

LATINOS & SOCIETY

 aspen institute

**LATINO BUSINESS &
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SUMMIT**

Fostering Economic Resiliency in
Latino Cities and Communities

SUMMIT
2022
OCT 18

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME	1
VENUE FLOOR PLAN	2
SCHEDULE-AT-GLANCE	3
ABOUT ASPEN CITY ACTION LAB	4
ABOUT THE DIGITAL SUCCESS INITIATIVE	6
AGENDA	8
DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS	14
SPONSORS	67
THANK YOU	68

WELCOME

Bienvenidos to the 2022 Aspen Latino Business and Entrepreneurship Summit!

On behalf of the Aspen Institute Latinos and Society Program (AILAS), welcome to the nation's capital to uplift policies, practices, and programs that are best supporting Latino business owners and entrepreneurs.

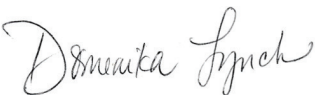
Latino business ownership and entrepreneurship continue to grow and represent a vital segment of the American economy, including a total economic output of \$2.7 trillion in 2019 and the fastest-growing segment of the small business sector. Moreover, Latinos are setting the stage to reimagine the U.S. economy with their hiring and buying power, labor force participation, and other critical economic indicators. Nevertheless, it remains an urgent priority for U.S. innovators, policymakers, investors, and civic leaders to collectively address the myriad of systemic inequities that have unjustly capped the potential of Latinos, especially in the business community.

Our distinguished speakers will tackle market inequities, capital investments, and capacity-building gaps, digital divides, and other pressing issues that keep our business community small and under-resourced. They will share examples and best practices on how their local communities are using the post-pandemic recovery plans to move their economies forward in an equitable way. We will highlight the six cities in our Aspen City Action Lab—Chicago, El Paso, Miami, Phoenix, San Antonio, and San Bernardino—where we have developed partnerships to support the local business ecosystem and ensure Latino entrepreneurs have an opportunity to thrive. Our community-led partnerships are increasing collaboration and attracting new investments in the Latino business community. We will also have the perspectives of important stakeholders from the government and the private sectors to ensure we don't just celebrate our impact but also work towards scaling it.

We are reimagining a healthy business ecosystem that maximizes potential through inclusion and holistic support, building the systems and tools that will foster greater opportunity for American Latinos, *enabling a more prosperous and inclusive America for all.*

Enjoy this time together. Engage, learn, and strengthen your network!

Adelante!



Domenika Lynch

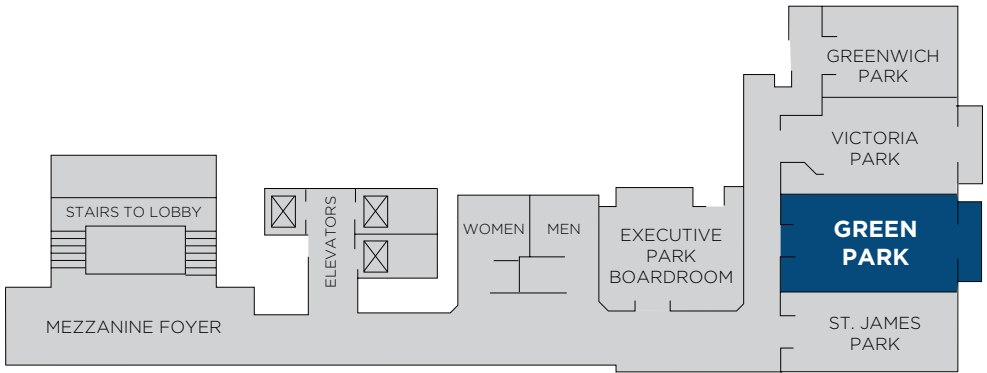
Executive Director

Aspen Institute Latinos and Society Program

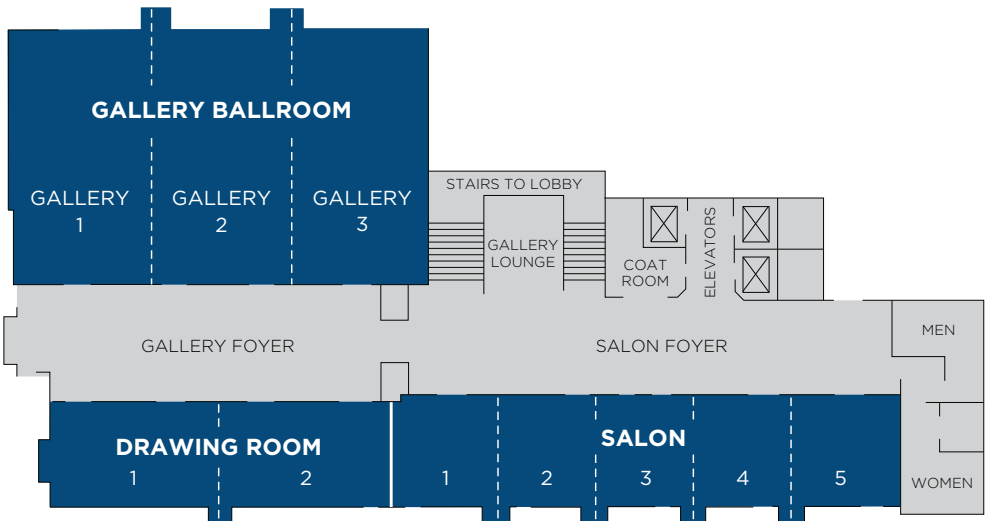
VENUE FLOOR PLAN

PARK HYATT HOTEL

MEZZANINE LEVEL



THE GALLERY



SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022

Park Hyatt Hotel

8:15 AM - 9:00 AM **BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION** | *Gallery Ballroom Foyer*

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM **WELCOME & INTRODUCTION** | *Gallery Ballroom*

9:45 AM - 10:30 AM **REIMAGINING ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR LATINOS**
| *Gallery Ballroom*

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM **NETWORKING BREAK** | *Gallery Ballroom Foyer*

10:45 AM - 11:30 AM **INTERACTIVE BREAKOUT SESSIONS** | *Gallery Ballroom*

11:45 AM - 12:55 PM **BUILDING BACK AMERICAN MANUFACTURING
IN EL PASO LUNCHEON** | *Gallery Ballroom*

12:55 PM - 1:30 PM **NETWORKING COFFEE** | *Drawing Room*

1:30 PM - 2:15 PM **PRINCIPLES FOR LATINO DIGITAL SUCCESS**
| *Gallery Ballroom*

2:15 PM - 3:00 PM **INCLUSIVE PROCUREMENT: LESSONS FROM THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR**
| *Gallery Ballroom*

3:00 PM - 3:05 PM **REMARKS BY CONGRESSMAN
JOAQUIN CASTRO (TX-20)** | *Gallery Ballroom*

3:05 PM - 3:50 PM **TACKLING MARKET INEQUITIES: STRATEGIES FOR
MITIGATING LATINO DISPLACEMENT**
| *Gallery Ballroom*

3:50 PM - 4:00 PM **PROGRAM CLOSING** | *Gallery Ballroom*

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM **RECEPTION** | *Gallery Ballroom Foyer*

ASPEN CITY ACTION LAB

BUILDING COMMUNITY WEALTH THROUGH ENTREPRENEUR-LED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Latino-owned small businesses are the fastest-growing segment of entrepreneurs in the United States. Yet their potential has been limited by a lack of access to business knowledge, capital, and network. Business support resources can be fragmented or may lack the capacity to meet the needs of those small businesses and entrepreneurs.

To expand entrepreneurial opportunity to this dynamic yet underserved demographic, the Aspen Institute Latinos and Society (AILAS) Program joined Drexel University's Nowak Metro Finance Lab to create the Aspen City Action Lab. The program launched in 2021 with the participation of Chicago; El Paso; Miami; Phoenix; San Antonio; and San Bernardino. Today, this innovative pilot initiative catalyzes long-term, inclusive economic growth through data-driven and community-informed approaches.

LOCALLY FOCUSED WITH NATIONAL IMPACT

Because the needs of various communities differ, Aspen City Action Lab forms steering committees of cross-sector leaders in each city to address local priorities in boosting long-term growth for the Latino business sector. With the Aspen City Action Lab support, each city's steering committee focuses on strategies and investments to increase entrepreneurial support, access to capital, community regeneration initiatives, supplier diversity efforts, and workforce development pathways.

Among other advantages, Aspen City Action Lab enables participants to:

- **Learn** practical economic recovery and business growth strategies and receive customized, city-specific data and metrics reflecting the current state of each city's small business economy and Latino-owned enterprises.
- **Collaborate** with leaders from other participating cities, learning from each other and building nationwide networks and a community of practice.
- **Connect** with federal policymakers and national funders to leverage public funding and private philanthropy to accelerate Latino small business recovery and growth strategies.
- **Act** on at least one policy, program, and/or practice that will strengthen local Latino entrepreneurial ecosystems.

ASPEN CITY ACTION LAB STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

CITY	ACTION
El Paso	Establish a one-stop center to connect small businesses with workspaces, training, capital, and other types of support.
Chicago	Create a procurement academy within the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce’s Latino Policy Institute.
Miami	(Phase 1) Research project to have a better baseline of the state of BIPOC businesses in Miami-Dade County. (Phase 2) Institutionalize collective impact model to support Miami-Dade County small businesses.
Phoenix	Develop reinvestment strategy around the South-Central rail corridor.
San Antonio	Reactivate the gateway to the Westside through coordinated investments in commercial properties along two main corridors; Balance commercial investment with neighborhood preservation strategies; Unlock opportunities within the procurement economy by removing barriers to entry for increased supplier diversity.
San Bernardino	Establish a one-stop-shop location and digital platform to connect small businesses with business support resources, workspaces, training, capital, and other types of support to scale their businesses; Implementation of San Bernardino Investment Playbook, which consists of 33 projects to regenerate the downtown area.

