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GOOD JOBS: PATHWAYS TO WORK THAT MATTERS



CIVIC SERIES

PANELIST BIOS

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Joanna Alvarez comes from the small, low-income community of Boyle Heights, Los Angeles, where she developed a passion for supporting disadvantaged populations. She began her academic journey at East Los Angeles Community College, earning an AA in Social and Behavioral Sciences, before transferring to Cal State LA to complete her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. While pursuing her education, she worked as a Patient Access Representative, delivering healthcare services at her community's local hospital. Currently, Joanna serves as a Personnel Support Specialist at the City of Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. In her role, she provides human resources support, contributes to initiatives that enhance community engagement, and advocates for the well-being of diverse populations. Her career is rooted in a commitment to making a positive impact and fostering meaningful change in communities.



Alberto Campos, LCSW, serves as the Associate Director at SELA Collaborative. Alberto is a native of Southeast Los Angeles, South Gate. He holds a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Southern California (USC) and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from California State University – Los Angeles. Additionally, he has earned a Youth Agency Administration Certificate from Cal State LA. Alberto has ten years' experience working in community-based organizations most recently serving as a Program Supervisor for Special Services for Groups – Project 180 Los Angeles. In this capacity he supervised and guided a team of case managers providing services to justice-involved individuals. With over a decade of experience working in community-based organizations, Alberto is dedicated to empowering underserved communities and fostering mental health and well-being.

www.selacollab.org



Zully Jauregui is a Senior Program Officer at First 5 LA leading systems change initiatives focused on access to services for children with developmental delays and ensuring joyous and healthy births for Black families in Los Angeles County. Prior to joining First 5 LA, she has held several roles in local nonprofits specializing in trauma-informed practices, community services, youth development, mental health, and child welfare. Zully has spent her career building cross-sector collaborative partnerships, driving community program innovations, and advancing racial and social justice. She is passionate about creating more equitable and human-centered public systems, while ensuring people have voice in decisions about their own lives and communities. Zully is proud to have received her Master of Social Work at Cal State LA and holds a B.A. in Sociology from University of California, Berkeley.

www.first5la.org



Jocelyne Martinez is a proud Cal State LA alum, who earned her B.A. in Sociology focusing on inequalities and diversity in 2022. Jocelyne is thrilled to be back on campus as an Administrative Support Assistant in the History Department, where she works closely with the amazing Cal State LA community of staff, faculty, and students. She started her career at Cal State LA as a student assistant with University Auxiliary Services, jumping into a full-time role with them right after graduation. Jocelyne is passionate about connecting with people from all walks of life and helping to shape a vibrant future for the Cal State LA campus in today's ever-changing society. When she's not working, you can usually find her rollerblading around town, cheering on the Dodgers at games, or catching live shows and concerts.



Kevin Martinez was born and raised in South Central LA, and is also a proud alumni of Boyle Heights Beat--a hyper-local newsroom that writes news by and for the community. He was part of the second cohort (2011-2012) and wrote a couple of stories that focused on Latinx stereotypes in Hollywood and profiled a local mom-and-pop café. After graduating from Theodore Roosevelt HS, he pursued a Bachelors of Science in Sociology (2016) and a Masters in Education, Culture & Society (2018) from Westminster College and the University of Utah, respectively. He returned to LA in 2018 to work in non-profit educational organizations where he applied his research on social justice, critical race theory and youth empowerment into practice. He rejoined Boyle Heights Beat in the Spring of 2022 as a youth mentor and now working as the Community Engagement Director.

boyleheightsbeat.com



Dr. Ninochka McTaggart is a sociologist who specializes in researching race, gender, and other forms of inequality in society. She is a trained researcher who investigates and develops focused, research-based tools, strategies and initiatives that promote awareness and understanding of issues related to inequity. Currently, she serves on the DEI Committees for LWV California and the LWVUS. Her work is guided by her strong commitment to advocating for the equitable treatment of all marginalized groups. Dr. McTaggart worked as the Director of Research and Outreach at the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media. She also served as a guest curator of "Don't Believe the Hype": L.A. Asian Americans in Hip Hop at the Chinese American Museum, an exhibit grounded in her dissertation research on the dynamics of gender and race relations. In 2020, she co-authored a book entitled White Privilege: The Persistence of Racial Hierarchy in a Culture of Denial. She previously served as the Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles (LWVGLA) and is currently a DEI consultant and inclusive language specialist. Dr. Ninochka McTaggart (she/her) is a Los Angeles native and the daughter of Jamaican immigrants. She enjoys museums, concerts, and learning more about Los Angeles history and architecture.



Nene Ogbechie is the Executive Officer for the Mayor's Office of Housing in Los Angeles, leading the city's housing initiatives. She previously served as Acting Supervisor of Government Affairs at the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, focusing on housing and homelessness policy analysis. While a student at Cal State LA, Nene directed, managed, and oversaw the marketing, communications, and public affairs efforts of the College of Natural and Social Sciences. Nene holds a Master of Public Administration from California State University, Los Angeles, and a B.A. in Political Science from UC San Diego. In 2021, she was recognized as an ASPA Founders' Fellow for her contributions to public administration.

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