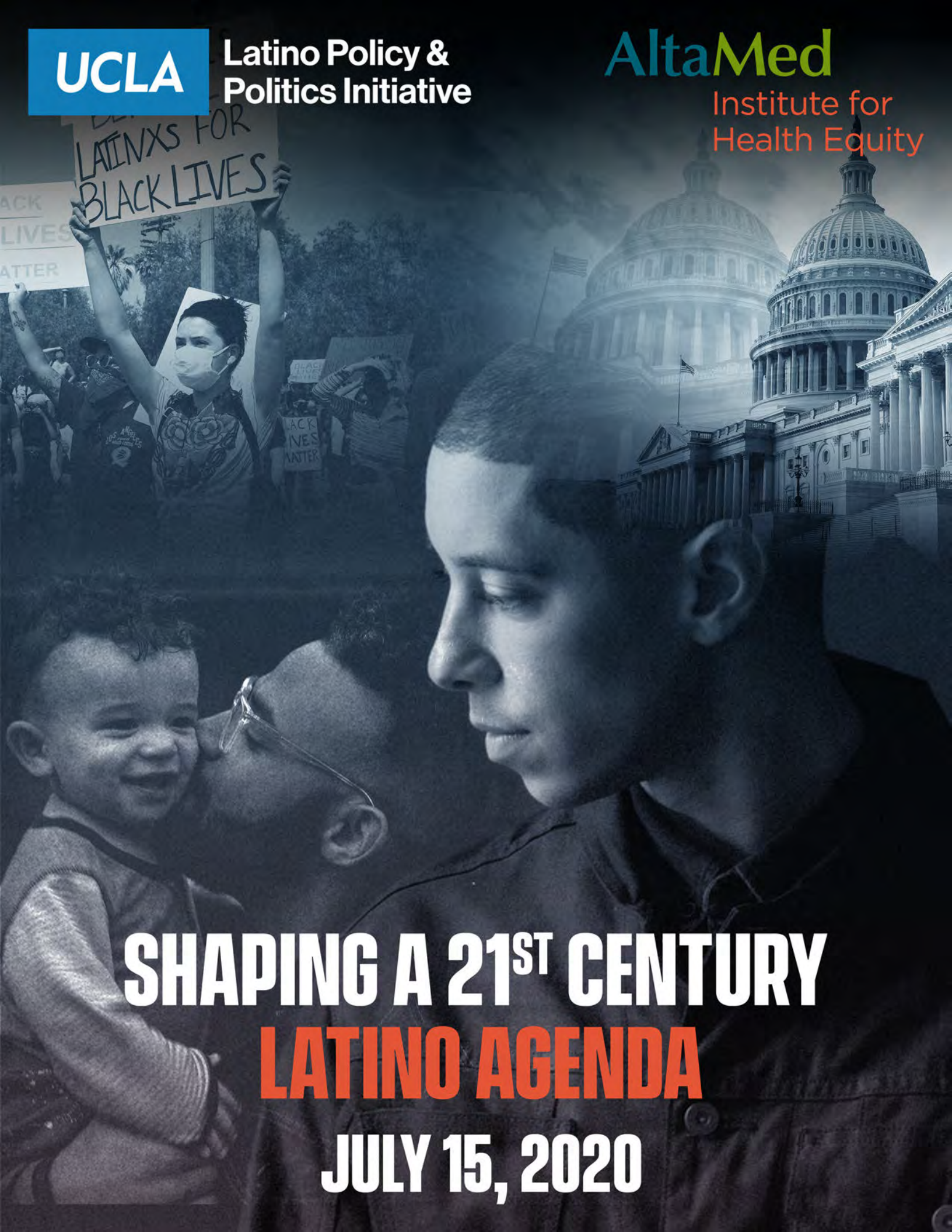


UCLA

**Latino Policy &
Politics Initiative**

AltaMed

**Institute for
Health Equity**



**SHAPING A 21ST CENTURY
LATINO AGENDA**

JULY 15, 2020

Convening Co-Chair Biographies

Hon. Lorena Gonzalez, Esq., Chair, California Latino Legislative Caucus



Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez was elected in May of 2013, promising to fight for our state's working and middle classes, and she hasn't stopped yet. Lorena has passed critical bills to protect the jobs of grocery workers, fought the misclassification of employees as independent contractors, created the first workplace bullying training requirement in the nation, limited excessive CEO compensation in the utility industry, protected immigrant communities from legal services fraud and mandated that public schools test their drinking water for lead. Lorena is the first Latina in California history to Chair the Assembly Appropriations Committee. She is also Chairwoman of the Select Committee on Women in the Workplace and Chair of the Latino Caucus. Lorena is a graduate of Stanford University, has a master's degree from Georgetown University and a law Degree from

UCLA. She remains a member in good standing of the California State Bar. Prior to being elected to the Assembly, Lorena was a labor leader and organizer, serving as CEO and Secretary-Treasurer for the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.



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Hon. María Elena Durazo, Vice-Chair, California Latino Legislative Caucus



María Elena attended St. Mary's College in Moraga, California, and became involved in the Chicano Movement. She joined the labor movement as an organizer of the International Garment Workers Union. In 1987 María Elena lead a campaign by HERE Local 11 union members to make the union more responsive to its majority Latino members. In 2004, she became the Executive Vice President of UNITE-HERE International. In 2008, María Elena Durazo was Vice President of the Democratic National Committee and National Co-President of the Barack Obama Presidential Campaign. From 2006 to 2014, she was the first female Secretary and Treasurer of the Los Angeles County Workers Federation, AFL-CIO. María Elena has served on many civic committees and boards. Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley appointed her to the Los

Angeles Airports Commission, Mayor Richard Riordan appointed her to the Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Committee, and she was also part of the California State Coastal Commission.



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Carmela Castellano-Garcia, JD, President, The Castellano Family Foundation & California Primary Care Association



Carmela Castellano-Garcia, Esq., is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the California Primary Care Association (CPCA), overseeing a membership association of more than 1,370 nonprofit, community clinics and health centers (CCHCs) which serve nearly 7.2 million patients a year. Castellano-Garcia has been committed to advancing multi-cultural health policy issues for more than 25 years, focusing on areas such as cultural and linguistic competency in health care delivery, ensuring the viability of safety net providers, health care reform, and access to care for vulnerable populations. Castellano-Garcia is also the Founder and a Board member of the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California (LCHC), a health care policy and advocacy organization seeking to improve access to health and human services for California's Latino population. Castellano-Garcia

also worked six years as a Managing Attorney with Public Advocates, Inc., a public interest law firm in San Francisco. Castellano-Garcia is a graduate of Yale Law School and holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley.



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Cástulo de la Rocha, JD, President & CEO, AltaMed Health Services Corp.



Cástulo de la Rocha is President and CEO of AltaMed Health Services Corporation. Under his visionary leadership, AltaMed has become California's largest federally qualified health center and one of the top five in the country. De la Rocha received the 2014 Impact on Community Services Award from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, the Lifetime Achievement Award from Los Angeles Business Journal and the Leader in Action of the PRIME program of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA in 2016. Along with Lin-Manuel Miranda, he received, the Medal of Excellence from the Hispanic Caucus Institute of Congress in 2017. He currently serves on the boards of the National Medical Fellowships and the America's Physician Groups. Señor de la Rocha received recognition from the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) and is also a member of the

Pacific Standard Time Business Leaders Council of the Getty.



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Thomas A. Saenz, JD, President & General Counsel, MALDEF



Thomas Saenz is a distinguished civil rights attorney and longtime champion for diversity and social justice. Saenz is the President and General Counsel for MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund). He has been an advocate for our nation's Latino and immigrant communities and has strived to ensure educational opportunities for all Americans. Saenz graduated from Yale University and earned a Juris Doctor from Yale Law School. Saenz was a leader in the successful legal challenge to California's 1994 Proposition 187, which sought to deny public benefits to undocumented immigrants. Saenz also served as MALDEF's lead counsel in two court challenges to California's Proposition 227, an English-only education initiative. He has litigated numerous other civil rights cases in the areas of

immigrants' rights, education, employment, and voting rights. Saenz has been recognized as one of Hispanic Business magazine's "100 Top Influentials" and was a recipient of the Professional Achievement Award from the Mexican American Bar Association.



