Welcome to the Local Government Hispanic Network (LGHN) 2021 Biennial Conference in the city of Aurora and Adams County, Colorado. These two local governments take pride in creating inclusive communities and innovative governmental practices. We are excited that you are joining us and know that you will leave this conference inspired by fresh ideas, creative concepts, and a commitment to collaboration with the network of professionals you’ll be surrounded by this week. This beautiful part of the country has something for every taste, so we hope you take an evening or two and soak up some of the incredible atmosphere that Aurora and Adams County have to offer.

This year’s conference theme is, “Embracing Change and Transformation.” In the wake of an ongoing worldwide pandemic, transformational leadership is now more important than ever. Our leaders need to be adaptive, responsive, and intentional in how we develop policies and engage with our residents. This is an opportunity to collaborate with our local government colleagues from across the country on how we can better serve our communities and build back stronger.

LGHN is an affiliate of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The purpose of the Local Government Hispanic Network is to encourage professional excellence among Hispanic/Latino local government professionals, to improve the management of local government, to provide unique resources to Hispanic local government executives and public managers, and to advance the goals of professional, effective, and ethical local government administration.

We are proud to announce that our membership in LGHN continues to grow. In 2018, we set a goal of 1,000 members by 2023 and we are proud to report that we achieved this goal in 2021. Your involvement in the conference sessions is a critical part of who we are and what we do. There will be opportunities for networking, mentoring, and learning. We will continue to focus on ways your organization can improve service delivery – and your professional growth and development with sessions that will help you advance your career.

Once again, thank you for joining us in Aurora and Adams County. You have already taken an important step by joining us at this year’s LGHN Biennial Conference. We encourage you to dive right in and maximize all the educational opportunities and the ability to connect with colleagues from around the country. I personally invite you to get involved with LGHN.

Sincerely,
Raymond H. Gonzales
LGHN President & Adams County Manager
## Executive Search Firm One-on-One Sessions

Representatives from executive search firms are on site to meet with conference participants in one-on-one sessions to answer your questions about how best to present yourself with bios, resumes, letters of introductions and the interview process. Are you uncertain about how to start this conversation and where and when to start? They can guide you through the discussion. To make an appointment, directly contact one of the following representatives:

- **GovHR USA:** Mysi Hall, MPA, PHR, Communications and Human Resources Generalist  
  Direct Line: 847-380-3169 | mhall@govhrusa.com
- **Strategic Government Resources:** Farrell Buller, Managing Director of Leadership Development  
  Direct Line: 303-810-1333 | farrellbuller@governmentresource.com

### Wednesday, September 8, 2021

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Aurora Foyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>LGHN Chapters Meeting</td>
<td>Conference Center Foyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00-7:00 pm</td>
<td>Informal Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>Borealis Bar/Restaurant</td>
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### Thursday, September 9, 2021

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Aurora Foyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:15 am</td>
<td>Membership Meeting (breakfast served at 8:00 am)</td>
<td>Aurora Ballroom I &amp; II</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>Conference Room I</td>
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**The New Abnormal**

- Emerging Public Safety Strategies to Provide Alternative Emergency Response  
  - Aurora Ballroom I & II
- Responding to Community: Creative Outreach and Services in a Time of Transition  
  - Conference Room I

**Diversity, Inclusion & Community Connection**

- Organizational Environment Development Strategies  
  - Conference Room II

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Opening Keynote: The Honorable Jared Polis, Governor, Colorado Cristal Torres DeHerrera, Chief of Staff &amp; Executive Vice President, Denver International Airport</td>
<td>Aurora Ballroom I &amp; II</td>
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| 12:15 pm | Keynote Panel: Rocky Mountain Partnership  
  (lunch served at 12:00 pm)  | Aurora Ballroom I & II |
| 1:20 pm | Alebrijes: The Art and the Legend                                    | Aurora Ballroom I & II |
| 2:15 pm | Concurrent Sessions                                                   | Aurora Ballroom I & II |

**The New Abnormal**

- Making Services More Relevant Through the Use of Data  
  - Conference Room I  
  - Conference Room II  
  - Virtual
- Human Resource Post-Pandemic Policies  
- More than a Buzzword: Understanding Equity in Budgeting

