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In 2023, Latino Leadership Northwest experienced a year marked by strategic internal growth for both our organization and team. Despite temporarily pausing our programming, our commitment to active and intentional engagement within the community remained unwavering. This period was dedicated to establishing a robust foundation to ensure the long-term sustainability of our initiatives and foster the prosperity of LatinX youth, young professionals, and their families.

As we venture into 2024, building upon the achievements of the past year, we anticipate that our ongoing efforts will resonate even more profoundly. We aspire for you to truly sense the meaningful impact of our work and to hear the powerful voices of the generations of Latinos we are dedicated to uplifting.

# LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

#### **EMBRACING RESILIENCE AND STRENGTH AS A COMMUNITY**

Over the past months and years, we have faced numerous trials that tested our endurance and unity. From unforeseen circumstances to global challenges, our community has consistently demonstrated an unwavering spirit that inspires us all. It is a testament to the resilience ingrained within the fabric of our community.

As we navigate through the complexities of life, let us celebrate our 2023 triumphs, both big and small. Our ability to adapt, support one another, and find solutions in difficult times is what sets our community apart. It is through adversity that we discover the true depth of our collective strength.

In 2024, Latino Leadership NW will continue to foster a culture of support, empathy, and understanding, ensuring that no one in our community feels alone in their struggles. Latino Leadership NW recognizes that fostering a culture of curiosity and leveraging generational strength is critical for the well-being of our communities.

As we know curiosity is the catalyst for growth, learning, and innovation. It is the spark that ignites exploration and propels us towards new horizons. As a community, embracing and fostering curiosity can lead to a deeper understanding of each other and the world around us. Curiosity knows no bounds, and the more we cultivate it within our community, the richer and more dynamic our collective experience becomes.

By honoring our past, we build a stronger future generational strength plays a crucial role in enhancing the well-being, cohesion, and resilience of a community. It is the legacy of resilience, wisdom, and interconnectedness that propels humanity forward on its collective journey. Recognizing and celebrating the strengths of each generation fosters a sense of unity, ensuring that the flame of progress continues to burn brightly across the ages.

Let us embark on this exciting adventure of curiosity and generational strength together, celebrating the diversity of interests that make our community a vibrant tapestry of learning.

Here's to 2024 and a community fueled by curiosity, discovery, strength and endless possibilities.

Executive Director and Founder of LLNW

Diana Avalos-Leos

## 2023 RECAP

# EMPOWERING FUTURES, ROOTED IN COMMUNITY: OUR NEW HOME AT ROOTED SCHOOL VANCOUVER

In October 2023, Latino Leadership Northwest marked a significant achievement with the inauguration of our new headquarters at Rooted School Vancouver, situated off Fourth Plain in Vancouver, Washington. Our latest facility is a collaborative space shared with LULAC's LNESC Upward Bound Program.

Diana's association with Jonathan Johnson, the founder of Rooted Schools, and Steven Carney, Founding Executive Director and School Leader at Rooted School Vancouver, predates the grand opening this last year. From its inception, Diana has been among the community leaders whom Jonathan sought out for insights and guidance. We wholeheartedly align with their mission, deeply rooted in social justice and advocacy for our BIPOC and Latino students. The leadership of this school is firmly grounded in the principles and values of social justice.

Though this move represents a small stride on our journey toward securing a dedicated space, it stands as a genuine testament to the 12+ years of dedication and hard work invested by Latino Leadership Northwest, and the connections that

Diana has made along the way.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our community partners whose support has paved the way for us to thrive in this new and promising

space.





Learn More

# STRENGTHENING UNITY, AMPLIFYING VOICES, AND EXPANDING THE LATINO STUDENT CLUBS NETWORK

2023 REGAP

Diana's almost two decade-long experience in the Vancouver school district has fostered a robust partnership between LLNW and Fort Vancouver High School's MEChA group. This collaboration has significantly strengthened in recent years, introducing us to our cherished Mariposas cohort. Leveraging the influence of Fort's Latino student leaders, we've amplified their voices in alignment with our mission, vision, and programming.