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Taskforce Biographies

Hon. Kevin de León, Climate Change Chair



Kevin de León is President pro Tempore Emeritus of the California State Senate. The son of a single immigrant mother with a third-grade education, he rose from San Diego's Logan Heights barrio to become the first Latino to lead the State Senate in over a century. As leader of the Senate, he delivered landmark gun-safety legislation, clean-energy mandates, environmental protections, and immigration reform. Before politics, Senator de León served the public as a community organizer, taught ESL and U.S. citizenship courses, and advocated for public schools. He graduated with honors from Pitzer College. The Senator is currently a professor at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs and a Distinguished Fellow at the USC Schwarzenegger Institute. In March 2020, he was elected to the Los Angeles City Council as a representative for the 14th District.



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Dr. Michael Mendez, UCLA LPPI, Climate Change Chair



Dr. Michael Mendez is an assistant professor of environmental policy and planning at the University of California, Irvine. He previously was the inaugural James and Mary Pinchot Faculty Fellow in Sustainability Studies at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. During his time at UC Irvine and Yale, he has contributed to state and national research policy initiatives, including serving as an advisor to a California Air Resources Board member, and as a participant of the U.S. Global Change Research Program's workgroup on "Climate Vulnerability and Social Science Perspectives." Most recently, Michael was appointed by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to the Board on Environmental Change and Society (BECS). His research has been featured in national publications including Urban Land; the Natural Resources Defense

Fund Annual Report; the American Planning Association's Planning Magazine; Green 2.0: Leadership at Work; USA Today; and Fox Latino News.



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George Galvis, CURJ, Criminal Justice Chair



Galvis is the Co-founder and Executive Director of Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice. As a Board Member of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, Galvis helped create All of Us or None, which fights for the rights of formerly and currently incarcerated people and families. He has led statewide advocacy efforts to transform punitive school and juvenile justice policies that disparately impact youth of color and has developed traditional rites of passage programs as healthy alternatives to gang violence. He also serves as the Co-director of the California Alliance for Youth and Community Justice (CAYCJ). Galvis was a leader of the Stop the Injunctions Coalition. In addition, George has sponsored numerous state

youth justice legislation and is a co-author of California's Proposition 57 passed by voters in 2016. George has been recognized by the Bay Area News Group & Comcast as a Hometown Hero and is a recipient of the 2013 California Peace Prize from The California Wellness Foundation.



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Eunisses Hernandez, La Defensa, Criminal Justice Chair



Eunisses Hernandez is the Co-Executive Director of La Defensa. She is a policy advocate and campaign strategist with experience in working with local and state legislators, system actors, and communities most devastated by criminalization, the war on drugs, and mass incarceration. She is a leader from the JusticeLA jail fight that stopped a \$3.5 billion jail plan in Los Angeles County. Eunisses has extensive experience in developing and implementing alternatives to incarceration. Most recently, she was appointed as a voting member to the Los Angeles County Alternatives to Incarceration Work Group and Co-chair of the Community Based System of Care AD HOC. Eunisses is an alum of the Women's Policy Institute Local Government and State Policy fellowship programs. In 2017, she was named one of the 40 Under 40

Emerging Civic Leaders by the Empowerment Congress and the Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas.



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Dr. Laura Gómez, Professor, UCLA Law, Criminal Justice Chair



Dr. Laura E. Gómez teaches *Civil Procedure* and *Criminal Law* in the first-year UCLA School of Law curriculum and has taught courses in law and society and the Critical Race Studies Program in the law school's upper-year curriculum. In recent years, she has served as Interim Dean of the Division of Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Science (2016-17), which is UCLA's largest academic unit, and Vice Dean of UCLA School of Law (2013-2015). Gómez began her teaching career at UCLA School of Law in 1994 and holds faculty appointments (without teaching duties) in UCLA's Departments of Sociology and Chicana and Chicano Studies. She was a professor of law and American studies at the University of New Mexico, served as Associate Dean of the law school (2007-09), and was a faculty fellow at the Robert J. Woods Foundation Center for Health Policy at UNM. Gómez rejoined the UCLA faculty in 2011.

Ana Valdez, Latino Donor Collaborative, Economic Opportunity & Social Mobility Chair



Ana Valdez is a Principal at Valdez Productions & Consulting, Inc., the Executive President of The Latino Donor Collaborative, and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Southern California Public Radio. She is an American marketing, media and political consultant, a thought leader combining 28 years of experience in politics, the corporate world, and media. Valdez has worked at the United Nations' Commission for Human Rights, as presidential appointee for the Clinton Administration, and has collaborated with Nielsen, Citibank, Colgate, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Scott Paper, Best Foods, Summit Entertainment, Fox Channel 11, U.S. Department of Energy, Bill Richardson for US President Campaign, Dolores Huerta Foundation, and others. She was also Fox11's on-the-air Political and Media Analyst, and a blogger for MyFoxParents.com, Huffington Post, and CNN

online. In 1998, she along with her husband, Jeff Valdez, started Valdez Productions and Consulting Inc. to create media content, media platforms, and strategies that serve the new multicultural American market.



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Monica Lozano, President & CEO, College Futures Foundation, Economic Opportunity & Social Mobility Chair



Monica C. Lozano is President and Chief Executive Officer of College Futures Foundation, a private foundation working to ensure that more students who reflect California's diversity complete a bachelor's degree and access the opportunity for a better life. College Futures Foundation partners with organizations and leaders across the state to catalyze systemic change, increase college degree completion, and close equity gaps so that educational opportunity becomes a reality for every student, regardless of skin color, zip code, or income. Prior to joining College Futures, Lozano spent thirty years in media as publisher and CEO of La Opinión, the country's leading Spanish language daily newspaper and CEO of the parent company, ImpreMedia. Lozano has served on the boards of numerous corporate, civic, non-profit, and philanthropic organizations over the years including the University of California Board of Regents and as co-founder of the Aspen Institute Latinos and Society program.



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Dr. David Hayes-Bautista, Professor, UCLA Geffen School of Medicine, Economic Opportunity & Social Mobility Chair



Dr. Hayes-Bautista is currently Professor of Public Health and of Medicine, and Director of the Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture at the School of Medicine, UCLA. He graduated from UC Berkeley and completed his MA and PhD in Medical Sociology at the University of California Medical Center, San Francisco. Dr. Hayes-Bautista's research focuses on the dynamics and processes of the health of the Latino population using both quantitative data sets and qualitative observations. The Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture combines these research interests with teaching of medical students, residents and practicing providers to manage the care of a Latino patient base effectively, efficiently, and economically. His publications appear in Family Medicine, the American Journal of Public Health, Family Practice, Medical Care and Salud Pública de México.



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Michele Siqueiros, The Campaign for College Opportunity, Education Chair



Michele Siqueiros is President of the Campaign for College Opportunity. She is an advocate who works to expand college access and success for California students by raising public attention to the critical challenges facing students in our community colleges and universities, mobilizing a broad coalition of supporters, and influencing policymakers. She has advocated for millions of additional state dollars to expand student enrollment and student success funding at our community colleges, CSUs, and UCs. She has also advanced legislative efforts to increase access to Pell Grants, protect Cal Grant funding, support undocumented students, promote college readiness, prioritize community college student success efforts, and reform remedial education. She has

built a strong, independent, and influential organization by raising over \$21 million, assembling a team of experts and leaders in the field, championing major budget appropriations, securing historic higher education legislation, and establishing a broad and influential network of over 12,000 coalition supporters.



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Maria Echaveste, JD, The Opportunity Institute, Education Chair



Maria Echaveste is the President and CEO of the Opportunity Institute. Prior to co-founding the D.C.-based strategic and policy consulting group NVG, LLC, in 2002, Echaveste served as Assistant to the President and Deputy White House Chief of Staff for President Clinton from 1998 to 2001. She also served as Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division at the U.S. Department of Labor from 1993 to 1997. In 2009, then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton appointed her as a special representative to Bolivia. Echaveste later served on the Board of the U.S.-Mexico Foundation, where she initially focused on the foundation's Mexican American Leadership Initiative launched in 2010. In 2013, President Obama nominated her to be ambassador to

Mexico; she withdrew eight months later having been denied a confirmation hearing. Currently, Echaveste serves on the board of directors of UCSF-Benioff Oakland Children's Hospital, Mi Familia Vota, and Level Playing Field Institute.



