSHIPS

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**Catalyst Miami**, Virtual Program in Miami, FL September - December 2024  
*Neighbors to Leaders Fellow*

Funding and mentorship for a project developed during the 10-week Community Leadership on the Environment, Advocacy, and Resilience (CLEAR) Program

**Hispanic Access Foundation**, Virtual & In-Person in Miami May - August 2024  
*Olas y Accion Fellow*

Scuba Diving research program, career mentorship, and Open Water certification

**The Aspen Institute**, Washington, DC and Miami, FL November 2023 - March 2024  
*Future Leader Climate Fellow in Coral Restoration*

Cohort for the Future Leaders Climate Summit as part of Aspen Ideas: Climate Conference

**Burnaway Magazine**, Virtual Program based in New Orleans, LA July - September 2020  
*Burnaway Writing Fellow in Latinx Art*

Burnaway Arts Writing Incubator

**Columbia University**, New York, NY September 2015 - May 2016  
*Pine Tree Scholar*

Book Arts Training Program

## CERTIFICATIONS

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**RYT 60-hour Yin Yoga Teacher Training**, Miami, FL August 2024  
*Chinese Medicine, Meridian Yin, and Hip Anatomy I module*  
Taught by Jo Phee from Yininspiration

**PADI Open Water Level 1**, Florida Keys, FL July 2024  
*Part of Olas y Accion Fellowship for working on coral restoration projects*  
Taught by Rainbow Reef Diving School and Hispanic Access Foundation

**Wilderness First Responder Certification**, Virtual and in Costa Rica February 2023  
*Required for leading wilderness therapy excursions*  
Taught by Survival Med and practiced with Pacific Discovery in Costa Rica

**125-Hr Permaculture Design Certification**, near Sacramento, CA May - June 2021  
*Included a People Care Extension in Social Permaculture, Herbalism, and Community Organizing*  
Taught at The Heartland Collective by Sarah Wu and Ryan Rising with many guest teachers followed by Volunteer Action Days road trip visiting guest teacher land projects

**Creative Arts Therapy**, Puerto Jiménez, Costa Rica May 2020  
*Art, Dance, Music, and Psychodrama Therapy with Teaching Apprenticeship*  
Taught in the Finca Morpho Eco-Village by Mieke Van der Hayden

**RYT 200-Hr Yoga Teacher Training**, Nosara, Costa Rica March - April 2020  
*Hatha Yoga, Qi Gong, and Earth-Based Indigenous Meso-American Practices*  
Taught at Pachamama Eco-Village by Adya and Velan from One Movement

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Earth Ethics Institute at Miami Dade College, Miami, FL**

March 2024 - Present

*Padron Campus Program Professional (Part-Time)*

- Creating unique programming on earth literacy and sustainability studies in partnership with professors, the Changemaking committee, and student clubs to encourage students to earn more Eco-Champion awards and GSELS Scholar certifications.
- Leading a weekly Zen Garden Work Day to teach students about gardening, native plant ecology, growing food, and aquaponics while mentoring the Eco Club to create their own projects for campus green spaces.
- Cultivating a campus learning community creating professional development opportunities for faculty and staff to integrate sustainability into the university culture.

**Xavier Cortada Foundation, Miami, FL**

December 2023 - Present

*Teaching Artist (Contract)*

- Co-teaching a 6-session eco-art curriculum inspired by Xavier Cortada's art at several elementary schools to foster creativity and environmental knowledge in youth.
- Leading workshops for "The Underwater Project" during the weeklong Miami Art Week activation tabling near the art fairs.
- Documenting all activities with photos and videos to create social media content.

**Miami Life Center, Miami, FL**

July 2023 - Present

*Yoga Teacher (Part-Time)*

- Facilitating weekly class of "Yummy Yin Yoga and Sensuous Sound Bath" for 5-15 people.
- Curating wellness event series including women's circles, journaling, and Moon events.
- Coordinating the Yoga 4 Change Festival for trauma-informed yoga teacher training.

**Catalyst Miami, Miami, FL**

September 2023 - April 2024

*Facilitator of the CLEAR Climate Justice Leadership Program (Contract)*

- Co-facilitated the 10-week 20 person program virtually in the Fall and in-person in Spring presenting on climate science and environmental justice alongside guest speakers.
- Mentored groups on their projects creating climate justice solutions for their communities.
- Initiated mindfulness and embodiment breaks to practice community care exercises.