**Diversity, Inclusion & Community Connection**

- Leading an Organization with Diversity, Equity & Inclusion  
  - Aurora Ballroom I & II

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| 3:45 pm | Padrinos/Madrinas Paticas                                           | Virtual & Conference Room VI  
  - Borealis Patio |
| 6:30-9:00 pm | President’s Reception                                       | Virtual & Conference Room VI  
  - Borealis Patio |
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>The New Abnormal</strong> Pandemic: Customer Service and Measuring Call Center Success</td>
<td>Conference Room I</td>
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<td><strong>Diversity, Inclusion &amp; Community Connection</strong> Equitably Shaping our Future through Environmental Sustainability</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:20 pm</td>
<td><strong>The New Abnormal</strong> Hybrid Models for Community and Council/Commission Meetings</td>
<td>Conference Room II</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 pm</td>
<td><strong>Understanding and Addressing the Impact of COVID-19 on the Hispanic/Latino Local Government Workforce</strong></td>
<td>Virtual</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45 pm</td>
<td><strong>Diversity, Inclusion &amp; Community Connection</strong> Innovative Engagement Practices for Building Community Cohesion</td>
<td>Conference Room I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Closing Session</strong> Keynote: Dr. Roberto Montoya, Chief Educational Equity Officer, Colorado Department of Higher Education</td>
<td>Aurora Ballroom I &amp; II</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Awards Reception</strong> Awards Dinner</td>
<td>Aurora Ballroom III</td>
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*Due to the current COVID situation, we’ve made some adaptations to this year’s program to hold our activities and conferences in three modalities: Live, Hybrid and Virtual.*
### Wednesday, September 8

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<td><strong>Membership Meeting</strong> (breakfast served at 8:00 am)</td>
<td>Aurora Ballroom I &amp; II</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Learn about the affiliation between LGHN and ICMA, and how to get</td>
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<td>more engaged in these professional organizations through regional</td>
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<td>activities and participation on committees. President Gonzales will</td>
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<td>share accomplishments and programs that benefit LGHN members.</td>
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<td>Interested in creating a Local Government Hispanic Network chapter</td>
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<td>at your organization or region? Join the session to hear what other</td>
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<td>chapters are doing in their organizations and learn how you can</td>
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<td>create a group in your region.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td><strong>Concurrent Sessions</strong></td>
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#### The New Abnormal

**Emerging Public Safety Strategies to Provide Alternative Emergency Response**

Learn about how one local government is assessing, engaging, and developing public safety programs through the framework of human centered design to meet the unique needs of their residents and overcome institutional bias.

*Sponsored by the Glendale Hispanic Network*

**Aurora Ballroom I & II**

**Moderator:** Aubrey Gonzalez, Assistant Housing Director, City of Phoenix, AZ

**Panel:**
- Scott Snow, Director of Crisis Center/STAR Program, Police Department, City of Denver, CO
- Chris Richardson, Associate Director of Criminal Justice Projects with the Mental Health Center of Denver, CO

**Responding to Community: Creative Outreach and Services in a Time of Transition:**

About Anythink: Anythink is a new style of library – a place of unlimited imagination, where play inspires creativity and lifelong learning. Anythink serves the residents of Adams County, Colo., with seven libraries and a bookmobile. With a focus on innovation, Anythink’s award-winning approach to library service is recognized by industry leaders and organizations across the globe.

**Conference Room I**

**Moderator:** Ramiro Salazar, Director of Libraries, City of San Antonio, TX

**Panel:**
- Ricardo Cárdenas, Manager at Anythink Commerce City, CO
- Whitney Oakley, Manager at Anythink Bennett, CO
Diversity, Inclusion & Community Connection
Organizational Environment Development Strategies.
How do we create an inclusionary environment within your organization in order to assure that young leaders are not marginalized? The panel will discuss strategies to use to create an inclusive work environment. An environment where young professionals feel like they belong and can bring their authentic selves to work. If these strategies are implemented, young professionals will build confidence and actively contribute to meetings, policy development and innovative ways to serve the public, our constituents. **Sponsored by the National Forum for Black Public Administrators**

