LATINOS & SOCIETY

advancing economic mobility

m思维sets to unlock prosperity

Lotte New York Palace, New York City
Monday, December 11, 2023

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EVENT DETAILS

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Aspen Latinos

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Aspen2023

SPEAKER BIOS

For more information on speakers, please scan the QR code below.

ASPEN LATINOS

To learn more about Aspen Latinos, scan the QR code below.
SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM  BREAKFAST | Reid Salon
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM  REGISTRATION | Villard Ballroom Foyer
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM  WELCOME REMARKS | Villard Ballroom
9:30 AM – 10:15 AM THE ECONOMIC STATE OF LATINOS IN AMERICA: ADVANCING FINANCIAL GROWTH | Villard Ballroom
10:15 AM – 10:30 AM COFFEE BREAK | Villard Ballroom Foyer
10:30 AM – 11:15 AM DIVERSITY IN PENSIONS AND ASSET MANAGERS: REPRESENTATION MATTERS | Villard Ballroom
11:15 AM – 12:00 PM SHIFTING THE NARRATIVE: MEDIA'S ROLE IN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT | Villard Ballroom
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM  NETWORKING LUNCH | Reid Salon
1:00 PM – 1:45 PM  THE PROCUREMENT ECONOMY: A PATHWAY TO INCLUSIVE WEALTH CREATION | Villard Ballroom
1:45 PM – 2:30 PM  MINDSETS TO UNLOCK PROSPERITY | Villard Ballroom
2:30 PM – 3:15 PM  SUPPORTING FAMILY ACROSS BORDERS: THE ROLE OF REMITTANCES TO LATIN AMERICA | Villard Ballroom
3:15 PM – 3:30 PM  CLOSING REMARKS | Villard Ballroom
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM  WINE & DESSERT RECEPTION | Reid Salon
Welcome to New York and the third annual Aspen Institute’s Advancing Economic Mobility Summit: Mindsets to Unlock Prosperity! We are thrilled to bring our signature conference to the Big Apple to discuss the role of Latinos as savers and investors in the U.S. economy and the value at stake from Main Street to Wall Street.

Since 2015, the Aspen Latinos & Society Program has focused its efforts on the economic advancement of the U.S. Latino community, understanding that the success of this cohort is critical to America’s future prosperity and global leadership.

Latino workers and business owners are a driving force in the U.S. economy. Despite their significant contributions, access to capital and financial services remains a substantial obstacle, including lower approval rates, bank loans, and private equity funding, with less than 2 percent of venture capital directed toward Latino entrepreneurs. Through the right interventions and strategic partnerships, Latino wealth-building can generate more than $2.3 trillion in revenue for the U.S. economy.

Today, McKinsey & Company, our knowledge partner, will unveil its third report on The Economic State of Latinos in America: Advancing Financial Growth. The Summit will focus on shifting mindsets that unlock prosperity and transform narratives based on cultural strength and increased economic resilience. We have an impressive lineup of thought leaders committed to actionable solutions and strategies to improve access to financial products and services that meet the unique needs of diverse communities.

Thank you to the Aspen Latinos and Society Advisory Board for their leadership and investments, especially Lucy Perez, Senior Partner at McKinsey and Company and Advisory Board member. And finally, our sincerest gratitude to our presenting sponsors, The Coca-Cola Company, Bank of America, and Hispanic Scholarship Fund, and all our sponsors for their generous underwriting.

Together, we have the power to shape a more equitable future for all Americans! Thank you for joining us and enjoy the Summit!

Ambassador Gaddi H. Vasquez
Event Host and Chair
Aspen Institute Latinos and Society Board

Domenika Lynch
Vice President, Aspen Institute
Executive Director, Latinos and Society Program
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM
WELCOME REMARKS
Ambassador Gaddi H. Vasquez, Chair, Aspen Institute Latinos and Society Advisory Board
Carla Molina, Head of U.S. Local External Communication and Austin Market Executive, Bank of America
Special remarks by Jose W. Fernandez, Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, U.S. Department of State

9:30 AM - 10:15 AM
THE ECONOMIC STATE OF LATINOS IN AMERICA: ADVANCING FINANCIAL GROWTH
Latinos are a fast-growing economic engine in the U.S. However, despite being an attractive segment for financial institutions due to their market size and growth rate, persistent barriers, such as reduced access to capital and lack of strategy for the Latino segment, hinder their ability to better serve Latino consumers and SMBs. If better served, Latino customers can also unlock greater economic mobility for themselves and create more jobs for a stronger economy.

McKinsey & Company’s latest report on Latino economic mobility explores the opportunities for financial institutions to drive sustainable and inclusive growth with a better understanding of the Latino economic opportunity. Join us for a conversation as we take a deep-dive into the state of financial inclusion and economic opportunity for Latinos in the U.S.

Marukel Nunez Maxwell, Senior Partner, McKinsey & Company
Lucy Pérez, Senior Partner, McKinsey & Company
Moderated by Brooke Masters, US Financial Editor and Associate Editor, Financial Times

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM
COFFEE BREAK

10:30 AM - 11:15 AM
DIVERSITY IN PENSIONS AND ASSET MANAGERS: REPRESENTATION MATTERS
According to a 2021 McKinsey & Company report, Latino wealth has grown by an average of about 7% annually in the past 20 years, more than twice the rate of non-Latino White wealth. However, the representation of diverse-owned firms in the industry is still
disproportionately low at just 1.4% of total U.S.-based assets under management as of September 2021, the Knight Foundation reported in 2021.

This panel of investment firms' CEOs has defied systemic barriers and leveraged their leadership roles to drive change in their industries. Panelists will discuss the importance of ensuring the industry reflects the shifting demographics of its customers, the strategies they are employing to create more inclusive workplaces, and the advantages of doing so. By showcasing their diverse journeys to leadership, they will inspire attendees to challenge traditional norms and redefine the future of the industry.

