



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Latinos Voices Unheard in Most Sacramento Nonprofit Boardrooms

New Study Finds Gaping Ethnic Disparity in Community Leadership Ranks

SACRAMENTO, CALIF. – A media briefing at **1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at the Sierra Health Foundation** will present findings that aim a spotlight squarely at the lack of Latinos in the leadership of Sacramento’s nonprofit sector. Latinos make up barely 10% of the governing board members at the 103 Sacramento-area nonprofit organizations reviewed in the study. Even more remarkably, there were no Latinos at all on nearly 40% of these boards—leaving any reflection of the region’s 388,000 Latinos essentially absent from the governing teams of those nonprofits.

Carried out by [Latinos LEAD](#) over the past six months, *Boards Count!* is the most extensive objective tabulation ever of Latinos serving on nonprofit governing boards. The research examined more than 24,000 board members at 1,465 nonprofit organizations located in 19 U.S. major metropolitan areas, and will be conducted annually to measure progress on this issue.

The *Boards Count!* online database also sorts Latino board membership by key nonprofit subgroups, such as health care, housing/homelessness, land trusts, and the arts.

Governing board members hire the chief executive and are legally bound to oversee the financial health, regulatory compliance, strategic direction, and programming impact of nonprofit organizations. According to Latinos LEAD, the lack of Latinos in these important positions transcends racial equity and inclusion; it is a lost opportunity to honor financial stewardship, a fundamental principle of nonprofit organizations that collect billions in taxpayer funds through public agency grants and contracts. A social compact unique to the U.S. extends a “public benefit” subsidy to all nonprofits through tax waivers and deductions from the taxable income of major donors.

- WHAT:** Media briefing regarding Sacramento and California findings from *Boards Count!*, the nation's only objectively compiled census of Latinos serving on nonprofit governing boards. At this briefing, Latinos LEAD executives will answer questions from the media about the *Boards Count!* census, why so many nonprofit boards lack diversity, and the importance of authentic inclusion at the nonprofit sector's most senior management level.
- WHEN** Tuesday, March 7, 2023 1:00 P.M. Pacific
- WHERE:** Sierra Health Foundation 1321 Garden Highway Sacramento, California 95833
In-person and via [Zoom](#) (Meeting ID: 863 5552 1478 Passcode: 260453)
- WHO:** Patrick Salazar, Latinos LEAD Founder & Executive Director
Geoff Green, CEO of Santa Barbara City College Foundation & Latinos LEAD Board Member
Megan Wargo, Acting Executive Director and CEO, Pacific Crest Trail Association
- WHY:** The lack of nonprofit senior leadership inclusion deprives these organizations of full access to the Latino community's insights, expertise, volunteer energy and charitable giving support—resources crucial to their sustainability, and hinder their capacity to improve the quality of life in Sacramento and other U.S. communities.

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About Latinos LEAD

Founded in 2017, Latinos LEAD is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that promotes more inclusive and effective civil society organizations by preparing and recruiting Latinos for nonprofit board leadership; helping nonprofit organizations to develop governing boards that reflect their constituents; and, collaborating with partners to increase ethnic diversity in nonprofit governance. Latinos LEAD general operations and programming have been supported by revenue from its board member recruiting services, along with major grants from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the California Community Foundation, the Weingart Foundation, and the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation.