



# Board of Directors

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President, Purple Group Robert Cabanelas

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**José Gutierrez** 

Corporate Human Resources,

ADM

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Illinois Latino Non for

**Cohort 12, 2024** 

**Profit Leadership Academy** 



### A Message From President & CEO Sylvia Puente

Dear partners,

Let me start by saying how incredibly proud I am of the ten-plus years that the Latino Policy Forum has conducted its leadership training program.

The Latino Policy Forum originally launched the program as a way to strengthen our Latino community organizations. The Forum has focused on countless policy issues over the years, but no organization has the capacity to be the experts on everything. With this in mind, we wanted a way to strengthen the parts of the community that we could not always support directly.

After six years of the Latino Leadership Academy, we took a step back to reflect on what we had accomplished and what was on the horizon. At this moment, we realized that it was time to pivot the program to focus on building trusted relationships between Black and Latino community leaders in order to strengthen the bonds between these communities. The Multicultural Leadership Academy was born.

I am so privileged to have been able to witness and nurture this program in all its iterations. Today, I stand in awe of all that has been created through it, of an entire generation of Black and Latino leaders who will remain connected for the rest of the public lives in Chicago. This directory reflects not only the names and titles of all those who have participated in the program, but also the collective breadth of what this program has birthed. It reflects the hearts and souls of leaders who are committed to transformative, ground-level change. I am so honored to stand alongside them.

Peace and justice, Sylvia



## A Message From Leadership Development Senior Program Manager NiCole Ward

Dear partners and fellow Leadership Academy Alumni,

For over ten years, the Latino Policy Forum has been dedicated to training community leaders committed to social and economic equity, justice, and freedom. In 2018, I was one of the 24 community leaders that graduated from the Multicultural Leadership Academy. Since then, I have had the honor of serving as your program manager for the MLA.

One of my greatest joys in this role has been following you on your journeys to achieving equality in your communities. Each of you has catalyzed real change and made great strides in addressing the needs of our state's communities of color. We at the Forum are so proud to celebrate your personal and professional achievements with you.

We could not be more excited about the future of the Leadership Academy and, moving forward, we want to establish an even greater sense of solidarity among our almost 300 leaders. That is why we are focusing on uniting our past cohorts through the Forum's social media networks.

I look forward to seeing you all again, and to another remarkable year of growth for our participants, for our program, and for our communities.

Sincerely, NiCole Ward



In 2009, the Latino Policy Forum developed the Illinois Latino Nonprofit Leadership Academy. This year-long program provided intensive capacity-building training and one-on-one consulting to leading and emerging Latino nonprofit professionals. The Development Training Institute (DTI) provided technical assistance in the first year. The Forum built on this foundation for the next five years. The Academy offered skill-building opportunities to individuals working in Latino-led and serving organizations to foster, nurture, and support leaders as they moved their organizations to the next levels of excellence, sustainability, and impact.

In 2016, the Latino Policy Forum made a strategic decision to widen the scope of its Leadership Academy to a multicultural perspective.



Fostering cooperation and leadership across communities of color via the Academy had never been more urgent. The twenty-four 2016 MLA participants were actively involved in social justice issues and sponsored by an Illinois organization engaged in social change/policy impact.





#### Transformational Leadership

Uplifts others, creates motivating workplaces, communicates an inspiring vision, and establishes a compelling moral and ethical framework.



#### Intercultural Understanding

Fosters an understanding of Illinois' diverse communities and identifies their common interests.



## Social Change/Policy Action

Participants will collaborate with their cohort on how to create a better, more equitable Illinois through social change and policy actions.



We look forward to building a legacy of leaders by continuing to: 01

Create a cohesive network of leaders committed to improving their communities through establishing intercultural relationships and trust.

02

Increase understanding of how racial and ethnic groups become assets to transformational leadership and collaborative social action.

