

Headshots & Biographies

Indira Islas, MPH



Indira Islas is a dedicated public health professional committed to advancing healthcare access for marginalized communities. Currently working at the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) as the Government Affairs and Policy Director, she brings experience in health policy, advocacy, and research, having held roles at Bristol Myers Squibb, the U.S. Senate, and the Fitzhugh Mullan Institute for Health Workforce Equity. Her passion for health equity is deeply personal, shaped by her family's experiences and her research on the healthcare workforce. She has published research reporting on the representation of Latinos in the healthcare workforce, highlighting gaps and opportunities to strengthen diversity in the field.

Juan Pablo (JP) Hernandez



Juan Pablo (JP) Hernández is a Puerto Rican lawyer, advocate, and strategist with over a decade of experience at the intersection of public policy, political organizing, and community empowerment. He currently serves as the Senior National Coalition Manager at NMAC's Coalition for Justice and Equality Across Movements, a national network of civil rights, LGBTQ+, public health, reproductive justice and immigrant organizations working together to respond to intersecting threats, elevate community voices, and shape national conversations around equity, health, and justice. In addition to his coalition work, JP also serves as a Policy Associate at NMAC, supporting federal advocacy efforts focused on health equity and the rights of marginalized communities.

At the Coalition, JP coordinates cross-movement engagement, supports rapid response efforts, and helps partner organizations amplify their voices and protect their communities amid legal, political, and funding challenges. His work focuses on bridging national strategy with community-led solutions and fostering spaces for collaboration, visibility, and protection across sectors.

JP's broader career has included leading deeply grassroots, community-driven political campaigns, including mayoral and congressional races. He has built and managed field operations rooted in community organizing, led voter outreach efforts, and developed coalition-building strategies that center equity, lived experience, and collective power.

He holds a J.D. and B.A. from the University of Puerto Rico and an MBA from Georgetown University. JP also serves as President of the Board of Hasta 'Bajo Project, the first nonprofit historical archive of reggaetón music and culture, where he works to preserve and elevate Puerto Rican history through a cultural justice lens.

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Karla Quezada Torres



Karla Quezada Torres (She/Her/Ella) is the HIV Senior Prevention Specialist for the San Diego Territory at Gilead Sciences. Born in El Salvador, raised in Los Angeles, and rooted in San Diego, Karla is a proud first-generation college graduate with a B.S. in Health Sciences, emphasizing Community Health Education.

With over 25 years in HIV prevention and care, Karla is a passionate advocate for health equity and a respected leader in the field. She has held pivotal roles within the public health sector and led National Latine Strategies to advance culturally responsive HIV initiatives.

Karla's advocacy extends beyond her organization—she actively contributes to local, state, and federal HIV planning groups, ensuring community voices shape policy and funding decisions. Bilingual in English and Spanish, she is committed to breaking down barriers to care and uplifting underserved communities.

Her work has earned her numerous accolades across San Diego. Outside of work, Karla is a proud mother of six and a devoted "GLAM-MA." She enjoys cooking, makeup artistry, exploring new restaurants, and supporting community projects in El Salvador.

Angel Vogel



Angel Vogel (she/her/ella) began her career at the UC Davis LGBTQIA Resource Center in the Fall of 2022, but has been involved in advocacy for the LGBTQIA+ community for years. She is a fierce proponent of volunteerism, utilizing her time to support the Sacramento LGBT Community Center for many years. In her role as the inaugural Trans Advocate at UC Davis she champions trans students' health and wellness, serving as a case manager, program and resource developer, and lead of the Trans Advisory Committee. She is truly student-centered, even piloting a Trans Mentorship Program that matched students with staff, faculty, and graduate students to increase retention and students' sense of belonging. Coalition building on and around campus led her to explore ways of supporting the broader community, especially youth. That passion led Mrs. Vogel to serve on the Stonewall Foundation of Greater Sacramento board, which she now chairs. Her work on the board revolves primarily around supporting LGBTQIA+ students and increasing the area's capacity to address mental health issues. She oversaw the expansion of scholarships to high school and college-aged students and is proud to continue the legacy of change-makers in Sacramento. When she is not at work you can find Angel in the garden looking for bugs, caring for her menagerie of animal friends, hiking, or watching scandalous reality tv shows