Special Remarks by Brad Lander, New York City Comptroller
Xavier Gutierrez, President, CEO and Alternative Governor, Arizona Coyotes
Miriam Rivera, Co-Founder, Managing Director and CEO, ULU Ventures
John Rogers, Founder, Chairman, Co-CEO and CIO, Ariel Investments
Moderated by Martin Cabrera, CEO and Founder, Cabrera Capital Markets

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM
SHIFTING THE NARRATIVE: MEDIA’S ROLE IN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Trusted experts and leaders with broad experience in media and entertainment will discuss the importance of storytelling and the impact of media on shaping public perceptions and attitudes. The conversation will focus on the current state of representation and diversity in media, highlighting the challenges faced by underrepresented communities and discussing the steps needed to create a more inclusive industry. Panelists will share their personal experiences, insights, and strategies for overcoming obstacles and promoting positive change. The discussion will explore the power of representation and how it can help to counter negative stereotypes and promote understanding and empathy between communities.

Introduction by Mayra Linares-Garcia, Vice President, Public Affairs and Communications, Liberty Coca-Cola Beverages
Bertha Coombs, Senior Health Care Reporter, CNBC
Stephanie Eaddy, Cultural Marketing Lead, North America, The Coca-Cola Company
Jorge Plasencia, Co-Founder, Chairman and CEO, Republica Havas Group; Member, Board of Directors, PBS
Moderated by Amna Nawaz, Co-Anchor, PBS NewsHour

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
NETWORKING LUNCH

Sponsor remarks by Fidel Vargas President and CEO, Hispanic Scholarship Fund
1:00 PM - 1:45 PM
THE PROCUREMENT ECONOMY: A PATHWAY TO INCLUSIVE WEALTH CREATION

The present moment of federal largesse in infrastructure spending presents an opportunity to scale small businesses, driving economic growth in long-uninvested communities. To accomplish this, however, we must look at innovative solutions to inequities in public procurement nationally. In San Antonio, local leaders catalyzed a new approach to how local governments procure goods and services, aiming to grow the share of contracting of small minority businesses. A seven-month research project by Aspen Latinos and Drexel University’s Nowak Lab then identified challenges and opportunities in San Antonio’s procurement systems. Standing on this knowledge base, local leaders established the Procurement Innovation Council, convening the executive leadership of San Antonio’s public agencies to redirect local procurement towards equity and growth.

Introduction by Domenika Lynch, Vice President, Aspen Institute; Executive Director, Latinos and Society Program
The Honorable Joaquin Castro, U.S. Congressman (TX-20)
Henry Cisneros, Chairman, American Triple I
Phillip Gaskin, Strategic Advisor to the Office of the President and CEO, and Executive Fellow, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
Cindy Ramos-Davidson, CEO, El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Moderated by Bruce Katz, Co-Founder and Director, Nowak Metro Finance Lab, Drexel University

1:45 PM - 2:30 PM
MINDSETS TO UNLOCK PROSPERITY

The journey to prosperity is not solely about financial gain. It is also about cultivating a mindset that fosters success in all areas of life. Mental health and leadership development are crucial to the empowerment and advancement of our communities – true foundations for a more just and equitable America.

Dan Porterfield moderates an insightful conversation with Adrienne Arsht discussing her unique perspectives on the importance of mindsets in achieving prosperity, as well as the strategies and habits that have helped her overcome obstacles, stay motivated, and transform ideas into action that make a lasting impact.
From the power of positive thinking to the importance of resilience in the face of setbacks, our panelists will offer valuable insights into the mindset shifts and mental frameworks that have allowed them to achieve success.

Introduction by Isaac Reyes, Senior Vice President, Enterprise Risk & Government Affairs, Target
Adrienne Arsht, Executive Vice Chairman, The Atlantic Council
Dan Porterfield, President and CEO, The Aspen Institute

2:30 PM - 3:15 PM
SAVING AND SUPPORTING FAMILIES ACROSS BORDERS:
THE ROLE OF REMITTANCES TO LATIN AMERICA

The economic power of Latinos is often overlooked when limiting the analysis to traditional indicators such as the worth of savings and investments in the banking system. Remittances represent a crucial instrument that Latino immigrants in the U.S. use to channel surpluses and financially support family and friends back in their country of origin. In some regions of Latin America, the stabilizing effect of these remittances has gone beyond the household level, becoming a sizable source of income for the national economy. For instance, in 2021, remittances represented over 25% of Honduras' GDP and more than 26% in the case of El Salvador. Remittances to Mexico grew 27.1% from 40.6 billion dollars in 2020 to 51.6 billion dollars in 2021, marking a historic high.

Gain insights on the untold story of millions of U.S. Latino workers and small business owners whose savings have supported entire Latin American communities through economic, social, and political crises.

Stefany Bello, Senior Vice President, Digital Partnerships, Retail and Commerce, Latin America and the Caribbean, MasterCard
Enrique Berruga Filloy, Ambassador and Former Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations; CEO, Aspen Institute Mexico
Jason Marczak, Vice President and Senior Director, Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center, The Atlantic Council
Moderated by Maria Elena Salinas, Award-winning Journalist and Author

3:15 PM - 3:30 PM
CLOSING REMARKS

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
WINE & DESSERT RECEPTION

Featuring JAZZÓN 5, Latin Jazz Band
Tiffany Galaviz, Latin Pop Singer and Musician
Gaddi H. Vasquez has served as senior vice president of government affairs for Edison International and Southern California Edison. He led and managed the company’s government relations and legislative activities at the federal and state level, as well as local public affairs.

In 2006, Vasquez was nominated and confirmed by the United States Senate as U.S. Ambassador and permanent representative to United Nations Agencies based in Rome, Italy. From 2002–2006, Ambassador Vasquez served as Director of the United States Peace Corps overseeing volunteers and staff serving in 78 countries. Vasquez has served on the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships and has been appointed by three California Governors to state boards and commissions.

He currently serves on the boards of the Public Policy Institute of California, the Segerstrom Center for the Performing Arts, the Orange County Community Foundation, the California State University Foundation Board of Governors, the University of California, Irvine Foundation Board of Trustees, and the Board of Trustees of Chapman University.