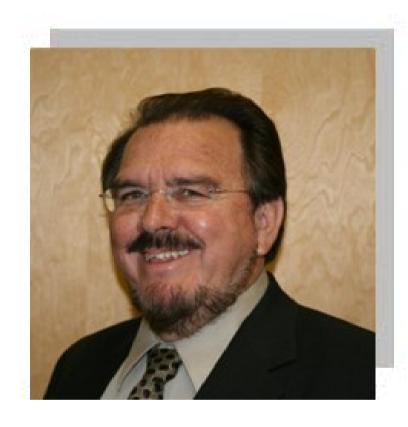




Dr. Troy Harden

2024 MLA Trainer

Dr. Troy Harden (he, him, his) has served as an organizational and leadership consultant, educator, clinician, and activist for over 30 years in diverse settings. He is a Professor of the Practice at Texas A & M University-College Station within the Department of Sociology, where he reestablished and led the Race & Ethnic Studies Institute (RESI). His on-going practice and research interests are in racial equity, community violence, gender, social trauma, sports and society, restorative justice, and interventions related to community and organizational leadership. He was the lead researcher with the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance's Community-based Crime Reduction Grant in Chicago. He led Northeastern Illinois' University's Master of Social Work Program and led efforts with Communities Partnering for Peace (CP4P) to design the Metropolitan Peace Academy, an effort to develop professionalization for street outreach workers in community violence work. He has been a lead designer and facilitator with several notable efforts, including the Latino Policy Forum's Multicultural Leadership Program and the San Antonio Area Foundation's Equity Fellowship. He has published extensively related to trauma, community violence, race, and gender. He is the co-author with Dr. Yan Searcy of the recently published book High Impact Practices with Urban Youth: Circles at the Center (Oxford University Press, 2023). A graduate of DePaul University's School of Education (PhD '10) and Loyola University Chicago's Master of Social Work Program (MSW'98), and received an Outstanding Educator award from Congressman Danny Davis in 2017.



Richard J. Martinez

2024 MLA Trainer

Richard J. Martinez has over 30 years' experience in the field of housing and human relations. He is an accomplished facilitator, trainer and distinguished organizational development practitioner. He is also co-founder of Lideramos, a national Latino leadership training organization. His expertise is widely sought by both corporate and public entities. Mr. Martinez specializes in leadership development, change management, capacity building, team building, strategic planning, and housing and economic development.

Clients include Brightpoint, Bank of America, The Latino Policy Forum, Illinois Governor's office, Chicago Housing Authority, The National Association of Latino Community Asset Builders, San Antonio Area Foundation, The Center for Leadership Innovation, Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, East Harlem Community Capital Corporation, Native Americans in Philanthropy and numerous Chicago non profit organizations over the past fifteen years. Mr. Martinez has successfully helped nonprofits develop the organizational culture, chemistry and core competencies necessary for sustained success. He has served as Executive Director of the Contra Costa County Housing Authority in Northern California and as Project Director for National Center for Housing Management's Career Development and Training Institute in Washington, D.C. As an expert in housing, he has testified before Congress and was asked to serve as a member of the House Democratic Caucus Housing Committee for the United States House of Representatives. Moreover, he has been published by the National Hispanic Center for Advanced Studies and Policy Analysis, and the National Hispanic University. Additionally, he is an artist, poet and playwright and former owner of MITO's Art Gallery in San Antonio.



## Sylvia Puente

2024 MLA Trainer

Sylvia Puente is a public policy expert, a civic and Latino community leader who is the President & CEO of the Latino Policy Forum, a nonprofit that works for equity, justice, and economic prosperity on behalf of Latinos in Chicago and Illinois through public-policy advocacy and analysis on issues including education, housing, and immigration. Nearly 15 years at the Forum, Puente has grown the organization into a central voice on Latino issues and has established herself as a thought leader in the arena.

Puente was selected by Governor JB Pritzker to serve on his transition team as part of the Educational Success Committee. She has been appointed to the Restore, Reinvest, Renew Board and the State Housing Task Force. She was appointed by previous Illinois governors to the Illinois Early Learning Council, on which she still serves, and the Illinois Education Funding Advisory Board. She is also a board director of Advance Illinois, a public policy agency working to improve education in the state.