For more information about the Aspen City Action Lab, please contact:

Eddy Encinales
eddy.encinales@aspeninstitute.org

LATINO DIGITAL SUCCESS INITIATIVE

PREPARING LATINOS TO COMPETE IN A 21ST CENTURY DIGITAL ECONOMY

Representing America's youngest cohort, Latino workers play an increasingly crucial role in keeping the dynamism of the US labor market, confirmed by estimations that they will account for 78% of net new workers between 2020 and 2030. However, 57% of Latinos aged 16 to 64 had low or no digital skills, compared to a US average of 31%. Latino adults also represent the demographic most at risk of job displacement due to automation and digitalization in the workplace. With at least two-thirds of jobs requiring some level of digital skills by 2030, it is critical to ensure that Latinos have the right tools to thrive in a changing economy.

As a result, the Aspen Latinos & Society Program launched the **Latino Digital Success Initiative**, with the goal of identifying, developing, and uplifting promising ecosystem approaches that besetter prepare Latino workers, entrepreneurs and business owners to compete in a 21st century digital economy. The initiative relies in applied research to consolidate digital inclusion ecosystems that support Latino communities to fully access digital opportunities.

In 2022, AILAS launched the **Latino Digital Success Task Force**, a diverse group of leaders from the corporate, nonprofit, and public sectors to address what success in a digital economy looks like for Latinos around the country. The Task Force constitutes a brain trust that aims to inspire action by companies, workforce organizations, and elected officials to better support the Latino community in the transition to an increasingly digital workplace and business environment. The Task Force is also addressing the need to shift the narrative around Latinos and technology and raise awareness of the opportunities and resources available to Latino talent.

Through this initiative, AILAS also develops original research to address data gaps on Latino communities at the national and local level. Some of our publications include:

- ***Latino Inclusion in the Digital Economy*** takes a closer look at the challenges Latino workers and business owners face in participating in the digital economy and shares examples of how the recommended solutions have been implemented.
- ***Expanding the Latinx Talent Pipeline***, written in partnership with Kapor Center, quantifies the lack of Latino representation in all levels of the Tech industry.

- *A roadmap to Empowerment*, developed in collaboration with Aspen Digital, identifies concrete actions that can foster Latino career advancement in Tech.
- *Pathways to digital skills development for Latino workers*, published in partnership with UpSkill America, identifies some promising approaches to digital upskilling with an equity lens, specifically addressing the needs of Latino learners around the country.

Our future research will be focused on understanding the specific challenges and resources that could strengthen local digital capacities with equitable access for Latino communities. We will develop a baseline and create a roadmap to inform **data-driven strategies** that enhance access to broadband connectivity, digital devices, and digital skills training for incumbent workers, job seekers, and entrepreneurs.

For more information about the Latino Digital Success Initiative, please contact:

Diego Deleersnyder

diego.deleersnyder@aspeninstitute.org



AGENDA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022

All events will take place at the Park Hyatt Hotel

8:15 AM - 9:00 AM

Gallery Ballroom Foyer

BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM

Gallery Ballroom

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Domenika Lynch, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Latinos and Society Program

Philip Gaskin, Vice President, Entrepreneurship, the Ewing Marion

Kauffman Foundation (virtual)

Angie Garcia Lathrop, Community Affairs Executive, Bank of America

Dan Porterfield, President and CEO, Aspen Institute

Julie Chavez Rodriguez, Advisor to the President, and Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

9:45 AM - 10:30 AM

Gallery Ballroom

REIMAGINING ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR LATINOS

Latinos are the nation's fastest-growing entrepreneurial segment; but despite their growth, Latino entrepreneurs disproportionately face more barriers to accessing debt and equity capital across the continuum than their white counterparts. In this session, panelists will explore how to break down the implicit bias that Latino-owned businesses (LOBs) are inherently more risky borrowers. They will also address how financial institutions can innovate capital products to increase financing for Latino entrepreneurs and small businesses.

Speakers:

Carlos Antequera, CEO, Novel Capital

Martin Guerrero, Global Policy Partnerships and Community Impact Team, Block, Inc.

Ruben Barrales, Senior Vice President, External Engagement, Wells Fargo & Company

Janie Barrera, Founder, LiftFund

Moderator:

Mary Helen Aldeis, Program Director, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, El Paso

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Gallery Ballroom Foyer

NETWORKING BREAK

AGENDA

(Cont.)

10:45 AM - 11:30 AM

Gallery Ballroom

INTERACTIVE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Exploring a Place-Based Small Business Investment Model to Build Wealth & Equity

Drawing Room 2

This interactive break-out session will explore the personal wealth creation potential of small business ownership and its ability to address the racial wealth gap. Speakers will explore the levers of the Hispanic business ecosystem that contribute to building wealth and equity—including, the intersectional roles of traditional bank loans & credit, CDFIs, grants, private investment, policy, local government, and community non-profits. They will also discuss strategies for taking a local place-based approach to investing in Hispanic small businesses—with the ultimate goal of helping to close the racial wealth gap, particularly in Capital One's hometown of Richmond, VA.

Speakers:

Andy Navarrete, *Executive Vice President, External Affairs, Capital One Financial Corporation*

Shena Ashley, *Vice President, Community Impact & Investment, Capital One*

Michel Zajur, *Founder, Virginia Hispanic Chamber*

Carrie Cook, *Vice President and Community Affairs Officer, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond*

Transformative Capacity Building: Why it Matters

Salon 4 and 5

Entrepreneur serving organizations are critical for the sustained growth of minority-owned businesses. However, these community pillars are often understaffed, operating in silos, and have limited funding. In this session, speakers will explore the kind of challenges that entrepreneur-serving organizations face in an environment with limited resources, and surface strategies to alleviate those challenges.

Speakers:

Mark Madrid, *Associate Administrator, Office of Entrepreneurial Development, U.S. Small Business Administration*

Darrin Redus, *Senior Vice President, Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber and CEO, Minority Business Accelerator*

Karen Suarez, *Director, Uplift San Bernardino Making Hope Happen*

Brian Van Hook, *Executive Director, Miami Small Business Development Center at Florida International University*

Moderator:

Augusto Sanabria, *President & CEO, Prospera*

AGENDA

(Cont.)

Latino Communities and the Digital Economy

Salon 2 and 3

The pandemic has accelerated automation and the adoption of smart technologies, making it urgent for Latino workers and entrepreneurs to develop new digital skills. According to a McKinsey report, Latinos workers are most at risk of displacement due to their overrepresentation in low-wage and low-skill sectors. However, there is no one-size-fits-all approach to effectively manage the skills-gap conundrum contributing to the mismatch of talent and jobs. In this session, panelists will discuss specific challenges and opportunities different Latino communities face and share effective initiatives to accelerate upskilling and embed digital equity in public and corporate policies.

Speakers:

Christina Kolbjornsen, *Senior Vice President, Head of Corporate and External Affairs at NBCUniversal Telemundo*

Mayra Maldonado, *Executive Director, Hunt Institute for Global Competitiveness, University of Texas at El Paso*

Roberto Curci, *Vice Provost and Dean, Brennan School of Business, Dominican University*

Annemarie Schaefer, *Vice President of Research, Society for Human Resource Management Research Institute*

Moderator:

Diego Deleersnyder, *Associate Director, Aspen Institute Latinos and Society Program*

Launching Latino-Owned Businesses at Scale Through Employee Ownership

Mezzanine Level

Employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs) and worker cooperatives are becoming viable options for business owners planning their succession strategies while creating opportunities for workers to build generational wealth. As market failures exclude Latino workers from wealth-building opportunities, innovations in employee ownership can fast-track Latino and minority communities to become business owners. This panel will highlight successful worker-owned models, the strategies to finance them, and what is needed to accelerate their implementation.

Speakers:

Rob Brown, *Director, Business Ownership Solutions*

Amber Cordoba, *Director of Business Education and Consulting Services, Prestamos Loans CDFI*

Roger King, *Business Owner*

Moderator:

Tomás Durán, *President, California Market, Chicanos Por La Causa*

AGENDA

(Cont.)

11:45 AM - 12:55 PM

Gallery Ballroom

BUILDING BACK AMERICAN MANUFACTURING IN EL PASO LUNCHEON

In September of 2022, El Paso became a winner of the Build Back Better Regional Challenge receiving \$40 million dollars to execute a plan to strengthen the region's manufacturing industry around the aerospace and defense industry. In this conversation, members of the coalition responsible for this proposal will explain how this plan will strengthen America's aerospace and defense manufacturing capabilities by integrating smaller manufacturers in West Texas who are mostly Latino-owned into the aerospace and defense (A&D) supply chain. They will also discuss what this means for the region's majority Latino community and for American manufacturing as a whole.

Introduction by:

Gaddi Vasquez, *Advisory Board Chair, Aspen Institute Latinos and Society Program*

Speakers:

Congresswoman Veronica Escobar (TX-16)

Alejandra Castillo, *Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, U.S. Economic Development Agency*

Dr. Ahsan Choudhuri, *Associate Vice President of the Aerospace Center, The University of Texas at El Paso*

Pablo Rodriguez, *President and Chief Executive Officer, PROD Design & Analysis, Inc.*

Moderator:

Ty Bland, *Head of Government Affairs, Creative Artists Agency*

12:55 PM - 1:30 PM

Drawing Room

NETWORKING COFFEE

AGENDA

(Cont.)

1:30 PM - 2:15 PM

Gallery Ballroom

PRINCIPLES FOR LATINO DIGITAL SUCCESS

The Aspen Latino Digital Inclusion Task Force is a unique brain trust of prominent leaders committed to scaling digital upskilling best practices. In this conversation, Task Force leaders will examine the necessary steps cross-sector leaders must take to advance digital equity, enhance global competitiveness through upskilling and reskilling, and strengthen the Latino talent pipeline.

