

Cristina Vollmer Burelli

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Cristina V. Burelli, a Venezuelan American social entrepreneur, is the Executive Director and cofounder - with her husband, Pedro M. Burelli - of [V5 Initiative](#) (V5I). Since 2015, this 501(c)(3) leads and supports broad initiatives that promote better and more informed policy making and governance at the national and international level.

Cristina, a Cambridge University social anthropologist by training, is passionate about universal and democratic values, human rights, democratic freedom, the environment, and other conditions that enable equitable and sustainable prosperity. Years of work in the non-profit sector in Venezuela and the US in addition to the long tradition of her family's philanthropic work and leadership in the non-profit sector have instilled a deep sense of community and civic responsibility.

As Executive Director of Alliance for the Family (AFF) between 2001 and 2015, Cristina managed the publication and teacher training of a K-12 story-based universal values curriculum that touched an estimated 600,000 children and teenagers in 16 countries, including Cuba involving tens of thousands of [Cuban students](#) and families.

In 2018 Cristina founded [SOSOrinoco](#) – an organization that is shedding light on the situation in the Amazonas and Orinoco regions of Venezuela, to raise awareness of the tragedy that is occurring and to outline some urgent measures that need to be taken to halt the unfolding human and environmental disaster brought about by uncontrolled illegal mining.

Before moving to the US in 2000, Cristina was living in her native country, Venezuela, where she was involved with her family-owned business, [C.A. Ron Santa Teresa](#) (*one of the largest rum producers in the world*) and principal board member of [The British School](#) (Caracas) from 1995 to 2000.

Since 2007, Cristina has been a trustee of [The Orchestra of the Americas](#). In 2012 she co-founded and has since co-chaired an initiative of the Orchestra of the Americas, the [Global Leaders Institute](#) a 360° Executive MBA for the Arts. From 2020 to 2022, Cristina was a Senior Associate (Non-Resident) of the Americas Program at the [Center for Strategic and International Studies](#) (CSIS) in Washington DC.

Always connected to her alma mater, Queens' College at the University of Cambridge, Cristina was a trustee from 2015 to 2022 of Cambridge in America, a non-profit that advances the mission of Cambridge and its thirty-one member Colleges. She currently chairs the Washington DC Regional Advisory Committee to Cambridge in America.

The common thread in her work in all these organizations has been her interest in Environment, Social & Governance (ESG) as well her passion for education, social entrepreneurship, and the promotion of universal and democratic values through different means including classical music.