Ambassador Vasquez has been awarded the Globe and Anchor Award by the Marine Corps Scholarship Fund and the Tree of Life Award by the Jewish National Fund. In 2014, he was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and in 2016, he was recognized by the Constitutional Rights Foundation with the organization’s Bill of Rights Award. In 2019, he was the recipient of the Pat Brown Institute Global Leadership Award.
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, and a Rhodes Scholar, he has been recognized as a visionary strategist, transformational leader, devoted educator, and passionate advocate for justice and opportunity. At the Aspen Institute, Porterfield has worked to build upon the organization’s legacy of societal influence and commitment to human dignity while positioning it for a future where it can make its most profound and lasting impacts.

Previously, Porterfield served as President of Franklin & Marshall College. Under his leadership, the College set records for applications, fundraising, and fellowships, tripled its percentage of incoming low-income students, and doubled its percentage of domestic students of color. Earlier in his career, Porterfield served as Senior Vice President for Strategic Development at Georgetown University and as communications director and chief speechwriter for the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. He is the author of a book about the growing value of college in today’s rapidly changing world, provisionally entitled, Mindset Matters: The Power of College to Activate Lifelong Growth, forthcoming from Johns Hopkins University Press.

Porterfield has received numerous awards and recognitions for his work. He was named a White House Champion of Change in 2016 and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2020 and to the Council on Foreign Relations in 2023. He earned B.A. degrees from Georgetown and Oxford and his Ph.D. from The City University of New York Graduate Center, where he was awarded a Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities and wrote his dissertation on the poetry of American prisoners.
Elliot Gerson is the executive vice president at the Aspen Institute responsible for its Policy Programs, its Public Programs and its relations with its International Partners. The Institute’s Policy Programs focus on both domestic and international issues. They foster candid dialogue among leaders and policy experts of diverse views, advocate new policy, host leadership fellowships, and work for impact in communities, nationally, and globally.

The Institute’s public programs – including the Aspen Ideas Festival, The Aspen Security Forum, Aspen Ideas Health, Aspen Ideas: Climate, CityLab, and many smaller programs across the country and world – open the Institute’s doors to a broader audience and further both its educational goals and its promotion of ideas to lead to action.

The Institute has International Partners based in the Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Romania, Spain, the United Kingdom, and Ukraine.

He was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, a US Supreme Court clerk, practiced law in government and privately, held executive positions in state and federal government and on a presidential campaign, and was president of start-ups in health care and education, and of two leading national insurance and health-care companies. He has served on many non-profit boards, especially in the arts.

From 1998 to 2023, he was American Secretary of the Rhodes Trust, administering the 32 annual United States Rhodes Scholarships to the University of Oxford.
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. Over the course of two decades in leadership roles, Lynch 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 founded by Hispanic members of Congress in Washington, DC. She previously spent more than a decade as executive director of the Latino Alumni Association at the University of Southern California. Her professional breadth extends into the corporate sector, with previous leadership positions at Bank of America and Univision. Lynch currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Congressional Management Foundation, serves on Bank of America’s National Community Advisory Council, which advises the bank on community development, environmental, and consumer policy issues, and 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 and is a Member, Commission on Presidential Scholar. A graduate of the USC Price School of Public Policy, Lynch holds a master’s degree from the USC Rossier School of Education.
Joseph Acevedo, Managing Director, is a Senior Portfolio Manager for the BlackRock Impact Opportunities Fund (BIO) within BlackRock Private Markets. He joined BlackRock in 2021. Joseph has over 20 years of financial services experience with a focus on private market investment in underserved markets. He has served as board director or observer to portfolio companies across healthcare, business services, media, technology, and financial services. He is currently board chair of Lift RetroFitness FTX and board director of Synergy Equipment. He has executed private investment transactions across buyouts, growth capital and credit. Joseph was previously a co-founder and Managing Director of MoonSail Capital, where he was responsible for sourcing, due diligence, structuring, and monitoring of direct investments.

Joseph was a Principal at Pharos Capital Group where he managed transaction teams, lead due diligence efforts, and monitored portfolio companies. Prior thereto, Joseph was Director of Business Development at Univision, where he launched and led new business initiatives. At JPMorgan and SG Cowen, Mr. Acevedo was an Associate in the Latin American equity research group, covering the media, telecommunications, mining and steel industries. He began his career in 1996 as a Financial Analyst structuring fixed income transactions for government municipalities at Merrill Lynch. Joseph graduated from Harvard College with an A.B., cum laude, in Government and holds an M.B.A. in Finance from the Wharton School, where he was a Robert A. Toigo Fellow. He is a former Board Member of the New America Alliance (NAA) and Toigo Alumni Endowment.
Business leader and impact philanthropist Adrienne Arsht is focused on artistic, business, and civic growth. In 2008, her $30 million contribution secured Miami’s Performing Arts Center’s financial footing, later renamed the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County. In 2012, Adrienne’s $10 million contribution to Lincoln Center was recognized with the dedication of the Adrienne Arsht Stage in Alice Tully Hall.

She donated $5 million to fund The Metropolitan Museum of Art’s first ever paid internship program and $10 million for METLIVE Arts programming.

At the Atlantic Council, Adrienne created the Adrienne Arsht Center for Resilience in 2016, later renamed the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center, with a matching $30 million. In 2013 she founded the Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center focused on the region’s role in the trans-Atlantic community, endowing the Center with $25 million in 2022.

Adrienne donated $10 million to the Smithsonian Institution launch the Adrienne Arsht Community-Based Resilience Solutions Initiative, a multiyear research and public education program focused on tropical and global resilience.

Adrienne is a Trustee of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Executive Vice Chairman of the Atlantic Council, Honorary Trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Trustee Emerita of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. She is a member of National Advisory Board of the Sandra Day O’Connor Institute for American Democracy and the Council on Foreign Relations. Arsht is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College and Villanova Law School and a member of the Delaware Bar.
Stefany Bello is the Senior Vice President of Digital Partnerships, Retail & Commerce for Mastercard in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). In her role, she is responsible for executing Mastercard’s digital strategy with digital giants, marketplaces, streaming services, e-commerce software enablers, social media platforms, mobility platforms, fast fashion, gaming, retail, digital wallets, telco, MTOs, travel, CPGs, and innovative startups. Stefany is responsible for expanding Mastercard’s digital footprint, managing relationships with key players, driving innovation and transformational efforts across digital payments in LAC.

