

Advisory Council



Honorary Chairwoman

Rita Moreno is best known as Anita in *West Side Story* in 1961, a role that earned her an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress, making her the first Latina actress to win the honor. Moreno also appeared on the children's shows *Sesame Street* and *The Electric Company* and is one of only 11 people to have received the four major entertainment honors —Emmy, Oscar, Tony and Grammy awards (EGOT). In 2019, she added another letter to her list of accolades when she became the first Latino honored with a Peabody Award, making her a PEGOT.

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Andrea Navedo stars in the CW's syndicated Golden Globe nominated television series JANE THE VIRGIN. Navedo has received critical acclaim for her portrayal of Jane's loving and outgoing mother. Navedo is the recipient of the Imagen Award for Best Supporting TV Actress, as well as the Elizabeth Peña Breakthrough Artist Award.

A Bronx native, Navedo remains dedicated to various charities including as an advisory board member for A Place Called Home - a non-profit organization that provides safe haven, education and artistic development for at-risk youth in South Central, LA.



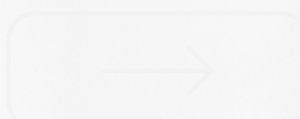
Carolyn Aronson is a successful entrepreneur, philanthropist and the founder and CEO of It's A 10 Haircare, one of the only female-owned professional hair care brands in the world. She announced full ownership of the company in 2017 and bought out her partner. In addition, as of November 2020, Carolyn announced the launch of Be A 10 Cosmetics, where she is also the Founder, CEO and owner of the brand, and most recently, was announced as a co-founder of new men's at-home hair color line, Rewind It 10 alongside her husband, Jeff Aronson and rapper, Fat Joe.

A self-made entrepreneur, Aronson began her career with 20+ years as a hair stylist and salon owner and continues to hold licenses in multiple states. It's A 10 Haircare was born out of her frustration with brands that produced dozens of products with single benefits and hard-to-follow claims.

Tricia Montalvo Timm is a board director, venture investor, speaker and author. She is a first-generation Latina who rose through the ranks of Silicon Valley advising high-tech companies big and small, culminating in the sale of data analytics software company Looker to Google for \$2.6 billion, Google's fourth largest acquisition.

Tricia currently serves on the board of directors at Salsify, a top enterprise software company. She is also an advocate of women and girls and serves as a mentor, advisor and investor in female-founded companies.

With her new best-selling book, Embrace the Power of You, she hopes to inspire anyone who has ever felt like an "other" in the workplace to embrace their true selves, own their identity and achieve success and fulfillment in their life and career.



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Sanford Cloud, Jr., is the Chairman and CEO of The Cloud Company, LLC, a real estate development and business investment firm, focusing on transforming urban neighborhoods and centers. TCC is currently a partner in redeveloping a portion of downtown Meriden with mixed-income housing, Westbrook Village in Hartford with mixed-income housing and a retail/commercial center and a mixed income housing development in downtown Torrington.

Sandy served as President and CEO of The National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ), from 1994 to 2004, a human relations organization dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry and racism in America and promoting understanding among all races, religions, and cultures. As President and CEO, Sandy advanced the organization's mission by increasing its visibility in relevant national discussions. The results of his work included convening leading thinkers, with opposing perspectives, in nationally telecast discussions known as The National Conversation on Race, Ethnicity and Culture. At the request of President Clinton, Sandy and the NCCJ worked with numerous faith leaders committed to combatting racism in America; the group's lasting achievement was a documented interfaith proclamation of "Racism as a Sin".



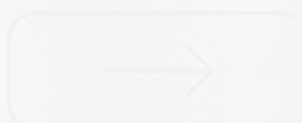
Yvette Peña is an accomplished, award-winning marketer with over 20 years of experience specializing in multicultural initiatives. Named Vice President for Latino Audience Strategy at AARP in 2016, she has led the strategic development of AARP's brand advertising campaigns targeting the Spanish-dominant and bilingual segments, resulting in significant brand awareness increases. Yvette serves as the national voice for AARP's thought leadership on Latino 50-plus communities through partnerships with multicultural organizations to drive AARP's social impact agenda. She develops and manages relevant offerings and programs for AARP's members in the U.S. and Puerto Rico with the goal of increasing brand affinity to better serving the Latino community. She is a lifelong advocate for ethnic communities.

Yvette is a native New Yorker, with proud Dominican roots and cherishes her time with her family. This has enabled her to work passionately for and with Latino families. She currently resides in both Washington, D.C. and Florida with her husband, Lazaro.