Introduction by:

Mike Valdes-Fauli, *President, Chemistry Cultura*

Speakers:

Hector Mujica, *Head of Economic Opportunity, Google.org*

Juan Otero, *Senior Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Comcast NBCUniversal*

Amanda Renteria, *CEO, Code for America*

Priscilla Delgado Argeris, *Chief Legal Advisor, Federal Communications Commission*

Moderator:

Amanda Bergson-Shilcock, *Senior Fellow, National Skills Coalition*

2:15 PM - 3:00 PM

Gallery Ballroom

INCLUSIVE PROCUREMENT: LESSONS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR

To unlock the procurement economy, we need a paradigm shift in public and private contracting, away from short-term buying needs—but rather towards leveraging contracting as a tool to promote regional market dynamism, sectoral innovation, and business—and wealth-building. Speakers will discuss innovative models to foster a more deliberate, market-making, and coordinated brokering process to connect minority-owned businesses to procurement opportunities that will drive their growth and enhance the U.S. economy.

Introduction by:

Francisco J. Sanchez, *Partner, Holland & Knight, LLP*

Speakers:

Fernando Hernandez, *Senior Director, Supplier Diversity, The Coca-Cola Company*

Lisa Martinez, *Founder/CEO, LM Genuine Solutions and Lead Facilitator, South Florida Anchor Alliance, Health Foundation of South Florida*

Ramiro Cavazos, *President and CEO, United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce*

Jane Gonzalez, *Owner, Medwheels, Inc.*

Moderator:

Bruce Katz, *Executive Director, Nowak Metro Finance Lab at Drexel University*

AGENDA

(Cont.)

3:00 PM - 3:05 PM

Gallery Ballroom

REMARKS BY CONGRESSMAN JOAQUIN CASTRO (TX-20)

3:05 PM - 3:50 PM

Gallery Ballroom

TACKLING MARKET INEQUITIES: STRATEGIES FOR MITIGATING LATINO DISPLACEMENT

Gentrification is increasingly displacing longtime residents and small business owners, and altering the cultural, economic, political, and demographic make-up of cities, and entire regions. Unless concerted and coordinated action is taken, at scale, the nation runs the risk of exacerbating racial disparities on wealth, which are already pronounced. A panel of national and local community leaders will discuss displacement-mitigation strategies and highlight how coordinated collaborations can develop new ecosystem relationships, increase asset building opportunities, and reward innovation.

Introduction by:

Gaddi Vasquez, *Advisory Board Chair, Aspen Institute Latinos and Society Program*

Speakers:

Elizabeth de Leon Bhargava, *Assistant Secretary for Administration, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*

Mileyka Burgos, *Founding Executive Director and CEO, The Allapattah Collaborative Community Development Corporation*

Reverend Luis Cortes, *Founder and CEO, Esperanza*

Graciela Sanchez, *Director, Esperanza Peace and Justice Center*

Moderator:

Henry Cisneros, *Chairman of American Triple I*

3:50 PM - 4:00 PM

Gallery Ballroom

PROGRAM CLOSING

Domenika Lynch, *Executive Director, Aspen Institute Latinos and Society Program*

Gaddi Vasquez, *Advisory Board Chair, Aspen Institute Latinos and Society Program*

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Gallery Ballroom Foyer

RECEPTION

Rudy D. Garza, *President & Chief Executive Officer, CPS Energy*

Martin Claire, *CEO and Founder, Aprende Institute*

Gaddi Vasquez, *Advisory Board Chair, Aspen Institute Latinos and Society Program*

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



MARY HELEN ALDEIS

Program Director

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, El Paso

Carlos is the co-founder and CEO of Novel Capital, a fintech startup that provides non-dilutive capital, analytics, and curated insights to recurring revenue companies through a digital platform so they can accelerate their growth. Recently, Novel has invested over \$35M in 80+ companies across the US and Canada.

Carlos is an active member of the prestigious Kauffman Fellows and Pipeline Entrepreneurial Fellowship. Prior to Novel, Carlos was the co-founder and CEO of Netchemia for 14 years. Under Carlos' leadership, Netchemia grew to provide its Talent Management platform to over 3,500 school districts across the country and was recognized as one of the leading technology companies in K-12 education. Netchemia received many accolades including being named District Administration Magazine's top products. In 2015, Carlos successfully sold Netchemia to Vista Private Equity, one of the best PE firms in the world. Carlos immigrated to the United States from the highest city in the world, La Paz, Bolivia, when he was 18 years old. He studied computer science and graduated from Washburn University with a bachelor's degree. Later, he completed his MBA at the University of Kansas. He lives in Kansas City with his wife, a children's author.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



CARLOS ANTEQUERA

CEO

Novel Capital

Carlos is the co-founder and CEO of Novel Capital, a fintech startup that provides non-dilutive capital, analytics, and curated insights to recurring revenue companies through a digital platform so they can accelerate their growth. Recently, Novel has invested over \$35M in 80+ companies across the US and Canada.

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DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



SHENA ASHLEY

Vice President

Capital One Community Impact & Investment

Shena Ashley, PhD is the head of programs within the Community Impact and Investment team at Capital One and President of the Insights Center and the Capital One Foundation. She is focusing on accelerating an innovative and equity-enhancing national philanthropic strategy.

Prior to Capital One, Dr. Ashley launched the Office of Race and Equity Research at the Urban Institute as a center of excellence toward empowering race and equity consciousness throughout the field of policy research. This began the launch of the Racial Equity Analytics Lab (REAL), an effort that brought data science and structural racism colleagues together to create data tools.

Dr. Ashley had the great fortune to lead the Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy from 2016-2022. She led teams of researchers and strategists to build a research-in-action portfolio focused on community investing, equitable grantmaking, democratizing charitable giving, and nonprofit and philanthropic policy. Her passion for democratizing data led her to transform the National Center on Charitable Statistics to an open-data repository, which now makes nonprofit data freely accessible to the public.

Dr. Ashley holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy from Georgia Tech and Georgia State University, a MPP from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor's degree from Tennessee State University.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



RUBEN BARRALES

*Senior Vice President, External Engagement
Wells Fargo & Company*

Ruben Barrales is Senior Vice President for External Engagement at Wells Fargo. He works to advance Wells Fargo's diversity and inclusion efforts for employees, customers, and the communities we serve.

Ruben previously served as president & CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, and of Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network. He also led an effort focused on increasing the number of Latinos elected to state and local government.

Prior, Ruben served in the White House as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of White House Intergovernmental Affairs.

The son of Mexican immigrants, Ruben was the first Latino elected to the San Mateo County (California) Board of Supervisors. He was recognized as one of the "100 Most Influential Hispanics" in the United States by Hispanic Business Magazine, and he received the "Ohtli Award" from the Government of Mexico for his commitment to improving the well-being of Hispanics in the United States.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



JANIE BARRERA

*Founder
LiftFund*

Janie Barrera is the Founder of LiftFund. LiftFund has become one of the largest micro and small business lenders in the United States. The nonprofit organization provides loans and management training to enterprises of all kinds—from startups to long established businesses. Since its inception, it has disbursed more than 24,000 loans totaling more than \$425 million—with an impressive 96% repayment rate.

As Founder & Executive Vice-President, Janie is responsible for interacting with the communities we serve and advocates for hard-working small business owners and entrepreneurs who do not have access to loans from commercial sources. Janie has worked hard to level the financial playing field for entrepreneurs, who historically have faced considerable obstacles when seeking the financing they need to start and grow their businesses.

Janie is a change agent in the field of microfinance and helping small businesses reach their full potential. President Barack Obama appointed Janie to the President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability and named her to the Federal Reserve of Dallas' San Antonio Branch board of directors. In 2015, she was named to the San Antonio Business Hall of Fame. In 2022 Janie won the Impact Award for Innovation on Main Street at the Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO) and the

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Impact Award: Legacy and Merit Award - Recognition for outstanding leadership and contributions to the local business community.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



AMANDA BERGSON-SHILCOCK

Senior Fellow

National Skills Coalition

Amanda Bergson-Shilcock is a Senior Fellow at National Skills Coalition. She leads the organization's work on adult education and workforce policies to expand opportunities for US-born and immigrant adults. Amanda has worked with state and federal policymakers and skills advocates to develop policy solutions that address the challenges facing adult learners and job seekers, including immigrant workers.

As a workforce development expert, Amanda has authored numerous publications and policy recommendations—on immigrant integration, workforce development, and adult education—which have helped educate policymakers, journalists, and the public and inform public policy at the state and federal levels. Her policy expertise, insights, and commentary have been cited and published in *TIME*, *Fortune*, *BBC News*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *POLITICO*, *Business Insider*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *H.R. Dive*, and more.

Prior to joining the National Skills Coalition, Amanda served as Vice President of Policy and Evaluation at the nonprofit Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians. She led the Center's policy and communications work on adult education, workforce, and economic development issues in that role.

Amanda holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, where she studied American Civilization with an emphasis on minority populations.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



ROB BROWN

*Director, Business Ownership Solutions
Cooperative Development Institute (CDI)*

Rob Brown is the director of Business Ownership Solutions at the Cooperative Development Institute (CDI). CDI is the USDA-designated Cooperative Business Development Center for the Northeast. Rob is a nationally recognized expert in the field of employee ownership transitions, assisting business owners and their workers explore, assess, structure, and execute transitions to worker-owned cooperatives, and leads programs at the local, regional, and national level to educate and advise business owners on exit planning process and options. He participates in several national networks promoting the strategy of employee ownership transitions and best practices in the field, including as a founding member of the Workers to Owners Collaborative. Rob lives with his family in Northport, Maine.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



TYRONE BLAND

*Head of Government Affairs
Creative Artists Agency*

Tyrone D. Bland is a Los Angeles County native and currently serves as the Head of Government Affairs for Creative Artists Agency. In his previous role as the Vice President of U.S. State and Local Government Affairs for Herbalife Nutrition (North America), he led the company's Government Affairs strategy.

From 2004-2008 Bland served as the lead lobbyist for the City of Los Angeles under Mayor(s) James K. Hahn and Antonio Villaraigosa. Prior to joining Herbalife Nutrition, he served as Managing Partner for the Washington, D.C. based lobbying firm, Porter Tellus, LLC. For nearly a decade, Bland provided legislative and regulatory counsel to major corporations including; Toyota Motor Corporation, American Airlines, AT&T, Bank of America and a wide range of national trade associations.

