



Young Latinos in Oregon: voice, leadership, and civic engagement

The Latino Partnership Program of the Oregon Community Foundation
Oregon Humanities
Latino Leadership Development Collaborative



Why civic engagement? Because our community's health and economic resilience are strongly dependent on the active participation of all citizens. The Latino population in Oregon is significant and growing, yet the composition of Oregon's political class does not reflect this. A quick look at the numbers shows that political leadership and representation by Latinos in Oregon is disproportionately low. To create more pathways to political engagement, young Latinos will need to move beyond voting and advocacy in ways that speak to their generation and leverage diverse backgrounds and experiences.

Developing political consciousness is like speaking a language: it is learned and acquired. *Growing the Latino Voice* is a series of non-partisan political conversations among young Latinos that helps with this development through a combination of on-the-ground perspectives, research, and practical insights from past and current Latino leadership.

Using a four-part conversation and workshop model, *Growing the Latino Voice* will convene young Latinos to talk politics and explore ways to improve Latino political participation and representation. Through these conversations, the collaborating partners will create a framework for Latinos in Oregon to consider politics beyond voting and advocacy. This series will also inspire millennial Latinos and others to consider public service as community leaders or elected officials and to build allies and cross-regional Latino networks. The conversations are open to new and actively involved Latinos, because in this endeavor, each participant is both a teacher and a student.

Topics

ONE: LET US TALK POLITICS

This facilitated conversation explores what political leadership looks like among Latinos. It will include an exploration of Oregon Latinos' civic health index in major civic engagement domains. The session closes with group and individual reflections about public service and office.

TWO: PUBLIC POLICY

Participants will engage in presentations and discussions about the pressing public policies facing cities, counties, and the state of Oregon, with an emphasis on how these policies impact a diverse Latino community. The session will include a look into the dynamics and "dances" involved in public policy making and conclude with reflection on how Latinos could make more significant contributions to a new establishment.

THREE: PUBLIC OFFICE AND ADVOCACY

This session offers a glimpse into key elements of successful public office and advocacy campaigns. Current and past office holders, campaign organizers, and advocacy leaders will help discuss the

general ethical principles of holding public office and campaign issues, as well as the winning and gracefully losing of campaigns.

FOUR: FORUM FOR ELECTED LATINOS AND BUILDING THE PIPELINE

These two separate conversations on the same day will converge in the exploration of building the pipeline for Latino political representation. Latino pioneers in public service and politics will be invited to meet other pioneers, exchange their experiences while in office, share lessons learned, and discuss aspirations for higher offices. Attendees of previous conversations will consider their own journeys and have a chance to meet with the Latino pioneers.

Process

Growing the Latino Political Voice invites Latino men and women aged 22 to 40 from across the state who are involved in their communities and wish to participate in the political process. Participants of all party affiliations and perspectives are encouraged to come to each of the half day conversations to create balanced conversations.

Application

There is no application process, but interested young Latinos must sign up for each of the sessions. This is not a cohort-based activity but continuous attendance and participation will be essential for each participant's benefit. Please contact Roberto Franco, Latino Partnership Program Director at The Oregon Community Foundation if you have questions. He can be reached at 503.227.6846 or rfranco@oregoncf.org.

Sign up and registration: please email your information to Rocio Perez at rperez@oregoncf.org

Tuition

There is no tuition or fee to sign up for these conversations. Participants are responsible for their own transportation and will not be reimbursed for mileage. Light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Program Schedule

Growing the Latino Voice will launch in the fall of 2015 and continue through the spring of 2016. Each session will take place on a Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., except the fourth session, Building the Pipeline, which will be all day. The sessions will include light breakfast, presentations, discussions, reflections, and a special lunchtime address. We urge participants to confirm in advance their availability for each weekend's scheduled conversation.

One: Let us talk politics –

I-5 corridor region (Portland Metro, Salem, Corvallis, Albany, Eugene)

Saturday, October 31, 2015

Salem. Chemeketa Eola - NW Viticulture Center - 215 Doaks Ferry Road NW Salem, OR 97304

Southern Oregon region (Douglas, Josephine, Jackson, Klamath and Lake)

Saturday, November 14, 2015

Medford. Inn at the Commons Conference Room – 200 N. Riverside Ave. Medford, OR 97501

Two: Public Policy Conversations

I-5 corridor region (Portland Metro, Salem, Corvallis, Albany, Eugene)

Salem

Saturday, February ---, 2016

Southern Oregon region (Douglas, Josephine, Jackson, Klamath and Lake)
Medford.
Saturday, February ---, 2016

Three: Public Office and Advocacy Conversation

I-5 corridor region (Portland Metro, Salem, Corvallis, Albany, Eugene)
Salem
Saturday, April ---, 2016

Southern Oregon region (Douglas, Josephine, Jackson, Klamath and Lake)
Medford
Saturday, April ---, 2016

Four: Building the Pipeline – Statewide Convening

May 2016 and location to be determined, Planned by OLAA with assistance from OCF and Oregon Humanities.

About the Conversation Series Partners

[The Oregon Community Foundation's \(OCF\)](#) mission is to improve life in Oregon promote effective philanthropy. OCF works with individuals, businesses, families and organizations to create charitable funds to support the community causes they care about.

[Oregon Humanities'](#) mission is to connect Oregonians to ideas that change lives and transform communities. Through a wide range of programs, publications, and partnerships, Oregon Humanities aims to contribute to an Oregon that invites diverse perspectives, explores challenging questions, and strives for just communities.

The Latino Leadership Development Collaborative

[The Latino Partnership Program](#) at OCF works with Latino leaders and organizations to address education challenges for the Latino community and to address other issues consistent with OCF priorities including civic engagement and leadership and facilitating relationship building between individuals and their communities. In order to accomplish its objectives, the program joined and convened a group of organizations actively engaged in leadership development to help advance a statewide effort to increase Latino representation in diverse community sectors and institutions, including civic representation.

[The Oregon Latino Agenda for Action \(OLAA\)](#) was an effort facilitated by Oregon Consensus of Portland State University to bring together a broad range of representatives from the Latino community throughout Oregon to collaborate in developing an "Oregon Latino Agenda for Action."

[Latino Network](#) provides transformative opportunities, services, and advocacy for the education, leadership and civic engagement of our youth, families and communities. Undi@s for Oregon is Latino Network's statewide leadership development program built on a framework that fosters cohesion, trust and relationships among leading Latino individuals and organizations.

[Coalition of Communities of Color \(CCC\)](#) addresses the socioeconomic disparities, institutional racism and inequity of services experienced by our families, children and communities; and to organize our communities for collective action resulting in social change to obtain self-determination, wellness, justice and prosperity.

[Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber](#) works with all members of the community to increase the economic advancement of Latinos in Oregon and SW Washington.