Puente is frequently cited as an expert on Latino issues and has published numerous reports and articles that articulate their vital role in society. She is a recipient of the Ohtli Award, Mexico's highest recognition of those serving the Mexican community outside of Mexico. She received an honorary Ph.D.'s from Governor State University in 2023 and Roosevelt University in 2021 for her social justice work. Sylvia has also received the 2023 Career Achievement Award from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy, highlighting alums who have served as significant leaders in the public, private, or nonprofit sectors, creating meaningful positive change within their institution and society. She has also been recognized by Hispanic Business Magazine as one of the "100 Most Influential Hispanics in the U.S.".



## **Sherida Morrison**

2024 MLA Trainer

Nonprofit executive, social entrepreneur, and educator with over 25 years' experience in the philanthropic sector. Highly skilled in nonprofit management, coalition building, community engagement, theory-based program and curriculum design, data-informed evaluation, grant writing and management, org design, strategic development and planning, change management, and DEIJ (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice) practices. Significant contributions to the sector through published manuscripts, research and evaluation, CBPR, local and national conference and poster presentations. Able to integrate sociological frameworks and change management theories to develop innovative strategies to address org design, community engagement, coalition and partnership building, and diversity and inclusion.





#### **COHORT 1 | GRADUATED IN 2010**



**Ada Silverio** 



Carlos Hernandez in

Founder & Executive Director
Puerto Rican Arts Alliance



Dulce Quintero

Assistant Secretary
Illinois Department of Human
Services



Adam Alonso in Chief Executive Officer BUILD, Inc.



Carolina Duque in

Product Specialist
Books del Sur



Esmeralda Morales in

Graphics Specialist
Thomson Reuters



Alvar Ayala in

Chief of the Workplace Rights
Bureau
Illinois Attorney General's Office



Cris Pope in

Independent
Consultant/Director
Interfaith Leadership Project



Gonzalo Arroyo in

Retired/Formerly Center
Director of Family Focus, Inc

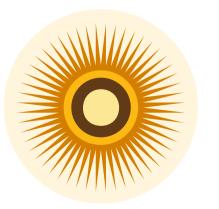


Bertha G. Magaña in

Nonprofit Consultant
Bertha G. Magana Consulting



**Danielle Espinosa** 



Helen Valdez in

Retired / Former City Colleges of Chicago

#### **COHORT 1 | GRADUATED IN 2010**



Israel Vargas in

Instructional Facilitator
Goodwill Industries of
Metropolitan Chicago, Inc.



Maria Garcia in

Educator and Consultant



Sarah Pegman in

Communications Specialist
Habitat for Humanity of Kent
County



Jaime Garcia in

Retired/Former
Executive Director,
Centro de Informacion



Mayra Mena-Garcia



Sol Flores in

Deputy Governor
State of Illinois
Office of the Governor



Jose Luis Alvarez
Town of Cicero



Moira Pujols in

Mireya Luna in



Tanya Jaramilla in

Chief Operations Officer
Urban Gateways



Jennifer Vergara



**Community Mortgage Lender**First National Bank of Omaha
National Urban Fellow

#### COHORT 2 | GRADUATED IN 2011



Adrienne Lange in

Chief Advancement Officer
Latinos Progresando



Denise Dell Isola in

Senior Program Officer
Irving Harris Foundation



Marco Jacome in

CEO
Healthcare Alternative Systems,
Inc.



**Alheli Herrera** 



Griselda Guerra in

Program Director

Maryville Academy



Mariana Osoria in

Senior Vice President
Partnerships & Engagement at
Family Focus



Arturo Valdez in

Director of Division of
Substance Abuse Programs
Pilsen Wellness Center, Inc.



Jose Ovalle in

Parent Liaison
The Autism Program of Illinois



Mario F. Garcia



Darica Charles in

Program Director
Onward Neighborhood House



Luis Gutierrez in

Founder & CEO
Latinos Progresando



Marselina Gonzalez in

Immigration Legal Services
Program Director
Latinos Progresando

#### COHORT 2 | GRADUATED IN 2011



Matie Ovalle

Parent Liaison
The Autism Program of Illinois



Rosa Garcia in

Director of Operations
Hispanic Alliance for Career
Enhancement



Michael Rodriguez in

Alderman and Democratic
Committeeman
22nd Ward



Velia Soto in

Senior Director of Curriculum and Assessment
Accelerate Institute



**Nancy Rojas** 



Zulema Ortiz in

Care Coordinator

UIC Central West



Rosa Reyes-Prosen
Retired

#### **COHORT 3 | GRADUATED IN 2012**



Ana Guajardo in

Executive Director
Centro de Trabajadores Unidos



Elizabeth Arroyo in

Author | Administrative

Assistance

Cintas



Katy Groves in

Therapist and Behavioral
Health Consultant
Access Community Health
Network



Carla Argueta in

Principal
Ichor Strategies



Elizabeth Nevarez in

Accounting Specialist
Aimsourcing, Inc.