Stefany joined Mastercard in 2009, and has held several global leadership roles in Advisors, Prepaid, Financial Inclusion, Debit and Digital. She has been at the forefront of several initiatives driving transformation of the payment’s ecosystem. She has played a significant role in the development and commercialization of solutions such as digital/mobile payments, crypto, tokenization and cybersecurity. Stefany also holds a patent for the Mastercard Aid network, an end-to-end, non-financial service designed to streamline aid distribution even in the absence of telecommunications infrastructure.

She serves on the board of CodeArt, a non-profit organization focused on helping young girls in STEM. She is also one of the leads of the Latin American & Caribbean chapter of “The Belle Block”, a Mastercard led community focused on educating and empowering women and non-binary individuals to benefit from Web3 technology and crypto. Additionally, she serves on the advisory board of a loyalty start up, Reworth.

Stefany holds a bachelor’s degree from Manhattanville College in international business management with concentrations in Latin American studies and Finance. Additionally, she is fluent in English, Spanish, Italian, and proficient in French.
Ambassador Enrique Berruga is currently the CEO and President of the Aspen Institute Mexico. A distinguished Mexican diplomat and accomplished writer, he seamlessly bridges public service with profound intellectual contributions.

Embarking on his diplomatic journey in 1984, Berruga has held esteemed roles, notably Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations. His dynamic career further encompasses diverse appointments, from Mexican Ambassador to Costa Rica to the Deputy Foreign Minister for Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, and the United Nations and Secretary General for the Mexican Commission to UNESCO.

Beyond diplomacy, Berruga’s expertise extends to the non-profit sector, where he notably holds the position Vice President of the Mexicans & Americans Thinking Together (MATT) Foundation, and is Deputy Secretary General at the Inter-American Conference for Social Security in Mexico City. He is a board member of the International Peace Institute, and has previously served as President of the Mexican Council for Foreign Affairs.

An accomplished author, Berruga has authored several notable books, including the thought-provoking “Propiedad Ajena”, whose film adaptation was presented at the Festival de Cannes. He is a regular contributor to El Universal newspaper of Mexico City.

Berruga is a Fulbright Scholar and received his M.A. in International Economics and Theory of International Relations at The Johns Hopkins University. He is a Professor of Mexican Foreign Policy, American Foreign Policy and Theory of International Relations at the School of International Affairs at Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) and UNAM Acatlán, a global top 100 university.
Martin Cabrera is the CEO and Founder of Cabrera Capital Markets (CCM) and Cabrera Capital Partners (CCP). Cabrera Capital Markets (CCM) provides global investment banking and institutional brokerage services to a substantial and diversified client base that includes financial institutions, states and municipalities, corporations, unions, foundations and endowments. CCM has issued over $900 billion in debt and equities for municipalities and corporations domestically and internationally. CCM’s taxable fixed income and global equities trading desks are transacting over one billion in securities daily.

Cabrera Capital Partners (CCP) provides commercial and residential real estate development expertise, investment, and consulting services to a full range of clients in the public, private, institutional and non-profit sectors. CCP has experience providing investment advisory services including development, acquisition and management of over $3.5 billion in institutional real estate. CCP’s current real estate development focus is the transformation of a thirty-six-acre vacant in-fill site on Chicago’s Southwest side into a 400+ million mixed income and mixed use community providing essential housing, services and jobs.

Martin has over twenty-five years of investment experience. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from Northern Illinois University and studied at the London School of Economics.

Martin currently serves as a Board Member at Chicago Community Trust, Member of the Archbishop’s Finance Council and Chairman of the Real Estate Committee for the Archdiocese of Chicago, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at St. Ignatius College Prep, Board Member of World Business Chicago, Board Member of Latino Donor Collaborative, Board Member of Children First Fund, Former Chairman of the City Colleges of Chicago and Former Chairman of the Chicago Plan Commission.
Congressman Joaquin Castro is currently serving his sixth term in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he is the highest-ranking Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee’s Western Hemisphere Subcommittee and a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Prior to his election to Congress in 2012, he served five terms in the Texas House of Representatives, where he transcended partisan gridlock to help restore millions of dollars in funding to critical health care and education programs.

A second-generation Mexican American who has experienced America’s promise firsthand, Castro wants to help build out what he calls the Infrastructure of Opportunity so that future generations will have the same chance to pursue their American Dream. He believes that just as there is an infrastructure of transportation that helps us get to where we want to go on the road there is an Infrastructure of Opportunity that helps Americans get to where they want to go in life. It is that Infrastructure of Opportunity – great public schools and universities, a sound healthcare system, and good-paying jobs – that enables Americans to pursue their American Dream.
Henry Cisneros is Chairman of American Triple I, an infrastructure investment firm in New York. He is also 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. a national municipal and corporate finance firm.

Mr. Cisneros’ community-building career began at the local level. After serving three terms as a City Councilmember, in 1981, Mr. Cisneros became the first Hispanic-American mayor of San Antonio, Texas. In 1992, President Clinton appointed Mr. Cisneros to be Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). After HUD, Mr. Cisneros became president and chief operating officer of Univision Communications.

Mr. Cisneros served as President of the National League of Cities, Deputy Chair of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, and Vice-Chairman of Habitat for Humanity International. He remains active in San Antonio, as former Chairman of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, the San Antonio Economic Development Foundation, the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and BioMed SA.

Mr. Cisneros holds a Bachelor of Arts and a master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Texas A&M University, where he has been designated a Distinguished Alumnus. He earned a Master’s degree in Public Administration from Harvard University, was a graduate assistant in urban economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, holds a Doctorate in Public Administration from George Washington University, and has been awarded more than 20 honorary doctorates from leading universities.
Bertha Coombs is a reporter for CNBC, covering financial markets, business news stories and health care throughout the business day.

Her health care coverage at CNBC has ranged from covering the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and the failed launch of the Obamacare health insurance exchanges, to the push by health insurers, hospitals and digital health start-ups to make health care more consumer-centered through telehealth and in-home care programs – and how those new programs were put to the test during the Covid pandemic.

