



AB 617 – Boyle Heights, East Los Angeles, West Commerce Roster

Affiliation	Representative	Alternate
Category: Agency, school, university, hospital		
City of Los Angeles - Department of City Planning	Priya Mehendale	Jason Douglas
City of Commerce	Oralia Rebollo	Michelle Keshishian
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	Cristin Mondy	Tiffany Romo
Los Angeles County Planning Department	Norman Ornelas	Soyeon Choi
University of Southern California (USC)	Wendy Gutschow	Jill Johnston
AltaMed Health Services	Corina Martinez	Bernice Nunez Constant
White Memorial Medical Center	Brian Johnston	
Category: Elected Officials and Neighborhood Councils		
Assemblymember Cristina Garcia - District 58	Evelyn Nuno	
Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council	Hector-Alessandro Negrete	
Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti	Irene Burga	
First District Supervisor Hilda Solis	Joseph Martinez	Elizabeth Andalon
Assemblymember Miguel Santiago – District 53	Jorge Adame	Luis Melchor
Category: Business representative, business organization or labor organization		
Railroads – BNSF	Marisa Blackshire	LaDonna DiCamillo
Labor - SEIU 721	Maribel Castillon	Griselda Mariscal
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce	Kendal Asuncion	Olivia Lee
Boyle Heights Chamber of Commerce	Jennifer Lahoda	
Category: Community organization		
East LA Rising	Anna Araujo	
Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church - ELA	H. Jose Garcia	Luis Reyes
Mothers of ELA	Teresa Marquez	
Resurrection Church	Father John Moretta	
EYCEJ	Cindy Donis	
COFEM	Anabella Bastida	Leoda Valenzuela
Legacy LA	Jacky Rodriguez	
Category: Active residents (not representing a community organization or a business)		
Active Resident - Boyle Heights	Veronica Polanco	
Active Resident - Boyle Heights	Nadine Diaz	Diana Tarango
Active Resident - Boyle Heights	Terry Cano	Joe Gonzalez
Active Resident - Boyle Heights	Fabiola Rivas	
Active Resident - East Los Angeles	Rafael Yanez	
Active Resident - East Los Angeles	Rudy Perez	Carina Sanchez
Active Resident - East Los Angeles	mark! Lopez	
Active Resident - East Los Angeles	Martha Ofelia Jimenez	
Active Resident - West Commerce	Jennifer Reyes	
Active Resident - West Commerce	Paulina Becerra	
Active Resident - West Commerce	Johncito Peraza	
Active Resident - West Commerce		

Approved by Executive Officer on 5/4/19, Updated 8/21/19





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Listed by Alphabetical Order

Andalon, Elizabeth

Affiliation First District Supervisor Hilda Solis

Category Elected Officials and Neighborhood Councils

Bio

Araujo, Anna

Affiliation East LA Rising

Category Community Organization

Bio

Asuncion, Kendal

Affiliation Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Category Business representative, business organization or labor organization

Bio As a public policy manager at the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, Kendal Asuncion manages a portfolio which includes transportation, goods movement, energy, water and environmental sustainability. Ms. Asuncion serves on the CSC as a representative of the business community. She is a Southern California native that lived in the Bay Area and Austin, Texas for a combined seven years. Prior to joining the Chamber she worked in both the public involvement and economic development fields. Ms. Asuncion holds bachelor's degrees in Anthropology and Spanish from San Diego State University, and a Master's of Science in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Texas at Austin.



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Bastida, Anabella

Affiliation COFEM

Category Community Organization

Bio "As the Executive Director for the Council of Mexican Federations (COFEM), Anabella Bastida serves on one of the most dynamic movements empowering immigrant families. COFEM is one of the largest member-based organizations in California striving to develop active community leaders and mobilize its membership to improve the educational and socioeconomic attainment of Latino and immigrant families in the state and nationally.

Ms. Bastida has developed and implemented many of COFEM's major projects as a lead staff member with the organization since its foundation in 2005. She has successfully built upon the strength of immigrant-led organizations by further developing their leadership through initiatives and services. Through her vision and leadership since being named Executive Director in 2012, Ms. Bastida has helped COFEM expand its membership, services and programs. Among her many accomplishments, she has successfully engaged this base in the struggle to defend and advocate for undocumented families. She has also been a voice for underserved communities in topics of environmental justice including access to open spaces. Ms. Bastida has been bringing awareness about the public health crisis caused by poor air quality that impacts communities of color.