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Dr. Jeffrey Reynoso, Latino Coalition for a Healthy California, Health & Social Safety Net Chair



Dr. Jeffrey Reynoso is the Executive Director of the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California (LCHC). In his role, he is responsible for strategic leadership and external relations, fundraising and financial management, organizational development of the staff and Board, and delivering on policy advocacy and programmatic initiatives. Dr. Reynoso currently serves on multiple boards with policy advocacy, public health, and research organizations including: Advisory Board Member to Governor Gavin Newsom's Master Plan for Aging Equity Workgroup and Task Force on Alzheimer's Prevention and

Preparedness Brain Trust and the CA Future Health Workforce Commission, among many others. Dr. Reynoso is the first Latino to receive a Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Harvard Journal of Hispanic Policy. He is a son of immigrants from Mexico and grew up in California's Central Valley and North San Diego County.



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Jane García, Clínica de la Raza, Health & Social Safety Net Chair



Ms. Jane García has led La Clínica de La Raza since she became CEO in 1982. La Clínica has grown from a \$2 million project to an over \$115 million organization, employing over 1,000 people. Nearly 90,000 patients are served across 32 sites in Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano Counties. La Clínica is one of the largest community health clinics in the State of California. Ms. García is an advocate and activist with a passion for preserving community health care for all residents regardless of the ability to pay. Ms. García serves on various boards, including the California Primary Care Association, Alameda Health Consortium, and Community Clinic Consortium. Ms. García received a

Bachelor of Arts from Yale University and a Master's in Public Health from the University of California at Berkeley.



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Dr. Arturo Vargas Bustamante, Associate Professor, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, Social Safety Net Chair



Dr. Arturo Vargas Bustamante is an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. He has a broad background in health policy, with specific training and expertise in health care survey research and data analysis, health care cost estimation, economic valuation, and program evaluation. His research investigates unexplored or underexplored topics on access to health care, predominantly among Latinos/Hispanics and immigrants in the United States. He also specializes in the comparative analyses of health care delivery systems in Latin American countries. His research has been published in reputable health policy journals such as Health Affairs, Health

Services Research, Social Science and Medicine, the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, among others. The outcomes of his research have had direct policy applications, particularly since they estimate the share of disparities that can be attributed to socioeconomic and demographic factors and the corresponding part associated to health system variables, such as usual source of care and insurance status.



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Chris Iglesias, The Unity Council, Housing Chair



Chris Iglesias is a visionary leader who has dedicated his career to executing a social equity agenda through innovative and strategic public-private partnerships. As CEO of The Unity Council (TUC), he leads one of East Oakland's most vital community assets—a 53-year-old social equity development organization devoted to improving the quality life for the residents of the largest Latino neighborhood in the Bay Area—Oakland's Fruitvale District—through a place-based economic and intergenerational equity agenda. As CEO, Iglesias is responsible for leading the organization's \$20 million annual budget and providing holistic support services to over 8,000 individuals and families. He also oversees \$125 million in assets, including the management of major affordable housing

and community real estate. Prior to TUC, he served as SF Mayor Gavin Newsom's Senior Advisor on Jobs. He also served as the Executive Director of SF's Human Rights Commission and the Founding Director of CityBuild.



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Noerena Limón, National Association of Real Estate Professionals, Housing Chair



Noerena Limón is the Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Industry Relations at the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals (NAHREP). At NAHREP, Noerena leads the organization’s policy and advocacy efforts, as well as the Hispanic Wealth Project. Prior to joining NAHREP, Noerena spent six years at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau both in the Office of the Director and the Office of Mortgage Markets. Prior to that, she worked in the Office of Political Affairs at the White House, served as Deputy Communications Director for Spanish Language Media for the Obama-Biden 2008 Presidential Campaign, and as a Legislative Fellow for the Office of former U.S. Representative Xavier Becerra. Noerena received her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Master’s in Public Policy from the Harvard

Kennedy School of Government.



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Dr. Melissa Chinchilla, AltaMed Institute for Health Equity, Housing Chair



Dr. Melissa Chinchilla is a Research Scientist at AltaMed Health Services within the Institute for Health Equity. Her research agenda focuses on the following: furthering our understanding of Latino homelessness, including best practices for service referral and engagement; investigating how affordable housing models and resident services can increase community integration among formerly homeless individuals; and examining the role of Federally Qualified Health Centers in addressing population health through a social determinants of health framework. Dr. Chinchilla’s work has been published by, among others, MIT Press, the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, and the Journal of Social Distress and the Homeless. She holds a doctorate from the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at Massachusetts Institute of Technology

and a Master’s of Science in Health Policy Management from the University of California Los Angeles’s Fielding School of Public Health.



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Angelica Salas, CHIRLA, Immigrant Rights Chair



Angelica Salas is the Executive Director of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA). Since becoming CHIRLA's Executive Director in 1999, Angelica has spearheaded several ambitious campaigns. Among her accomplishments, Angelica helped win in-state tuition for undocumented immigrant students and established day laborer job centers that have served as a model for the entire country. She led the effort to allow all California drivers to obtain licenses and is a leading spokesperson on federal immigration policy. Under Salas' leadership, CHIRLA and its partners across the country have built the foundation for the recent upsurge in immigrant rights activism. As part of a national coordinating committee, Angelica helped convene a coalition of

organizations in Southern California that have successfully mobilized millions of immigrants to demand comprehensive immigration reform including legalization with a path to citizenship, family reunification, and the protection of civil and labor rights.



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Alma Hernández, SEIU California, Immigrant Rights Chair



Alma Hernández is the Executive Director for SEIU California, an organization dedicated to electing candidates and passing policies that benefit SEIU's 700,000 members and their families in California. SEIU represents janitors, home care workers, social workers, professors, school workers, health care workers, and city, county, and state workers. It is the largest labor union in the state and has been a powerful political voice in California for working people. She joined SEIU California in 2010 and is inspired on behalf of her parents and family to further the mission of the union to provide dignity and a voice for working people. Prior to her appointment as Executive Director, she served the organization as Political Director, building the organization's field capacity, running independent expenditure campaigns, and helping SEIU California lead the state in building the

political power of the new California majority: Latino, African American, and API voters.



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Dr. Raúl Hinojosa-Ojeda, Professor, UCLA, Immigrant Rights Chair



Dr. Raúl Hinojosa-Ojeda is an Associate Professor in the UCLA Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies. Born in Mexico and raised in Chicago, he received a B.A. (Economics), M.A. (Anthropology) and Ph.D. (Political Science) at the University of Chicago. He is the author of numerous articles and books on the political economy of regional integrations in various parts of the world, including trade, investment and migration relations between the U.S., Mexico, Latin American and the Pacific Rim. He is co-author of *Latinos in a Changing U.S. Economy: Comparative Perspectives on the U.S. Labor Market Since 1939* (New York: IUP/CUNY, 1991) and co-editor of *Labor Market Interdependence between the United States and Mexico* (Stanford: Stanford

University Press, 1992). He has recently completed a book on the political economy of U.S.-Latin American relations in the late twentieth century including the impact of a potential Free Trade of the Americas Agreement.



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Arturo Vargas, NALEO, Voting Rights & Political Representation Chair



Arturo Vargas is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, a national nonprofit organization that strengthens American democracy by promoting the full participation of Latinos in civic life. Arturo has held this position since 1994. Prior to joining NALEO Educational Fund, Arturo held various positions at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), including Vice President for Community Education and Public Policy. Before joining MALDEF, he was the Senior Education Policy Analyst at the National Council of La Raza in Washington, D.C. Arturo is a nationally recognized expert in Latino demographic trends, electoral participation, voting rights, the Census, and

redistricting. Arturo holds a Master's degree in Education and a Bachelor's degree in History and Spanish from Stanford University.



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Helen Torres, HOPE, Voting Rights & Political Representation Chair



Helen Torres is the Executive Director of Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) where she supervises and manages the day-to-day operations. Under her leadership, HOPE has grown into one of the leading women’s leadership and advocacy organizations in California and in the United States. Torres works with community, corporate, and political leaders to create and promote opportunities that advance Latinas by establishing “Latina Smart” policy recommendations. In partnership with the HOPE Board of Directors and staff, Torres produces statewide and national conferences that educate and train over 3,000 Latinas per year. She also has been instrumental in the development and implementation of the HOPE Leadership

Institute (HLI) – a program that prepares adult Latinas for their next level of civic participation.



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Dr. Fernando Guerra, Professor, Loyola Marymount University, Voting Rights & Political Representation Chair



Dr. Fernando J. Guerra, Professor of Political Science and Chicana/o studies is the Founding Director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at LMU. Dr. Guerra has served on standing commissions, blue ribbon committees, and ad hoc task forces for the City of Los Angeles, the State of California, and regional bodies in Southern California. He is a source for the media at the local, national, and international level and has published in the area of state and local government and urban and ethnic politics. He earned his doctorate in Political Science from the University of Michigan and his BA from the University of Southern California.