In the past year, our former Youth Program Coordinator and current Outreach and Engagement Manager, Ana Betancourt Macias, closely collaborated with this dynamic student group, implementing events and fostering teamwork with the LLNW team.

Our primary goal this year is to further expand the LatinX student club network, establishing a central HUB for local student support and resources.

Stay tuned for updates!



66

My favorite part is having snacks every time we come to the MEChA meetings.

~ Hector Fort Vancouver High School Freshmen



66

I loved participating at the Dia de Nino event at the Library where I got the opportunity to read to little kids in Spanish.

> ~ Daniela Fort Vancouver High School Sophomore

I love working with
MEChA because I know
that they are the future of our
community and it is my pleasure to be able to support
them with resources, snacks and opportunities.
This is now my 3rd year working directly with them
and getting to learn about them individually and I get
to see all the amazing things they do and how they
support one another. It is such a beautiful feeling to
know that they have stepped into their power and are
leading their community.

~ Ana

LLNW Community Outreach and Engagement Manager

## 2023 REGAP

# Youth BH Connect

"There are two main challenges when it comes to working with children in a rural school setting. The first is knowing that once they leave the school, they have no support and the second is that support resources are far away and hard to access. The BH **Connect program** helps to solve both of these challenges! I love hearing the sense of relief and hope in the children's and parents voices when I tell them about the program, and they realize there is an option for them."

> ~ Tracey Stinchfield (Skamania School District) Social Worker/ School Counselor

## YOUTH BH CONNECT MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

In 2023, Welcome Home Health and Latino Leadership NW supported the implementation of the YouthBHConnect Program in SW Washington, serving 5 school districts. The program offers One-on-One After-School Support, addressing equitable access to resources for Latinx, BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and under-resourced students. Extending mental health resources to homes and communities.

The program, guided by a Health Advocate, includes anxiety and depression assessments, connecting to behavioral health resources, and involvement of certified Health and Wellness Coaches and Clinical Therapists. The partnership with Latino Leadership NW facilitated discussions on social equity and bias, leading to increased access to behavioral health resources in both rural and urban districts among Latino and BIPOC youth.

#### 2022/23 SCHOOL YEAR TRENDS

100/0

were referred

by Health and

Wellness

Coaches to

Therapists.

of students completed anxiety and depression assessments.

Parents requested access to coaches and therapists for their children's issues.

75%

utilized Health and Wellness Coaches BH Provider.

800/0

of non-binary students graduated.



worked with Health Advocate Only. Increased access to behavioral health resources in rural counties.

# CELEBRATING DIA DE LOS NINOS WITH FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARIES

This year we celebrated our second Dia de Los Ninos in collaboration with Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries. The event, rooted in Mexican tradition, honors children's importance and well-being.

Mariposas and MEChA Students hosted engaging activities at Three Creeks, Cascade Parks, and Downtown Vancouver, including origami, tissue flowers, and mosaic butterflies. The celebration concluded with a special palleta treat, creating cherished memories.

Dia de Los Ninos, celebrated since 1925, gained attention through author Pat Mora. LLLNW recognizes the importance of student literacy and dual language programs, fostering a love for reading and cultural understanding.

As LLNW reflects on the success, the organization remains dedicated to supporting student literacy and language initiatives for community development. Looking ahead, they anticipate more years of fostering learning, celebrating diversity, and empowering the next generation.

#### STUDENT PANEL PARTNERSHIP

In collaboration with West Van for Youth Coalition, Central Vancouver Coalition, Welcome Home Health, and YWCA Clark County, LLNW had the privilege of contributing to the planning and hosting of this year's Key Leader Event, featuring a diverse Youth Leadership Panel. Guided by MC and mentor Tyler Monk, these five student leaders shared valuable insights on youth mental health and substance abuse.



