



Dr. Raquel M. Ortiz is a social anthropologist, educator, activist, writer, and storyteller. She is also an Emmy-nominated film maker. She co-authored *Vicki and a Summer of Change!* / *Vicki y un Verano de Cambio!* (2020) and authored *Broken Butterfly Wings / Alas de mariposa rotas* (2021), *When Julia Danced Bomba / Cuando Julia Bailaba Bomba* (2019); *Sofi Paints Her Dreams / Sofi pinta sus sueños* (2019), and *Planting Flags on Division Street / Plantando banderas en la calle Division* (2015). Her work has garnered MOSAIC 5 Star Multicultural Book Recognition (2020); National Library Guild Golden Selection (2019); International Latino Book Awards (2016); Tejas Star Reading List (2016); and Educational Leadership Award - National Puerto Rican Day Parade (2016). **Maria Dominguez** moved from Cataño, Puerto Rico, to New York City when she was five years old. A teacher in the NYC public school system, she has created over 20 public art murals. In 2001, commissioned by the NYC MTA, her work *El-Views*, remains a permanent stained glass installation in the Chauncey Street, Bushwick station.

Sofi and the Magic, Musical Mural
Sofi y el magico mural musical

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ILLUSTRATOR: Maria Dominguez

TRANSLATOR: Gabriela Baeza Ventura

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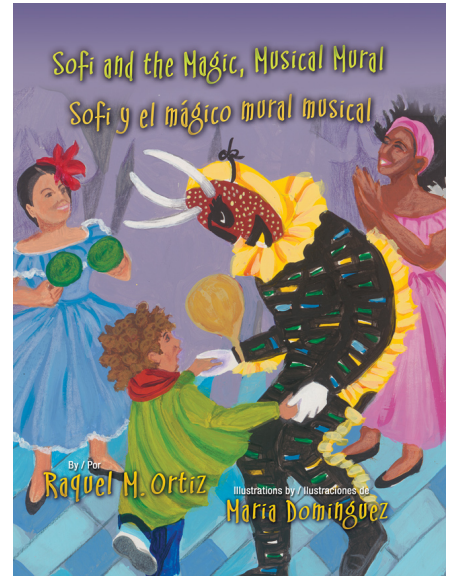
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Author is available for speaking engagements, book signings, book clubs, in-person and virtual interviews.



“This bilingual picture book celebrates public art murals and culture, specifically the one located in the South Bronx entitled “El Pueblo Cantor” (The Pueblo Sings). The story captures the power that art has on our senses and would be appropriate for art educators.” ~ International Literacy Association

When Sofi walks through her barrio to the local store, she always passes a huge mural with images from Puerto Rico: musicians, dancers, tropical flowers and—her least favorite—a *vejjigante*, a character from carnival that wears a scary mask.

One day on her way home from the bodega, she stops in front of the mural. Is one of the dancers inviting her to be his partner? “Okay, let’s dance,” Sofi giggles, and suddenly she’s in Old San Juan, surrounded by dancers and musicians playing bongos, tambourines and *güiros*. She begins to dance and sing with her new friends, but her pleasure turns to fear when the *vejjigante*—wearing a black jumper with yellow fringe and a red, three-horned mask—spins her around and around! What does he want from her? How can she get away?

This story about an imaginative girl and a magical mural is an engaging exploration of Puerto Rico’s cultural traditions as well as an ode to public art and the community it depicts. Featuring Maria Dominguez’s lovingly rendered, colorful illustrations, this bilingual picture book introduces the topic of community art to children ages 4 to 8. After reading this book, children—and some adults too—will want to make and share their own artistic creations!

2016 Tejas Star Reading List
 2016 International Latino Book Award - Honorable Mention
 Best Latino Focused Children’s Picture Book – Bilingual

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