

MEMORANDUM – DENVER COMMISSION ON AGING

TO:	City Council
FROM:	Office of Boards & Commissions
DATE:	7/8/24
PURPOSE:	Appointment for Commission on Aging
PROCESS:	City Council Confirmation

Staff Liaison:

Anna DeRocchi, HRCP

CURRENT BOARD STATUS

Scope of Board/Commission:

The Denver Commission on Aging helps to make Denver the best community for older adults through *outreach, communication and advocacy including:*

- Advocating for their rights and concerns
- Empowering older adults through dissemination of information and sharing community resources
- Monitoring and recommending legislation and proposed policy changes affecting older adults

Appointment Process:

The Mayor appoints no less than 7 members and no more than 21 members and City Council confirms appointments for a term of 3 years.

Appointment Candidates:

Bibian Reyes, PHD (Female, Hispanic) Social Worker & Program Manager, CLLARO (2021-Present)



Term: 08/01/2024 - 07/31/2027 or until a successor is duly appointed.

Bio: Bibian is a first-generation college graduate, having earned her Master’s in Social Work from Metropolitan State University of Denver. She brings non-profit experience spanning administration, case management, program management, and community outreach. She has primarily worked with monolingual Spanish speakers, low-income communities, and older Latinos (50+), many of whom were undocumented. Her innate drive and rapid learning abilities have fueled her professional growth. Bibian has invested three years delving into the specific needs of older Latinos across counties including Denver, Arapahoe, Adams, Jefferson, and Weld. Her efforts have involved leading focus groups, conducting in-depth contextual research, and spearheading the establishment of an older adult support group in the Montbello neighborhood. Bibian is deeply committed to furthering her work with older Latinos and undocumented

communities, driven by a genuine passion to make a positive impact in their lives. Residing for some time in Los Angeles, California, and witnessing older Latinos work tirelessly to make ends meet ignited a profound passion for enhancing the wellbeing of this community. Social Work

Kaipeng Wang, PHD (Male, Asian) Assistant/Associate Professor, Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver (2017-Present)



Term: 08/01/2024 - 07/31/2027 or until a successor is duly appointed.

Bio: Kaipeng Wang focuses on examining psychosocial factors that influence older adults' health and mental health outcomes, advance care planning, and dementia prevention. Using a social determinants of health framework, his research aims to understand how social determinants, such as discrimination, acculturation, and food insecurity, contribute to health and mental health disparities among ethnic minorities and immigrants, especially among older adults. To pursue his academic inquiries, Wang primarily utilizes advanced quantitative methods including but are not limited to multi-level modeling, longitudinal data analysis, structural equation modeling, and spatial statistics. His research has been shared through scientific journals, such as Journal of the American Medical Directors Association, International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, Journal of Aging and Health, Journal of Applied Gerontology, Psychosomatic Medicine, Journal of Affective Disorders, and Preventive Medicine. Furthermore, he is currently an Editorial Board Member for Innovation in Aging and BMC Geriatrics.

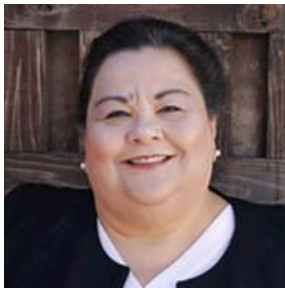
Biswanath Das (Male, Asian) Sr. MRC Compliance Manager, Amazon (2022-Present)



Term: 08/01/2024 - 07/31/2027 or until a successor is duly appointed.

Bio: Biswanath has 16+ years of experience in audit, security, and compliance in the tech industry. Biswanath is excited to bring representation to the Aging Commission through his expertise in fraud protection and his lived experience as an immigrant. Biswanath's mission is to protect vulnerable communities, including aging populations, from fraud and cyber risks.

Virginia Ortiz, (Female, Hispanic)



Term: 08/01/2024 - 07/31/2027 or until a successor is duly appointed.

Bio: For more than 30 years, Virginia has developed, directed, and sustained non-profit organizations. She is skilled in the areas of executive level non-profit leadership, fundraising, program development, affordable housing, and community economic development including social capital ventures. I believe the best leaders serve with integrity and transparency, and are inclusive, compassionate, and collaborative. Virginia is interested in the intersection of economic development and the aging community particularly around transportation, food insecurity, and affordable housing.

CURRENT BOARD**Mayoral Appointments:**

Andrea Kuwik, Lakewood (F)(C)

Erin Burke-Leaver, Denver (F)(C)

Kenny Williams, Denver (M)(C)

R. Jo Bunton Keel, Denver (F)(AA)

Gina Del Castillo, Wheat Ridge (F)(H)

Barbara Walkosz (F)(C)

Kristine Burrows (F)(C)

Carol LeBoo (F)(AA)

Haley Sanner (F)(C)

TERM END DATE

08-31-24

08-31-24

08-31-25

08-31-25

08-31-25

02-28-27

02-28-27

02-28-27

02-28-27