Attendee evaluations reflected positive sentiments such as:

"It was great to learn about Welcome Home Health and their services to support families."

"Amazing youth panel. I appreciated their knowledge."

"I learned about what a Coalition is. Very helpful! Loved the student panel."

"Students are change makers!"

Being part of community events that amplify the voices of powerful youth is always a pleasure and an honor.



# 2023 REGAP

## ROOTED IN LOVE: PROVIDENCE ST JOSEPH PARTNERSHIP FUND

In 2023, our journey was marked by the expansion of new supporters, partners, and enriching experiences. The partnership with Providence St. Joseph Funding team initially seemed like a typical funder. However, this collaboration surpassed expectations, as the partnership fund proved to be unique in its foundation of love and community connection.

The St. Joseph Community
Partnership Fund operates on a
distinctive philosophy, leveraging
the power of communities to
promote equity and justice for
healthier living. By bringing
together coalitions of committed
leaders and investing in their
initiatives to enhance the wellbeing of others, the fund envisions
building a more resilient and
equitable future for all.

In March 2023, Rose and Ana participated in the Rooted in Love convening in Costa Mesa, California, joining grantees from across the U.S. This event provided a platform for organizations to connect, share insights, and learn from one another through workshops and sessions aimed at uplifting attendees and equipping them with valuable tools for their respective organizations.

The partnership with the St. Joseph Community Partnership Fund has granted us an invaluable experience, offering essential funding that facilitated internal growth during a strategic program pause.



CHOLA CON: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES, BREAKING BARRIERS

LLNW was invited by LNESC to participate in Chola Con, a groundbreaking conference in October that united proud cholas and chingonas committed to community upliftment and breaking barriers. The annual event provided an extraordinary experience for the LLNW crew, fostering acceptance, bonding, and invaluable learning.

Themed "La Chola Xola: Reclaiming Indigenous Guerrillera Identities & Celebrating Ceremonia in Chola Spaces," the Chola Conference surpassed expectations by showcasing and celebrating the strength and resilience of the Chola community. LLNW actively engaged in discussions, presentations, and ceremonies, delving into the rich cultural tapestry of La Chola.

For LLNW, participating in Chola Con was more than an event; it was an opportunity to contribute to a movement dedicated to empowerment and understanding. Aligned with LLNW's commitment to community engagement and amplifying diverse voices, the annual conference inspires continued support for initiatives fostering inclusivity, empowerment, and the celebration of diverse identities.



"This space was exactly what I needed to unlearn and heal. I am so glad we were able to go because I was so inspired to see so many women that looked like me. Women that ran organizations, businesses and women who were PhD holders. Spaces like this are so limited and are so important. I hope we get to participate every year."

~ Ana Betancourt Macias LLNW Outreach and engagement Manager "Chola con was a deeply spiritual and emotional experience for me. As a Latina, a daughter, and descendant of powerful cholas and chingonas, it held immense importance. Witnessing women who look like my tias, tattoos, attitude, and all, showcasing their impactful community work in that space was incredibly empowering. It was the first time I had seen so many Latina PhDs gathered in one place."

# 2023 RECAP

#### LLNW AT GATES FOUNDATION: CRAFTING TOMORROW'S LEADERS, ONE LEARNING SESSION AT A TIME!

On November 15th, the LLNW team embarked on a journey to Seattle to participate in the Gates Foundation K-12 to Postsecondary Pathways: Legislator Learning Session.

Bringing together students, educators, and representatives from across Washington state, the session aimed to tackle the unmet needs of Latino students while shedding light on the prevailing inequities within our K-12 systems. Adults delved into data and engaged in roundtable discussions, while students were encouraged to provide a 3 minute ted talk style testimony with legislators and Gates Foundation representatives. Topics ranged from college return on investment to high school and beyond plans, financial aid, and more.

The stars of our team were Collegiate Mariposa, <u>Samantha Meza</u>, and <u>Laura Ramirez</u>, a senior from Fort Vancouver High School's MEChA. They shared their personal educational journeys, shining a light on college return of investment and the significance of career counseling.