As part of a personal commitment to developing small business, Mr. Bland was appointed to the Los Angeles Latino Chamber of Commerce Corporate Advisory Board, where he led Congressional leaders and senior officials from the SBA (Region 9) on a tour of L.A. County business incubation sites.

He attended the University of California at Berkeley and the University of California at Los Angeles, where he earned a B.A. degree in Political Science.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



MILEYKA BURGOS-FLORES

Founding Executive Director & CEO

The Allapattah Collaborative Community Development Corporation

Mileyka Burgos-Flores is a Dominican-American activist and founding Executive Director & CEO of The Allapattah Collaborative, CDC- a place based, non-profit organization that uses Main Street Approach to preserve and expand cultural authenticity and wealth building in marginalized immigrant enclaves. The organization aims to revitalize the Little Santo Domingo commercial corridors in the midst of mitigating climate gentrification pressures as it focuses on its mission of implementing place making techniques to foster identity, supporting wealth building strategies for marginalized communities of color and advocating for policies/procedures that support equitable, comprehensive and sustainable community development.

Mileyka holds a bachelor degree from the University of Miami and a master degree from Florida International University. She is an avid advocate for social justice in marginalized communities by working with neighborhood stakeholders in grassroots community engagement campaigns and inter-agency collaborations. She has been a champion in asset-framing the Latinx immigrant contributions and experience, as well as advocating for the preservation of culture in marginalized cultural enclaves under the principles of access, equity, representation, inclusion and upward mobility. Mileyka is a 2022 Center for Community Investment Fulcrum Fellow, focused on establishing shared equity community ownership models to prevent displacement and enhance wealth building in Allapattah.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



ALEJANDRA CASTILLO

*Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development
U.S. Economic Development Agency*

Alejandra Y. Castillo was sworn in as U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development on August 13, 2021. She has served in leadership positions for three presidents - Biden, Obama and Clinton. Her professional career spans two decades, focusing on creating equitable and inclusive opportunities for all Americans.

Prior to EDA, Castillo was the Chief Executive Officer of YWCA USA, where she championed the 163-year-old organization delivering critical social, educational, and economic development services throughout its 204 associations.

In 2014, Castillo was appointed by President Obama to serve as the national director of the Commerce Department's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), becoming the first Hispanic woman to lead the agency. During her tenure, she led MBDA's efforts to boost the growth and global competitiveness of minority business enterprises (MBEs).

Castillo first joined the Department of Commerce in 2008 as a Special Advisor to the Under Secretary for the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration (ITA). Additionally, Castillo served as a Senior Policy Analyst in the White House during the Clinton Administration.

She holds a bachelor's degree in Economics and Political Science from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, a master's degree in public affairs from the LBJ School at the University of Texas at Austin, and earned a Juris Doctor degree from American University's Washington College of Law.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



CONGRESSMAN JOAQUIN CASTRO (TX-20)

In 2012, Joaquin was elected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives as representative of Texas' 20th Congressional District, which covers a large portion of San Antonio and Bexar County. Joaquin's identical twin brother, Julián Castro, was elected in 2013 to his third term as Mayor of San Antonio. On July 28, 2014, Julian Castro was sworn in as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Joaquin's respect for public service developed at a young age and was deeply influenced by his parents' involvement in political movements and civic causes. His father, a retired teacher, and his mother, a renowned community activist, instilled in him a deep appreciation for the democratic process and the importance of serving one's community.

Despite a difficult political environment during his time as state legislator, Joaquin transcended partisan gridlock to help restore millions of dollars in funding to critical health care and education programs. As Vice Chairman of the Higher Education Committee and Democratic Floor Leader in the Texas House, he was also at the forefront in proposing forward-thinking legislative reforms in the areas of mental health, teen pregnancy, and juvenile justice.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



RAMIRO A. CAVAZOS

*President and Chief Executive Officer
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce*

Ramiro A. Cavazos is President and CEO of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC), America's largest business advocacy organization for Hispanics. He is a trusted economic development expert and champion for bipartisan solutions that generate wealth to advance economic opportunity for the Latinos.

His global perspective was honed by his experience working in the private sector for the Levi Strauss Company as Manager of Global Public Affairs & Contributions. His passion for small business is also fueled by his experience running his own public affairs business for 3 years, serving clients such as AT&T, Valero Energy, and H-E-B.

Today, Ramiro proudly serves as the Chairman of the Board for the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility (HACR), which advocates for Fortune 500 companies to invest in more equity and fair representation for Hispanics on corporate boards and publicly traded companies. Ramiro has shared his views on Latino entrepreneurship, small business growth, trade, and commerce on Fortune, Forbes, Time, Newsweek, CNN, the Associated Press, The Economist, The Washington Post and more. Ramiro earned his master's degree in Public Administration from St. Mary's University, and completed his bachelor's degree in Government from The University of Texas at Austin.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



JULIE CHAVEZ RODRIGUEZ

*Senior Advisor to the President
Director of the White House Office*

Julie Chavez Rodriguez serves as Senior Advisor and Assistant to the President as well as Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. Prior to joining the Biden-Harris Administration, she served as a Deputy Campaign Manager on the Biden-Harris Campaign. Before that, she was National Political Director and traveling Chief of Staff for then-Senator Kamala Harris' presidential campaign. Prior to launching Senator Harris' campaign, she served as California State Director in her senate office. During the Obama-Biden administration, Julie served as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Deputy Director of Public Engagement in the Office of Public Engagement. Before joining the White House, Julie served as the Director of Youth Employment at the Department of the Interior and as Deputy Press Secretary to former Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. Earlier in her career, she served as the Director of Programs at the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation. A native of California, she is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



DR. AHSAN CHOUDHURI

*Associate Vice President of the Aerospace Center
The University of Texas at El Paso*

Dr. Ahsan Choudhuri is the Associate Vice President of the Aerospace Center at The University of Texas at El Paso. Under Dr. Choudhuri's leadership, the Aerospace Center has developed an expansive vision to exponentially expand our nation's talent-force by unleashing new opportunities for students through cutting-edge, applied research in aerospace, defense and energy.

Dr. Ahsan Choudhuri is an internationally renowned expert in aerospace and defense systems and has led the growth of UTEP's aerospace, defense and energy education and research program from its infancy to a program that is nationally recognized. Dr. Choudhuri has formed strategic collaborations and partnerships with NASA, DOE, DOD, and aerospace and defense industries that have fueled the Aerospace Center's growth and created unparalleled opportunities for students. His new mission focuses on leveraging the research preeminence of the Aerospace Center and our sister center, the W.M. Keck Center for 3D Innovation, to create jobs and business opportunities in aerospace, defense and advanced manufacturing in El Paso.

Dr. Choudhuri is a proud alumnus of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, where he received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma School of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



HENRY CISNEROS

Chairman

American Triple I Partners

Henry Cisneros is Chairman of American Triple I, an infrastructure investment firm and he is a Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors & Equity Owner of Shank Williams Cisneros & Co., L.L.C, and Principal of Siebert Williams Shank & Co., LLC. Henry founded CityView in 2003 and continues to actively invest in its projects.

In 1981, Henry became the first Hispanic-American mayor of San Antonio, Texas. During his terms, he helped rebuild the city's economic base and spurred the creation of jobs through massive infrastructure and downtown improvements. Henry formed Cisneros Asset Management Company, a fixed income management firm operating nationally.

In 1992, President Clinton appointed Henry to be Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Henry has been credited with initiating the revitalization of many of the nation's public housing developments and with formulating policies which contributed to achieving the nation's highest ever homeownership rate.

Henry holds a Bachelor of Arts and a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Texas A&M University. He earned a Master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard University, and a Doctorate in Public Administration from George Washington University.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



MARTIN CLAURE

*CEO and Founder
Aprende Institute*

Martin Claure is Founder & CEO of Aprende Institute. Prior to Aprende, Martin founded and ran MC Capital, where he oversaw a first round of start-up launches and real estate developments. Martin transitioned to a passive role at MC Capital in September 2019 when he joined Aprende Institute as full time CEO.

Martin holds an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and a BS in Manufacturing Engineering from Boston University.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



CARRIE COOK

*Vice President and Community Affairs Officer
Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond*

Carrie Cook is the Community Affairs Officer for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and also serves as Vice President of Community Development. In these roles, she establishes strategic areas of emphasis for community development programming and provides insights on economic conditions and issues affecting low- and moderate-income communities, with a particular focus on the Fifth District's small towns and rural communities. She also provides strategic leadership for the Bank's various advisory councils and serves as the point of contact on matters related to the Community Reinvestment Act.

Prior to joining the Richmond Fed, Carrie served as the founding executive director of GreenLight Fund Charlotte, launching a national venture philanthropy model that promotes economic mobility for local low-income communities. She also previously served in vice president roles for economic growth, talent development and government affairs at the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance, in addition to serving as a regional liaison to the late U.S. Sen. Kay R. Hagan.

Carrie earned her bachelor's degree in communications from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and her master of public administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



AMBER CORDOBA

*Director of Business Education and Consulting Services
Prestamos Loans CDFI*

Amber Cordoba is a Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP) and the Director of Business Education and Consulting Services for Prestamos CDFI, a division of Chicanos por la Causa. Since 2015, Amber has worked to disrupt the system that overlooks and underserved minority and women-owned businesses through the development of specialized educational and tactical business trainings, programs that deliver 1:1 business assistance, and pushing the envelope on access to capital. In 2020/2021 she led the Prestamos Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) initiatives that resulted in supporting over 400,000 small businesses nationwide. In late 2021 she also launched an SBA Women's Business Center in Phoenix, AZ and a US Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Center in Las Vegas, NV.

