

Good evening, everyone,

My name is José Raudales, and I want to start by saying thank you to Jonathan Turer for nominating me for this position.

I came to New York as an immigrant, and from the beginning this city felt like home. Every neighborhood, every language on the subway, every small story on a street corner reminded me how special this place is. Getting to show visitors from around the world why New York is the greatest city in the world has been one of the real privileges of my life.

I've been a member of GANYC for several years, though I've never been directly involved before. Some of you already know that in 2020 I had to step away from guiding for medical reasons. Now that I'm fully recovered and I'm back in the tourism industry, one of my personal goals has been to become more active and give something back to the association that has given me so much.

GANYC has provided me with professional opportunities, training, and friendships that shaped not only my work but my character. When I joined at twenty-five, I was just beginning in this profession. Through GANYC I learned what real professionalism looks like—generosity with knowledge, respect for colleagues, and pride in standards.

I didn't expect to be nominated for Secretary, but I take the trust behind it seriously. I've always valued clear communication and good follow-through—making sure people have the information they need and that nothing gets lost between meetings or emails. That's something I naturally enjoy: keeping people connected, sharing updates, and making sure everyone's on the same page.

If elected, I'd bring that same approach to this role—organized, communicative, and responsive. I see the Secretary position as one of service, making it easier for the board and membership to stay informed and for everyone's contributions to be recognized.

Even if I'm not elected, I plan to stay involved. I know this is an all-volunteer organization, and that's never easy. But the effort we put into keeping GANYC strong benefits all of us—every member, and every licensed guide in the city, whether they belong to GANYC or not.

Serving in any capacity would be my way of returning the generosity this community has shown me. I'm proud to be part of a group that takes our profession seriously, supports one another, and represents New York with pride and integrity.

Thank you for the nomination, thank you for your time tonight, and thank you for everything you do to keep this organization moving forward.