Over twenty years at CNBC, Coombs has covered the tech sector from the Nasdaq Marketsite and general market news from the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Before joining the network, she reported for the pioneering streaming business network, Yahoo Finance Vision. Prior to that, she served as a reporter for ABC News One and a substitute anchor for “World News Now” and “World News This Morning.”

Coombs is a graduate of Yale University. Born in Havana, Cuba, she speaks fluent Spanish.
Stephanie Eaddy is an experienced Global Marketer at The Coca-Cola Company. Currently, she is the Cultural Marketing Lead for North America, charged with building culturally relevant and authentic marketing programs in partnership with our portfolio of brands. Her role focuses on the identification and curation of insights across key growth communities such as Hispanic, Black and LGBTQ+, to develop and nurture relationships that drive brand love and beverage growth. Stephanie has over 13 years of experience at the Company having worked in roles of increasing responsibility including roles in Media & Connections planning, Digital Marketing & Experiences, Brand Management and Marketing Transformation. Stephanie is a mother and wife and enjoys experiencing new cultures through food and travel and enjoys taking in music and the arts as often as possible.
Jose W. Fernandez was confirmed by the Senate as Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment on August 6, 2021. He leads the State Department’s bureaus and offices that stand at the center of the Biden-Harris Administration’s efforts on climate change, clean energy, health, supply chain security, and other economic priorities. Under Secretary Fernandez is also the United States Alternate Governor to the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the Inter-American Development Bank. From 2009 to 2013, he served as the Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs, one of the bureaus he now oversees.

He has been chair of the Inter-American law committees of both the American Bar Association and The Association of the Bar of the City of New York, as well as of the Cross-Border M&A and Joint Venture Committee of the New York State Bar Association.

A life-long supporter of the arts and education, Under Secretary Fernandez has served as a trustee of Dartmouth College and NPR-station WBGO-FM, and on the Board of Directors of Acción International, the Council of the Americas, Ballet Hispanico of New York, the Middle East Institute, and the Partnership for Inner City Education.

The Under Secretary graduated from Dartmouth College and received an honorary degree from the College. He earned a Juris Doctor from Columbia University School of Law, where he was awarded the Charles Evans Hughes Prize and a Parker School Certificate of International Law with honors.
Philip Gaskin is strategic advisor to the Office of the President and CEO, and Executive Fellow, where he is responsible for advising on the Kauffman Foundation’s national efforts to build an economy that works for all people by making entrepreneurship an integral component of economic mobility and development policies, practices, and programs.

As a leader with deep expertise in working cross-sector to implement strategies that change conditions in communities of all types, Gaskin provides the vision, strategic thinking, and thought leadership to support the impact of the Foundation’s work, which aims to eliminate systemic barriers through access to capital, ecosystems, entrepreneurial learning, policy, and research. The overall focus is to promote pragmatic strategies to realize the fullest form of economic inclusion, interdependence and open prosperity to motivate economic mobility for all.

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. He also served in various campaign positions, including Cory Booker for U.S. Senate and President Barack Obama.

Earlier, Gaskin served as senior vice president for multinational business strategy and solutions where he led global operations, customer strategy, account and contract management, technology, human resources, finance, and business development teams across 35 countries for a standalone, 400-person business unit representing $1B in revenues.

A native of Los Angeles, Gaskin attended Pennsylvania State University and graduated from California State University with a Bachelor of Science in marketing.
Xavier Gutierrez is the first Latino President and CEO in the National Hockey League, leading the Arizona Coyotes Hockey Club. In this role, Gutierrez oversees all business operations, strategic planning, significant organizational decision-making, and government relations for the club. Previously, he served as Managing Director at Clearlake Capital Group, a leading private investment firm that oversees $25 billion of institutional capital. Born in Guadalajara, Mexico, he and his family relocated to San Jose, California when he was a toddler. The quintessential American success story, Gutierrez graduated from Harvard College and Stanford Law School, and for two decades built a sterling reputation in business, investment, and finance. A dedicated philanthropist and corporate leader, he serves on multiple boards and advisory councils including the Board of Directors of Commercial Bank of California, the largest Latino-owned bank in California; the Board of Directors and Investment Committee of the Arizona Community Foundation (ACF), a public charitable organization founded in 1978 that stewards nearly $1.0 billion in assets for the greater Arizona community; and the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, the national organization focused on providing financial support for US Latinos to pursue higher education.
Bruce Katz is the Co-Founder and inaugural Director of the Nowak Metro Finance Lab. Katz 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.

Katz was the inaugural Centennial Scholar at the Brookings Institution from January 2016 to March 2018, where he focused on the challenges and opportunities of global urbanization.

Before joining Brookings, Katz served as chief of staff to U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros and was the senior counsel and then staff director for the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Housing and Urban Affairs. After the 2008 presidential election, Bruce co-led the housing and urban transition team for the Obama administration and served as a senior advisor to new Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Secretary Shaun Donovan, for the first 100 days of the Administration.


Katz is a visiting Professor at the London School of Economics. He gives dozens of lectures and presentations annually before public, corporate, civic and university audiences across the world. In 2006, he received the prestigious Heinz Award in Public Policy for his contributions to understanding the “function and values of cities and metropolitan areas and profoundly influencing their economic vitality, livability and sustainability.” Katz is a graduate of Brown University and Yale Law School.
New York City Comptroller Brad Lander serves as the City’s chief financial officer, leading an office of roughly 800 public servants in their work to promote the financial health, integrity, and effectiveness of city government. As investment advisor and custodian for New York City’s public pension funds, Comptroller Lander stewards the retirement security of over 750,000 current and retired public sector workers, with a prudent, diversified, long-term approach to the City’s investments and obligations.

Comptroller Lander also serves as the City’s budget watchdog and chief accountability officer. The Office’s audits under Lander have revealed billions in underreported and inadequate cost controls within City agencies, while the office’s public finance work includes innovative social bonds and tender solicitations that have generated hundreds of millions of dollars in savings, even amid rising interest rates.

And as Comptroller, Lander has strengthened the office’s efforts to combat the climate crisis. Under Comptroller Lander’s leadership, three of the City’s funds have adopted a detailed plan to reach net zero emissions by 2040, among the most aggressive in the nation.