Sergio Garcia, JD, Centro Legal de la Raza, Black-Brown Unity Chair



Sergio Garcia has served as chief legal officer to public and privately held companies, with a focus on medical technology, life sciences and healthcare. Sergio has also served as a partner and leader at international law firms, representing clients on governance and strategic transactions, including mergers & acquisitions, technology licensing and strategic business and operational issues. A hallmark of Sergio's leadership at law firms was his commitment to diversity and inclusion, including leading in the development of innovative strategies to promote D&I, including the BASF Goals and Timetables for the Hiring, Retention and Advancement of Minority Attorneys and the California Minority Counsel Program. Along with his career as a successful public company general counsel and law

firm leader, Sergio has worked tirelessly to advance equity and promote civil rights through pro bono legal services and service on nonprofit boards, including the California Bar Foundation, Hispanic Heritage Foundation and Centro Legal de la Raza.



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Antonia Hernández, JD, California Community Foundation, Black-Brown Unity Chair



Nationally regarded for her expertise in immigration, philanthropy and civil rights, Antonia Hernández has spent more than four decades advocating for social justice and improving the lives of underserved communities in Los Angeles County and beyond. Since 2004, she has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the California Community Foundation. During her tenure, the California Community Foundation has granted nearly \$2 billion, with a focus on health, housing, education, and immigration programs. Previously, Hernández was president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), a national nonprofit litigation and advocacy organization dedicated to protecting the civil rights of the nation's Latinos through the legal

system, community education and research and policy initiatives. Hernández is a member of the boards of directors of the Automobile Club of Southern California, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Association, Grameen America and The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. She is also a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Law Institute.

Participant Biographies

Mayra Alvarez



Mayra Alvarez is President of The Children's Partnership, a child advocacy organization working to ensure all children have the resources and opportunities needed to grow up healthy and lead productive lives. Previously, Ms. Alvarez served in the Obama Administration at the US Department of Health and Human Services, including as Director of the State Exchange Group at the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; Associate Director, HHS Office of Minority Health; and Director of Public Health Policy, Office of Health Reform. She also worked as Legislative Assistant for Senator Dick Durbin and then-Congresswoman Hilda Solis and as a Winston Health Policy Fellow for then-Senator Barack Obama. She serves as a Commissioner on the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission and the First 5 California Commission. She is from outside San Diego, CA and is the proud daughter of Mexican immigrants.



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Christian Arana



As the Policy Director at LCF, Christian leads the foundation's efforts to advance policy solutions that will improve the lives and political power of California's Latinos. Christian served as the Senior Governance Specialist at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) in Washington, D.C. During his tenure, he worked with the nation's top political, corporate, and nonprofit leaders to develop the next generation of Latino leaders in policy. Prior to CHCI, Christian worked at the Aspen Institute for the College Excellence Program. He helped administer the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence Competition honoring the top performing community colleges in the nation. Dedicated to the advancement of Latino communities, Christian began his career as an AmeriCorps member where he served as a college

counselor at Cristo Rey New York High School in East Harlem, New York. Christian received a master's degree in Public Policy from UC Berkeley and holds a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University in International Politics.



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Dr. José Alberto Arévalo



Dr. José Arévalo serves as the full-time Chief Medical Officer for Sutter Independent Physicians. In 2011, he established Latino Physicians of CA to address a major chronic disparity in CA's HealthCare System: poor representation of Latinos in our state's physician workforce. By partnering with key state medical schools and other healthcare organizations, Latino Physicians of CA creates programs and policies to improve the health of our most underserved Latinx communities. Dr. Arévalo graduated from Stanford Medical University and completed a residency and clinical research fellowship at UCSF. As a faculty member at UC Davis, Dr. Arévalo served as the Director of the Department of Family Medical Student Education Program and received the 1994 UC Davis Kaiser Award for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. Arévalo has worked to establish and promulgate Consensus Basic Diabetes Care Guidelines

that gained acceptance across California. Dr. Arévalo is the founder and Immediate President/Chair of the Sacramento Latino Medical Association.



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Rosie Arroyo



Rosie Arroyo is the Chair of the Board for Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE). As Board Chair for HOPE, Rosie leads strategies to advance HOPE's mission of ensuring economic and political parity for Latinas. Rosie also manages programs, initiatives, and outreach for the Education and Immigration Department of the California Community Foundation. Since joining the California Community Foundation (CCF) in 2007, Rosie has dedicated her career to the educational and civic empowerment of underserved communities. Rosie began her career by working at LAUSD under the School Readiness Language Development Program (SRI-DP) and then went to work for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO)

Educational Fund. Rosie is a member of the American Bar Foundation's Network for Justice Advisory Committee, the USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) Advisory Committee and is a fellow of the 2018 Latina Global Executive Leadership Program.



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Arnoldo Avalos



Arnoldo Avalos started his career as a process consulting re-engineering expert at Andersen Consulting (Accenture) mostly focused on human resources systems integration. Arnoldo, then, worked at Cisco Systems in the areas of recruitment and sales compensation. Arnoldo left Cisco for Google where he worked closely on sales compensation with AOL, Facebook, and Joyus. Arnoldo helped Facebook grow from a company of 425 employees with 60 million active users to now a company of over 4500 employees and over a billion active users. Arnoldo Avalos was born in Guadalajara, Mexico and immigrated to Gridley, California. Arnoldo graduated with honors from University of California, Berkeley and holds a Master's in Public Policy from

Harvard University. He is a National Hispanic Caucus Institute fellow, received the Robert Gordon and Ida W. Sproul Award at CAL, and a former Woodrow Wilson National fellowship Scholar. Arnoldo also sits on the Latino Community Foundation Board.



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María Cabildo



María G. Cabildo is a Senior Fellow principally involved in Bold Vision 2028. Before joining Advancement Project California, she spent an academic year at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design where she was a 2019 Loeb Fellow. She co-founded the East LA Community Corporation and served as president and CEO from 1999-2015. She worked in county government from 2015 until 2017, when she ran for Congress in a special election to represent California's 34th district. She came in third, having earned the Los Angeles Times' endorsement. She has served as a political appointee on state and local boards, including Los Angeles' City Planning Commission. She is Principal of Fireflower Partners, Inc., her consulting practice. She has a Bachelor of Arts

Degree in Urban Studies from Columbia University, a Master's degree in Urban Planning from UCLA's Luskin School of Public Affairs, and a Certificate in Advanced Environmental Studies from Harvard's Graduate School of Design.



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José Carmona

José Carmona is based in Sacramento and serves as the Policy Advisor for UnidosUS strategy and advocacy in California. José works closely with the UnidosUS state network of 60 community service providers supporting Latino families throughout California. Most recently, José served as California Program Director for the Energy Foundation, developing strategies that culminated in the establishment of California's most landmark clean technology and climate initiatives. Prior to joining the foundation, José served as Chief of Staff to the California Assembly Majority Leader and Vice Chair of the Latino Legislative Caucus, Assemblymember V. Manuel Perez. Before this role, José was the Advocacy Director for the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies where he tracked, analyzed, and lobbied for clean energy legislation on behalf of renewable energy companies and environmental organizations.



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Jennie Carreon



Jennie Carreon is a passionate Government Relations Strategist with over 25 years of experience advocating for health care systems, clean air coalitions, and social justice movements locally and nationally. Recognized for demonstrating a natural aptitude for strategic planning and process improvement, Jennie has a verifiable history of contributing directly to the growth of civic engagement and community building initiatives. Professional focal points include bilingual communications, financial management, project management, crisis intervention, issue management, government and public relations, networking, public speaking, Spanish translation, live TV, radio, print media, volunteer coordination, training, and fundraising. Currently, Jennie is the

Assistant Vice President of Civic Engagement and Government Relations with AltaMed Health Services Corporation. Jennie directs a variety of internal/external non-partisan campaigns and grassroots field operations. Jennie is also the Co-Founder of AltaMed C4 Action Fund and PAC, for which she maximizes the impact of fundraising and contribution activities while maintaining fiscal responsibility.



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Diego Cartagena, JD



Diego Cartagena serves as the President and CEO of Bet Tzedek Legal Services, a public interest law firm that provides free legal services for low-income individuals and families in Los Angeles. With Bet Tzedek, Cartagena has served as Director of Pro Bono Programs, Vice President Pro Bono, and Vice President of Legal Programs. Cartagena has helped build the Special Immigrant Juvenile Status program, launch the Small Business Legal Academies and create flagship programs like the Preventing and Ending Homelessness Project. As a former Equal Justice Works Fellow and Teen Advocate with The Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice's Teen LA project, Diego provided legal advocacy and outreach in family and immigration law to low-income teen mothers and fathers. Diego served as Pro Bono Director for The Alliance for Children's Rights, while serving as the agency's Probate Legal Guardianship Program Director. Diego received both his BA and JD from UCLA.