**Flux Events, Miami, FL**

May 2023 - June 2024

*Event Coordinator (Freelance Contracts)*

- Coordinated logistics for 3 days of talks and field trips for Parley for the Oceans x Adidas "Miami Ocean School" at the One Hotel including swag bags and meals.
- Assisted the lead coordinator for the Biscayne Bay Marine Health Summit in creating program lineup, marketing materials, and volunteer management on site.
- Managed communications with community partners and provided hands-on help with art installations for Art Sail x Blue Scholars Foundation's "World Ocean Day Festival"

**Pacific Discovery, Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica**

February 2023 - April 2023

*Experiential Education Program Instructor (Contract)*

- Led a cohort of 15 college-aged youth through a 6-week wilderness therapy program in Costa Rica teaching global leadership workshop curriculum and adventure sports.
- Problem-solver on all fronts from medical emergencies to dietary restrictions to emotional conflicts to daily entertainment to language learning and beyond.
- Organized unique workshops on digital hygiene, herbal medicine, and meditation.

**Design Lab, Remote**

August 2022 - January 2023

*UX/UI Designer and Design Thinking Workshop Facilitator (Contract)*

- Created UX/UI Research projects following Design Lab's UX Academy program to create streamlined web design for community businesses.
- Facilitated design thinking workshops for startups like The New North (formerly Musa) and created "Design Thinking for Hometown Heroes" for Tropotrope.
- Won the semi-finals round for IDEO's 'Designing Future Thriving' Challenge, and was chosen as Design Lab's Recipient of "Diversify Design" Fellowship.

**Flux Studio, Remote**

May 2021 - January 2023

*Content Strategist and Brand Designer (Freelance Contracts)*

- Translated 3 hours of audio into Spanish scripts for Lovelo's Eco-Bike tour of Biscayne Bay.
- Managed social media for Ecstatic Playground by creating a content calendar, video skits, and infographics increasing to 2k followers for our human connection workshops.
- Designed graphics package for the launch of the Our New Voices podcast by creating episode graphics, quote cards, and promotional flyers leading to 1k playbacks.
- Redesigned the website for the Growing with the Seasons family therapy practice.

**The Posse Foundation, Miami, FL**

October 2020 - October 2021

*Assistant to the Director; interim Career Program Manager (Full-Time)*

- Supported the workflow of the director managing communication across departments while executing administrative board reports, expense reports, scheduling, and office care.
- As Interim Career Program Manager, managed the needs of scholars and alumni by reviewing resumes, hosting workshops, and supervising a Summer grant application.
- Coordinated the DAP recruitment process for new scholars.

**Institute of Contemporary Art Miami, Miami, FL**

October 2017 - December 2019

*Assistant Manager of Visitor Services, Lead Tour Guide (Full-Time)*

- Created the Ask Me Tour Program to transform Visitor Services from silent guards into knowledgeable guides.
- Researched, wrote, and taught presentations for each exhibition while training team to lead their own tours by providing feedback and support.
- Developed educational resources for Education, Marketing, and Curatorial Departments.

**NEW INC at New Museum, New York, NY**

September 2016 - May 2017

*Community Engagement Intern (Part-Time)*

- Strategized recruitment for the incubator cohort and doubled women and people of color in our applicant pool and in the Knight Foundation Museum Innovation program.
- Developed a database of 300 alumni, mentor, and member profiles for more strategic outreach, networking programming, and partnerships.
- Facilitated community engagement activations, hosted interviews for blog articles, and helped coordinate an onboarding bootcamp for the 30 person cohort.

**New York City Civic Engagement Program, New York, NY**

August 2016 - May 2017

*NYCCEP Fellow at Barnard College (Contract)*

- Facilitated a weekly social justice education program for first-year students by inviting speakers, coordinating service opportunities, and arranging community lunches.
- Created 6 10-page resource guides on topics like Environmental Justice and Immigration.
- Organized a 4-hour community care conference after the US Presidential Election.

**Arts Initiative, New York, NY**

September 2014 - September 2016

*Marketing Assistant (Part-Time)*

- Curated a weekly newsletter of 25 arts events around the city with a reach of 10,000 people.
- Wrote monthly reviews for our blog to highlight select museums and performances.
- Managed social media accounts and created #MuseumoftheWeek series to feature partners.

**Barnard Pre-College Programs, New York, NY**

May 2016 - July 2016

*Trip Coordinator (Contract)*

- Coordinated over 100 creative excursions and class field trips for high school students.
- Led advocacy efforts toward financial accessibility in programming for low-income students by creating a sponsored ticket system.
- Created a 50 page booklet to teach students more tools to explore NYC on their own.