Deborah Rosado Shaw is a trusted advisor. Fortune 50 Senior Executive. Trailblazing Entrepreneur. Author. From Dallas to Dubai, Deborah is known as one of today's top global experts on Culture, Inclusion, Performance and Transformational Leadership. Deborah started, grew, and sold a multi-million-dollar international merchandising company with customers that included Costco, Walmart, and the Walt Disney Company.

She has served as PepsiCo's Senior Vice-President, Chief Global Diversity and Engagement, and on the World Bank Group-Diversity Advisory Panel, as well as the non-partisan National Women's Business Council providing advice and counsel to the U.S. President, Congress, and Small Business Administration on women's economic issues.

Declared a "leading and powerful voice" by iconic PepsiCo Chairman Indra Nooyi and described as "inspiring" by Oprah Winfrey. Deborah is the author of "Dream Big – A Roadmap for Facing Life's Challenges and Creating the Life You Deserve". She serves on several boards including Teach for America.



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Karen L. Clarkson is a dynamic leader with an unsurpassed reputation for delivering exceptional experiences and global growth in B2B Digital Transformation, Digital Services, Customer Experience, and Go-to-Market Sustainability Strategies. From building an internal startup with acquisitions to skyrocketing Fortune 500 accounts' annual revenues past \$1 Billion, her Go-to-Market sales and marketing strategies have spanned the gamut of industries and countries, delivering profitable results by enabling and empowering others.

Karen has a trajectory career with Ricoh Corp., a \$18B multinational sustainable digital services and information management company servicing 1.4 million businesses, including 84% of Fortune 500 across 200 global operating companies. She is passionate about mentorship and works to develop a pipeline of future leaders by chairing Ricoh's Diversity Council and serving as a board member and limited partner of How Women Lead, an organization promoting the advancement of women in business and investing.



Charles R. Venator-Santiago is an associate professor with a joint appointment in the Department of Political Science and El Instituto at the University of Connecticut. He is also the Interim Director of El Instituto: Institute for Latino/a, Caribbean and Latin American Studies and the founding Director of the Puerto Rican Studies Initiative for Community Engagement and Public Policy.

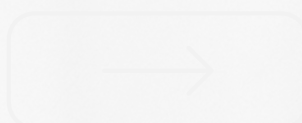
He studies U.S. territorial law and policy. is currently working on developing a series of research projects including developing a demographic profile of Puerto Ricans in Connecticut, the Northeast and Nationally, on an oral histories project, and a series of civic engagement projects.

Charles is the author of multiple digital archives including the Puerto Rico Citizenship Archives Project, the forthcoming Puerto Rico Status Archives Project, 1900 Survey of Puerto Rican Elites and the American Samoa Nationality and Citizenship Archives Project.

Dr. Tina Loarte-Rodriguez is dedicated to leaving the world a little better than she finds. Her unwavering belief in the power of community, kindness, and growth is a testament to her character. As a pioneer, she is committed to uplifting others as she ascends, using her privilege and influence for the greater good.

Her professional journey is a testament to her passion for innovation, health equity, and advocacy. With over eighteen years of nursing experience in various healthcare settings and specialties, she is a first-generation college graduate from Cornell University, the University of Connecticut, and Quinnipiac University. Dr. Loarte-Rodriguez's was honored as a 2021 Hartford Business Journal Healthcare Hero Award winner and led her nursing team to clinch the 2021 Connecticut Nurses Association Excellence in Team Award. Her published works, including the groundbreaking anthology 'Latinas In Nursing', further underscore her dedication to her profession.

Dr. Loarte-Rodriguez finds joy in dancing, exploring new places through travel, and expanding her horizons through reading. Her Afro-Latina Boricua (Puerto Rican) heritage, born and raised in the vibrant Bronx, NY, adds a unique flavor to her personality. She now resides in CT, surrounded by her incredibly supportive husband, their three phenomenal children, her father, and two rescue dogs, a testament to her deep-rooted values of family and community.



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Yvette Meléndez is President & Founder of YMR Consulting, a management consulting firm specializing in board development and strategy. She is a former healthcare policy executive with over forty years of public policy experience in education, health and human services.

Her experience includes leadership roles in the development of public policy and transformation of service delivery in human services, education and healthcare. She led public sector mergers and reorganization of state human services cabinet agencies, facilitated major public school reform and desegregation efforts, led higher education access and change initiatives as well as efforts toward implementation of healthcare equity and access. All while also leading change in the not-for-profit sector and philanthropy.

Throughout her career, Meléndez' passion for service was recognized through her leadership on the boards of directors of various local, national and international organizations. In addition to her board role in healthcare, she is currently Chair of the Board of Directors for CT Public Broadcasting, and is on the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Health Foundation. Ms. Meléndez has served on a variety of gubernatorially appointed commissions and has led topic areas for gubernatorial transition teams.