After a day packed with learning, exploration, professional headshots, and a delightful meal, our team wrapped up and headed home with newfound insights. This event was a profound learning opportunity for our students, allowing us to raise our voices in spaces where we can address the daily inequities faced by our students.

Thank you Gates Foundation for the invitation and the impact you have made on our students.



# MARIPOSA INTERNSHIP



#### **INVESTING IN DREAMS, BUILDING LEGACIES**

The impact of paid internship programs is crucial for fostering social stability and economic development. The LLNW Mariposas Paid Internship Program, initiated in response to the global pandemic, plays a significant role in addressing workforce opportunities for young individuals. This program effectively alleviates financial barriers during uncertain times, offering students in SW Washington financial, professional, and academic support.

Designed for high school and collegiate levels, the Mariposa Internship Program provides a paid opportunity for aspiring youth and young adult leaders. By participating, individuals gain invaluable skills and experience while contributing to their community. This is particularly beneficial for those facing financial challenges, including first-generation and undocumented students or recent graduates. The program serves as a crucial source of income, helping cover living expenses, tuition fees, and other financial obligations that might otherwise hinder their participation in internships.

Our Mariposas work closely with LLNW staff, contractors, and community leaders, engaging in hands-on experiences in community organizing, social media marketing, and program development and implementation. Through leadership training and one-on-one mentoring, Mariposas develop essential leadership qualities, enhancing their skill sets and supporting them along their educational and career paths. This not only furthers the mission of LLNW but also invests in the future leaders of the community.

Recognizing that young people bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and creative solutions, LLNW acknowledges that investing in youth is an investment in the future of the community. The positive effects extend beyond the individuals directly involved, contributing to the overall betterment of society.



#### **LUIS A. HUERTA HERNANDEZ**

Washington State University Vancouver Major: Mechanical Engineering

Anticipated Graduation: May 2024

Hey! My name is Luis A. Huerta Hernandez and I'm currently in my senior year at WSUV, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Since high school I've loved participating in community events and being able to advocate and be an example for my community. After graduation I plan on earning my master's degree and starting my own engineering business. As immigrants pursuing higher education, there are many challenges that get in the way of the goals we want to achieve. Economic support could make a difference in whether a student like me can obtain their degree, so any help is appreciated.



#### **ALMA MELCHOR BURGOS**

**Washington State University Vancouver** 

Major: Biology | Minor: Spanish Anticipated Graduation: May 2024

I am a first-generation, undocumented Latina student, graduating with my bachelor's degree in biology accompanied by a minor in Spanish this upcoming spring. My dream has always been to work in the medical field serving as a nurse or physician's assistant, but specifically serving as a bridge between my Latino community in the medical system. As of right now due to circumstances, I will withhold from flying to achieve this goal... but I will get there one day. Being the oldest of three, growing up, my role in my family was to serve as the primary interpreter in

predominantly English-speaking environments, something that was very difficult since English is my second language. Overall, my personal lived experiences are a driving force that allows me to pursue my passion by working closely with my community. I am grateful for the support of LLNW, for making a positive impact in my community and look forward to continuing my efforts in providing essential resources. I encourage partners and sponsors to make resources available for undocumented students, allowing them the opportunity to gain work experience through internships and allowing them to make a difference in their community.