Kenny Martin-Ocasio in

Senior Vice President,
Health Services,
Community Integration
Aunt Martha's Health &
Wellness



Celena Roldán in

Chief Executive Officer

American Red Cross of Greater
Chicago



Greg Van Hyfte in

Executive Director

YogaCare



Lorraine Guerrero in Neumayer

Trauma Therapist
Will County State's Attorney



Cristina Garcia in

Especial Services

Prospect Aeropuerto



Jaime Aguilera



Luz Medina

#### **COHORT 3 | GRADUATED IN 2012**



Maria-Guadalupe Canales



**Rosario Sanchez** 



Maria-Elena Jonas in

Executive Director

HACES



Yesenia Sanchez in
San Diego State University
Latinx Resource Center



Michael Henderson in

Area Manager

Amazon



Olivia Sánchez in

Parent Outreach Coordinator
State of Illinois - Illinois Student
Assistance Commission

#### **COHORT 4 | GRADUATED IN 2013**



Adam Avrushin in

Director of Strategic
Performance
Maryville Academy



Carolina Gaete in

Co-director

Blocks Together

Daisy Rivera in



Elisa Nigaglioni



Alicia Gonzalez in

Executive Director of Cubs
Charities
Chicago Cubs



Unique Marketing and Research Enthusiast with Brennan School of Business Dominican University



**Janet Ortega** 



Amy Witt

Program Officer
Crown Family Foundation



Edgar Ramirez in

President and CEO
Chicago Commons



Jessica Carrillo in

Director of Programs and
Services
BUILD Chicago



Carol Pico in
Supervisor
Family Focus



Elena Garcia Ansani in

Education Consultant/HETL
Country Director
USA - Southwest/JARHE Editorial
Advisory Board



Joe Hankey in

Sr. Diversity and Inclusion
Manager
CUNA Mutual Group

#### **COHORT 4 | GRADUATED IN 2013**



**Kimberly Johnson** 



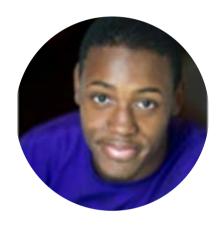
Michael Guarrine in

CCAP Coordinator
Chicago Commons



Rodrigo Carrillo in

Director of Strategic Initiatives
& Response
Illinois Housing Development
Authority



Malachi Hoye



Patricia Vasquez in

Director of External Affairs and
Communications
Casa Central



Rosaura Arellano in

Managing Director

El Hogar del Niño



Mario Perez in

Executive Director
El Hogar del Niño



Phillip Jimenez in

President and CEO
The West Cook YMCAs. Inc.



**Tad Smith** 



**Mercedes Murguia** 



Rebeca Mendoza in

Regional Grants Officer (Latin America)

Rotary International

#### COHORT 5 | GRADUATED IN 2014



Caritina Mayer in

Director of Finance at YWCA of Rock County



Derek Shouba in

Derek Shouba Vice President of Academic Affairs at Calumet College of St. Joseph



Graciela Contreras in

Executive Director and Founder at Northern Alliance for Immigrants



**Carla Rosales** 



Esperanza Salgado-Rodriguez in

Manager of TRIO, Student Support Services at Oakton Community College



Irasema Gonzalez in

Grant Writer at Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana



Cristina Pacione-Zayas in

Illinois State Senator



Giselle Mercier in

Emerging Voices Specialist at US Embassy in Panama



**Jackie Summerville** 



Denise Reyes in

Project Manager at Full Circle Communities, Inc



Grace Kozlowski in

Account Executive at CISA Insurance



Jacqueline Herrera in Giron

Immigration Attorney at the Law Office of Jacqueline Herrera Giron

#### COHORT 5 | GRADUATED IN 2014



Jeffrey Tinley in

Director Of Institutional
Research at Roane State
Community College



Laura Ramirez

Luz Ramirez in



Public Relations Coordinator at the City of Chicago Office of the Inspector General