Conference Room II
Moderator: Cheryl D. Orr, Co-Managing Director, NFBPA/Institute for Excellence in Public Service
Panel: Janice Napper, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer, City of Aurora, CO; President, National Forum of Black Public Administrators Rocky Mountain Chapter
Charles Gilford III, Deputy Director of Council Relations and Special Projects Mayor’s Office, City and County of Denver, CO; Western Region Vice-President, National Urban League Young Professionals; Chair, City of Aurora Human Relations Commission
Dr. Ron Carlee, former City Manager, Visiting Assistant Professor of Public Service, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA

11:00 am Opening Keynote: The Honorable Jared Polis, Governor, Colorado
Cristal Torres DeHerrera, Chief of Staff & Executive Vice President, Denver International Airport

12:15 pm Keynote: Rocky Mountain Partnership (lunch served as 12:00 pm)
Achieving Economic and Social Mobility through Collective Impact in the Wake of COVID-19
This panel will highlight how one community is taking the devastating circumstances of the pandemic and is not only recovering from the damage, but harnessing the momentum left in the wake of the devastation to bring the community together to reflect and assess what truly is needed to improve economic and social mobility long-term, specifically for those most marginalized because of race, ethnicity, gender, zip code, disability or circumstance. The Rocky Mountain Partnership convenes regional leaders utilizing a collective impact framework to tear down unjust and inequitable systems. You’ll hear directly from county and municipal leaders and other cross-sector leaders within the Rocky Mountain Partnership on their data-driven approach to closing equity gaps, including the development of a scorecard that holds them accountable to achieving shared outcomes and how they co-develop strategies with the community members most affected by the decision making through a community empowerment matrix.
Aurora Ballroom I & II

1:20 pm Social Event: Alebrijes: The Art and Legend | Aurora Ballroom I & II
Join us for an afternoon of discovery in partnership with the Mexican Cultural Center and El Museo de Arte Popular of Mexico City. Hear the legend behind artist Oscar Becerra Mora’s sculpture: Xóaltl Dias Perro Alebrije. Monumental.

2:15 pm Concurrent Sessions

The New Abnormal
Making Services More Relevant Through the Use of Data
How do you transform anecdotes and organizational experiences into useful tools that guide administration and implementation? Tracking data supports the organization to meaningfully measure information that can help drive thoughtful problem solving and cultivate innovation. This session will discuss models for collecting, analyzing, and using data for decision-making and looking at data in different ways. **Sponsored by the Mesa Hispanic Network**

Conference Room I
Moderator: Marcus Steele, Finance, Arts & Culture Department, City of Mesa, AZ
Panel: Candace Cannistraro, Office of Management & Budget Director, City of Mesa, AZ
Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager, Town of Guadalupe, AZ
Human Resource Post-Pandemic Policies  
After a year of social distancing mandates and work from home operations for most employees, jurisdictions are actively developing and implementing hybrid workplace models and policies to address post pandemic workplace changes while setting the “new normal” protocols, expectations and risk mitigations for both employers and employees.  
**Sponsored by the Phoenix Hispanic Network**  
Conference Room II  
Moderator: Mae Sinclair, City of Phoenix, AZ, Organizational Development Consultant  
Panel: Erica Philpot, Human Resources Director, Coconino County, AZ  
Steve Mason, Human Resources Director, City of Falls Church, VA  
Lori Bays, Human Resources Director, City of Phoenix, AZ

More than a Buzzword: Understanding Equity in Budgeting  
The term “equity” continues to be mentioned often involving discussions on a host of topics in our society, communities, and governments. But what does equity actually mean in terms of provision of governmental services and how does this impact the budget? Equity-driven initiatives are and will be very different from one community and organization to the next. However, common themes have emerged in both the definition of equity and how to overcome common challenges. This session will focus on the finance officer’s role in making more equitable financial decisions related to both revenues and expenses.  
**Sponsored by the Government Finance Officers Association**  
Virtual  
Moderator: Anjali Chainani, Senior Advisor, Results for America, Philadelphia, PA  
Panel: Bertha Johnson, Budget Director, City of Durham, NC  
David Schmiedicke, Finance Director, City of Madison, WI  
Ben Noble, Budget Director, City of Seattle, WA

