

El Proyecto Board of Directors Holds Retreat



El Proyecto held its Board of Directors and Executive Management Retreat on January 10, 2026. This Board Retreat plays a pivotal role in shaping El Proyecto's future direction, goals, and strategic priorities. This event provided an opportunity for creative thinking and collaborative problem-solving, providing a forum for strategic planning across the organization.

The Retreat featured comprehensive presentations and in-depth discussions focused on addressing financial challenges, organizational growth, and innovative strategic solutions. These sessions enabled participants to examine potential opportunities and risks. El Proyecto's leadership remains proactive in monitoring policy developments and advocating for the needs of the communities and individuals we serve.

This Retreat provided an opportunity for Board members and Executive Management to reconnect and engage with each other to strengthen bonds as a team. This year, with the leadership of Corinne Sánchez, President and CEO and Robert Winn, Chairman of the Board, the Retreat was highly successful. Board members expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to contribute, collaborate, and help shape El Proyecto's future.



El Proyecto del Barrio, Inc.

HOPE • COMMITMENT • EXCELLENCE

El Proyecto visits legislators in Washington, D.C.

On February 11, 2026, during the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) “Hill Day” in Washington, DC, El Proyecto met with Congressman Brad Sherman representing the 32nd Congressional District. Congressman Sherman welcomed El Proyecto leaders at his Washington office including Juan Delgado, Chief Information Officer, Dr. Karmen Tatulian, Chief Medical Officer, Jennifer Mercado, M.D., Board Member, Corinne Sánchez, President/CEO and Ruth Novodor, Chief Managed Care Officer. Ms. Sánchez believes these trips are essential because they provide a direct platform to share the organization’s priorities and stories with policymakers. She feels that building these personal connections not only amplifies the voices of the communities El Proyecto serves but helps secure the resources and support needed to advance the mission.



El Proyecto leadership made a significant trip to Washington, D.C. to advocate for the organization and its vital mission. During their visit, they had meaningful and productive in-person meetings with influential legislators, including Congressman Brad Sherman, Congressman Gil Cisneros, Congresswoman Luz Rivas and Senator Alex Padilla. These conversations were marked by opposing Medicaid cuts,

supporting 330 Funding and opposing the restriction of access to care for the immigrant population. The spirit of collaboration, focused on strengthening strategic partnerships, securing support for key initiatives, and exploring innovative opportunities for future collaboration continues. The commitment and vision shared in these meetings aim to ensure lasting, positive impact for the diverse communities El Proyecto is dedicated to serving.

Citizen’s Business Bank Recognizes El Proyecto del Barrio, Inc.



El Proyecto was a recipient of Citizens Business Bank’s Annual Golf Tournament Community Recognition Award. This recognition is given to an organization that has demonstrated outstanding service, leadership, or community impact. John Kossian, Vice President and Relationship Manager at Citizens Business Bank, joined El Proyecto President/CEO Corinne Sánchez, Executive Vice President Mary Hernandez, and Chief Financial Officer Ricardo Ornelas for a check presentation at the Corporate office on December 10, 2025. By investing in impactful programs like El Proyecto’s, Citizens Business Bank demonstrates its dedication to fostering positive change and building meaningful partnerships that help individuals and families thrive.

Community Investments for Families (CIFD) visits WorkSource



Ms. Abigail Marquez, General Manager of the Community Investment for Families Department (CIFD), visited El Proyecto WorkSource Center and YouthSource Center on December 16, 2025. The CIFD oversees federal and city funds to support low-income families through diverse social services and economic development programs. El Proyecto serves as a key partner to CIFD by delivering essential job training and placement services directly to the community. Ms. Magdalena Duran, WorkSource Administrator noted that while Ms. Marquez is familiar with El Proyecto’s work, her in-person visit provided a valuable opportunity to gain deeper insight into our impact. Ms. Sánchez added that this visit was an important moment to highlight El Proyecto’s contributions.

Supporting Survivors of Altadena Wildfires

On March 28, 2026, Altadena came together for a community relief event — “Altadena Strong: Eaton Fire Residents.” It was organized by El Proyecto del Barrio and Direct Relief, in partnership with WorkSource Sun Valley, Neighborhood Servants, and Altadena Collaborative providing the distribution site. Volunteers and organizers ran a coordinated drive-through operation serving over 300 residents and families.

