



# LEONEL MONTERROSA

Founder, Lero Studio

Leonel is an alumnus from El Salvador who participated in the Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLA) in January - April 2021. YLA is the U.S. Department of State's flagship program for emerging entrepreneurs and business leaders from Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada. In addition to his fellowship placement, Leo also participated in variety of professional development and cultural activities, all hosted virtually by WorldDenver!



Leo and his host organization counterpart, Daniel, truly embodied the spirit of WorldDenver's international exchange programs, not only by sharing their professional expertise (Leo in design, and Daniel in database management/marketing) and learning from one another, but also by discovering synergies and common goals culminating in a long term development project.

For his digital fellowship, WorldDenver matched Leo with Alternativ Global Entrepreneurs, a nonprofit in Colorado Springs dedicated to empowering NGOs and their local leaders around the world to maximize community development programs with business training and mentorship.

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GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURS**lero** **ALIGHT**



"Even before COVID, people in our communities just wanted a chance—a way to prosper amidst gang violence and high unemployment. They simply wanted skills that allowed them to get jobs and to be able to invest in their neighborhoods. As the lockdown persisted, unemployment continued to rise. As we seek to find a new normal, education and entrepreneurship are the keys to providing the jobs our community so desperately needs. I'm so grateful for the fellowship program and having had the chance to connect with an organization providing exactly the curriculum and mentorship program we have been seeking."

– **LEONEL MONTERROSA**

Immediately after starting their fellowship it was clear that Leo, Lero Studio, their in-country collaborators and their new Colorado friends and colleagues at Alternativ were the perfect fit for each other. They are now, post fellowship, working together to launch a pilot project and plan for long term collaboration to bring education, jobs, and opportunities to families and aspiring entrepreneurs in Leo's home country of El Salvador. They'll start by training staff and local facilitators digitally before launching community based empowerment and business training programs in June of this year. Learn more about their powerful work and follow along at [alternativproject.org/elsalvador](https://alternativproject.org/elsalvador).