#### **PAMELA MELCHOR BURGOS**

Fort Vancouver High School Center for International Studies Clark College Running Start

**Major: Biology** 

**Anticipated Graduation: June 2024** 



Hello! I am Pamela Melchor Burgos, the youngest of the Mariposa crew. I crawled out of my cocoon a bit later than the rest, joining the (older and wiser) Mariposas in the spring of 2022! I am currently on track to graduating High School, along with my associate degree in biology from Clark College, this upcoming spring. I am a proud daughter of immigrant parents, navigating her way through the complexities of higher education. As such, having experienced the difficulties imposed on undocumented, immigrant youth firsthand, my passion revolves around assisting students facing challenges in their pursuit of higher education. With a vision to motivate young, first-generation, undocumented Latina students to aspire ambitiously, persevere, and most importantly take up space, I aspire to further my education and contribute to the field of Forensics as a Crime Scene Analyst. In pursuing a career within the science fields, I hope to open the door for other undocumented students who do not see themselves in career fields like this and provide them the support they are often denied. The difficulties faced by students are plenty, however, financial aid is an aspect that partners and community founders could contribute towards in an effort to alleviate these hardships. Additionally, providing opportunities that would allow students develop their academic and professional skills; workshops, conferences etc. Let's all work together to provide the support to our future generation of proud Latino students!

The Mariposas brought the fun to business meetings, fluttering in for at least

### 50 lively encounters

with Rose and the team over the past year!

The Mariposas are
deeply engaged with the
community spirit, actively supporting
our extensive network of organizations,
making connections, and participating in

10 dynamic

community tabling events!

#### **SAM MEZA**

Washington State University Vancouver Major: Education | Minor: Spanish Anticipated Graduation: May 2024

I am a fluttering mariposa named Sam who joined the team in my senior year of high school! Now, I am

set to graduate this upcoming Spring with my Bachelor's degree in Education and minor in Spanish from Washington State University, Born in Mexico, raised in Vancouver, WA, I am the eldest and only daughter in a family of five (plus, my two furry friends). My desire and motivation to work closely for and with my community comes from my own experiences being a first-generation Latina immigrant. With a focus on education, I am pursuing a career as a dual-language educator. As a K-12 student, I struggled to find teachers who shared or were familiar with my background, as well as finding accessible resources. Therefore, my driving force is to serve students and their families who share similar backgrounds and experiences, by providing them with the necessary support and opportunities. Like the work LLNW is doing for not only myself, but for the hundreds of students we reach; I have been given a platform to use my voice in spaces I could have never imagined myself to be in! Thinking back to when I was invited to give a speech to Bill Gates and Melinda Gates Foundation Headquarters representatives and state legislators. More importantly though, I have been served in a way that has allowed me to reach success through guidance and accessible opportunities. This is what pushes me to serve my community, regardless of the field I am working in, as I know firsthand how challenging navigating life could be as an under-represented community. While the struggle is undeniably real, it's crucial to remember that it doesn't have to be a lonely journey.

The Mariposas dedicated a collective total of

1800 compensated hours,

which were paid internship hours, to community organizing and leadership development!







#### **JAIR CARLOS SANCHEZ**

Washington State University Vancouver
Major: Mechanical Engineering | Minor: Mathematics
Anticipated Graduation: May 2025

Hi I am Jair I am one of the Mariposa interns at Latino Leadership
Northwest! I am the first person in my family to go to college. I am attending
WSUV and majoring in mechanical engineering with a minor in math. I do not have any clear
plans after I graduate but I would like to get a job in the automotive industry. I have wanted to
be an engineer ever since I was in middle school. I was pretty good at math and enjoyed it. I
also really liked the characters in movies that made the heroes cool gadgets, cars, planes, and
tech. Being a Mariposas I feel more connected to my community since I can advocate for my
community working at LLNW. Partners/funders could help support students like me by
providing financial resources, academic resources, and mental health resources.

As our first cohort of Mariposas prepares to graduate and ascend into the community, we express profound gratitude for the time, experiences, and impactful contributions they have made to our organization and our community. Luis Huerta, Jair Carlos, Samantha Meza, Alma Melchor Burgos, and Pamela Melchor Burgos, you embody the heart and soul of this organization and represent the next generation of strong community leaders.

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your journey.

# ANNUAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE!

We want to express an enormous and heartfelt thank you to our vibrant community – the driving force behind the success of the Annual Clark County Latino Youth Leadership Conference!