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Armando Chavez



Armando Chavez is a consultant to the California Latino Legislative Caucus in the office of Senator María Elena Durazo, the current Vice Chair of the Caucus. Armando is originally from Parlier, California and earned bachelor's degrees in Chicano Studies and Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley. He began his career in public service as a Senator Richard G. Polanco Fellow in the office of Assembly Member Rudy Bermudez in 2006. Upon completion of the fellowship program, Armando became a consultant to the Latino Caucus where he has worked 14 years under several Chairs/Vice Chairs of the Caucus including Senator María Elena Durazo, Hon. Ben Hueso, Hon. Ricardo Lara, Hon. Tony Mendoza, and Hon. Joe Coto.



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Hon. Cindy Chavez



Supervisor Cindy Chavez represents over 360,000 people of Central, South and East San Jose on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. She chairs the Board's Children, Families and Seniors Committee and serves on the Public Safety and Justice Committee. She also serves as a Director of the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Cindy was elected to the San Jose City Council in 1998 and re-elected in 2002 and served two years as Vice Mayor. On the Council, she spearheaded ground-breaking health insurance for Santa Clara County's children, which served as a national model, unprecedented construction of diverse housing and a genuine city-schools partnership in downtown San Jose. Before election to the Board of Supervisors, she served as

the Executive Officer of the South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council and Executive Director of Working Partnerships USA.



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Francela Chi de Chinchilla



Francela is an expert in advocacy strategy and coalition building for progressive causes and issues affecting people of color. For almost a decade at The Raben Group, she served her nonprofit clients with strategic planning and execution of high-level decision making for long-term campaigns. She served as the lead Washington representative for large membership organizations and foundations on issues including immigrant inclusion, health equity, and Latinx political power. Francela concurrently served as the Vice President of Advocacy and Partnerships on the creation of a Smithsonian American Latino Museum on the National Mall. Before joining The Raben Group, Francela held

positions in the Donor Relations Department of the California Community Foundation, conducted research with Dr. Harry Pachón at the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute, and led development at the LULAC National Educational Service Centers. Francela earned a Bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and a Master's in Public Policy from the University of Southern California.



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Berenice Constant



Berenice Nuñez Constant, MPH is the Vice President of Government Relations at AltaMed Health Services Corporation, a leading health care system providing care to more than 300,000 Southern California residents. In her current role, she leads legislative and policy advocacy strategies aimed at advancing state initiatives to eliminate disparities in health care access and outcomes for Latino and multi-ethnic and underserved communities. Collectively, Berenice has nearly 20 years of experience in the health care sector; working at the federal, national, and state level to support the health care needs of underserved populations. She holds a Master of Public Health in Management and Policy from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from California State University Long Beach.

Berenice serves on various boards including the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California, the United Latinx Fund, and the California Latino Leadership Institute.



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Gina D. Dalma



As Executive Vice President, community action, policy and strategy, Gina is responsible for leading Silicon Valley Community Foundation's impact team to ensure Silicon Valley is a place where all people can lead financially secure, safe and fulfilling lives. As a member of the Executive Leadership team, Gina helps ensure that the principles of equity are applied to all the initiatives SVCF pursues in fulfillment of its mission. Prior to her appointment as EVP, Gina served as Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Special Advisor to the CEO, driving SVCF's public policy agenda at the regional, state and national levels. SVCF's California lobbying work is centered around affordable housing, education, immigration, economic security, equity and justice. With Gina's leadership, SVCF became a leading voice in Washington, D.C., on topics that advance the philanthropic sector. Prior to joining SVCF, Gina was director of innovation at the Silicon Valley Education Foundation.



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Hon. Vanessa Delgado



Vanessa Delgado began her career working for the cities of Pico Rivera, Anaheim and Downey, in Economic Development immediately after USC. Vanessa then spent eleven years as the Director of Development for Primestor Development and was a member of its Executive Team building retail centers in California, Arizona and Nevada. She was responsible for managing Primestor projects through the development and construction cycle including entitlements and public financing. Ms. Delgado is now the Founder and Managing Partner of Azure Development. She was elected to the City Council of the City of Montebello in November 2015 and served as the Mayor in 2017. In 2018, she was elected to serve as a State Senator for District 32 and completed a short term. Senator

Vanessa Delgado was appointed to the South Coast AQMD Governing Board in May 2019. She was appointed by California State Senate Rules Committee and is looking forward to advancing air quality goals for the region.



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Sonja Diaz, JD



Sonja Diaz is the Founding Executive Director of the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative, a comprehensive think tank that addresses the most critical domestic policy challenges facing communities of color in states and localities across the U.S. Diaz served as Policy Counsel to U.S. Senator Kamala D. Harris during her first and second terms as California Attorney General and directed voter protection programs for Democratic candidates in Virginia during the 2016 election. Diaz received her J.D. from UC Berkeley's School of Law, holds a M.P.P. from UCLA's Luskin School of Public Affairs, and a B.A. in Politics from UC Santa Cruz.



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John Echeveste



John Echeveste is the CEO of LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes in downtown Los Angeles. Echeveste helped develop public relations programs for major national accounts such as McDonald's, AT&T, Verizon Wireless, Disneyland, and others. He serves on the boards of the Los Angeles County Library Foundation, California State University Fullerton College of Communications Advisory Board, LA Music & Art School, and Cal State Fullerton Latino Communications Initiative, and has previously chaired the boards and led development campaigns for

the Wall Las Memorias, East Los Angeles YMCA, and others. He is a founding member of the Hispanic Public Relations Association (HPRA) and recipient of its PREMIO Award. He also received the Public Relations Society of America Pioneer Award in 1994; the Hispanicize *Latinovator* Award in 2012; Hispanic Lifestyle Survived & Thrived Award in 2014; and was named in the Hispanic Business magazine Hispanic Influentials List in 2010. In 2003-2004, he served as President of the Public Relations Global Network.



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Felicia Escobar, JD



Felicia is Director of Immigration at The Beacon Fund, a social venture working to ensure every individual has the skills, community resources, and systems-level supports to realize their full potential. In this role, she helps support immigration reform and immigrant integration efforts through grant-making, advocacy and other investment strategies. She previously served in the White House as Special Assistant to President Obama for Immigration Policy, as a U.S. Senate staffer working on immigration reform, and as a State Policy Analyst for UnidosUS in Texas. Felicia is a member of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors. She is a graduate of Yale University, the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and UCLA School of Law. She works to ensure that every individual has the personal skills,

community resources, and systems-level supports to realize their full potential. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two sons.



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Efrain Escobedo



Efrain Escobedo is Vice President in charge of education and immigration programs at California Community Foundation. He has worked nationally and locally on efforts to increase citizenship, voter participation and the Census and is recognized nationally and locally as an active leader and expert in Latino civic engagement and elections policy. Prior to joining CCF, Escobedo was the Manager of Governmental and Legislative Affairs for the Registrar of Voters in Los Angeles County. Escobedo also served as Senior Director of Civic Engagement for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund. He was instrumental in the development of innovative voter contact strategies and technologies that helped to engage more than one million

young, newly registered and infrequent Latino voters across the country. Escobedo earned his Bachelor's degree in American studies and ethnicity from the University of Southern California and is a recent graduate of the Los Angeles County Executive Leadership Program.



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Cecilia Estolano, JD



Cecilia Estolano is the current Vice Chair of the UC Board of Regents. Ms. Estolano is the Co-CEO and Co-Founder of Estolano LeSar, an urban planning and public policy firm. As an advisor to the Goldhirsh Foundation, Surdna Foundation and Open Society Foundation, she has helped design programs and grant making strategies that promote inclusive and sustainable economic development. She was the Deputy Chair of the Environmental Protection Agency Review Team, Energy and Environment Group for the Obama Presidential Transition Team. Her career includes service as a Special Assistant Los Angeles City Attorney, as a Senior Policy Advisor with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and as Environmental Policy Advisor to former Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley. Ms. Estolano sits on the boards of Manufacturing Renaissance and the National Employment Law Project. She previously

served on the California Coastal Commission, and on the boards of the California League of Conservation Voters, Lambda Legal, and California YMCA Youth and Government.