Ms. Bastida holds a B.A. in Liberal Studies and a Masters in Multicultural Education from California State University, Dominguez Hills. Anabella is committed to the highest standards of excellence and to promoting the advancement of the Latino community. She enjoys music, nature, and spending quality time with her family."



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Becerra, Paulina

Affiliation Active Resident – West Commerce

Category Active Residents

Bio _____

Blackshire, Marisa

Affiliation Railroads – BNSF

Category Business representative, business organization or labor organization

Bio Marisa Blackshire is a Senior General Attorney at BNSF Railway. Based in California, Marisa leads BNSF’s environmental legal and air programs. She also works on various environmental permitting, regulatory compliance and litigation matters that arise across the BNSF system, which includes 28 states and 2 Canadian provinces. Marisa received her B.A. from the University of California, Santa Barbara and her J.D. from Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles.

Burga, Irene

Affiliation Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti

Category Elected Officials an Neighborhood Councils

Bio Irene works for the Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Sustainability, helping expand the City's monitoring efforts and air quality programs. She previously worked for the Environmental Defense Fund where she designed and advocated for policies that reduce pollution from the oil and gas industry, increase opportunities for clean energy development, and help areas most underserved and overburdened by poor air quality. Irene was originally born in Madrid, Spain but considers Los Angeles to be home, having spent most of her high school and adult years in Whittier, CA.



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Cano, Terry

Affiliation Active Resident - Boyle Heights

Category Active Residents

Bio _____

Castillon, Maribel

Affiliation Labor - SEIU 721

Category Business, business organization or labor organization

Bio _____

Choi, Soyeon

Affiliation Los Angeles County Planning Department

Category Agency, school, university, hospital

Bio

Soyeon Choi is a planner with the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning with comprehensive knowledge of both current planning and long range planning. She has experience counseling the public on land use policy and zoning, reviewing development applications. She is currently with the General Plan Development and Housing Section and developing the Green Zones Program that focuses on the interface of environmental justice and land use policies in the unincorporated communities in Los Angeles County. She is interested in helping colleagues prepare and conduct more equitable outreach in diverse communities.



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Diaz, Nadine

Affiliation Active Resident - Boyle Heights

Category Active Resident

Bio _____

Donis, Cindy

Affiliation EYCEJ

Category Community organization

Bio _____

Douglas, Jason

Affiliation City of Los Angeles - Department of City Planning

Category Agency, school, university, hospital

Bio Jason Patrick Douglas is a planner for the Los Angeles Department of City Planning, currently working on the General Plan Update. His work and passion centers on Environmental Justice, Climate Adaptation, and Resiliency as it relates to planning and land use policy, closely following emerging trends and new statewide regulations. Prior to his experience with the City, Jason worked as a Facilities Planning Consultant for the Long Beach Unified School District. His global experiences in the public and non-profit sectors provide a unique perspective on the environmental challenges faced by Southern California. Jason graduated from the University of Southern California with Master's Degrees in Urban Planning and Public Policy, with a focus on Sustainable Development.

Garcia, H. Jose



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Affiliation	Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church - ELA
Category	Community organization
Bio	<p>H. Jose Garcia represents Our Lady of Victory Church in East Los Angeles for environmental affairs under the church’s ministry of Environmental, Social and Economic Justice. Born and raised in East Los Angeles, Mr. Garcia is acutely aware of the environmental challenges in the area being an asthmatic since six months of age. Mr. Garcia has more than 20 years experience in providing environmental compliance services to industry, government agencies and non-profit community groups as a regulator, a technical advisor and as an EJ advocate. Mr. Garcia has been a technical advisor on environmental and sustainability matters including recently winning an international award for hydrolyzation and a patent. Mr. Garcia has provided leadership in the development and implementation of various strategies to achieve environmental justice development targets in the East Los Angeles/Commerce Areas through direct community support, environmental strategy and operations, internal and external communications and volunteer training. Mr. Garcia recently completed serving on Asst. Assembly Speaker Autumn Burke’s AB1532 Lifting Children and Families out of Poverty State Commission, currently sits on the Vernon Housing Commission, Vernon Sustainability Commission as the Environmental Justice Representative, and sits on other non-profit and regional boards. Mr. Garcia has master degrees in both Business Administration and Management Leadership Theory from Western Governor’s University, a Bachelor’s of science in Chemical Engineering from Cal State Long Beach, and has attended programs from the University of La Verne Law school and the Environmental Science/Biology from UC Berkeley. Mr. Garcia is currently completing his doctorate in Business administration from Columbia Southern University. Please follow him on LinkedIn at https://www.linkedin.com/in/hectorjgarcia.</p>