Mariela Estrada 🛅



José Eduardo Vera in

Executive Director at Southwest
Suburban Immigrant Project



CAO, YWCA Northwestern Illinois, YWCA La Voz Latina/ Owner, Sonoma Ramirez LLC



Director of Student Academic Success at Resurrection University

Marlena Avalos in



Juliana Gonzalez-in
Crussi

Executive Director at
Center for Changing
Lives



Marcela Rodriguez in

Director of Finance at Enlace
Chicago



Chief Development & Strategy Officer at Lincoln Park Community Services

Mary Johnson in



Laura Bass in

Director of Programs at Facing
Forward to End Homelessness



Maria Eugenia Cardona



**Michelle Flores** 

#### COHORT 5 | GRADUATED IN 2014



Michelle Garcia in

Senior Assistant Director, Marketing and Communications at University of Chicago



Virgil Hernandez in

Experienced Bilingual HR Manager



Samantha Arroyo



Xochitl Espinosa in

Founder and Executive Director of the Co-op Ed Center



Tasia Stockstill in

General Manager at J&B West Enterprises



Yesenia Avalos in

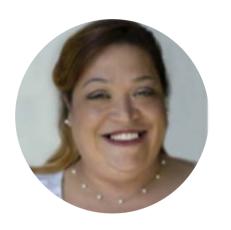
Lecturer at Purdue University Northwest



Uriel Montoya in

Owner / CEO at Montoya Electric LLC

#### **COHORT 6 | GRADUATED IN 2015**



Beatriz Albelo in Residential Manager at Deborah's Place



Delia Ramirez in Illinois 4th House State Rep.



Flor Esquivel in Administrative Director for Higher Education in Prisons at Adler University



Skokie Dst 73-5 School Board Member

Ashley Moy-Wooten in



Founder of the Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project

Elizabeth Cervantes in



Guadalupe Martinez in Internal Auditor at Blue Cross Blue Shield



Carmen Carreno- in Ziegler Finance & Accounting **Professional** 



Esteban Rodriguez in Director of Community Schools and Youth at Northwest Side Housing

Center



Isabel Anadon in Research Associate at Dane County



**Cheryl Flores** in Director of Academic and Social Emotional Supports at Golden Apple Foundation



Estela Vara 🛅 Citizenship Coordinator at P.A.S.O



Director of Employee Relations & Equal Employment Opportunity

#### **COHORT 6 | GRADUATED IN 2015**



James Rudyk in

Executive Director at Northwest Side Housing Center



Kevin Frausto in

Freight Operation Generalist at McMaster-Carr



Natalie Vesga in

Director of Chicago Early Childhood Preparation and Pathway and UIC College of Education



Jessica Pérez in

Founding Partner of For the Culture Consulting, LLC



**Lissette Kuri** 



Rodolfo Yanez in

Student Life Coordinator at Elgin Community College



Juan Carlos Linares in

President and CEO at Association House of Chicago



Lucy Gomez-Feliciano in

Community Stewardship Program Manager at the Chicago Park District



Rosa Nanez in

CSBG Director at Two Rivers Agency



Julian Vargas in

Marketing Technology Operations Manager at Quartz Events



Nancy Valentin in

Director of Health Equity at The Northwest Side Center



Savannah Clement in

Founder at Savvy Transformations

#### **COHORT 7 | GRADUATED IN 2017**



Aasia Castaneda 🛅 Community Partnerships Manager at Chicago Food Policy Action Council



Analía Rodríguez in Leader, Organizer, and Mentor



President and CEO of the Resident Association of Greater Englewood



Abel Ochoa in **Executive Director of** College Readiness and Access at U of C



Angelica Rivera **Director of Proyecto** Pa'lante at Northeastern Illinois University



Azalea Acuña 🛅 **Associate Director of Housing** at A Safe Haven Foundation



Adriana Díaz in Communications Strategist at Peer Health Exchange



Anton Seals in Lead Steward (Executive Director) at Grow Greater Englewood



Bessie Alcantara in Executive Director at Alternatives, Inc.