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Cinthia Flores, JD



Appointed by Governor Newsom in 2020, Cinthia Flores is a Board Member with the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board. Cinthia formerly served as a Staff Attorney with the Coalition for Humane Immigration (CHIRLA) where she practiced immigration law with a focus on removal defense. Additionally, Cinthia serves on the board of the Latina Lead California, an organization dedicated to supporting Latinas in politics. Cinthia earned her Juris Doctor at the University of California, Irvine School of Law. Cinthia earned her B.A. in Political Science at UCLA, where she served as the first Latina undergraduate student body president. Cinthia is an alumna of the Front Line Leaders Academy and the New American Leaders Project - electoral campaign leadership development programs focused on training progressive and immigrant communities to run for office. Cinthia was born, raised, and resides in Los Angeles, CA.



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Dr. Hector Flores



Dr. Hector Flores is a founding member of the White Memorial Medical Center Family Medicine Residency Program in Los Angeles. The Residency Program was established in 1988 with the expressed purpose of providing a high-quality education to prepare physicians and PA/NPs for practice in shortage areas and to contribute to diversity in the health professions. The program also trains mental health professionals and community health workers as part of its Patient-Centered Medical Home curriculum. Dr. Flores is the Medical Director of the Family Care Specialists (FCS) Medical Group and FCS IPA which collectively serve approximately 30,000 beneficiaries comprised of Medi-Cal, Medicare, and Commercial coverage and 6% who are uninsured. The FCS Medical Group is dedicated to improve the health status of its patients, their families, and the entire community utilizing culturally and linguistically competent services and by deployment of performance standards that reduce or eliminate health disparities.

Hon. Dean Florez



Dean Florez served as the past Chairman of the California Senate Select Committee on Air Quality. While in the Senate, he authored a series of ground-breaking anti-pollution laws focused on the San Joaquin Valley's dirty air and repealed the agriculture industry's historic exemption from air operating permits that had lasted for 63 years.

Sen. Florez served in the California Assembly from 1998 to 2002 and in the Senate from 2002 to 2010, representing the Central Valley including Bakersfield, Fresno and 18 other cities.

Sen. Florez is now President and CEO of Balance Public Relations which specializes in education and technology. Sen. Florez also served as the Senate's appointee to the Committee on Awards for Innovation in Higher Education and served as President of the Twenty Million Minds Foundation. Florez is a thought leader on higher education issues and has been a featured speaker at the New York Times and White House.



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Dr. Wilma Franco



Dr. Wilma Franco serves as Executive Director of the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Collaborative. Dr. Franco has over ten years of experience in overseeing nonprofits and community based programs. Dr. Franco completed her undergraduate work at the University of California- Los Angeles (UCLA) where she earned her B.A in Political Science and Chicana/o Studies with a minor in Public Policy. During her time at UCLA, she worked closely with the NAID Center researching the Economic Impact of immigration post-1986 immigration reform. Dr. Franco went on to complete her Master's Degree in Public Policy at the University of Southern California (USC), where she also completed a certificate in Public Management. More recently, Dr. Franco earned her doctorate degree in Education – Organizational Leadership

from the University of La Verne.



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Willie Guerrero

Willie Guerrero works as a staff consultant to the California Latino Legislative Caucus and serves as principal consultant under the Caucus's Vice Chair, Senator María Elena Durazo. Guerrero works to harness the political power of the Latino Legislative Caucus, ensuring that they are able to expand their influence, work well with others, and push forward their legislative goals. He has served as a Board Member on the California Agricultural Relations Board and has spent time as a practicing attorney at the Law Office of Willie Guerrero. Guerrero holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science and History from Stanford University, and received his Juris Doctor from UCLA School of Law.



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Xavier A. Gutierrez



Gutierrez is the first Latino team President & CEO in NHL history. Mr. Gutierrez joins the Arizona Coyotes from his position as Managing Director at Clearlake Capital Group. Mr. Gutierrez is a Shareholder and serves on the Board of Directors of Commercial Bank of California (CBC). Currently, Gutierrez serves on the Board of Regents of his alma mater, Bellarmine College Preparatory. He also serves on the Board of Directors and the Investment Committee of the California Community Foundation (CCF), a public charitable organization that stewards nearly \$1.7 billion in assets and manages more than 1,600 charitable foundations, and legacies for the greater Los Angeles community. In addition, Gutierrez serves on the Board of Directors of the National

Association of Investment Companies (NAIC), a Washington DC-based trade association that serves as the largest network of diverse-owned and emerging private equity firms and hedge funds in the United States. Gutierrez also serves on the Advisory Council for the Hispanic Scholarship Fund.



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Dr. Sandra Hernández



Dr. Sandra R. Hernández, MD, is President and CEO of the California Health Care Foundation, which works to improve the health care system, so it works for all Californians. Prior to joining CHCF, Dr. Hernández was CEO of The San Francisco Foundation, which she led for 16 years. She previously served as Director of Public Health for the City and County of San Francisco. She also Co-Chaired San Francisco's Universal Healthcare Council, which designed Healthy San Francisco. In 2018, Sandra was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to the Covered California Board of Directors. Sandra practiced at San Francisco General Hospital in the HIV/AIDS Clinic from 1984 to 2016 and was an Assistant clinical professor at the UCSF School of Medicine. Dr. Hernández is a graduate of Yale

University, the Tufts School of Medicine, and the Certificate Program for Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.



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Marielena Hincapié, JD



Marielena Hincapié is Executive Director of the National Immigration Law Center, the leading organization dedicated to defending and advancing the rights of low-income immigrants in the U.S. Under her leadership, NILC has grown to be a premier immigrants' rights organization, strategically using a combination of litigation, policy, communications, and alliance-building. Ms. Hincapié is a highly respected legal and political strategist in the immigrants' rights movement and a leading voice in the national conversation on

immigration. She began her tenure at NILC in 2000 as a staff attorney leading the organization's labor and employment program. Before joining NILC, Ms. Hincapié worked for the Legal Aid Society of San Francisco's Employment Law Center, where she founded the center's Immigrant Workers' Rights Project. Ms. Hincapié immigrated as a child from Medellín, Colombia, to Central Falls, Rhode Island, and grew up as the youngest in a family of ten children. She earned her Juris Doctor Degree from Northeastern University School of Law.



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David Huerta



David Huerta is President of SEIU-USWW, which represents more than 45,000 janitors, security officers, airport workers, and allied and entertainment workers throughout California. He has been with USWW for more than 20 years, working in almost every capacity: from Organizer and Coordinator to Janitorial Division Director, Organizing Director, Staff Director and now President. He also helped create an immigrant integration program that includes English classes for union members. USWW is part of the Service Employees International Union, an organization of 2.2 million members that is dedicated to improving the lives of workers and their families and creating a more just and humane society.



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Martha Jimenez



Martha Jimenez joined The California Endowment as Executive Vice President/Counsel in October 2014. Her responsibilities include serving as Chief Advisor to The Endowment's President and CEO on legal and governance matters, organizational and operational effectiveness and strategy, and directing the Foundation's Human Relations and Administrative Grant-Making functions. Prior to joining The Endowment, Jimenez was Senior Counsel for Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina, and previously served in that office as the Director of Legal and Health Programs and Senior Health Deputy. Prior to her service with Supervisor Molina, Jimenez served as Vice President for Policy and Development for Fair Trade USA where she advocated for "fair trade" practices to support farmers in developing countries. She also served at the Rockefeller

Foundation, The California Endowment, Public Advocates, Latino Coalition for a Healthy California and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund in Washington, D.C. and San Francisco.

Gladys Limón, JD



Gladys Limon is the Executive Director of the California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA), which unites the powerful local organizing of its member organizations to build environmental justice in state policy. She has 18 years of experience in legal, policy, and community-based work for environmental justice and civil rights. Gladys' work has ranged from protecting immigrants' rights' as a litigator at MALDEF, to challenging fossil fuel and other toxic operations as a Senior Attorney at Communities for a Better Environment. Her legal work includes an unprecedented environmental and civil rights lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles challenging the rubber stamping of oil drilling projects in communities of color. In leading CEJA, Gladys is advancing a just transition in California

through climate justice, energy equity, and green zones policy and programmatic work. Gladys received her J.D. from Stanford Law School in 2003 and served as a law clerk to the late Hon. Lawrence K. Karlton in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California.