Each received an air purifier and an essential item such as a microwave, portable power station, or air fryer. The atmosphere was personal and hopeful. Residents expressed deep gratitude — through handshakes, embraces, and quiet words of thanks — reflecting the enduring resilience of a community that remains, truly, “Altadena Strong.”



Corinne Sánchez attends Music Center Board Holiday Event



Ms. Sánchez attended the Music Center Board of Directors’ Holiday Event on December 6, 2025, graciously hosted at the home of Robert J. Abernethy, Board Chair. Mr. Abernethy, a dedicated leader in the Los Angeles arts community, is known for his vision and commitment to expanding the Music Center’s reach and impact. The Board is responsible for managing The Music Center’s venues and guiding its’ role in the Los Angeles arts community, covering strategic direction, community engagement, and fundraising. Ms. Sánchez has been an active and engaged member since joining the Board in 2023, contributing her expertise to initiatives focused on increasing access to the arts and strengthening community partnerships. She remarked on Mr. Abernethy’s warm hospitality and leadership and noted that the event provided an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow Music Center Board Members.

East LA Child Development Center Library Field Trip

On November 10, 2025, Ms. Sofia Hernandez, Site Supervisor, East Los Angeles Child Development Center, led the children on a field trip to the East Los Angeles Library. Carefully planned in advance, these visits offer a bright, welcoming adventure that the children eagerly anticipate. During each visit, little ones gather for an engaging story time, where a librarian reads colorful picture books and leads age-appropriate songs and movement activities that spark curiosity and joy. The group explores the children’s area, discovering cozy reading nooks, educational toys, and shelves filled with books they can select based on their interests and developmental stage. These thoughtfully designed activities ensure that every child is included and stimulated in ways best suited to their age. The trips provide a gentle, joyful introduction to the library as a place for imagination, learning, and community, fostering a lifelong love of reading and discovery.



EL PROYECTO EVERYDAY HEROES INGRID FONSECA

Ingrid joined El Proyecto in June 2018 and brings a strong combination of professionalism, enthusiasm, and commitment to her work. She provides critical administrative and operational support to managers, staff, and patients, demonstrating strengths in effective communication, anticipation of needs, sound decision-making, resourcefulness, and accountability. Known for managing a consistently full workload, Ingrid uses strong time management skills to meet deadlines and maintain high standards of performance.

Drawing on her background in customer service, she sought opportunities to grow and expand her skill set by enrolling in training through the WorkSource Center. Since then, Ingrid has continued to advance professionally and was promoted to Assistant Clinic Manager for Arleta Dental, while continuing to support daily operations at the Arleta Clinic. In her expanded role, she also collaborates with the county on budgeting for the Oral Health Grant.

"I love working with El Proyecto," Ingrid said. "They have given me an opportunity to grow professionally in a field that gives back to the community."



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE from Corinne Sánchez

El Proyecto is a Good Place to Work

El Proyecto is proud to acknowledge it hires over 500 individuals in various capacities at its' comprehensive community and health centers throughout the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valley.

This past year we have afforded health care coverage for all eligible employees and their dependents. Full-time employees are eligible for insurance plan benefits on the first day of the following month after hire or transferred from part-time to full-time employment. Our comprehensive benefit package includes Health, Dental, Long-Term Disability and Group Life Insurance, 100% paid for employees and 50% paid for Employee dependents. El Proyecto established an Education Assistance Program (EAP) to provide financial assistance to our employees to attain their career aspirations and dreams. In accordance to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), our employees can receive up to \$5,250 annually for eligible tuition, books, and professional license fees.

We are proud that we have a generous Retirement Plan available for all eligible employees and El Proyecto matches the employee contribution by four (4) percent. El Proyecto gives all eligible employees a maximum of 15 days every year and 20 days' vacation after three (3) years of employment. El Proyecto pays for its' permanent employees 10 (ten) authorized holiday pay. We have annually bonused eligible employees if the annual audit revenue permits this discretionary benefit.

El Proyecto del Barrio, Inc., is a good place to work!