Diversity, Inclusion & Community Connection  
**Recording**

Leading an Organization with Diversity, Equity & Inclusion  
Leaders across the nation had some difficult decisions to make during the pandemic and BLM events from last year. This panel features City Managers as they discuss their leadership experiences and policymaking in the aftermath of 2020, as well as share what they are doing within their organizations and communities to support diverse, equitable and inclusive practices.  
**Sponsored by the Colorado City/County Management Association**  
Aurora Ballrooms I & II  
Moderator: Jane Bais DiSessa, City Manager, Brighton, CO  
Panel: Matt Mendisco, City Manager, Town of Hayden, CO  
Heather Geyer, City Manager, City of Northglenn, CO  
Roberto Venegas, Deputy City Manager, Aurora, CO

3:30 pm  
Break (snacks served)  
Aurora Foyer

3:45 pm  
**Padrinos/Madrinas Platicas**  
Join LGHN for the kick-off our revised annual mentorship program. The session will present the re-freshed program, which will provide students, emerging leaders and seasoned professionals opportunities to network, evolve and grow to achieve their long-term goals. At the conference, participants will interact with Padrinos/Madrinas (seasoned local government professionals), committed to assisting emerging leaders who serve diverse communities and supporting the next generation of government innovators. Padrinos and Madrinas will interact with you to share their experiences, provide support, and most importantly, learn about challenges you are facing, or career moves you are contemplating. The session will include roundtable discussions in-person and virtually.  
**Sponsored by LGHN’s Career Advancement Committee**  
Leader: Gricelda Estrada, Executive Administrative Assistant, City of Grand Rapids, MI  
Conference Room VI  
Leader: Bob Harrison, City Manager, Yakima, WA
6:00 - 9:00 pm  **President’s Reception**
Join us for networking and entertainment on the hotel patio. Food and cash bar available.
Borealis Patio

**Friday, September 10**

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<tr>
<td>8:00 am MDT</td>
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<td>Aurora Foyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td><strong>General Session</strong> <em>(breakfast served at 8:30 am)</em></td>
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<td>Keynote: <em>The Honorable Dominick Moreno</em>, Member of the Colorado State Senate, Chair of the Joint Budget Committee and Vice Chair of the Appropriations Committee  <strong>Recording</strong></td>
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<td>Aurora Ballrooms I &amp; II</td>
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<td>10:45 am</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
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### The New Abnormal Pandemic: Customer Service and Measuring Call Center Success  **Recording**

The pandemic has far-reaching implications for public power utilities across the country. Hear from the Austin Energy team how the City of Austin’s 3-1-1 contact center, which is managed by Austin Energy, responded to the pandemic. Learn what worked, what did not, and how the City is moving forward. Explore which metrics and key performance indicators offer meaningful measures for the call center. The team will also discuss teleworking and remote customer service operations; and other ways the pandemic has impacted customer service operations.  **Sponsored by the Austin Hispanic / Latino Network**

Moderator: *Darlene Berghammer*, Austin Energy, City of Austin, TX
Panel: *Jerry Galvan*, Vice President of Customer Care, Austin Energy, City of Austin, TX

### Hybrid Models for Community and Council/Commission Meetings  **Recording**

Jurisdictions have found that public participation increased during the pandemic using virtual meetings. How did jurisdictions transition and adapt to digital meetings? How do you sustain that momentum as they go back to in-person meetings? How do you make the meetings seamless for in-person and virtual participation?  **Sponsored by the National Association of County Administrators**

Moderator: *Austin Ramirez*, Community & Economic Development Manager, Lane County, OR
Panel: *Steve Mokrohisky*, County Manager, Lane County, OR
*Kenneth Wilson*, County Administrator, Franklin County, OH

### Understanding and Addressing the Impact of COVID-19 on the Hispanic/Latino Local Government Workforce  **Recording**

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a reverberating impact on the health, employment, and financial outlook of public sector workforce employees, many of whom have been on the front lines throughout the crisis. The effects of the pandemic on various cohorts within this workforce have not been equal, with certain demographic groups disproportionately impacted. Join this session to learn about the latest results in a series of surveys about the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on the public sector workforce, with a focus on the unique financial, job, and safety concerns of Hispanic/Latino local government workers. Hear from local government leaders about how they are addressing inequities and specific needs of their jurisdictions and discuss strategies to improve resilience and recovery.  **Sponsored by MissionSquare Retirement**