Prior to being elected Comptroller in 2021, Lander spent 12 years in the City Council, where he co-founded the Council’s Progressive Caucus and won transformative changes to expand workers’ rights, secure tenant protections, create affordable housing, integrate and strengthen the district’s public schools, and make streets safer.

Brad lives with his wife, Meg Barnette, in Brooklyn where they raised two children, Marek and Rosa.
SPEAKERS

MAYRA LINARES-GARCIA

Vice President, Public Affairs and Communications
Liberty Coca-Cola Beverages

Mayra Linares-Garcia has over 20 years of public affairs and communications experience. As VP of Public Affairs and Communications for Liberty Coca-Cola Beverages, she bridges communities and their leaders with one of the world's most recognizable brands. Previously, Mayra served as the Director of Latino Affairs for New York State. Prior to that, she founded a community partnership-focused public affairs firm and served as a Democratic District Leader. Mayra serves as a City University of New York trustee. She holds a B.A. in Political Science and Community Leadership from Marymount Manhattan College and lives in Marble Hill with her family.
Jason Marczak is senior director of the Atlantic Council’s Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center. He joined the Council in 2013 to launch the center and set the strategic direction for its work. Marczak has over twenty years of expertise in regional economics, politics, and development, working with high-level policymakers and private-sector executives to shape public policy.

Under his leadership, the Latin America Center delivers constructive, results-oriented solutions to advance hemispheric prosperity and is a regular venue for heads of state, Cabinet-level officials, and other public and private sector leaders to build consensus on regional priorities. Under his leadership, the Center advances a global vision for its select lines of programming: Venezuela’s multidimensional crisis; Central American prosperity; US-Mexico ties; China in Latin America; Colombia’s future; a changing Brazil; Caribbean development; commerce’s evolving shifts; energy resources; and post-COVID prosperity.

Since 2016, Marczak has been an adjunct professor at the George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs where he teaches on Central America and US immigration policy. He was previously director of policy at the Americas Society/Council of the Americas and cofounder and senior editor of Americas Quarterly magazine, and his responsibilities included overseeing development of the magazine’s online presence. In 2003, he joined Partners of the Americas to advance work on civil-society engagement in the Summits of the Americas and other forums. He is a frequent op-ed contributor, a sought-after speaker, and has testified before the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and the US House Committee on Foreign Affairs.
Brooke Masters is US Financial Editor and an Associate Editor at the Financial Times. She leads the news team covering the American financial sector and writes a column on global business for the opinion section. She joined the FT in 2006 from the Washington Post and has run both the opinion section and the companies section. She has covered politics, criminal justice, education, financial services, regulation and white-collar crime. The author of a book about Eliot Spitzer, she earned degrees from Harvard University and the London School of Economics and is the mother of two grown children.
Carla Molina is head of U.S. local market external communications at Bank of America. In this role, she is responsible for leading external communications across the 97 media markets in the U.S. where Bank of America does business. Her focus is on protecting and enhancing the company’s reputation. Molina also serves as the primary Hispanic spokesperson for Bank of America, spearheading the bank’s Hispanic public relations efforts.

Additionally, Molina serves as the Austin Market Executive where she is responsible for development and execution of the market plan, designed to drive market share growth, employee engagement, community engagement and the bank’s local philanthropic strategy.

Prior to this role, Molina was the communications executive for Consumer & Small business at Bank of America. Molina was also previously the Retail Banking communications executive and led communications for various high-impact initiatives, including streamlining the entire consumer product suite and positioning the bank’s digital banking platform as the unmatched industry leader.

In 2016, Molina was named “Top 40 Under 40” in her industry by PRWeek and she has been featured in national publications, including Hispanic Executive. Her work has been recognized nationally, having been awarded a Silver Anvil for “Integrated Communications in Consumer Services” by the Public Relations Society of America and an award for “Best in Corporate Branding” by PRWeek in 2017.

A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, Molina resides in Austin, Texas with her husband.
Amna Nawaz serves as co-anchor of PBS NewsHour.

Prior to joining PBS NewsHour in April 2018, Nawaz was an anchor and correspondent at ABC News, anchoring breaking news coverage and leading the network’s livestream coverage of the 2016 presidential election. Before that, she served as foreign correspondent and Islamabad Bureau Chief at NBC News. She is also the founder and former managing editor of NBC’s Asian America platform, built in 2014, to elevate stories from America’s fastest-growing and most diverse population.

At the NewsHour, Nawaz has reported from the White House, across the country, and around the world on a range of topics including politics, immigration, foreign affairs, education, gun violence, criminal justice reform, the climate, culture, and sports.

She also serves as an NBC News and MSNBC contributor.

She is the first-generation American daughter of Pakistani parents, born and raised in Virginia. Nawaz earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania, where she captained the varsity field hockey team and studied abroad at the University of Zimbabwe. She later earned her master’s degree from the London School of Economics.

She lives with her husband, Paul, and their two daughters in the Washington, D.C. area.
Marukel is a Senior Partner in McKinsey & Company’s New York office and is a core member of the Financial Institutions Practice. She leads McKinsey’s Consumer and Small Business Banking Practice and has served a diverse set of global institutions. Marukel leads the thinking on Revenue Growth in Retail Banking in North America, and also co-leads McKinsey’s work serving regional and small banks in the US. She sits on the board of Catholic Charities of New York.

Marukel holds a Bachelor and Master’s in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame and an MBA in finance from Columbia University.
Lucy Pérez is a Senior Partner at McKinsey & Company’s Boston office, advising CEOs and teams at leading companies globally on growth strategy, innovation, sustainability, and organizational transformation. Lucy is particularly passionate about advancements in science and technology, which are transforming patient care delivery and outcomes. A former cancer researcher at Memorial Sloan-Kettering, she brings a strong technical background to her work with organizations across the healthcare sector.