**Alternative Spring Break: NYC Performing Arts, New York, NY** December 2014 - April 2015

*Program Coordinator (Contract)*

- Curated talkbacks and workshops with artists to match each of the 12 shows attended.
- Coordinated the opening and closing dinners for our group of 35 people at two event spaces.
- Created a 30 page resource guide full of navigation resources and readings for our program.

**Miami-Dade Department of Cultural Affairs, Miami, FL**

September 2012 - May 2013

*Marketing Intern (Part-Time)*

- Led presentations for a youth discount ticket program known as Culture Shock Miami at 5 different high schools.
- Recruited volunteers for a commercial that aired for 6 months.
- Contributed to a monthly feedback panel about rebranding the marketing materials.

**Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Miami, FL**

May 2013 - August 2014

*Volunteer Ambassador (Part-Time)*

- Guided tours of the rainforest and performed educational sets during daily butterfly releases to teach people about conservation.
- Catalogued wild collected plant accessions, propagated plants, and made tags for each species at the Fairchild Nursery.
- Trained as a Fairchild Ambassador attending classes on landscape design, tropical plant ecology, and pollinators.

## **SOCIAL PRACTICE PROJECTS**

**The Impact Plug, Miami, FL**

March 2024 - Ongoing

*A curated resource list for community engagement opportunities in Miami*

QR Code posted around Miami and tabling at wellness events to walk our talk

**Coral Friends of Biscayne Bay, Miami, FL**

November 2023

*A month-long community learning activation with 6 events and ongoing message board*

Activities included climate grief circle, underwater sculpture designs, snorkeling trip, coral restoration volunteering, mermaid gathering, coral mandala, microscope photos, and coral poetry

**Tea & Poetry Pop-Up, Miami, FL**

September 2022 - Ongoing

*Typewriter poetry duets with creative people following deep conversations over tea*

Poetry dates at cafes or pop-up tabling at events

**Earth Week Retreat, 5 cities in Ecuador**

May 2022

*A partnership with Selina Hotels across Ecuador to lead 9 workshops each week for 5 weeks*

Workshops included Sacred Cacao Mornings, Inner Child Theatre Games, Art Therapy Ecology Hikes, Shamanic Drum Imagination Journeys, and Ancestral Remembrance Ceremonies

**Miami Art Week Immersion, Miami, FL**

December 2021

*Curated guide to Miami Art Basel week events with community meetups, ritual opening and closing*

- Opening Portal: “A Water Blessing for Trailblazers of an Ancient Future”
- Closing Portal: “A Playful Baptism for Rewilding Dreamweavers from the Stars”

**The African Nomad’s Digital Library Podcast, Miami, FL**

August 2020 - December 2020

*Conversations with artists invited to discuss live research with a digital library from my travels*

The artists would share their work, bring books, and research the hard drive to draw inspiration

**Swamp Therapy in the Everglades, Miami, FL**

January 2020

*Facilitated 4 intentional wilderness therapy hikes in the Everglades and created digital storytelling*

Sharing Indigenous history, native ecological knowledge, meditation, service, and art therapy.

**Rites of Passage Workshop Series, Miami, FL**

March 2019 - December 2021

- *Moonrise Cradle*, March 2019
  - Full Moon moonrise beach rainbow bonfire ceremony featuring songs and storytelling in the 5 languages of my ancestors serving ancestral medicines of ethically-sourced chocolate, herbal tea, and honey.
- *Twilight Seed*, October 2019
  - Labyrinth Meditation and Shamanic Drum Ceremony at sunset inside a 20ft by 20ft 7-Circuit Seed Labyrinth we built on the beach from sticks, rope, and flowers.
- *Rooted Heart*, July 2020
  - Ancestral Memory Activation and Cacao Ceremony sharing my own medicine music, ancestor work exercises like drawing a family tree and walking with spirit guides, Tree of Life guided meditation, and co-creative spontaneous play parade.
- *Conjunction Function*, December 2020
  - Curated skillshare on the day the planets aligned where every guest shared an offering to the group of their spiritual and artistic gifts.
- *Integritea Planting*, March 2021
  - Integration circle supported by a blend of herbal tea weaving somatic arts therapy exercises and a seed planting ceremony made possible by Miami Seed Share.
- *Potluck of Dreams*, June 2021
  - A potluck where people bring their dreams for the future to share and build their team to make it real. We practiced a Dragon Dreaming group visioning exercise in a smaller group after the main event.
- *Bon Voyage with Baba Yaga Stew*, December 2021
  - Sharing the coming of age archetypal story of Vasilisa the Wise and Baba Yaga while serving an exquisite homemade bone broth soup in a black cauldron.