Moderator: *Rivka Liss-Levinson*, Senior Research Manager, MissionSquare Retirement
Panel: *Noel Bernal*, City Manager, Brownsville, TX
Diversity, Inclusion & Community Connection  
**Equitably Shaping our Future through Environmental Sustainability**  
Sustainability is often defined with the “Three E’s”: equity, environment, and economy. Equity can be more challenging to measure compared to other environmental metrics, such as gallons of water saved, or emissions reduced. Our three speakers play different roles in the decision-making process helping local governments address climate justice. They will share citizen engagement strategies, successes and challenges in their roles, and people-centered approaches to sustainable development, to promote healthy, safe, inclusive, and vibrant communities for all.

*Sponsored by the Mesa Hispanic Network*  
Aurora Ballrooms I & II  
Moderator: **Andrea Alicote**, Diversity & Special Projects Manager, City of Mesa, AZ  
Panel: **Andrea Odegard-Begay**, Senior Associate at Hazen and Sawyer; Environmental Quality and Sustainability Commission Member, City of Phoenix, AZ  
**Nancy Allen**, Environmental Programs Manager, City of Phoenix  
**Nnenia Campbell**, Ph.D., Research Associate at the Natural Hazards Center with the University of Colorado Boulder

12:15 pm.  
**Keynote:** The Honorable Mario Treto, Jr., Secretary, Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (lunch served at 12:00)  
Aurora Ballrooms I & II

1:20 pm  
**Social Event: Cumbia & Folk Music**  
A journey of Cumbia through time.  
Aurora Ballrooms I & II

2:15 pm  
**Concurrent Sessions**

**The New Abnormal**  
**Emerging Public Safety Strategies to Support Communities and Family Members of Citizens Killed by the Police**

How can local and county governments recognize the impact, enhance transparency, address needs and offer supportive services to impacted communities and family members after deadly use of force? This session will present models and practices being utilized in three communities.

*Sponsored by the Phoenix Hispanic Network*  
Aurora Ballrooms I & II  
Moderator: **Aubrey Gonzalez**, Housing Director, City of Phoenix, AZ  
Panel: **Sergeant Carla D. Havard**, Denver Police Department, City Wide Impact Team, Denver, CO  
**Dolores (D.C.) Ernst**, City of Phoenix Fire Department, Community Assistance Program, Phoenix, AZ  
**Miriam Brown**, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Family Assistance Program, Los Angeles, CA

**Diversity, Inclusion & Community Connection**  
**Innovative Engagement Practices for Building Community Cohesion**

How can you create and maintain community cohesion to ensure that topical issues and concerns of all populations are able to be voiced? What are unique and innovative ways to promote conversations, activities and learning of inclusion and equity within local government? This session features two cities that excel at creating out-of-the-box programs working with their communities to spark cohesion.  
*Sponsored by the Mesa Hispanic Network*  
Conference Room I  
Moderator: **Andrea Alicote**, Diversity & Special Projects Manager, City of Mesa, AZ  
Panel: **Mandy Tripoli**, Mesa Art Center Director of Community-Engaged Practice, City of Mesa, AZ  
**Cheyenne Brodeen**, Internal Services Manager for Neighborhood and Community Relations, City of Minneapolis, MN
**Spanish Media Best Practices & Tools for Connecting with Your Community**

Strategic communication is central to any organization’s ability to advance its messages and its capacity to serve the community. The ability to communicate and engage with diverse Hispanic populations is essential as this segment continues to grow across the nation. Learn directly from experts in broadcast media on best practices from that industry and tools from municipal public information officers to better connect with your community.

*Sponsored by the Mesa Hispanic Network*

**Conference Room II**

Moderator: Marcus Steele, Finance, Arts & Culture Department, City of Mesa, AZ

Panel: Marrisa Ramirez-Ramos, Senior Public Information & Communications Specialist, City of Mesa, AZ

Mike Ferrufino, CEO, Colorado Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Metro Denver, CO

Clara Rivas, General Sales Manager, KBNO Radio, Denver, CO

3:30 pm Break (snacks served)

Aurora Foyer

3:45 pm Closing Session

Aurora Ballrooms I & II

Keynote: Dr. Roberto Montoya, Chief Educational Equity Officer, Colorado Department of Higher Education

5:30 pm LGHN Awards Reception

Aurora Ballroom III

6:30 pm Dinner

Aurora Ballrooms I & II

The LGHN Awards Dinner will recognize outgoing LGHN board members, the 2021 LGHN Emerging Leaders and the 2021 Joel D. Valdez distinguished service awardee.