Prior to her work with Prestamos, Amber was involved in the child welfare system as a Foster Parent and Parent Aid, co-founded and operated an award winning Merchant Services ISO, managed a CPA Firm, ran her own bookkeeping business, and has 12 years experience as Treasurer for various political campaigns at the local, state, and federal level. She is an avid entrepreneur and dedicates herself to improving systems to help them become more inclusive and effective for everyone.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



REVEREND LUIS CORTÉS, JR.

Founder and CEO

Esperanza

The Reverend Luis Cortés, Jr. is the Founder and CEO of Esperanza, a leading Hispanic faith-based Evangelical network in the United States. Esperanza strengthens Hispanic communities and all those who live within them. Rev. Cortés founded Esperanza in 1986, with support from the Hispanic Clergy of Philadelphia. Today, Esperanza has grown into one of the prominent voices for Latinos in America.

Leading what began as a local initiative, with programs targeted to address the unmet needs of Philadelphia’s Latino community, Rev. Cortés is now sought by national and international leaders alike on issues of economic and workforce development, housing, immigration, and education. Esperanza has grown from a one-person operation to more than 575 employees and \$70M in operations across a family of institutions and programs, all focused on building an “opportunity community” in Hunting Park by providing avenues for education, jobs and affordable housing.

Rev. Cortés graduated from City College, New York, earned a Master of Divinity as an Urban Theology Fellow from Union Theological Seminary, and a master’s degree in Economic Development from Southern New Hampshire University. He is a Senior Nonresident Fellow for the Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society at the University of Pennsylvania.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



ROBERTO CURCI

*Vice Provost and Dean of the Brennan School of Business
Dominican University*

Dr. Curci is Vice Provost and Dean of the Brennan School of Business at Dominican University. Before joining Dominican University, Professor Curci served as Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Programs and Eugene Ratliff Endowed Chair Professor of Finance at Butler University's School of Business in Indianapolis. He holds a Ph.D. in International Business and Finance from University of Texas Pan American, a Master of Business Administration with specializations in International Business and Finance from University of Miami, a Bachelor of Business Administration from ICESI University (Cali, Colombia), and a Bachelor of Science in Systems Engineering from ICESI University (Cali, Colombia).

Dr. Curci specializes in International Finance and International Business. He has regularly worked with premier business schools in the United States, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Dr. Curci has accumulated extensive hands-on business experience while working with, studying, and/or advising corporations and organizations in the United States, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. His areas of expertise include International Finance, International Business, and U.S. Hispanic markets. Dr. Curci has also been an active member of the community serving as a leader and volunteer in corporations, academic institutions, non-for-profit organizations, and government commissions.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



DIEGO DELEERSNYDER

*Associate Director for Policy and Research
Aspen Institute Latinos and Society Program*

Diego Deleersnyder is the Associate Director for Policy and Research at the Aspen Institute Latinos and Society Program. He leads the Latino Digital Success Initiative, which aims at identifying, developing, and uplifting promising ecosystem approaches that prepare Latinos to compete in the 21st-century digital economy.

Originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina, Diego has worked in local capacity building, economic development, and urban management projects in the public and not-for-profit sectors in Latin America, Europe, and the U.S. He worked at CIPPEC, where he was responsible for the design and implementation of research and technical assistance projects on topics such as the gig economy, entrepreneurial ecosystems, eGovernment initiatives, and the coordination of metropolitan policies. He also worked as a program manager in the Argentine federal government, leading an interdisciplinary team supporting local governments in capacity-building for economic development. He created the National Network of Productive Municipalities, a collaborative platform that included over 400 local governments.

Diego holds a master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia University – SIPA, an MSc in Local Economic Development from the London School of Economics, an MSc in Urban Economics from Universidad Torcuato Di Tella and a B.A. in Political Science from Universidad de Buenos Aires.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



PRISCILLA DELGADO ARGERIS

*Chief Legal Advisor for Jessica Rosenworcel
Federal Communications Commission*

Priscilla serves as Chairwoman Rosenworcel's Chief Legal Advisor. She joined the Chairwoman's office from Meta Platforms, Inc. where she has focused on spectrum policy issues for the company across the globe. From 2012-2015, she previously served as then-Commissioner Rosenworcel's Legal Advisor and Senior Legal Advisor covering wireline and wireless issues for the office during her tenure. Prior to joining the FCC, Priscilla worked at the law firm Wiley Rein, where she focused regulatory and litigation matters involving federal and state communications law. She received her undergraduate degree from Princeton University and her law degree from New York University School of Law.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



ELIZABETH DE LEON BHARGAVA

*Assistant Secretary for Administration
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*

Assistant Secretary Bhargava has served as an executive in the public sector for more than 20 years, including previously as New York State Deputy Secretary for Labor & Workforce, the first Latina to hold this position. Assistant Secretary Bhargava has also served as a senior advisor to the Speaker of the New York City Council, Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Department of Small Business Services, and Assistant Deputy Counselor in the New York State Office of the Attorney General.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



TOMÁS E. DURÁN

California Market President

Chicanos Por La Causa

Tomás E. Durán joined Chicanos Por La Causa in January 2022 as the California Market President. Prior to joining the CPLC team, Tomás was the Senior Vice President for Economic Resilience with Community Health Councils, Inc in South Los Angeles. During his tenure at CHC he managed program to support entrepreneurs from South Los Angeles and developed a “sand box” for the organization that is used to prioritize projects and direct investment. Tomás also developed the financing strategy for the organization’s Food Tech Hub, a shared location for nonprofits addressing food access, and led the search for a suitable site.

As the Administrator for Special Projects at the Center for Economic Development in the University of Southern California’s Price School of Public Policy, he worked with more than 250 manufactures in the defense supply chain to plan for succession, access capital, and increase their cybersecurity. Tomás is also a partner in Concerned Capital, Inc., a boutique economic development firm that specializes in employee ownership and preserving blue collar jobs.

Tomás is a graduate of the University of Southern California’s Sol Price School of Public Policy. He lives in Whittier, CA with his wife, sons, and two mischievous dogs.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



CONGRESSWOMAN VERONICA ESCOBAR (TX - 16)

Congresswoman Veronica Escobar, a third-generation El Pasoan, proudly represents Texas' 16th Congressional District.

She took office on January 3, 2019 as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives after making history as the first woman elected to this seat.

In Congress, she has established herself as the voice of the border and as a national leader on gun safety, health care, and immigration, including fighting the Trump administration's inhumane and cruel policies that harm border communities. She has led legislation to address our nation's immigration challenges in a responsible and humane manner by ensuring accountability, transparency, and oversight.

Before her election, she served on the governing body for El Paso County, first as a County Commissioner and then as County Judge. She also worked to make El Paso County a leader in expanding access to healthcare by working with the University Medical Center of El Paso to build primary care clinics and the El Paso Children's Hospital.

Congresswoman Escobar is a graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso and New York University. She and her husband, Michael, live in Central El Paso with their beloved cats. They have two grown children: Cristian Diego and Eloisa Isabel.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



ANGIE GARCIA LATHROP

*Community Affairs Executive
Bank of America*

Angie Garcia Lathrop is Bank of America's Community Affairs Executive for Environmental, Social and Governance. In this role, Lathrop oversees strategic alliances with national nonprofit community organizations and directs outreach to customer advocates on topics related to the bank's retail consumer business.

Prior to joining Bank of America, Lathrop spent seven years at Freddie Mac as a Senior Director of Industry Relations. Lathrop also served as a Professional Staff Member of the Committee on Financial Services in the U.S. House of Representatives under Ranking Member Henry B. Gonzales (D-TX) and Ranking Member John LaFalce (D-NY). She also served as one of two Democratic staff aiding in the Whitewater investigation in 2005.

Lathrop is a member of Bank of America's Hispanic-Latino Executive Council and the Executive Sponsor of the bank's Hispanic-Latino employee network in Washington D.C. She serves as Board Member of Pathway Homes of Fairfax, VA, and of the American Bankers Association Foundation of Washington D.C. She sits on the Executive Committee for the National Housing Conference, also of Washington D.C. She's an active member of the UnidosUS Corporate Board of Advisors and Chairs the US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Senior Executive Council.

Lathrop received a Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctorate from the University of Arizona. She resides in Arlington, VA with her husband and two children.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



RUDY D. GARZA

*President & Chief Executive Officer
CPS Energy*

Rudy D. Garza is the President & Chief Executive Officer for CPS Energy, the nation's largest municipally-owned electric and natural gas utility. Rudy has more than 25 years as a leader in the electric and natural gas utility industry and has served in both the public and private sectors over the course of his career. He is the first Hispanic leader to hold the position.

Rudy joined CPS Energy in 2012 and previously served as Chief Customer & Stakeholder Engagement Officer and as Senior Vice President of Distribution Service & Operations where he oversaw the maintenance and construction activity of the electric distribution system. He has also served the company in the role of Vice President of External Relations.

Rudy has a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas in Austin and a Master of Business Administration from the University of North Texas.

He continues to serve his community through multiple board positions and serves his UT Austin alma mater as an advisory board member for the School of Electrical Engineering.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



PHILIP GASKIN

*Vice President, Entrepreneurship
The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation*

Philip Gaskin is vice president of Entrepreneurship for the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, where he is responsible for leading the Kauffman Foundation's efforts to build an economy that works for all people.

As a leader with deep expertise in implementing strategies that change conditions in communities of all types, Gaskin provides the vision, strategic thinking, and thought leadership to scale and deepen the impact of the Foundation's comprehensive entrepreneurship portfolio, which aims to eliminate systemic barriers and enhance economic activity through inclusive entrepreneurship. Prior to joining the Kauffman Foundation, Gaskin was chief operating officer for Impact Hub in the U.S., where he led organization-wide initiatives to develop and scale a social innovation marketplace to support entrepreneurs and impact investors to build sustainable businesses that drive long-term social and environmental change.

Previously, Gaskin served in various campaign positions for national candidates, including Cory Booker for U.S. Senate and President Barack Obama, directing efforts in Pennsylvania for Obama for America. Earlier, Gaskin held private sector executive leadership roles with leading global firms providing strategic enterprise and travel management consulting to Fortune 50 companies.