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Gonzalez, Joe

Affiliation Active Resident - Boyle Heights

Category Active residents

Bio

Gutschow, Wendy

Affiliation USC

Category Agency, school, university, hospital

Bio Wendy Gutschow is the Community Engagement Administrator in the Environmental Health Division in the Department of Preventive Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. Ms. Gutschow’s work covers a broad range of community based air pollution related education and activities including community based monitoring with low cost sensors. She leads science communication activities and programs including; interfacing with the media, web and social media content development; and communicating health risks through the use of infographics. She interfaces between scientists whose research on the health effects of air pollution and other toxic exposures, and the work of community-based organizations around issues of environmental health and justice. Find out more about the USC Environmental Health Centers at ehc.usc.edu.



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Johnston, Brian

Affiliation White Memorial Medical Center

Category Agency, school, university, hospital

Bio I was born in Los Angeles in 1938. I grew up going to public schools until age 11, when my family moved to rural Jalisco, Mexico, living there for four years. After that, I went to Quaker Schools in New York, attended two years at Brown University, and went to UCLA for two years, graduating in 1960.

I served 1961 to 1963 in the Peace Corps, did two more years at UCLA, and went to Med School at UCSF, did residency training at Harbor/UCLA 1969 to 1974. I came to White Memorial in 1975, running the ER, and caring for people in Boyle Heights since that time. As a result of my experience, I have an abiding interest in public health, and environmental justice.

Johnston, Jill

Affiliation University of Southern California (USC)

Category Agency or School, University or Hospital

Bio _____

Keshishian, Michelle

Affiliation City of Commerce

Category Agency, school, university, hospital

Bio _____



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Lahoda, Jennifer

Affiliation Boyle Heights Chamber of Commerce

Category Business representative, business organization or labor organization

Bio

Lee, Olivia

Affiliation Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Category Business representative, business organization or labor organization

Bio

Lopez, mark!

Affiliation Active Resident - East Los Angeles

Category Active Residents

Bio mark! Lopez comes from a family with a long history of activism. He was raised in the Madres del Este de Los Angeles Santa Isabel (Mothers of East LA Santa Isabel – MELASI), an organization co-founded by his grandparents, Juana Beatriz Gutierrez and Ricardo Gutierrez. This set his trajectory as a community activist. He engaged in a wide array of student activism at UC Santa Cruz where he earned his B.A. in Environmental Studies, and taught university courses at UC Santa Cruz, Cal State Northridge, and UCLA Extension. mark! earned his M.A. from the Chicax Studies Department at Cal State Northridge, where he completed his Masters thesis titled The Fire: Decolonizing “Environmental Justice”. mark! joined East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice as a member three years before joining the staff. After





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serving as Lead Organizer for East Yard Communities and Co-Director with EYCEJ Co-Founder Angelo Logan, mark! is now the Executive Director. He organizes in the area where he was born, raised and continues to live. mark! is the 2017 North American recipient of the Goldman Environmental Prize.

Mariscal, Griselda

Affiliation Labor - SEIU 721

Category Business representative, business organization or labor organization

Bio

Marquez, Teresa

Affiliation Mothers of ELA

Category Community organization

Bio My name is Teresa (Terry) Marquez, born and raised in Boyle Heights, California, the middle child and only girl of five children. Currently a grandmother of three - Analissa, Austin and Alec, thank you to my only daughter Kayla Ann.

Graduate of Roosevelt HS, class of '66, continued to LACC and ELA College, attending UCLA and graduated from Banking school with Business degree. After 35 years retired as a Vice President and Manager from Union Bank.

My community has always been a priority to participate and volunteered to improve the quality of life by my dedicated work starting 1978 U.N.O, following my work with Boyle Heights NC, Co-





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founder of Boyle Heights Historical Society and Boyle Heights Stakeholders Association. Serve as President of Boyle Heights Resident Homeowner Association, Alcohol Justice LA Charter Org.

Currently President of Mothers of E.L.A. where I am most proud of the significant work we have done and continue to do so. We stopped the building of the jail in BH, stopped the Vernon Power Plant, and the now closed down Exide Recycling, that contaminated six cities around City of Vernon with dangerous lead toxics and other chemicals that are causing learning disabilities in children, and birth defects for pregnant women.