Keynote: The Honorable Julián Castro, Former Mayor of San Antonio, Texas and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President Barack Obama

The dinner will be followed with entertainment and dancing.

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**Sponsors**

**Diamond**
- United Health Care
- MissionSquare Retirement

**Platinum**
- Management Partners
- Strategic Government Resources

**Silver**
- Amazon

**Bronze**
- GovHR USA
- Denver International Airport
- Xcel Energy

**Contributor**
- City of Brighton, CO
- Brighton Economic Development Corporation
- Visit Aurora
- National Forum for Black Public Administrators

**Gold**
- Adams County, CO
- City of Aurora, CO
Scholarship Awardees
LGHN: Amanda Hernandez, Economic Development Administrator & Acting Public Information Officer, City of Barstow, CA

LGHN: Jennifer Johnston, Director of Human Resources, City of Concord, NH

Outgoing LGHN Board Members
- **Aubrey Gonzalez**, Vice President for Professional Development Assistant Housing Director, City of Phoenix Housing Department, Phoenix, AZ
- **Paulina Martinez**, Vice President for Career Advancement Formerly, Assistant City Manager, City of Evanston, IL
- **Patricia Martel**, Past ICMA Board Member | Formerly City Manager, City of Daly City, CA, ICMA West Coast Regional Director

2021-2022 LGHN Board Members

- **Raymond H. Gonzales**, President | County Manager, Adams County, CO
- **Samantha Tavares**, President-Elect | Special Projects Administrator, Office of the City Manager, City of Phoenix, AZ
- **Rolando Fernandez, Jr.**, Immediate Past President | Capital Contracting Manager, City of Austin, TX
- **Bob Harrison**, Vice President for Membership | City Manager, City of Yakima, WA
- **Ramiro Inguzanot**, Vice President for Professional Development | Assistant Village Manager, Bal Harbour Village, FL
- **Gricelda Estrada**, Vice President for Career Advancement | Administrative Executive Assistant, Executive Office, City of Grand Rapids Michigan

At-Large Directors:
- **Noel Bernal**, City Manager, City of Brownsville, TX
- **Marianna Bojorquez**, Latino Engagement Librarian, City of Evanston, IL
- **Maria De Leon**, Deputy Director, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, San Jose, CA
- **Raoul Lavin**, Assistant City Manager, City of Tallahassee, FL
- **Ramón Pérez-Goizueta**, Chief Compliance Officer, Department of Employment Service, District of Columbia
- **Matt Rivera**, Director, Community Safety and Well-being, Adams County, CO
- **Ramiro Salazar**, Public Library Director, City of San Antonio, TX
- **Marcus Steele**, Finance Manager, Arts & Culture Department, City of Mesa, AZ, Past ICMA Board Member
- **Carlos Baia**, Deputy City Manager for Development, City of Concord, NH
Jared Polis

Jared Polis was elected the 43rd governor of Colorado in 2018. Most recently, Governor Polis served as the U.S. representative for Colorado’s Second Congressional District, which stretches from Larimer County and the Wyoming border, to the Central Mountains at the heart of Colorado’s tourism economy, to Boulder and the U.S. 36 high-tech corridor. He is also an entrepreneur, education leader, as well as a public servant. He started his first business, American Information Systems, while in college out of his dorm room. By the time he was 30, he’d launched three successful companies, including ProFlowers, one of the world’s leading online flower retailers.

Much of Governor Polis’ adult life has focused on improving public education. He served six years on the State Board of Education, where he worked to raise pay for teachers and reduce class size for students. He also founded several public charter schools for at-risk youth, and served as superintendent of one of them, the New America School, which helps immigrants earn their high school diploma.