As a native of Los Angeles, Gaskin graduated from California State University with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



JANE GONZALEZ

President & CEO

MEDwheels Inc.

Jane Gonzalez is the owner of the family operated business, MEDwheels. MEDwheels started in 2005 as medicare providers for seniors with durable medical equipment needs. Jane likes to say that Medwheels is not in the business of selling commodities but creating hope and safety with medical supplies that essentially transform patients. “MEDwheels is not alone, we represent the heart and soul of small businesses across America in our communities.”

Part of Jane’s purpose is devoting years of her time and effort by volunteering in boards that advance small, minority, woman-owned businesses and increase procurement contracting. She has been appointed by Judge Nelson Wolff to the Bexar County Board, Mayor Jualian Castro to the Fort Sam Houston Community Advisory Committee, Councilwoman Phyllis Viagran to Small Business Advisory Commission, co-author of the City of San Antonio SBEDA Ordinance, and much more. The passion combing both operating a business and sharing the challenges and opportunities during the volunteering phase can improve diversity, equity, and inclusion. Jane also wrote an OP ED at the San Antonio Express News Commentary: *Nurture Second-stage Companies, Boost San Antonio’s Economy*. Jane is cautiously excited about inclusion in diversity with equity to transform our economically challenged neighborhoods by creating innovative solutions unaccustomed to procurement processes.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



MARTIN GUERRERO

*Global Policy Partnerships and Community Impact Specialist
Block, Inc.*

Martin Guerrero is a member of the Global Policy Partnerships and Community Impact team at Block, where he focuses on educational programming for businesses with partners across the globe. Martin also heads up cross-functional projects supporting Spanish-speaking and Indigenous small businesses and other community and third party partners.

Block is a global technology company with a focus on financial services. Made up of Square, Cash App, Spiral, TIDAL, and TBD. Block is here to build simple tools to increase access to the economy.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



FERNANDO HERNANDEZ

*Global Leader, Supplier Diversity
The Coca-Cola Company*

Fernando leads Coca-Cola's \$800 Million Supplier Diversity program worldwide focusing on utilization, development and mentoring of diverse suppliers.

Prior to joining Coca-Cola, Fernando served as Supplier Diversity & Sustainability Leader for Microsoft Corporation globally. In this capacity, he set Microsoft's strategies to achieve supplier diversity & supply chain sustainability objectives. He was responsible for Microsoft's \$4.4 Billion annual Supplier Diversity program.

Prior to joining Microsoft, Fernando served as Senior Vice President of Multicultural Marketing Strategy for Washington Mutual Bank (JPMC) where he established, developed, and implemented comprehensive multicultural marketing initiatives.

He formerly served as Executive Director with AT&T. Fernando established and implemented AT&T's \$1 Billion annual Supplier Diversity program. He created AT&T's multicultural B2B and B2C marketing (Hispanic, African American, and Asian markets). This resulted in the creation of a \$3 Billion market segment. He has the distinction of being the first person to earn membership twice in the Billion Dollar Roundtable (AT&T & Microsoft).

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



CHRISTINA KOLBJORNSEN

*Senior Vice President, Head of Corporate and External Affairs
NBCUniversal Telemundo*

Christina Kolbjornsen is the Senior Vice President and Head of Corporate and External Affairs at NBCUniversal Telemundo. Previously, she was a Communications Manager for the state of Florida where she directed and managed internal and external communications strategies for the region and provided leadership for the Corporate Communications team in Florida. Christina also headed the public relations department for República, a Hispanic-owned multicultural marketing communications agency in Miami. In that role she was responsible for developing and directing all integrated public relations programs, including strategic communications, media and community relations, experiential marketing, social marketing, special events, and promotions. She has two decades of national and international public relations and marketing experience. An active member of the community, Christina served on the executive committee and Board of Advisors of City Year Miami, and as chair of its marketing and communications committee. She also served on the boards of Hope for Haiti, The Women's Fund of Miami, and the Public Relations Society of America. She's a supporter of Amigos for Kids, and Paradis des Indiens, and a past supporter of Community Partnership for the Homeless, FAVACA and Hands on Miami. Kolbjornsen holds a master's degree in public management from the University of Maryland and a bachelor's degree in economics from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



BRUCE KATZ

*Co-Founder and inaugural Director
Nowak Metro Finance Lab at Drexel University*

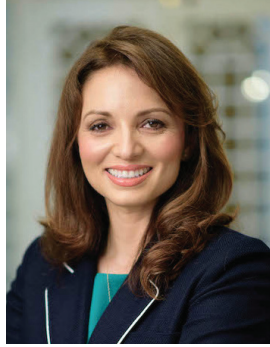
Bruce Katz is the Co-Founder and inaugural Director of the Nowak Metro Finance Lab. He regularly advises global, national, state, regional and municipal leaders on public reforms and private innovations that advance the well-being of metropolitan areas and their countries.

Bruce is the co-author of *The New Localism: How Cities Can Thrive in the Age of Populism* and *The Metropolitan Revolution: How Cities and Metros are Fixing Our Broken Politics and Fragile Economy*.

Bruce was the inaugural Centennial Scholar at the Brookings Institution, where he focused on the challenges and opportunities of global urbanization. Prior to assuming this role, he was a vice president at the Brookings Institution and founding Director of the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program.

Bruce served as chief of staff to the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros and was the staff director for the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Housing and Urban Affairs. Bruce co-led the housing and urban transition team for the Obama administration and served as a senior advisor to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Secretary Shaun Donovan. Bruce is a visiting Professor at the London School of Economics. He is a graduate of Brown University and Yale Law School.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



DOMENIKA LYNCH

Executive Director

Aspen Institute Latinos and Society Program

Domenika Lynch is the Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Latinos and Society Program, with the mission of empowering Latino communities and promoting long-term economic growth and resiliency. Domenika has overseen strategic planning, policy advocacy, and public affairs campaigns for nonprofits and corporations, increasing donor and stakeholder support and raising millions of dollars for organizational endowments.

Prior to joining the Aspen Institute, Lynch served as president and CEO of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, the preeminent Latino Leadership Institute. She previously spent more than a decade as executive director of the Latino Alumni Association at the University of Southern California. Previously Domenika held leadership positions at Bank of America and Univision. Domenika currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Congressional Management Foundation, the Bank of America's National Community Advisory Council, and the Toyota North American Diversity Advisory Board. She also serves on the Council on Underserved Communities, which provides the U.S. Small Business Administration with input, advice, and recommendations on strategies to help strengthen competitiveness and sustainability for small businesses in underserved communities. Domenika is a graduate of the USC Price School of Public Policy, and received her master's degree from the USC Rossier School of Education.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



MARK MADRID

*Associate Administrator, Office of Entrepreneurial Development
U.S. Small Business Administration*

As a President Biden Appointee, Mark L. Madrid leads the Office of Entrepreneurial Development as Associate Administrator for the U.S. Small Business Administration. This unit supports more than 1 million small businesses annually and oversees the technical resources arm of the SBA.

Previously Mark served as CEO of Latino Business Action Network, an organization focused on strengthening America through funding and supporting U.S. Latino entrepreneurial research. He serves on the Board of Trustees for Scholarship America, the leading nonprofit scholarship and educational support organization. He is an Honorary Colonel of the United States Army and Jefferson Award recipient.

Mark was the 2020 Recipient of the Latino Leaders Maestro Award in the Category of Leadership for his lifetime achievement as a distinguished influencer in promoting Latinx entrepreneurship and “for his legacy as an advisor, entrepreneur, diversity business promoter, and civic champion.” Most recently, he was honored with the 2021 Courage in Government award by the National Business Inclusion Consortium.

Mark holds a BBA from the University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business and a Master of Nonprofit Administration degree from the University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



MAYRA MALDONADO

*Executive Director, Hunt Institute for Global Competitiveness
University of Texas at El Paso*

Mayra Maldonado is the executive director of the Hunt Institute for Global Competitiveness, a research organization within the University of Texas at El Paso that focuses on the economy of the U.S.-Mexico border. Under her leadership, the Hunt Institute's research portfolio has blossomed with new projects that include a market analysis of El Paso's broadband infrastructure, an economic impact study of border security's effects on regional and national economies, and studies of the El Paso small-business environment through the lens of the COVID-19 pandemic. She has strengthened the Institute's focus on its core mission of creating high-quality market analysis tools with the release of a border regional economic database, an educational attainment report, and an ongoing series of infographics for policymakers, business people and the general public.

Mayra is a native of Monterrey, Mexico. She worked as an economist at the Central Bank of Mexico, leading the economic and financial analysis of Mexico's northeastern border region. She specialized in analysis of Inter-American financial markets inequities while working with Morgan Stanley Capital International. Mayra received her economics education at the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, the École Supérieure de Commerce de Paris and New York University.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



LISA M. MARTINEZ

*Founder/CEO, LM Genuine Solutions and Lead Facilitator,
South Florida Anchor Alliance, Health Foundation of South Florida*

Lisa Martinez is a systems connector dedicated to uplifting the South Florida community where she's lived and worked for her entire life. In 2018, Lisa established L.M. Genuine Solutions, strategic management and business-consulting firm specializing in serving the needs of government, education, nonprofit, and private sector entities.

Prior to launching her own firm, she served as Chief Strategy Officer at Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), directly assisting the Superintendent of Schools in creating, communicating, executing, and sustaining strategic initiatives. In her previous position, she was recruited to join the Miami-Dade County Mayor's senior staff overseeing the Departments of Cultural Affairs, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces, and the Miami-Dade Public Libraries. She was also the County's liaison on children's issues, including school readiness and education-related programs, until she was promoted to Chief of Staff.