A sincere shoutout goes to our sponsors and exhibitors whose contributions provide invaluable support and resources to our students. Special acknowledgement to our dedicated presenters who generously share their time and knowledge, uplifting our Latino and BIPOC students. Gratitude extends to WSU for graciously hosting us on your campus for this impactful day. And a HUGE thank you to the 600+ students, chaperones, and volunteers whose energy brings this event to life. THANK YOU!

Our annual leadership conference provides middle and high school students with a platform to develop leadership skills and empowers them to explore higher education and technical career opportunities on a college campus. The conference also strives to unite Latino and BIPOC community leaders to show our students that we belong in these professional and academic spaces! This annual event is a testament to our community's dedication and commitment to uplifting the next generation of leaders, creating a safer and more equitable future.

This year's theme centered around trades and technical careers, acknowledging that not everyone's leadership path takes them to college and highlighting the true impact that blue-collar workers have in our society. Our message: Empowering the Next Gen to Dream, Learn, Grow, Lead! Cheers to a future filled with empowered leaders!







"Those beautiful smart brown faces del futuro!! Adelante mi gente... Brown pride."

Pat Cano, SW WA LULAC

"Going to CCLYLC made me realize that after I graduate there's a lot of opportunities for people with diverse backgrounds like me."

**FVHS Student** 

"An outstanding organization making a remarkable difference in the Latino community."

> Román Lara, Clark College MESA

"I liked that it gave me opportunities for my future, like in the "cafeteria" there was a man helping students get internships and experiences that would help kids know what they want to do in their life. I appreciate that a lot. Especially as a first generation eldest kid."

Alin Jasmin Ramos Gonzalez, Student

"Passionate, helpful, important, trail blazers. Thanks for having me!"

Juliette Fernandez, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# ANNUAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE!

#### **CHARTING SUCCESS THROUGH DATA**

Recorded Attendance	494 students
School Diversity	16 high schools, 1 middle school, and a special visit from Tacoma!
Exhibitors	13 organizations from across SW Washington
Fiscal Sponsors	Supported by 11 partners
Presenters	39 dynamic speakers offering 29 different sessions for students to choose from!
Volunteers	45+ community members and leaders generously signed up for the day
Hiccups	Numerous, but who's counting?





#### **FIRST ANNUAL**

# COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS!

In celebration of our inaugural LLNW Community Leadership Awards, we extend a special shoutout to the exceptional Educator and Student who have been chosen as this year's award recipients.

After reaching out to our community and receiving nominations for impactful leaders, the LLNW Team meticulously reviewed the submissions and is thrilled to announce the well-deserved winners of this year's awards: Educator Ashley Pirrone, and High School Student Laura Ramirez.



Ashley, a dedicated educator, has left an invaluable mark at Fort. From co-advising MEChA to spearheading student-led projects and developing innovative courses, Ashley's commitment to her students and the school community is truly commendable. She not only teaches leadership classes but has also pioneered the first-ever Latin American Literature class, bringing representation to the literature and lessons. Her collaboration with Latino Leadership Northwest and LULAC has further expanded opportunities for students.

Laura, a member of the leadership council for MEChA, has shown exceptional leadership by ensuring equal participation within the council and club. Her creation of the Unidos program, supporting English learners, exemplifies her empathy and proactive approach to community needs. Despite facing challenges, Laura's initiative significantly impacted classroom dynamics, fostering friendships and boosting attendance.

**FIRST ANNUAL** 

# COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS!

Recognizing the value of acknowledging such impactful efforts in the community, each awardee was presented with a certificate in recognition of their outstanding leadership efforts. To add a dash of appreciation, they were also gifted a \$100 gift card. These awards not only celebrate the achievements of individuals but also highlight the importance of recognizing and supporting the incredible initiatives that contribute to a stronger and more connected community.

Congratulations and thanks to Ashley and Laura for their outstanding contributions!