Lucy co-leads McKinsey’s global client service in Sustainability and Social Impact Strategy and is responsible for McKinsey’s North America Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts. As a leader in McKinsey’s Life Sciences practice, Lucy leads McKinsey’s efforts on health equity and women’s health. Her work has been quoted extensively in outlets such as Bloomberg, Fortune, and CNBC. Lucy also sponsors McKinsey’s Hispanic Latino Network, whose research is focused on Latino economic mobility and the Hispanic Leadership Academy, a 6-month leadership development program that to date has enrolled more than 5000 rising Latino executives across industries.

Beyond her work at McKinsey, Lucy is a board member of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable and sits on the advisory board for the Aspen Institute’s Latinos in Society program and the Women’s Health Innovation Summit.

Lucy holds both Ph.D. and A.B. degrees in Chemistry from Harvard University, where she was a Howard Hughes Medical Institute research fellow. Lucy is an avid traveler, amateur photographer, and a co-inventor on multiple patents.
Jorge A. Plasencia is co-founder, chairman & CEO of Republica Havas Group, a global communications company providing culture-forward marketing solutions to Fortune 500 and blue-chip brands through its award-winning Creative, Media, Health & Wellness and Experiences divisions. Founded in 2006 in Miami, FL, the minority-certified Group is the lead multicultural partner of Havas, one of the world’s largest communications groups with over 700 agencies in 100 countries.

Prior to Republica, Plasencia was with Univision Radio. He joined as vice president of marketing, corporate communications and public affairs, and was soon promoted to corporate vice president and operating manager.

Earlier, he was with Estefan Enterprises as vice president, leading marketing, business strategy and communications, and serving on the management team of major recording artists, including Gloria Estefan and Shakira. His career launched at Florida Marlins, where he was the first director of Hispanic marketing.

Plasencia is currently vice chair of the Miami Dade College Foundation, and serves on the boards of PBS, Friends of the National Museum of the American Latino, and Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts.

He has been named: the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year; CEO of the Year by Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce; Hispanic Public Relations Association (HPRA) Pioneer of the Year; and Ultimate CEO by the South Florida Business Journal. A Miami Dade College Hall of Fame inductee, he earned a bachelor’s degree with honors from Barry University and completed the Advanced Management Executive Program at the Kellogg School of Management.
Cindy Ramos-Davidson is a seasoned executive with a remarkable 42-year career in the chamber industry. Serving as the Chief Executive Officer of the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for the past 25 years, the EPHCC has become a vital resource for the success of small, minority, veteran, and women-owned businesses.

Ramos-Davidson’s entered the chamber of commerce domain in 1980, gaining over 10 years of valuable experience with both the Greater Albuquerque Chamber and Albuquerque Hispano Chamber. Her dedication and vision led her back to El Paso, where she further climbed the ranks at the Greater El Paso Chamber for over 11 years.

Ramos-Davidson’s impact extends far beyond El Paso, as she has served as a Spoke under the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for the SBA’s Community Navigator Pilot Program; the operator of an SBA Women’s Business Center (22 years) which is an SBA Federal WOSB third party certifier, and an MBDA Business Center (15 years). All of these programs benefit small, minority, women, and veteran-owned businesses.

Throughout her tenure, Ramos-Davidson’s efforts have assisted over 35,000 start-up businesses, created and retained over 88,000 jobs, financially supported projects with over $1.6 billion, and successfully matched over $3.2 billion to procurement and bids. The cumulative economic impact of her work on the community exceeds $3.5 billion.

Ramos-Davidson is a devoted family woman, married to retired Air Force veteran Robert L. Davidson. Their daughter, Sarina Davidson, graduated from the University of North Texas at Denton.
Isaac is the Senior Vice President of Enterprise Risk and Government Affairs for Target Corporation. He and his team strategically influence public policy on behalf of Target at the federal, state and local level as well as efforts around Reputation and Risk, issues management, escalated risk events and crisis management.

Isaac has more than twenty years of experience in government and public affairs, having worked in the U.S. House of Representatives, for a Leader of the U.S. Senate, and on congressional and presidential campaigns. This extensive government experience and over a decade of representing Fortune 100 companies makes Isaac one of the most respected advocates in Washington, D.C.

Before joining Target in 2012, Isaac was at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as the Director of Congressional & Public Affairs, representing the biggest companies in the world on issues ranging from cyber security to education to immigration. He was a principal in the government relations firm of Austin, Copelin & Reyes, specializing in the design and execution of successful legislative policy and political strategies for local governments.

Prior to entering the private sector, Isaac served as a Policy Advisor to Senator Tom Daschle at the Democratic Policy Committee, where he worked with all Democratic Senators and staff to build consensus and implement policy to advance goals of the Democratic Leadership. He also served as Legislative Director for Representative Silvestre Reyes (D-TX). Additionally, Isaac served as an advisor to Senator Barack Obama’s 2008 presidential campaign in the critical swing state of New Mexico. Isaac currently serves on the Dean’s Advisory Council at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. He is also a board member of the Public Affairs Council, Bryce Harlow Foundation, and the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute (CHLI).
Miriam Rivera is CEO, Co-Founder and Managing Director of Ulu Ventures, a top seed stage venture fund in Silicon Valley focused on innovation across the enterprise, fintech, consumer, health, and sustainability sectors. Miriam is dedicated to increasing diversity in both the entrepreneurial and investment communities. More than 75% of Ulu portfolio companies are founded by diverse teams that include women, minority, URM and/or immigrant founders. The firm has more than $200M in assets under management and 10 unicorns in the portfolio. Ulu was the first Latina-led venture fund in Silicon Valley.

Before co-founding Ulu, Miriam was Vice President and Deputy General Counsel at Google, joining in 2001 as its second attorney. Her work to simplify contracts helped Google scale from $85m to $10b in 5 years.

Miriam earned AB, AM, and JD/MBA degrees from Stanford. She has been a trustee of the university, honored with the Stanford Medal, and elected to the Stanford Multicultural Hall of Fame, which recognizes diverse alumni leaders for their exceptional service to the university and society. Miriam is also the co-founder, former co-president and on the board of Stanford Angels & Entrepreneurs, an open-source network of Stanford alumni investors and entrepreneurs.