Lisa began her career as an elementary education teacher. In 2002, she developed a nonprofit organization to support vulnerable youth. The success of this program led her to become the City of Miami Mayor's Director of Policy and Legislation. After four years, she joined the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Grants at M-DCPS.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



HECTOR MUJICA

*Head of Economic Opportunity
Google.org Americas*

Hector Mjuica, leads economic opportunity efforts at Google.org—Google’s philanthropy—across the Americas. Within his role, he looks after a \$100M+ grantmaking portfolio that supports interventions which aim to provide pathways to digital economy jobs for individuals with multiple barriers to employment. Hector also serves on Google’s Latino Leadership Council, where he helps to steward Google’s social impact ventures with the Latino community.

Hector has spent the last decade advancing social justice through philanthropy and public policy. Prior to Google, Hector’s experience ranged from investment banking at Oppenheimer & Co, constituent casework at the Office of Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, and diplomatic relations at the Economic Section of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo.

Hector holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Business from Florida International University, a Professional Certificate in Social Entrepreneurship from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, and a Master of Public Affairs from the Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley. Outside of work, Hector Co-Chairs the Latino Digital Success Task Force at the Aspen Institute, and serves on the Board of Directors of Hispanics in Philanthropy, the Hispanic Federation, and several advisory boards, including WorkingNation and Inicio Ventures. Hector currently resides in South Florida.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



ANDY NAVARRETE

*Executive Vice President, External Affairs
Capital One Financial Corporation*

Andy Navarrete is Executive Vice President, Head of External Affairs, for Capital One Financial Corporation. External Affairs comprises Capital One's Government and Policy Affairs Group, Regulatory Relations, Community Impact and Investment, Corporate Communications, Community Finance, CRA Strategy, and External Affairs Strategy and Engagement teams. In this capacity, Andy oversees Capital One's strategic and supervisory engagements with federal and state regulatory agencies and legislators, enterprise communications and public relations, and the Company's engagement in the communities that we serve. He also serves as Chair of the Capital One Foundation, and as the Accountable Executive for ¡Hola!, a resource group supporting the development and recruitment of Latinx associates at Capital One. Andy joined Capital One in 1999 and has served as Chief Counsel for each of the Company's major business units. He also led the Legal Department's team of corporate and consumer bank regulatory attorneys.

Prior to joining Capital One, Andy was an attorney with the law firm of Morgan Lewis. Prior to law school, Andy worked for the House Banking Committee and as a federal relations specialist for APCO Associates. He received his J.D. from Boston College and his undergraduate degree from the College of William and Mary.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



JUAN OTERO

*Senior Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Comcast Corporation*

Juan Otero serves as Senior Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) for Comcast Corporation. In his role leading corporate DEI governance initiatives across the enterprise, Juan leads the company's efforts with its external Corporate Advisory Committee which provides advice and guidance to senior executive teams and consists of external national leaders in the fields of business, public policy, academia and civil rights. Juan plays a leadership role in the strategic efforts around Comcast's commitment to advancing social equality and civic engagement. He has overseen the growth of the company's DE&I data analytics team and has been instrumental in taking a data-driven approach to advancing DE&I across the enterprise. He previously sat on the governing boards of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute, and the Studio Theater Board of Washington D.C. Prior to joining Comcast Corporation, Juan served as a director for the National Governors Association in Washington, D.C. and previously served as Deputy Director at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), where he oversaw the Department's efforts to develop improved interoperability technologies and communications. Before joining DHS, he worked as Principal Counsel for the National League of Cities.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



DAN PORTERFIELD

*President and CEO
Aspen Institute*

Dan Porterfield is President and CEO of the Aspen Institute, a global nonprofit organization committed to realizing a free, just, and equitable society. A native of the City of Baltimore, where he was raised by a single mother at the height of the civil rights movement, and a Rhodes Scholar, he has been recognized as a visionary strategist, transformational leader, devoted educator, and passionate advocate for justice and opportunity. Dan previously served as President of Franklin & Marshall College, where he led the College in tripling its percentage of incoming low-income students and doubling its percentage of domestic students of color. He was named a White House Champion of Change in 2016, holds bachelor's degrees from Georgetown and Oxford, and earned his Ph.D. at The City University of New York Graduate Center where he wrote his dissertation on the poetry of American prisoners.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



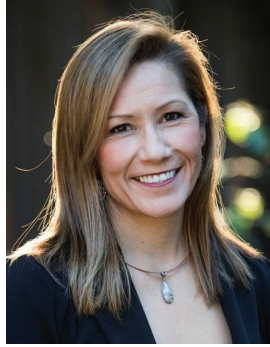
DARRIN M. REDUS, SR.

*Senior Vice President, Cincinnati Business Accelerator and CEO
Minority Business Accelerator*

Darrin M. Redus, Sr., serves as Chief Executive Officer of the Minority Business Accelerator and regional economic inclusion efforts. A national thought leader for inclusive entrepreneurship and growing larger-scale diverse businesses, Darrin is a seasoned business executive and successful entrepreneur.

Prior to his work at the Chamber, Darrin served as President and CEO for MainStreet Inclusion Advisors, a national consulting firm developing diverse technology-based businesses and networks.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



AMANDA RENTERIA

CEO

Code for America

Amanda is the CEO of Code for America, an organization that helped launch the civic tech ecosystem in the United States. Today, Code for America partners with governments and community-based organizations leveraging technology to create equitable government systems focused on programs that strengthen the social safety net, increase access to tax benefits, automate record clearance, and foster an active civic tech volunteer network across the country. In April of 2021, they were awarded a philanthropic investment of \$100 million to improve state social safety net systems over the next several years.

Before Code for America, Amanda served as the Chief of Operations for the largest Justice Department in the country, as the National Political Director during the 2016 United States Presidential Campaign for Secretary Clinton, and a Chief of Staff in the United States Senate where she worked for nearly a decade, becoming the first Latina Chief of Staff in the history of the U.S. Senate.

Amanda grew up in a small, agricultural town in the Central Valley of California and is the proud daughter of former farmworkers and an immigrant father. She serves on several non-profit boards and holds degrees from Stanford University and Harvard Business School.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

PABLO RODRIGUEZ

*President and Chief Executive Officer
PROD Design & Analysis, Inc.*

Pablo Rodriguez, a native of El Paso, Texas, graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1991 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and in 1993 completed an M.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering, specializing in control systems.

In 1999, Pablo joined Amkor Technology as a product manager for tape-array BGA. In 2002, Pablo moved to Ballard Power Systems in Michigan as a Senior Development Engineer, leading efforts in the packaging of high-power semiconductors for automotive and industrial applications.

In 2004, Pablo returned to his hometown to form his own engineering company: PROD Design & Analysis. PROD specializes in the design and fabrication of custom industrial equipment for a wide variety of markets, including medical, automotive, and semiconductor. Initially starting in spare bedroom, PROD has since grown in both size and scope. In 2019, PROD inaugurated its world headquarter facilities and has established several offshoot companies. As of 2022, PROD employs a staff of over 120 people—primarily engineers and technicians, and has revenues in the range of \$20M.

Pablo is an active contributor in his community—supporting education initiatives including sponsoring local robotic teams and volunteering for school science fairs. Through PROD, he established the GEARS (Galvanizing Engineering and Researchers) Internship for high school students. When not at the office, Pablo can be found out in the desert riding ATVs or walking his dogs with his family.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



AUGUSTO SANABRIA

*President & Chief Executive Officer
Prospera*

Augusto Sanabria is the President and CEO of Prospera, an economic development nonprofit organization that, since 1991, helped start, sustain, and grow Hispanic-owned businesses to achieve community prosperity.

Augusto began his career at Prospera in 2003, and since then, the nonprofit organization has achieved significant growth, quadrupling its budget and staff. Today, Prospera has established valuable partnerships and collaborations with national organizations such as the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Aspen Institute, U.S. Small Business Administration, Hispanic Federation, NALCAB, Ascendus, and the National League of Cities.

Prospera's service area has also grown exponentially under Augusto's leadership. In 2011, Prospera's presence expanded beyond Tampa and Orlando to establish offices in South Florida. In 2014, Prospera began serving entrepreneurs in additional areas of Florida, including Jacksonville, the Panhandle, Ft. Myers/Naples, Sarasota, and West Palm Beach. In 2016, Prospera began providing services in North Carolina and, by July 2017, opened its first office outside of the state in Charlotte. In 2021, Prospera began delivering services in Atlanta, Georgia, and established an office in Raleigh, NC.

Augusto holds a master's degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Central Florida.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



FRANCISCO J. SANCHEZ

Partner

Holland & Knight LLP

Francisco J. Sánchez, is a partner in Holland and focuses his practice on trade policy, regulation and the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) process including mitigation measures. Mr. Sánchez has a long and distinguished career in the public and private sectors.

Mr. Sánchez served as the U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce for Trade until 2013, a role former President Barack Obama nominated him to in 2009. As Under Secretary, Mr. Sánchez led the International Trade Administration (ITA) in its efforts to improve the global business environment by helping U.S. businesses compete abroad. As one of the architects of President Obama's National Export Initiative (NEI), with the goal of doubling U.S. exports by the end of 2014, Mr. Sánchez directed programs and policies that promote and protect the competitiveness of American businesses. Mr. Sanchez also oversaw the ITA's role in the CFIUS.

During the Clinton Administration, Mr. Sánchez served as the assistant secretary for aviation and international affairs at the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). Prior to the DOT role, he served in the White House as a special assistant to former President Bill Clinton, and chief of staff to the Special Envoy to the Americas.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



ANNEMARIE SCHAEFER

*Vice President of Research
Society for Human Resource*

As Vice President, Research, Annemarie Schaefer directs and leads SHRM's research activities, including but not limited to SHRM's internal and external survey programs and international research initiatives.

Annemarie is a research executive and business analytics strategist with over 30 years of experience in both B2B and B2C organizations.

Prior to joining SHRM, she was the Director of Customer Insights and Analytics at Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield where she transformed the organization's culture into one based on data-driven insights and managed the research and metrics required to win multiple Effie Awards and the designation of Top 10 Marketer.