# CHARLAS Y REGALOS!



For the past three years, LLNW had the honor of collaborating with valued partners and community leaders to bring forth the beloved Charlas project. Since its inception in 2020, our following has grown, as has our mission to provide impactful and informational Facebook Live sessions directly where our parents consume media and information.

In 2023, Charlas underwent a transformation in our community, introducing Charlas Y Regalos, which was launched that year! Ana, Daisy, Alexis, and their team worked diligently to bring you the content needed to thrive!

Featuring guest speakers and topics such as:

#### **Washington State Department of Natural Resources**

Rep: Raul Martinez, External Affairs Manager

#### **Upward Bound**

Reps: Sandra Zavala, Executive Director Alicia Torres, Administrative Assistant

#### **Southwest Washington Contractors Association**

Rep: Sherrie Jones, Executive Director

#### **Washington State Department of Revenue**

Rep: Francisco Diaz, Community Outreach Specialist

#### La CIMA/La CHISPA/CHITO

Rep: Vincent Perez, Educator and Executive Director

Total Viewers from YouTube and Facebook	4,500
Highest Viewing Month	June with 2,869 views
Interviews	Conducted 12 engaging interviews!
Total Giveaway Prizes	\$450 worth of prizes generously distributed during Charlas!

We invited expert guests from Washington and Oregon to provide our community with vital information via a virtual platform. Covering everything from education programs, professional contacts, and mental health, we aimed to address it all! In a delightful twist this year, along with our Charlas, we also presented giveaway prizes to some of our lucky viewers.

Prizes ranged from e-gift cards to physical items like a pair of headphones!



# FROM CHARLAS TO CHARLITAS! Subscribe



While this program holds a special place in the hearts of monthly viewers, the organization believes it's time to revisit our roots! With that in mind, we're thrilled to unveil the Charlitas Podcast!

As a natural evolution of the Charlas program, our Mariposa interns, with support from the Charlas team, have come together to create a student-directed podcast. Serving as an extension of our former Charlas Facebook lives, each session is dedicated to important, and at times, challenging topics. Hosted by the LLNW Mariposas, with special guests from across Clark County, we are excited to bring you this innovative new project!







## BOARD OF DIRECTORS





#### LLNW BOARD: STEERING DREAMS, SHAPING FUTURES!

We are thrilled to announce the completion of our Board of Directors!

The newly formed board is dedicated to advancing LLNW's mission of promoting equity and social justice. Their focus includes not only implementing and stabilizing these principles but also cultivating sustainable revenue streams and enhancing our successful mentoring programs. Comprising three steadfast members who have been integral to our organization since its inception, they have played a crucial role in shaping LLNW into what it is today.

Looking ahead, we extend an invitation to new board members who will represent the diverse voices and perspectives of our community, acting as staunch advocates for our mission and interests. Our current board includes:

Diana Perez, Vancouver City Council Representative

Alexis Espinoza, CEO of Media Mt Productions

Dr. Jennifer Hernandez, Educational Consultant

Bill Oman, Vancouver Public Schools

Sandra Zavala Ortega, LNESC and VPS School Board President

Melissa Meconi, Healthcare Professional

Eduardo Ramos, Policy Advisor at METRO

Yessenia Martinez, Attorney

These individuals collectively embody a broad spectrum of community voices, advocating for leadership, youth mentorship, social justice, equity, and sustainability. We anticipate that new members come from diverse professions, representing various age groups, gender identities, backgrounds, and accessibility perspectives.

The board is set to play a crucial role in guiding and extending the organization's impact. To initiate the development of the new board strategy, we actively sought input from stakeholders, incorporating their valuable feedback to shape the goals, strategy, and expectations for our incoming board members. With enthusiasm, we look forward to embarking on this journey alongside a fully engaged and diverse board, propelling LLNW's mission to new heights. Identified focus areas include fundraising, sustainability, social capital opportunities, and mentorship.