Serving on the Exide Advisory Board. Working to get the first 10,000 properties clean, at failure of CA DTSC who promised clean first 2500, but only 286 cleaned in three years.

Accomplishments:

In 1979 I open the first Volunteer Income Tax Assistance VITA program in Boyle Heights, free income tax service for low income families

Alcohol Justice -LA Charter reducing alcohol licenses and closing some of the most dangerous and problematic bars and liquor store.

Currently also a member of the CA DTSC/ EXIDE Advisory Board

Served at the Children Orthopedic Hosp, helping Latino children that did not speak English and were from Mexico without their parents, for which I received an award from UB.

Martinez, Joseph

Affiliation First District Supervisor Hilda Solis

Category Elected Officials and Neighborhood Councils





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Bio

Martinez, Corina

Affiliation AltaMed Health Services

Category Agency, school, university, hospital

Bio Corina Martinez, MS, is the Project Manager for the Community Health Impact Team with AltaMed Health Services, one of the largest Federally Qualified Health Centers in the U.S. Ms. Martinez has a BS in Kinesiology and an MS in Exercise Physiology from California State University, Northridge, and she is a Physical Activity in Public Health Practitioner Fellow, a program sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention & the University of South Carolina. Growing up in Sylmar/San Fernando, CA, Ms. Martinez knows through personal experience that growing up in under-resourced neighborhoods with low connectivity to healthy food, parks, quality education, and healthcare has a profound impact on personal health and wellbeing. It's through her lived experience that Ms. Martinez nurtured a commitment to help uplift these types of communities. Ms. Martinez has held multiple roles throughout her 10 year career, such as hosting community outreach events and health education classes; helping families' access healthcare services; developing, implementing, and evaluating chronic disease prevention and management projects; and spearheading local and statewide health promotion initiatives. Most recently at AltaMed, Ms. Martinez and her team collaborated with 30+ schools, 52 restaurants, and 23 grocers to create sustainable, long-term, and scalable strategies to increase access to healthy foods and increase access to opportunities for physical activity in Southeast LA. Her team's newest project with AltaMed is to support AltaMed's commitment to strengthening civic engagement by continuing to collaborate with Southeast LA partners and residents to collectively create a healthier Southeast L.A. through policy, systems and environmental change strategies.



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Mehendale, Priya

Affiliation City of Los Angeles - Department of City Planning

Category Agency, school, university, hospital

Bio

Mondy, Cristin

Affiliation Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Category Agency, school, university, hospital

Bio
Cristin Mondy, M.S.N., M.P.H. is the Regional Health Officer for Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Metropolitan Los Angeles, SPA 4. In this capacity, she develops, administers and directs the delivery of core public health functions, including assessment and assurance activities related to communicable and chronic disease prevention.

Ms. Mondy has a broad range of experience, including background in critical care and emergency room nursing, public health nursing, healthcare for the homeless, and creating partnerships in communities to address a wide array of public health issues such as communicable disease control, chronic disease prevention, environmental health, and emergency preparedness.

Moretta, Father John

Affiliation Resurrection Church

Category Community organization



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Bio

Negrete, Hector-Alessandro

Affiliation Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council

Category Elected Officials and Neighborhood Councils

Bio

Nunez Constant, Bernice

Affiliation AltaMed Health Services

Category Agency, school, university, hospital

Bio Berenice Nunez Constant is the Vice President of Government Relations at AltaMed Health Services Corporation, a leading health care system providing care to more than 300,000 Southern California residents. In her current role she leads the company’s legislative, policy and regulatory advocacy strategies to advance federal and state actions to eliminate disparities in healthcare access for communities in need. She also leads the company’s Civic Engagement Program aimed at improving the social determinants of health and engaging patients and community members in the electoral process. She holds a Master’s Degree in Public Health from UCLA, and serves on various boards including the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California, UCLA’s Latino Policy & Politics Initiative and the SELA Collaborative.

Nuno, Evelyn

Affiliation Asm. Cristina Garcia - District 58

Category Elected Officials and Neighborhood Councils



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Bio

"Cristina Garcia has been called a ""Force of Nature,"" first as a dynamic community organizer and civic activist and now as a new generation of leader in the California State Legislature.

In Sacramento, she crashed the good old boys network and is leading the way to empower women to take their seat at the table. As the former Chair of the Legislative Women’s Caucus, she has made gender equity a priority and has been pivotal in ensuring that the Women’s Caucus plays an important role in budget and policy discussions.