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Waynee Lucero



Waynee Lucero is the Senior Consultant for the California Latino Legislative Caucus as well as the Principal Consultant for Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez. Prior to joining these offices, Waynee was most recently the External Affairs Specialist and Tribal Liaison at Covered California. She has also previously worked as a Program Manager at the California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, as a Special Assistant for the City of San Diego, and as an Internal Organizer at SEIU-United Service Workers West.



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Arnulfo Manriquez



Arnulfo Manriquez is President and CEO of MAAC Project, a nonprofit organization that provides programs, leadership development and advocacy throughout the County of San Diego. Arnulfo presently serves on the executive committee of the board of Housing California, a statewide nonprofit advocacy organization and Board Member of UnidosUS, a national Latino advocacy organization. He is also the President of the Board of Urban Council Development, Inc., a nonprofit affordable housing development organization. As a first-generation immigrant who grew up in San Diego, Arnulfo understands firsthand the challenges faced by underrepresented communities and is committed to ensuring opportunities for self-sufficiency and safety for families who need it most. Arnulfo is an alumnus of UC San Diego, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and Planning in 1993. He earned a Master of Arts in Leadership and Nonprofit Management from University of San Diego in 2005.



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Joseph McKellar



Joseph Tomás McKellar is Co-Director of PICO California, the largest faith-based organizing network in California, focused on racial equity and promoting a culture of belongingness. In his role, Joseph provides strategic leadership to 10 multi-faith, multi-racial community organizations representing 450,000 Californians, and accompanies a talented staff team running power building and leadership programs for 2,500 grassroots volunteers. He also helps lead PICO's "Faith Votes" program, which seeks to engage one million more young voters, low-income voters, and voters of color by 2020. Joseph guides PICO's statewide campaigns to transform the criminal justice system, protect immigrant families, increase affordable housing, and create an inclusive economy. As a first-generation college graduate, Joseph earned a B.A. in Spanish and Political Science from the University of San Diego. Joseph is also a Fellow of the inaugural class of the Civil Society Fellowship, a partnership of The Anti-Defamation League and The Aspen Institute.



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Hon. Gloria Molina



Gloria Molina represented L.A.'s First District on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for more than two decades. Growing up in the Pico Rivera area, she learned that eliminating unfair barriers is the best way to ensure equal opportunity. From founding East L.A.'s Comisión Femenil Mexicana Nacional to serving in the Carter White House, that idea has driven her commitment to public service. In 1982, Molina made history as the first Chicana elected to the California State Assembly. In this role, she combined advocacy with formidable political skill to strengthen communities in the 56th Assembly District and statewide. In 1991, she became the first Latina to join the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, where she was known as a

fiscal watchdog committed to good government reforms, maintenance of the county's public health care delivery system, and quality-of-life issues. Molina is currently Chair-Elect for the California Community Foundation.

Hon. Fabian Núñez



Fabian Núñez is a partner of Mercury and the former California Assembly Speaker. He served three two-year terms as a California State Assembly member, his final two terms as Speaker, the 66th person to hold that position in California. Recognized for his unique ability to lead and find bi-partisan solutions to complex public policy challenges, Núñez was named "Legislator of the Year" in 2007 by Governing Magazine, specifically for his bi-partisan efforts with former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on transportation and infrastructure legislation. From 2000-2002, Núñez was Government Affairs Director for the Los Angeles Unified School District. Prior to that, from 1996 to 2000, he served as Political Director for the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor where he managed dozens of political campaigns. Núñez currently serves on the Board of Directors for the U.S. Soccer Federation and served on the University of

California Board of Regents from 2004-2008.



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Hon. Alex Padilla



Alex Padilla was sworn in as California Secretary of State on January 5, 2015. He is committed to modernizing the office, increasing voter registration and participation, and strengthening voting rights. Padilla previously served in the California State Senate (2006-2014) where he chaired the Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Communications. As Chair, he shepherded legislation to combat climate change and create a greener and more sustainable economy.

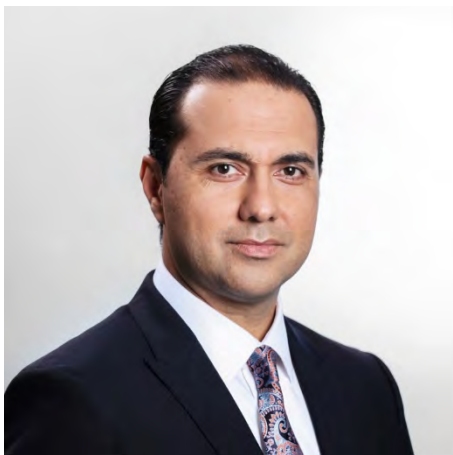
In 2005, Padilla was elected President of the League of California Cities. He advocated on behalf of California cities in the State Capitol and fought to protect their budgets and advance their legislative priorities. In 2006, Padilla was elected to the California State Senate. He was reelected in 2010. Padilla previously served as President of the National Association of

Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), a non-partisan organization made up of more than 6,000 federal, state, and local officials dedicated to civic engagement.



@AlexPadilla4CA

Luis Patiño



Luis Patiño is President and General Manager of Univision in Los Angeles, the local broadcast division of Univision Communications Inc., the leading media company serving Hispanic America. He is responsible for the day-to-day general management of all broadcast operations including finance, content production, promotions, news gathering, ad sales and marketing. He is the founder and creator of POSiBLELA.com and Copa Univision. Prior to this role, he served as Senior Vice President and Regional Manager of Univision Television Group, overseeing general operations for Univision TV and Radio stations in San Francisco, Sacramento, Fresno, Bakersfield, Phoenix, Tucson, San Antonio, and Austin. Patiño is also involved in community and advocacy boards, including: LA

Chamber of Commerce, UNITE LA EDU Collaborative, the United Way of Greater Los Angeles, LA Economic Development Corporation Advisory Council, Advisory Council on Media Diversity, and the Institute for Latin American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.



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Dr. Inez González Perezchica



Dr. Inez González Perezchica grew up in the Tijuana/San Diego border region. She was the Founding Director of the Latino Communications Institute at Cal State Fullerton, a model workforce-preparedness program which supports the development of U.S. Latino cultural competency through relevant courses, research, and a broad spectrum of educational opportunities. Dr. González Perezchica gained her media expertise during her nine-year tenure at the National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC), a Latino media advocacy organization. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science from the University of San Diego, a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and a Doctorate in Education Leadership from Cal State

Fullerton. Inez is a LEAD San Diego alumnus ('01) and a Fellow of Hispanas Organized for Political Equality Leadership Institute, the Women's Policy Institute, and the National Hispana Leadership Institute. Inez serves on the National Immigration Law Center Board. The role of social capital in social upward mobility is her research topic of interest.



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George Pla



George Pla is an entrepreneur and philanthropist whose work spans business and civic activities that hold the common theme of enhancing communities throughout California. He is the Founder, President, and CEO of Cordoba Corporation, a statewide engineering, construction management, and program management firm specializing in infrastructure projects in transportation, education, water, and energy sectors. George Pla's recent philanthropic and civic activities include serving as a member of the Board of Trustees of the California Science Center, co-founding the City Club, serving as a member and Co-Chair of the Southern California Leadership Council, and serving on the Board of Directors of the Catalina Island Conservancy. In addition, George serves

on the California Community Colleges Chancellor's External Leadership Advisory Council, President's Advisory Council at California State University, the Philanthropic Foundation Board of Governors at California State University, and Board of Advisors for the Luskin School of Public Affairs at the University of California, Los Angeles.



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@GeorgeLPla

Hon. Richard Polanco



Richard G. Polanco is a former California State Senate Majority Leader and member of the California State Assembly. He is known for his significant efforts in increasing Latino representation in the California legislature. Polanco was first elected in 1986 to the California State Assembly for District 55 and then for District 45 in 1990. In 1994, he was elected for District 22 of the California State Senate and served as Senate Majority Leader from 1998 until his retirement in 2002. Polanco chaired the Latino Legislative Caucus from 1990 to 2002. Under his leadership, Polanco led efforts to increase the number of Democratic Latino legislators from 7 to 24. Polanco also authored legislation that created the California state holiday to honor Cesar Chavez as well as legislation that provided \$115 million for after-school and summer school programs. Polanco pioneered California's citizenship education program to assist over 500,000 Californians in becoming naturalized citizens.