Alfredo Nambo 🛅 Director of English Learners at Acero Schools



Art Richardson in Region Manager at Chicago Park District



Bryan Johnson in Senior Director of Evaluation & Outcomes at Metropolitan Family Services

#### **COHORT 7 | GRADUATED IN 2017**



Carman Weathington in

Interim Chief People Officer at Flex Execs Management Solutions



Erika Allen in

Co-founder and CEO of Operations at Urban Growers Collective



Luis Roman in

Program Officer at J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation



**Carrie Brown** 



**Henry Cervantes** 



Maritza Rocha in

Nature Center Director at the Forest Preserves of Cook County



Craig Stevenson in

Designer



Keith Lewis in

Senior Director of Community Collaboration at the University of Illinois Chicago and Practitioner at Chicago Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation



Oswaldo Alvarez 🛅

Chief Executive Officer at Chicago Workes Collaborative



Ebony Campbell in

Senior Director of Resident Services at Chicago Housing Authority



Kimeco Roberson in

Community Project Manager at Heartland Alliance

#### **COHORT 8 | GRADUATED IN 2018**



Berto Aguayo in

Executive Director at Increase
The Peace



Art Director at Culture Saving

Daris Jasper in



Jessica Cañas in

Assistant Director of Education at Enlace Chicago



Claude Robinson in

Executive Vice President of UCAN Chicago



**DeeDee Pacheco**Founder of Sol
Coalition



Jorge Valdivia

Director of Performing Arts at the National Museum of Mexican Art



Cory Stevenson in

Visual Arts Teacher/ Leadership
Teacher/ Issues and Ideas
Teacher at High Jump



Youth Services Coordinator at City of Chicago



Jose Abonce in

Community Engagement
Specialist at Policing Project



Cynthia Nambo in

Leadership Coach with the Network for College Success at the University of Chicago



Medical Student at The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine



Judy Idrovo in

Program Coordinator at
Metropolitan Family Services

#### **COHORT 8 | GRADUATED IN 2018**



Leila Rahravan in

Deputy Director at Northwest Side Housing Center



Rafael Yañez 🛅

Immigration Outreach Liaison Officer in the Hate Crimes/Civil Rights Unit with the Chicago Police Department



Siemone Smith in

Infant Mental Health Specialist at Erikson Institute



Lilliane Webb in

Account Supervisor & Engagement Leader at Rudd Resources LLC



Reco Bates in

School Culture Counselor at Chicago Public Schools



Sonica Ruiz



Luis Narvaez in

Program Director At Chicago Public Schools



Saeed Richardson in

**Programs and Operations** Officer at Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc.



Teishetta Daniel in

Center Director, Northerly Island at Chicago Park District



NiCole Ward in

Leadership Development Senior Program Manager at Latino Policy Forum



Shanavia Stevens in

Child Welfare Supervisor at SOS Children's Villages Illinois



Tevonne Ellis in

Director of Programs at Claretian Associates

#### COHORT 9 | GRADUATED IN 2019



**Akeya Channell** 



Youth Outdoor Ambassador Program Director and Community Engagement Specialist for the Forest Preserves



Grantmaking Specialist at Quad Cities Community Foundation



Amy Diaz in Chief Of Staff, Office of the

Chancellor at Indiana

**University Northwest** 



Eira Corral Sepúlveda

Commissioner at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago



**Latrice Davis** 



Ayom Siengo in

VP of Community Engagement and Strategic Initiatives at Skills for Chicagoland's Future



Graciela Guzman in

Campaign Director at Healthy Illinois Campaign



**Lola Jenkins** 



Christian Diaz in

Youth Education Organizer at Logan Square Neighborhood Association



Hector Torres in

Clinical Psychologist and Organizational Effectiveness Consultant at Colibrí Counseling and Consulting



Matt Woods in

Program Manager at Urban Gateways

#### COHORT 9 | GRADUATED IN 2019



**Maurice Perkins** 



**Nancy Garcia** 



Vice President of Giving at Lawndale Christian Legal Center



**Melody Jackson** 



Paloma Arroyo in Regional Organizing Director at Supermajority



Wendy Williams in Executive Director, Community Partnerships at University of Chicago



