

## MEMORANDUM – DENVER LATINO COMMISSION

|                 |                                                                        |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>TO:</b>      | <b>Denver City Council</b>                                             |
| <b>FROM:</b>    | <b>Office of Boards &amp; Commissions</b>                              |
| <b>DATE:</b>    | <b>8/4/25</b>                                                          |
| <b>PURPOSE:</b> | <b>Appointments and Reappointments to the Denver Latino Commission</b> |

**Purpose:**

The Denver Latino Commission's mission is to oversee, recommend and influence policies that affect the Denver Latino community while maintaining and encouraging a constituent focus.

**Appointment Process:**

The Mayor appoints up to 21 members and City Council confirms appointment for 3-year terms, with a 3-term limit.

**Term:** 9/1/2025-8/31/2028

**Appointment Candidates**

|                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p><b>Santiago Aveitia</b> (He/Him)<br/>(Male, Hispanic)</p> | <p>Santiago is a mental and behavioral health professional. He is a Care Coordination Navigator for the Colorado Department of Human Services. He is passionate about serving community by advocating and bringing awareness to issues impacting the Latine community. Not currently serving or volunteering on any other boards or commission.</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p><b>Christina Garcia</b> (She/Her)<br/>(Female, Two or more races)</p> | <p>Christina is the Chief Program Officer for the Community Economic Defense Project and sits on the Board for the National Coalition for the Homeless. Christina identifies as a Taina/Chicana, originally from San Francisco, California. She holds bachelor's degrees in both Business Administration and Human Services. With over nine years of experience running federal, state and locally funded housing programs, she has dedicated her career to serving people experiencing homelessness or housing instability. Her passion for the work comes from her own person experience with homelessness.</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

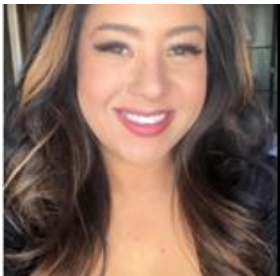


**Adrian Covarrubias**  
 (He/Him) (Male, Hispanic)

Adrian Covarrubias is a multimedia specialist, youth educator, and events coordinator. He is an experienced videographer, photographer, music producer, sound engineer, DJ, & social media manager. Adrian is the owner and founder of his multimedia company, We C.A.R.E. Media (Colorado Artist Recording & Entertainment). He is also currently the Citywide Arts & PE Events Coordinator for all of Denver Public Schools. Adrian is a first generation, Chicano, educator and business owner native to Colorado. His mission is to provide positive media representation of his community and create opportunities for his community to have access to STEAM, literature, & media. He wishes to serve as a median that gives people of all backgrounds a platform in an industry that has historically had high barriers of entry & a lack of diversity. Adrian wants to go further and serve his community in a new capacity through the Denver Latino Commission. He currently sits on LEAC (Latin Education Advisory Committee), and is heavily involved in community organizing and event planning.

**Term: 1/1/2025-12/31/2027**

**Recommended Re-appointment Candidates**



**Rachel Garcia** (She/Her)  
 (Female, Caucasian)

Rachel Garcia continues to be a powerhouse in the Latino arts community. As the executive director of the Mexican Cultural arts Center, she brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the commission, especially when planning outreach and community events. Her extensive network has helped with recruitment and she has been a great help during the interview and selection process.



**Monica Padilla** (She/Her)  
 (Female, Hispanic)

Monica Padilla's background in mental health and wellbeing as a Trauma-Informed Practices Specialist/Trainer, Denver Public Schools has helped lead the commission into a more inclusive, inviting and progressive space. Her work with at-risk Latino youth and families has allowed the commission to have meaningful discussion about how we can best support the community and bring awareness to barriers preventing care. Monica has also been involved in recruiting and has been a great support overall.



**Karen Jaramillo** (She/Her)  
(Female, Two or more races)

Karen Jaramillo's work in the Chicano Studies department at MSU Denver has helped the commission stay grounded in the rich history that Denver offers. Her unique perspective and experience, as it pertains to higher education, has helped prepare the commission to outreach and partner with different organizations at Auraria Campus. Karen supports the commission with meeting minutes and has been active in the commission legislative committee.



**Raven Porteous** (She/Her)  
(Female, Hispanic)

Current co-chair of the commission, DPS assistant principal (West HS).