
Fwd: PRESS RELEASE: CHICAGO LATINOS IN PHILANTHROPY CELEBRATES NEW LATINX PHILANTHROPIC LEADERSHIP ACROSS CHICAGOLAND

2 messages

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CHICAGO LATINOS IN PHILANTHROPY CELEBRATES NEW LATINX PHILANTHROPIC LEADERSHIP ACROSS CHICAGOLAND

Chicago, IL, December 6, 2022 – Chicago Latinos in Philanthropy (CLIP) is excited to celebrate the recent appointment of three local Latinx philanthropic leaders into prominent foundation roles: **Dr. Venoncia M. Baté-Ambrus, Mark Rodriguez and Andrea Saenz**. Their leadership will strengthen the growing influence of Latinx representation at executive levels in the sector across Chicagoland, and serve to inspire the next generation of Latinx philanthropists.

Their ascension to key leadership positions mirrors the growth that Chicago Latinos in Philanthropy has experienced over the last several years. “Our organization has seen tremendous growth of Latinxs joining the philanthropic pipeline, from entry level to CEO. Andrea, Mark, and Dr. Baté-Ambrus are trailblazing a new path for CLIP,” said Alberto Morales, Project Manager for CLIP. “They join a rarified group of Latinx foundation CEOs, we are so proud of them, and look forward to seeing all that they will accomplish. Having more Latinx leaders in CEO positions is critical to changing the historic underinvestment for our community. Between 2013-18, organizations serving or supporting Latinxs were only awarded [0.8% of all national funding](#). This is alarming considering that Latinxs represent [29.8% of Chicago](#).”

The following are brief biographies of the three Latinx philanthropic leaders. CLIP celebrates their contributions to the non-profit and philanthropic sectors throughout their careers and future impact at their respective institutions and

communities.



Dr. Venoncia M. Baté-Ambrus joined the [Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County](#) as Executive Director in early 2022. Dr. Baté-Ambrus has spent 20 years in non-profit health and human services sectors and academia. Her work has focused on promoting diversity, equity and inclusion for marginalized communities including African Americans, Latinx, and LGBTQIA+ peoples. Dr. Baté-Ambrus' interests lie in behavioral and community health, healthcare diversification, policy, training, and leadership development. Under her leadership, Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County will continue to support efforts that improve access to health services for underserved Lake County residents.



Mark Rodríguez was recently named the first Executive Director of the [Lohengrin Foundation](#). Rodríguez has over thirty years of progressive experience in the non-profit and private sectors. Before joining the Lohengrin Foundation, Rodríguez served as the interim Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer for Heartland Alliance International. He has held various leadership roles throughout his career, including at Changing Worlds, New Leaders for New Schools, National-Louis University, the University of Chicago, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago. His experience spans issue areas such as social justice, education, healthcare, arts and culture, educational leadership, international development, and youth services. Mark serves on the board of Arts Alliance Illinois and is an Advisory Board member of the Mission Sustainability Initiative at Forefront.



Andrea Sáenz was recently named President & CEO of [The Chicago Community Trust](#). She became the Foundation's eighth and first Latinx leader after serving as its Chief Operating Officer and Interim President and CEO. Previously, Sáenz held public sector roles at the Chicago Public Library, as Chief of Staff to the Chicago Public Schools' CEO, as Policy Advisor for the US Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education, and as Executive Director of Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement (HACE). Sáenz began her social sector career leading community-based adult education and workforce development services at Congreso de Latinos Unidos in Philadelphia. Sáenz was recently recognized by Crain's Chicago Business as one of "Chicago's Most Powerful Latinos". She has extensive board service including serving on the boards of National Louis University, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Albert Pick Jr. Fund, Chicago Public Education Fund, Chicago Public Library Foundation, and Chicago United.

About Chicago Latinos in Philanthropy

Founded in 1986, Chicago Latinos in Philanthropy (CLIP) is a professional network of philanthropic individuals from the Chicago metropolitan area, including grantmakers, board trustees, and individual donors. CLIP invests in Latinx talent and facilitates philanthropic partnerships with Latinx communities to enhance local philanthropy's effectiveness. In service of its mission, CLIP supports professional development, facilitates knowledge-sharing, and fosters fellowship among its members. CLIP seeks to ensure local philanthropy is inclusive of and accountable to the region's growing Latinx communities.

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