She serves on the board of the Kauffman Foundation, Acumen Fund America, and Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit that creates the iconic Sesame Street program. Miriam is also an advisor to the Launch with GS Advisory Council, a Goldman Sachs initiative to reduce the investing gap for Black and LatinX founders.
John’s passion for investing began at age 12 when his father started buying him stocks as Christmas and birthday gifts. His interest in equities grew while in college and over the two-and-a-half years after graduation he worked as a stockbroker at William Blair & Company. In 1983, John founded Ariel to invest in undervalued small- and medium-sized companies. While our research capabilities have since expanded, his patient approach still anchors the firm today.

He received an AB in economics from Princeton University, where he was also captain of the varsity basketball team. John is active civically and professionally based on his belief that these engagements make him a better leader and a better investor. Beyond Ariel, he is a member of the board of directors of NIKE, The New York Times Company, Ryan Specialty Group Holdings and the Obama Foundation, and was a board member of McDonald’s for over 20 years. John also serves as Vice Chair of the board of trustees of The University of Chicago.
Maria Elena Salinas, an award-winning journalist and author, is one of the most recognizable and respected journalists in the country. Salinas began her journalism career in 1981 as a reporter, anchor and public affairs host for KMEX-TV, Univision’s affiliate in Los Angeles. In a career that spans four decades, it notably includes serving as co-anchor of Univision’s evening news for more than 30 years and co-hosting news magazine Aquí y Ahora.

Her work earned the top awards presented in broadcasting, among them multiple Emmys, including a Lifetime Achievement Emmy, a Peabody, 3 Gracie Awards, the Edward R. Murrow Award, and the Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Television Political Journalism. Salinas has received several Lifetime Achievement Awards and has been inducted into the Hall of Fame of Broadcasting and Cable, the National Association of Broadcasters, and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

Salinas joined ABC News as a contributor and consultant to the Race and Culture Unit. She has reported stories for the award-winning news program Nightline and election coverage focusing on the Latino vote, among other shows and platforms, and was part of the Uvalde365 team that covered the school shooting’s aftermath for one year.

Salinas is a founding member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and for over two decades, has provided dozens of students with a scholarship under her name. She also serves on the board of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund. She has received honorary doctorates from American University and California State University Fullerton.
Francisco J. Sánchez is an attorney in Holland & Knight’s Tampa office who 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.

Prior to joining Holland & Knight, Mr. Sánchez was the chairman and CEO of CNS Global Advisors, providing strategic advice to companies and governments looking to expand in or resolve issues in foreign markets, including the U.S. Mr. Sánchez also serves as an advisor to a private equity firm concentrating on investment opportunities in the Arctic.
As President and CEO, Fidel is accountable for championing HSF’s vision and mission; ensuring the delivery of world-class service to every individual who interacts with HSF; safeguarding the organization’s financial health and sustainability; and leading an unrivaled, high-performance team that delivers industry-leading operational excellence and impact.

Before joining HSF, Fidel was a Founding Partner of Centinela Capital Partners, an alternative asset management firm that invested nearly $1 billion in leading emerging private equity and venture capital funds. At the age of twenty-three, Fidel was elected the country’s youngest Mayor of a major city, Baldwin Park, California.

Fidel has served on various public and private sector boards and commissions, including President Clinton’s Advisory Council on Social Security; President Bush’s Commission on Strengthening Social Security; and Presidents Bush’s and President Obama’s Commission on Presidential Scholars. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Snap Inc., the parent company of Snapchat, on President Biden’s Commission on White House Fellowships, and the boards of the Charter School Growth Fund, the Latino Donor Collaborative, and the Latino Theatre Company of Los Angeles.

Fidel is an HSF alum and holds an M.B.A. and an A.B. in Social Studies from Harvard University. Most important, Fidel is the oldest of eight children of Margarita and Fidel B. Vargas, who emigrated from Mexico to the United States to ensure their children had every opportunity to succeed. They grew up modestly in Baldwin Park, CA on their father’s pay as a union carpenter and their mother’s example as a community organizer. Fidel and his five sisters and two brothers attended Harvard, UC Santa Cruz, UC Berkeley, George Washington University, and Brown University.
Latin pop singer/musician, Tiffany Galaviz, was born in Los Angeles, CA. She has been studying the art of music since the age of four, learning to play piano, guitar, violin, ukulele, and recorder. At the age of eight, she joined a local mariachi conservatory where she discovered her passion for singing and decided what she wanted in life and for her future.

As a violinist, from late 2009 to early 2014, Tiffany was a member of the Youth Choral Ensemble at the Los Angeles Music and Arts School. There she was also a participant in the prestigious LAMAS Orchestra. Since 2015, she has proudly represented her Mexican culture as the youngest member of the internationally known Mariachi Monumental de America. She is now a part of Mariachi Ausente with whom she travels and performs throughout the U.S. as a violinist and singer.

Tiffany’s television credits include commercials with brands such as “Adriana’s Insurance,” “Tostitos,” and “Trejos Tacos.” She competed in television shows including “El Factor X” (2013) and the 3rd season of La Voz Kids for the Telemundo Network in 2015 with judges Pedro Fernandez, Natalia Jimenez, and Daddy Yankee. In 2017, she was a finalist of the 15th season of Tengo Talento Mucho Talento with Ana Barbara, Pepe Garza, Gerardo Ortiz, and Don Cheto. Most recently, she competed in the global singing competition, La Voz by NBC Universal, as the youngest participant of the show, where she performed with artists like Carlos Vives, Luis Fonsi, and Wisin.

As part of her education, Tiffany studied at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts where she took vocal technique lessons as well as music theory, music production, and was part of the gospel choir. After graduating, she received her Associate’s Degree in Vocal Performance from the California College of Music in 2021. She is currently a student in the Popular Music program at the University of Southern California where she is due to earn a Bachelor of Music degree in 2025.
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ASPEN INSTITUTE
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The Aspen Institute founded the Latinos and Society Program in 2015 to identify and promote solutions that foster greater opportunity for American Latinos and enable a more prosperous, inclusive America. Through proprietary research, partnerships with the private and public sectors, high-level gatherings, and community-building initiatives, Aspen Latinos ignites Latino growth and resiliency for the benefit of all Americans.

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