# SOCIAL MEDIA STATS

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA GROWTH IN 2023**



GROWTH	REACH	ENGAGEMENT
Facebook	Facebook	Facebook
11%	95,010	13,387
Instagram 76% (boasting the largest youth following)	Instagram 25,902	Instagram 2,854
LinkedIn	LinkedIn	LinkedIn
42%	14,096	561

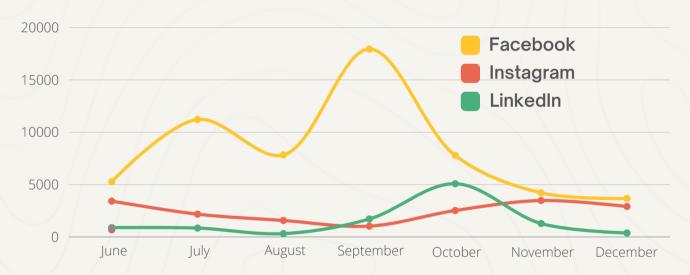
Social Media Community Size 32%

# SOCIAL MEDIA SUCCESS

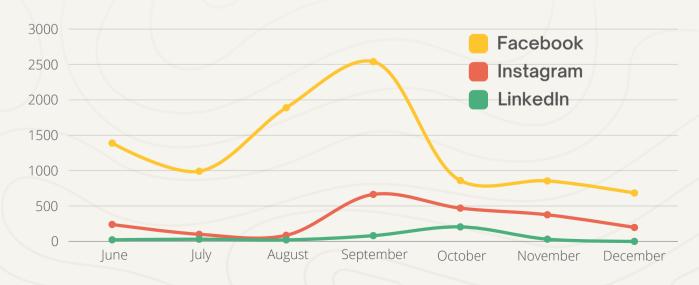
#### **SOCIAL MEDIA GROWTH IN 2023**

LLNW's annual conference is a powerhouse for engagement on our social media and website. The spikes just before and after reveal its profound influence. Before the event, adults and organizations are highly engaged, showcasing anticipation. Post-conference, a significant surge in student content reflects its impact on a younger audience. This dynamic pattern underscores the conference's versatile ability to resonate with diverse segments of our community and shows how impactful social media can be when connecting with a larger audience!

#### **Conference Social Media Impact: Reach**



#### **Conference Social Media Impact: Engagement**





years of service in SW Washington

In-Kind Donations
BLAZER TICKETS
\$6,000





IMPACT \$57,600 Encompassing external engagements, internship stipends, and contributions



Grants awarded in 2023:

\$277,000

# THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S FUNDERS WHO HELP MAKE THIS WORK POSSIBLE!

#### **FUNDERS AND DONORS**

Cowlitz Tribal Foundation
Inatai Foundation
Providence St Joseph Partnership Fund
Community Foundation for SW Washington
The Portland Trail Blazers
Institute for Educational Leadership

#### **CONFERENCE SPONSORS**

Rosewood Landscape
SW Washington LULAC #47013
Wilder Experience
Nutter Foundation
Washington State University
City of Vancouver
State Farm Insurance
iQ Credit Union
Burgerville
PepsiCo Ridgefield
Johnson Bixby



# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS AND **COLLABORATORS!**

#### Thank you to our partners who work alongside us to foster a positive collective impact in our community!

YWCA Clark County West Van for Youth

Central Vancouver Coalition

Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries

Washington State University Vancouver

**NEXT** 

**SWEC** 

SW Washington LULAC #47013

Rooted School Vancouver

RA Long High School

**Evergreen School District** 

Vancouver Public Schools

Camas School District

Kalama School District

BattleGround School District

Tacoma School District

Longview Public Schools

Woodland School District

Build 2 Lead

Community Response Network

SURGE NW

Global Perinatal Services

Khmer Community of SKC

**Hummingbird Indigenous Family Services** 

Native American Reentry Services

Children's Alliance

Families of Color Seattle

Second Chance Outreach

Peace Community Center

**Project Girl Mentoring** 

KAYA Strategik

#### **COLLABORATORS:**

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