Cristina Garcia has embraced her own communities with a message of hope and inclusion. She’s on a mission to educate, empower and engage her constituents in the 58th Assembly District, for women, and disadvantaged communities. She fights for change with a passion to improve the lives of working people and to brighten the path to the future for our next generation."

Ornelas, Norman

Affiliation

Los Angeles County Planning Department

Category

Agency, school, university, hospital

Bio

Peraza, Johncito

Affiliation

Active Resident - West Commerce

Category

Active residents

Bio

Johncito Peraza is a life-long resident of the City of Commerce and resides in the Bandini Neighborhood. He currently serves as a member of the Planning Commission where he advocates for smart and green development while supporting avenues of input from the community. Previously he served as a Community Services Commissioner where he supported expansion of social



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service programs and the formation of homeless committee --
Johncito is committed to advocating for all those in the community to improve our air quality, fight for environmental justice and an increase in civic engagement from the community.

Perez, Rudy

Affiliation Active Resident - East Los Angeles

Category Active residents

Bio

Polanco, Veronica

Affiliation Active Resident - Boyle Heights

Category Active residents

Bio
Veronica Polanco was born and raised in the heart of Boyle Heights. She attended all local public schools before entering the University of Pennsylvania. While at Penn she quickly identified the need to create community, develop leadership, and organize the various entities within the Latinx students. Ultimately becoming one of the co-founders for the Inter Ivy League Conference. Upon returning to Boyle Heights, she has worked with a range of organizations form local grassroots group to national organizations in an effort to bettering her community.

She brings her devotion to advocacy and community service in her roles as Transportation and Environment Committee Chair and Vice President of the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Coalition, where she deals with issues like the EXIDE contamination, homelessness, blighted vacant lots, increased civic engagement, and a demand for improved and more equitable response from various city departments. Primarily she works on establishing concrete tangible community actions while addressing the complicated and multi-layered problems the neighborhood faces.



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Rebollo, Oralia

Affiliation City of Commerce

Category Agency, school, university, hospital

Bio
Oralia Rebollo was elected to the Commerce City Council in March 2015 and served as Mayor in 2017-2018. A lifelong resident and 17-year City employee, Councilmember Rebollo has deep roots in Commerce and a passion to serve the community. She is an active member of the United Family of Bristow and Sister City Association where she enjoys the opportunity to work closely with the residents on various community projects.

With a Bachelor’s Degree in Child Development from the University of La Verne, Councilmember Rebollo is an advocate for strengthening the City’s outstanding preschool to teen programs while looking at ways to expand options for all youth including those with exceptional needs.

Councilmember Rebollo currently represents the City as a delegate for the Southeast Water Coalition, Southern California Association of Governments and City Selection Committee, and Gateway Cities Council of Governments.

She is the proud mother of a beautiful boy named Daniel and hopes to inspire him and all future generations to give back to their community.

Reyes, Jennifer

Affiliation Active Resident - West Commerce

Category Active residents

Bio

Reyes, Luis



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Affiliation Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church - ELA

Category Community organization

Bio _____

Rivas, Fabiola

Affiliation Active Resident - Boyle Heights

Category Active Residents

Bio _____

Rodriguez, Jacky

Affiliation Legacy LA

Category Community organization

Bio _____

Romo, Tiffany

Affiliation Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Category Agency, school, university, hospital

Bio _____

Sanchez, Carina

Affiliation Active Resident - East Los Angeles

Category Active Residents

Bio My name is Carina Sanchez. I was born and raised in East Los Angeles. I grew up in a house that was next to the 60-freeway and two gas stations; I suffered from severe asthma as a child. Growing



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up, I thought all this was normal. It wasn't until college that I learned about environmental injustice and how people of color are disproportionately affected by pollution. Currently, I live in the northern part of City Terrace - another POC neighborhood that is impacted by several sources of pollution. Nevertheless, I live with my fiancé, four cats, and a beautiful native garden.

I am incredibly passionate about environmental justice. I also have a passion for the arts, nature, and travel. I am also involved in my community in other matters such as food justice, affordable housing, and safety. Additionally, I have played the violin for the past five years.

I am a Research Analyst for Los Angeles Philharmonic and a member of East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, the Health Innovation Community Partnership, and the East Los Angeles Resident Advisory group. I attended California State University, Los Angeles and earned a minor degree in Business and an undergraduate degree in Sociology.

Valenzuela, Leoda

COFEM

Community Organization

Yanez, Rafael

Affiliation Active Resident - East Los Angeles

Category Active Residents

Bio