Cristal Torres DeHerrera

Cristal Torres DeHerrera is Chief of Staff and Executive Vice President of Denver International Airport (DEN). As second in command of DEN, DeHerrera works closely with the CEO to manage an operating budget of approximately $500 million annually, oversees the delivery of $3.5 billion in capital projects, and provides oversight of an airport with more than 35,000 employees (including 1,200 city employees). DEN is the third busiest airport in the U.S., seventh busiest in the world. During her tenure, DeHerrera and the CEO navigated the airport through its two greatest challenges in recent airport history: the COVID-19 global pandemic and the restructuring and realignment of the Great Hall Project. DeHerrera has prioritized building a culture of transparency and belonging by operationalizing equity initiatives for all employees, passengers, surrounding communities and historically under-utilized businesses that do business at the airport.

Previously, Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock appointed DeHerrera to serve as Denver’s Deputy City Attorney. DeHerrera holds a J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. She received her undergraduate degree, with honors, in political studies from Pitzer College.

Rocky Mountain Partnership

The Rocky Mountain Partnership is a member of the National “Strive Together Cradle to Career Network” movement helping every child succeed in school and life regardless of race, zip code or circumstance. The coalition of cross-sector stakeholders is working together to collectively improve economic and social mobility across Adams County (including six municipalities), the City of Aurora and the City and County of Bloomfield region. https://rmpartnership.org

Dominick Moreno

After representing Commerce City and neighborhoods in southwest unincorporated Adams County in the State House, Senator Dominick Moreno was elected to the State Senate in 2016. He currently serves as Chair of the Joint Budget Committee, Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Vice Chair of the Capitol Building Advisory Committee, and as a member of the Legislative Council and Statutory Revision Committee.

A native son of Adams County with strong family roots in the community, Dominick was elected to represent House District 32 as the youngest serving member in the Colorado General Assembly in 2012. He earned his bachelor’s degree in American Government from Georgetown University. Before being elected to the State House, Dominick served on the city council in Commerce City for three years as the youngest council member elected in the city’s history.
**Mario Treto, Jr.**

Mario Treto Jr. serves as the Secretary of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. He is a prominent advocate, attorney, and government official based in Chicago. Previously, the Governor appointed him to his cabinet as the Director of the Division of Real Estate for the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. In this role, Treto was the head regulator for the State of Illinois’ real estate industry, overseeing professional education, licensure, regulation, and discipline for nearly 100,000 real estate licensees.

Previous to this role, Mario served as the Deputy City Attorney for Evanston, Illinois. The son of Mexican immigrants and the first to receive a high school education, Mario mentors Latinx and LGBTQ youth interested in government and nonprofit careers, and supports several civic and charitable causes. He is the youngest and first Latinx Board Chair for Howard Brown Health, the Midwest’s largest LGBTQ organization and federally qualified health center serving over 40,000 patients.

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**Dr. Roberto Montoya**

The Colorado Department of Higher Education appointed Dr. Roberto Montoya, of Race Forward—the largest racial justice organization in the country—to take on the new position of chief educational equity officer. The position supports the Department’s equity, diversity, and inclusion (DEI) goals and promotes the vision of a Colorado higher education community that is inclusive and deliberate in erasing the persistent equity gaps in educational attainment across all student demographic categories. The chief educational equity officer serves as a catalyst and advocate for educational equity initiatives and systemic change at Colorado’s institutions of higher education to develop quick and sustaining results that support historically underrepresented and marginalized students.

Dr. Montoya holds a Ph.D. in Urban Education from University Colorado Denver, a master’s degree in ethnic studies from Regis University, and a bachelor’s degree from Colorado Mesa University.

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**Julian Castro**

Julían Castro served as U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President Barack Obama from 2014-2017. Before that, he was Mayor of his native San Antonio, Texas—the youngest mayor of a Top 50 American city at the time. In 2012, he gave a rousing keynote speech at the Democratic National Convention, during which he described the American Dream as a relay to be passed from generation to generation. After his historic campaign for president in 2020, Secretary Castro launched People First Future to help elect bold, progressive candidates whose campaigns are focused on improving the lives of all people they hope to represent.

Secretary Castro launched “Our America with Julián Castro,” a podcast with Lemonada Media that puts a spotlight on vulnerable communities and takes a humanizing and hopeful look at how drastically the American experience shifts from one person to the next. Secretary Castro is also an MSNBC/NBC Political Analyst.
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- Water World

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- Anheuser-Busch Brewery
- Coors Brewery
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