**WORKSHOPS****Yoga for the Earth: Sunset Yoga & Beach Clean-Up, Miami, FL**

January 2025

*Miami Waterkeeper Community Outreach Programs*

Historic Virginia Key Beach Park

30 attendees

<b>Green Spaces Design Challenge</b> , Miami, FL <i>Earth Ethics Institute Symposium</i> Zen Garden at Padron Campus of Miami Dade College 40 attendees	November 2024
<b>Council of All Beings: Mask-Making and Theater Workshop</b> , Miami, FL <i>Miccosukee Arts &amp; Science Symposium</i> Miccosukee Casino 15 attendees	October 2024
<b>Connection Games: Manifesto from Your Rainbow Self</b> , Miami, FL <i>The Peace Studio's Artist as Catalyst Program</i> The Green Space Gallery 40 attendees	August 2024
<b>Come Celebrate Love with a Poem</b> , Miami, FL <i>Valentine's Day Typewriter Poetry Pop-Up</i> 801 Brickell 10 participants, 50 booklets of "Poems to Read to Your Lover" distributed	February 2024
<b>Design Thinking for Hometown Heroes</b> , Miami, FL <i>Design Lab's "Diversify Design" Fellowship</i> Tropotrope Arts Learning Lab 15 attendees	January 2023
<b>Tea &amp; Poetry Pop-Up</b> , Miami, FL <i>Art with Me Festival</i> Historic Virginia Key Beach Park 60 attendees	December 2022
<b>Pin the Shoreline of Consciousness: Poetry &amp; Sound Journey</b> , Miami, FL <i>O Miami Poetry Festival workshop in collaboration with Peruvian Ethnomusicologist's Concert</i> Tropotrope Arts Learning Lab 18 attendees	October 2022
<b>Death Dance</b> , Miami, FL <i>Ecstatic Playground collaboration with The Psychospiritual Institute using Joanna Macy's exercises</i> Green Monkey Studio 35 attendees	October 2021
<b>Death over Dinner</b> , Miami, FL <i>Ecstatic Playground's iteration of the Death Over Dinner movement</i> My Living Room 8 attendees, by invitation only	September 2021
<b>Blooming from Within</b> , Miami, FL <i>Flower Herbalism workshop in collaboration with We are Luna Kai collective</i> South Gate Towers 12 attendees	June 2021

**Afro-Cuban Yoruba Spirituality Libation: Oshun Activation**, Miami, FL August 2021  
*Multi-sensory Interactive Storytelling Altar Activation and Guided Meditation with Honey*  
Kanikapila Open Mic in honor of Emilia Garth's "Ide Were Were" Song Release Celebration  
100 attendees

**Vision Seeds**, Virtual March 2021  
*Co-facilitated inner eye journey of seeds sprouting in collaboration with Angela del Sol*  
Visionary Artist Amanda Sage's "Vision Train" 24 Hr Zoom Room  
150 attendees

**Ancestral Healing Workshop** November 2020  
*Holding space to draw family tree, explore family's legacy, and connect to our ancestral purpose*  
Virtual Workshop for "Heal with the Land" Festival  
50 attendees

**Sound Healing Concert**, Miami, FL May 2019  
*Fempower's Mother's Day market at Mother Earth Miami nursery at Earth 'n Us Farm*  
A performance featuring harp, singing bowls, bells, tuning forks, and tank drum  
60 attendees

**Multidimensional Connectivity & Becoming a Conduit for Joy**, New York, NY January 2017  
*Play workshop in collaboration with Caroline Wallis for "Ours: Workshops on Connectivity"*  
Louise McCagg Gallery, Barnard College  
20 attendees

## **EXHIBITIONS, INTERVIEWS, AND PERFORMANCES**

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**Meet Yadira Capaz, a Research-Based Teaching Artist**, Virtual August 2024  
*Interview with media host Meredith Porte, Board Member of The Peace Studio*  
Conversations with Friends, BK Meditation Center