Michael Tafolla in Case Manager at Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation NFP



Community Engagement Manager at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

Rodolfo De Jesus in



**William Sanders** 



Mireya Fouche in Founder of One Heart One Soul and Co-Executive Director of Monarch Thrift Shop



Director of Career and Leadership Development at Chicago Scholars



Managing Director of Supportive Service at Heartland Alliance

#### COHORT 10 | GRADUATED IN 2020



Barbara Goodall in Meschino

Dean of the West Side Learning Center at City Colleges of Chicago-Malcolm X College



Cesar Nunez in

Management Specialist for the City of Chicago



Floyd Stafford in

Program Officer at Steans Family Foundation



Carina Ruiz



Diana Rubi in

Program Manager at Entreprenuership for All



Ja'Neane Minor in

Director of Government Relations at Advance Illinois



Cason Brunt in

Director of College Success and Postsecondary Leadership Development at Chicago Scholars



Ernesto Saldivar Jr. in

Director of Language Acquisition, Literacy, and Community Engagement at Proviso Township Schools



Jaunita Pye in

Operations Director at YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago



Cecilia Mendoza in

Immigration Services Coordinator at Family Focus, Inc.



Farah Dioro Tunks in

Region Director (Central) at Chicago Park District



Jennifer Baquedano 🛅

Associate Researcher for Capacity Building in Early Childhood at Chapin Hall

#### COHORT 10 | GRADUATED IN 2020



Jonathan Fair in

Interim Director of Planning and Design at the University of Illinois Chicago



Militza Pagán in

Staff Attorney at Shriver Center on Poverty Law



Samantha Sherrod in

Community Facilitator, Leap Ambassadors Support Team at Morino Ventures, LLC



Lisette Arzuaga in

Development and Communications Manager at Logan Square Neighborhood Association



Paul Callejas in

Director of Youth Arts Education at Chicago Center for Arts & Technology



Shelby Chaney in

Managing Member at Still We R.I.S.E., LLC



Lyzeth Mondragon in

Community Impact Director at American Heart Association | American Stroke Association



**Ray Arroyo** 



Te'Aira Malone in

Clinical Program Director at Metropolitan Family Services



**Maria Pike** 

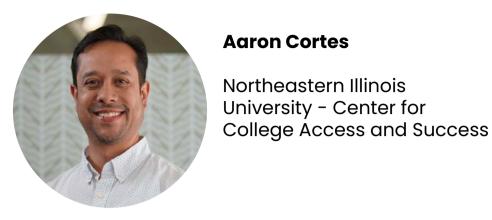


Roberto Mendez in

Financial Aid Coordinator at Chicago Theological Seminary

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#### **COHORT 11 | GRADUATED IN 2023**



**Aaron Cortes** Northeastern Illinois



**Edwin Ortiz** 



Juanita Garcia

Board of Directors, Rebuild Exchange



Adam Gonzalez

General Counsel & Senior Director of External Affairs, El Valor Corporation



**Jessica Taylor** 

Director of Post Secondary Initiatives, Steans Family Foundation



**Khameron Townsend-Riley** 

Community Affairs Specialist, University of Illinois at Chicago-Office of Community Collaboration



**Carlos Matallana** 

Founder and Developer, Blok by Blok Podcast Club Chicago



Jordan Esparza

College of Lake County



Kisha Ingram

Dean of Enrollment Management, Malcolm X College



**Darion Crawford** 

Compost Coordinator, Urban Growers Collective



**Jose Pizarro** 

**ALSO** 



Manuel Hernández

Executive Director, Association of Latinos/as/xs Motivating Action

#### **COHORT 11 | GRADUATED IN 2023**



**Marcus Samuel** Impact Coordinator, The Community Trust



Youth and Family Program Coordinator, Claretian Associates

Patricia Hernández



**Tonika Davenport Director of Racial Equity Inclusion** Justice, Metropolitan Family Services



Maria Nava Warren-Newport Public Library



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District Director, U.S. House of Representatives



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**Danny Mason** 



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