Previously, Annemarie held leadership roles in research, customer strategy, and analytics at UnitedHealth Group and SUPERVALU where she designed and operationalized customer segmentation models, developed brand architectures, and created new methods to size markets and assess new opportunities through simulation modeling.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in marketing from the University of Scranton, an MBA from Concordia University, and a Master of Science in Market Research from Michigan State University.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



KAREN SUAREZ

Director

Uplift San Bernardino Making Hope Happen

Karen has more than decade of experience in nonprofit management, community and government relations, education and philanthropy from her previous roles with Wells Fargo under the Social Impact and Sustainability team, The Dominguez Dream, American Heart Association, Inland Empire Division, and serving as a Congressional Field Representative for the 43rd Congressional District.

Known for her contagious energy and passion for people, Karen is a proud daughter of immigrants and first generation college graduate with a dual bachelor's degree in Psychology and Human Development from California State University, San Bernardino, and a Master's of Science in Higher Education Administration from Florida State University. She currently serves as the Director of Uplift San Bernardino at the Making Hope Happen Foundation. In addition, Karen serves in various organizations including as the Co-Chair for Inland Economic Growth and Opportunity, the Co-Chair of the Inland SoCal Housing Collective and is also a part of the Leadership Riverside class of 2021.

Karen values cross-sector collaboration, diversity, equity, inclusion, collective action, and leverages her professional and personal skills as well as her talents to support organizational infrastructure for collective impact work in the region.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



BRIAN VAN HOOK

*Regional Director of Florida Small Business Development Center
Florida International University*

Brian Van Hook is the Regional Director of Florida SBDC (FSBDC) at Florida International University (FIU). The center is a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) resource partner focused on helping start and grow businesses in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. FSBDC at FIU's team of business specialists provide quality one-on-one business consulting and training to help local entrepreneurs grow and succeed.

Brian has over 18 years of experience with local economic development, entrepreneurship and small business issues. Prior to joining FIU, Brian was Policy Director on the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship, where he oversaw research and legislative activities. Previously, he served as a Senate Legislative Assistant advising on issues related to Commerce, Technology, International Trade, Economic Development, and Small Business. Lastly, Brian also worked in the U.S. Department of Commerce in the Office of Technology Policy. In these roles, he has worked on both creating national policies and assisting individual businesses in the areas of accessing Federal programs and agencies, disaster preparedness, access to capital, and technology.

Brian received his M.S. in International Affairs from Florida State University and his B.A. from Louisiana State University.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



MIKE VALDES-FAULI

President and CEO

Pinta

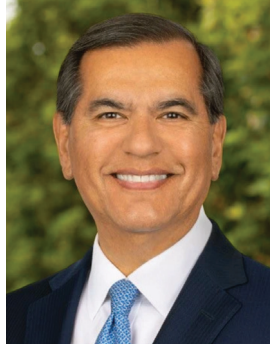
An award-winning marketing executive with experience having lived in five U.S. cities, Mike Valdes-Fauli is President and CEO of Pinta. He runs one of the fastest-growing multicultural agencies in the country, with clients such as American Express, Carnival Cruise Line, Dr. Seuss, Heineken, L'ATTITUDE, Microsoft, NFL, Realogy, Telemundo and T-Mobile, among others.

Previously, Mike was President of JeffreyGroup, a communications firm with 220 employees across Latin America; an Account Director at Conexion, helping to open the agency's Miami office and run the GE and Ford Motor Company accounts; digital marketer for the Latino division of Universal Pictures in Los Angeles; and political campaign executive with Fleishman-Hillard in Washington D.C.

He is the recipient of the "Pioneer of the Year" award from HPRA, a two-time Co-Chairman of Hispanicize, a past judge at the CLIO Awards and was recognized by four organizations as a "40 Under 40" recipient. He is also an accomplished writer who has been featured in Forbes, The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, CNN, Ad Age, AdWeek, PR Week, The Miami Herald, Miami Today, Minorities in Business, Hispanic Target and the New Times.

Mike is a graduate of Tulane University and he lives in Miami with three sons.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



GADDI VASQUEZ

Advisory Board Chair

Aspen Institute Latinos and Society Program

Ambassador Gaddi Vasquez has served in leadership roles at the local, state, and federal levels of government.

Most recently, he served as senior vice president of government affairs for Edison International and Southern California Edison. He was responsible for government relations activities at the federal and state level, as well as local public affairs.

From 2006 to 2009, He served as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Organizations in Rome, Italy, including the World Food Program, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.. From 2002-2006, he served as Director of the U.S Peace Corps where he led the international volunteer service organization with volunteers and staff serving in 78 countries.

Early in his career, he served as an Orange County, California County Supervisor, and as chief deputy appointments secretary to California Governor George Deukmejian. He has served on the President's Commission on White House Fellowships, the California Criminal Justice Council, the American Council of Young Political Leaders, and the board of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund. Ambassador Vasquez is a graduate of the University of Redlands and the recipient of 6 honorary doctorate degrees.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS




MICHAEL ZAJUR

Founder

Virginia Hispanic Chamber

Michel immigrated to the United States from Mexico City with his family as a young child in the early 1960's. He was taught the value of hard work by working in his family's restaurant, La Siesta Mexican Restaurant. After a long while, it became more than a restaurant, it became a local hotspot for the Hispanic community. Not only for delicious food, but also as a place to gather and obtain information on everything going on in the community. This passion and commitment to the community led to the establishment of multiple educational programs, as well as, the birth of the Virginia Hispanic Chamber & Foundation.

Michel Zajur attended college at Virginia Commonwealth University, where he furthered his passion for helping the Hispanic community. As a result of his work with outreach programs and his involvement within the community, Michel founded a statewide organization, the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (VHCC), in May of 2000. The VAHCC serves as the bridge linking the Hispanic business community within the Commonwealth of Virginia. In 2003, the Virginia Hispanic Foundation was established as an effort to further provide education, information, and resources to the Hispanic community.



La diversidad,
la equidad y
la inclusión son
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para la innovación
e impulsan
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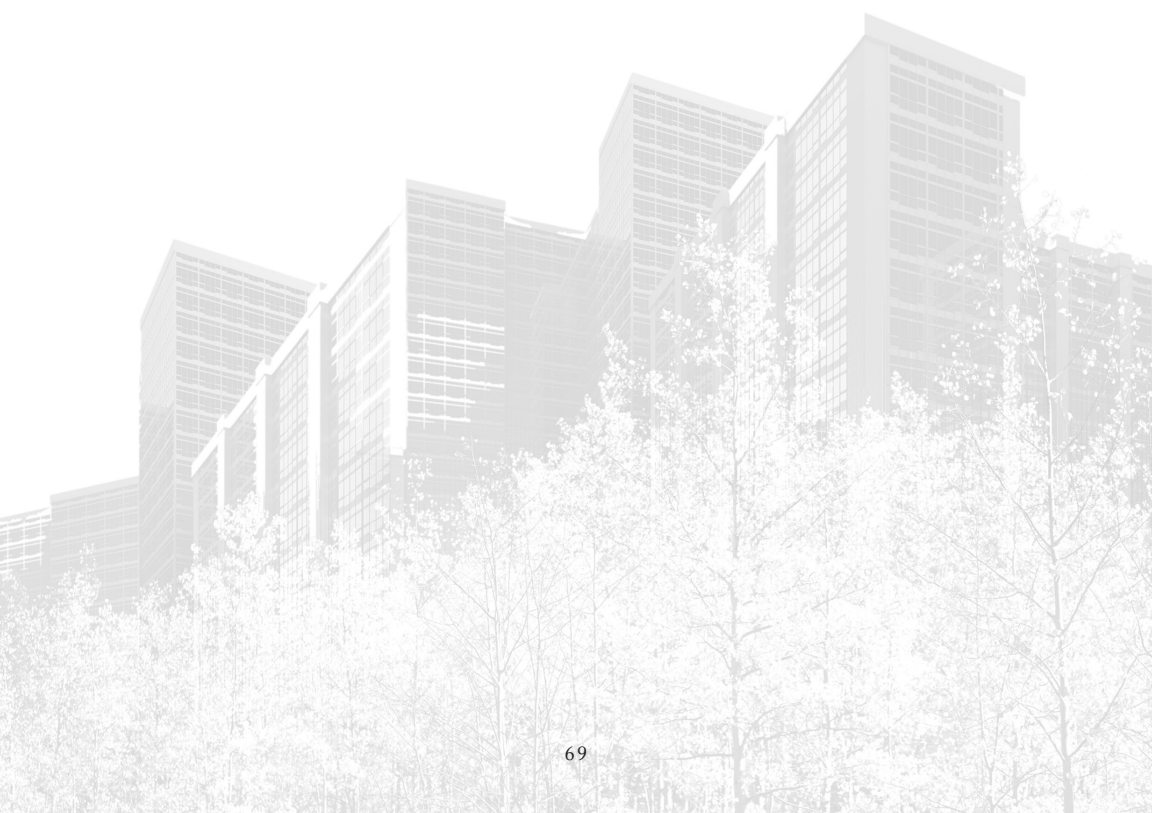
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ASPEN INSTITUTE LATINOS AND SOCIETY PROGRAM

The Aspen Institute Latinos and Society's mission is to empower and promote long-term economic growth and resiliency in Latino communities throughout the United States. AILAS leverages the Aspen Institute's unique convening power and deep network of leaders from the public, private, nonprofit, and philanthropic sectors to advance needed public and corporate policy that maximizes the economic potential of Latino communities, especially small and medium-sized enterprises. With a focus on equity, workforce upskilling, and entrepreneurial ecosystem-building, AILAS sources data-driven, community-informed, and culturally relevant solutions to untap the economic potential of Latino workers, business owners, and entrepreneurs, to the benefit of the nation. For more information, visit www.aspeninstitute.org/latinos-society

ASPEN INSTITUTE

The Aspen Institute is a global nonprofit organization committed to realizing a free, just, and equitable society. Founded in 1949, the Institute drives change through dialogue, leadership, and action to help solve the most important challenges facing the United States and the world. Headquartered in Washington, DC, the Institute has a campus in Aspen, Colorado, and an international network of partners. For more information, visit www.aspeninstitute.org



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