**Gratitude and Giving**, Miami, FL November 2023  
*Moderating panels "Turtle Island After Colonization" and "The Journey Back to Indigenization"*  
Future of Cities Climate & Innovation Hub

**Art, Fashion, and Community Round Table**, Miami, FL September 2023  
*Moderating a Panel of Latinx and Caribbean Artists and Curators*  
Anabella Bergero's Heart of Community exhibit at Faena Art Project Room

**Retrospective Presentation on Academic Essays**, Miami, FL December 2022  
*"Art as Activism: Creative Placemaking through Environmental Art Social Practice"*  
Thriving Future Design Festival



<b>Remembering Natural Legacies</b> , Virtual	March 2021
<i>Sharing my Swamp Therapy series and the Climate Resiliency Toolkit for Urban Farms</i>	
Virtual Podcast Interview for “Gaia Protection”	
<b>Labyrinth Land Art Installation</b> , Puerto Jimenez, Costa Rica	May 2020
<i>40 ft x 60 ft danceable whirling rock labyrinth around a tree in collaboration with Flowing River</i>	
Finca Morpho Eco-Community	
<b>Fempower Showcase</b> , Miami, FL	December 2018
<i>Fempower Collective Afro-futurist exhibit playing harp and guiding meditation for Miami’s future</i>	
Miami Beach Open House	
<b>ITP Camp Showcase</b> , New York, NY	June 2017
<i>Projection mapping experiments dancing with light-refractive fabric</i>	
ITP Studio, NYU	
<b>Urban Love Generator</b> , New York, NY	April 2017
<i>Street art installation for my senior thesis in Urban Studies on creative placemaking</i>	
Morningside Park 116th St, on the edge of Harlem and Columbia University	
<b>Postcrypt Showcase</b> , New York, NY	February 2017
<i>Collaborative dual self-portrait piece made with Sasha Cohen inspired by Photo Stand-Ins</i>	
Postcrypt Art Gallery, Columbia University	
<b>CoLab Showcase</b> , New York, NY	December 2016
<i>Choreographed 10 minute dance piece with 4 dancers inspired by Butoh and Brain Wave Music</i>	
Glicker Milstein Theater, Barnard College	
<b>Hang Night</b> , New York, NY	November 2016
<i>Mixed-Media Art Installation with accompanying Performance Art piece</i>	
Heath Gallery on 125th St, Harlem	
<b>Pine Tree Scholars on Display</b> , New York, NY	September 2016
<i>Exhibition of Paper, Calligraphy, and Book Binding pieces</i>	
Butler Library, Columbia University	
<b>Theft and Gift</b> , New York, NY	May 2016
<i>Exhibiting large-scale installation with Harlem Studio Museum for Leslie Hewitt’s class</i>	
Louise McCagg Gallery, Barnard College	
<b>Artist Society Showcase</b> , New York, NY	May 2015
<i>Figure Drawing and Painting exhibition after 2 years as club president</i>	
Dodge 501, Columbia University	

## SKILLS

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- **Translation:** Fully Bilingual in Spanish and English
- **Communication:** Excellent writer and charismatic public speaker
- **Facilitation:** Dynamic workshop facilitator specializing in creative pedagogy that amplifies immersive experiential learning, grounded embodiment, and interactive engagement for leadership development, creativity, and human connection
- **Wellness:** Meditation, Yoga, Breathwork, Sound Healing, Singing, Storytelling
- **Permaculture:** Able to design regenerative systems based on ecological knowledge
- **Event Planning:** Workshops, Retreats, Conferences, Festivals
- **Project Management:** Notion, Trello, Slack, Discord
- **Social Media:** Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, X, WhatsApp
- **Office Admin:** Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Google Suite
- **Graphic Design:** Canva, Adobe Creative Suite, Figma
- **Digital Media:** Sound Editing, Video Editing, Photo Editing with various Apps
- **Web Design:** Squarespace, Wordpress, HTML/CSS, UX/UI Design Research
- **Digital Marketing:** Mailchimp Newsletter, Substack Newsletters, Meta Ads, Google Ads

## REFERENCES

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- **Mike Matthews - Director, Earth Ethics Institute, Miami Dade College**  
**Relationship: Supervisor**  
(305) 323-4414 [mmatthew@mdc.edu](mailto:mmatthew@mdc.edu)
- **Adam Roberti - Director, Xavier Cortada Foundation**  
**Relationship: Co-Facilitator**  
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- **Fereshteh Toosi - Eco-Art Professor, Florida International University**  
**Relationship: Professor**  
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