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Alberto Retana



Alberto Retana is the President and CEO of Community Coalition, a nonprofit organization based in South Los Angeles that empowers residents to transform their communities, improve education, and reimagine public safety. Under his leadership, Community Coalition recently created the *People First Platform*, a comprehensive policy agenda to equitably move resources to high need communities, re-imagine our criminal justice system, and transform the built environment in South Los Angeles. From 2009 to 2011, Alberto worked for the Obama administration in the U.S. Department of Education as Director of Community Outreach. In D.C., he organized the National Youth Summit and worked with community leaders across the country on turning around the nation's "push-out" crisis. Alberto has been recognized by the Los Angeles Business Journal as one of LA's 500 Most Influential People. Alberto has completed Rockwood's "Leading from the Inside Out" fellowship in 2017 and the Atlantic Fellowship for Racial Equity in 2018.



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@aretana

Dr. Carmen Rojas



Dr. Carmen Rojas is the President and CEO of the Marguerite Casey Foundation. Prior to joining Marguerite Casey Foundation, Dr. Carmen Rojas was the Co-Founder and former CEO of The Workers Lab, an innovation lab that invests in entrepreneurs, community organizers, and government leaders to create replicable and revenue-generating solutions that improve conditions for low-wage workers. Prior to building The Workers Lab, Carmen was the Acting Director of Collective Impact at Living Cities. She supported 22 of the largest foundations and financial institutions in the world to invest in improving economic opportunity for low-income people by supporting projects in the

fields of economic and workforce development, energy efficiency, and asset building. Carmen currently sits on the boards of the Neighborhood Funders Group, General Service Foundation, JOLT, Certification Associates, and on the Advisory Boards of Fund Good Jobs and Floodgate Academy. Carmen holds a Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from the University of California, Berkeley and was a Fulbright Scholar in 2007.



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María Samaniego



María Samaniego is currently the Acting Director and Senior Program Manager at the Aspen Institute Latinos and Society Program. There she focuses on strategy, operations and partnerships to maximize the impact of their economic mobility focused policy work and to increase the representation of Latinos in Aspen Institute programs. She currently serves on the Advisory Council for Support Latino Business Day and has formerly served on the boards of Viva Panama and Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Inc. In 2015, she co-founded #DCinLA, a networking event to bridge social sector changemakers from DC and LA. María was recently selected to participate in the 2020 cohort of the HOPE Leadership Program and is a Hispanics in Philanthropy NGen

Líderes Fellow, an alumna of the Schusterman Foundation's Reality Program and in 2019 was named 40 under 40 in Washington, DC by Prospanica DC.



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Héctor Sánchez Barba



Héctor Sánchez Barba is the Executive Director and CEO of Mi Familia Vota, a Senior Fellow at GW Cisneros Hispanic Leadership Institute, and the Chair Emeritus of NHLA (National Hispanic Leadership Agenda). In these roles, he is an indefatigable voice advancing policy priorities, civic participation and fighting systemic injustices against Latinos, immigrants and the most vulnerable communities. Throughout his career, Hector has worked in non-profit organizations and has vast experience in policy advocacy, civic participation, community organizing, non-profit management, fundraising, and media relations. He is a strong campaigner having undertaken vigorous civic participation campaigns, organized and

participated in national initiatives to empower the Latino community via voter registration drives, GOTV, voter education, citizenship, census, and efforts to combat voter suppression. Hector has also launched national campaigns to improve the conditions of working families in his previous role as the Executive Director of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA).



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Saúl Sarabia, Esq.



For more than 25 years, Saúl Sarabia has participated in social movements which seek to transform society. Mr. Sarabia works to dismantle structural racism by developing leaders, changing laws, and teaching. Since 1999, he has focused on community organizing in Black and Brown communities. He pioneered early models of leadership development with formerly incarcerated people and with the relatives caring for children whose parents are trapped in cycles of addiction and imprisonment. Since 2003, Mr. Sarabia has trained UCLA students to engage in social justice work. Today, Mr. Sarabia is the principal of Solidarity Consulting providing support to change-agents fighting for racial justice and social change. At UCLA, he leads applied research projects and is a lead faculty for the UCLA Community Scholars Program.



<https://about.me/saulsarabia>

Dean Gary Segura



Gary M. Segura is the Dean of the Luskin School of Public Affairs at UCLA. His work focuses on issues of political representation and social cleavages, the domestic politics of wartime public opinion, and the politics of America's growing Latino minority. Over the last 18 years, he has directed polling research that has completed over 100,000 interviews of Americans of all backgrounds on matters of political importance. Segura served as an expert witness in all three of landmark LGBT marriage rights cases in 2013 and 2015, *Windsor v. United States*, *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, and the historic *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which recognized marriage equality as a constitutionally protected right. He is a past president of the Midwest Political Science Association and the Western Political Science Association, and a past executive

council member of the American Political Science Association. He is a past president of El Sector Latino de la Ciencia Política (Latino Caucus in Political Science).



@GarySegura

Dr. Efrain Talamantes



Dr. Efrain Talamantes is the Chief Operating Officer and Medical Director of the AltaMed Institute for Health Equity (AIHE) and Medical Education. He has led health services and community-partnered research and training to advance health equity and medical education. Under Talamantes' leadership, the Institute received patient-centered outcomes research funding, enabling a community partnership that has informed AltaMed's research priorities. Talamantes has been critical in redesigning all of AltaMed's medical education programs, including the Health Resource Services Administration and the Health Careers Opportunity Program. He is also involved in curriculum design and faculty training for AltaMed's Family Medicine Residency Program. In addition, he is focused on developing methods to best support evidence-based practice, including the implementation of AltaMed's electronic medical records system, EPIC. Talamantes, the Institute and AltaMed's Medical Education teams are dedicated

to creating provider training tools, workshops, and modules to eliminate health disparities.



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@TalamantesDr

Hon. Steve Veres



Steve Veres is the Los Angeles Community College Trustee Vice President, and District Director to Senator Maria Elena Durazo. Under his leadership, the LA Community College District has balanced its budget, improved credit ratings, and expanded critical job training programs. He is a former public school teacher and has taught various college courses at UCLA and Los Angeles Trade-Technical College. Steve's long record of public service includes elections to the San Fernando City Council and appointments to the Metropolitan Transit Authority's San Fernando Valley Service Sector Governance Council, the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee, and the Metropolitan Water District.



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@sveres

Hon. Antonio Villaraigosa



Antonio Villaraigosa is a Co-Chair in Mercury's Los Angeles office. Known for his exceptional skill at building broad, bipartisan coalitions, he draws support from the broad center of progressive Democratic and Republican voters. In 2013, Antonio finished his two terms as the 41st Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, after eight years of major strides in transportation, crime reduction, infrastructure, energy and resource sustainability, right-sizing government, business development and education reform. Antonio served as a member of the Los Angeles City Council from 2003 to 2005. From 1994 through 2000, he served in the California State Assembly as Democratic Whip, Majority Leader and Speaker of the Assembly.

Antonio was a member of President Obama's Transition Economic Advisory Board, the 2012 Chairman of the Democratic National Convention and President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Antonio serves as Chairman of the Board of Capital Corps and is a Board Member of MedMen.

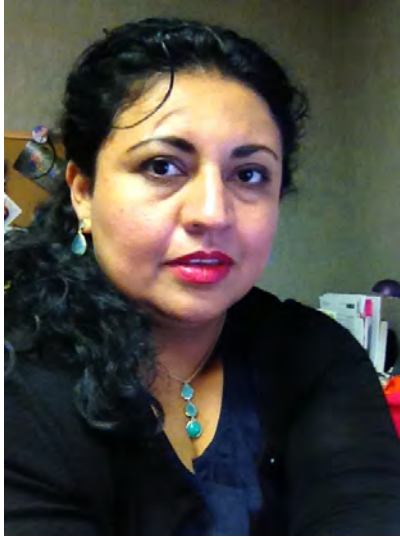


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Jeannette Zanipatin, Esq.



Jeannette Zanipatin is the California State Director for the Drug Policy Alliance where she focuses on criminal justice reform, drug policy, harm reduction and the intersection between criminal law and immigration law. At DPA, Jeannette has been successful in increasing support for critical measures in harm reduction including support for Safe Consumption Sites, syringe exchange programs, and developing policies to implement criminal justice reforms at the state and local level. Prior to DPA, she worked as a Staff Attorney for MALDEF, (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund) working on a wide range of legislation such as ICE/Police Collaboration (CA Values Act, TRUTH Act, and the TRUST Act), labor protections for non-citizens (Document Abuse, Personal Injury and Wrongful Death suits), and expanding access to higher education for undocumented students. Additionally, Ms. Zanipatin is a highly experienced immigration lawyer, a graduate of UC Berkeley and Seattle University School of Law and licensed to

practice in Washington (inactive) and California.



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