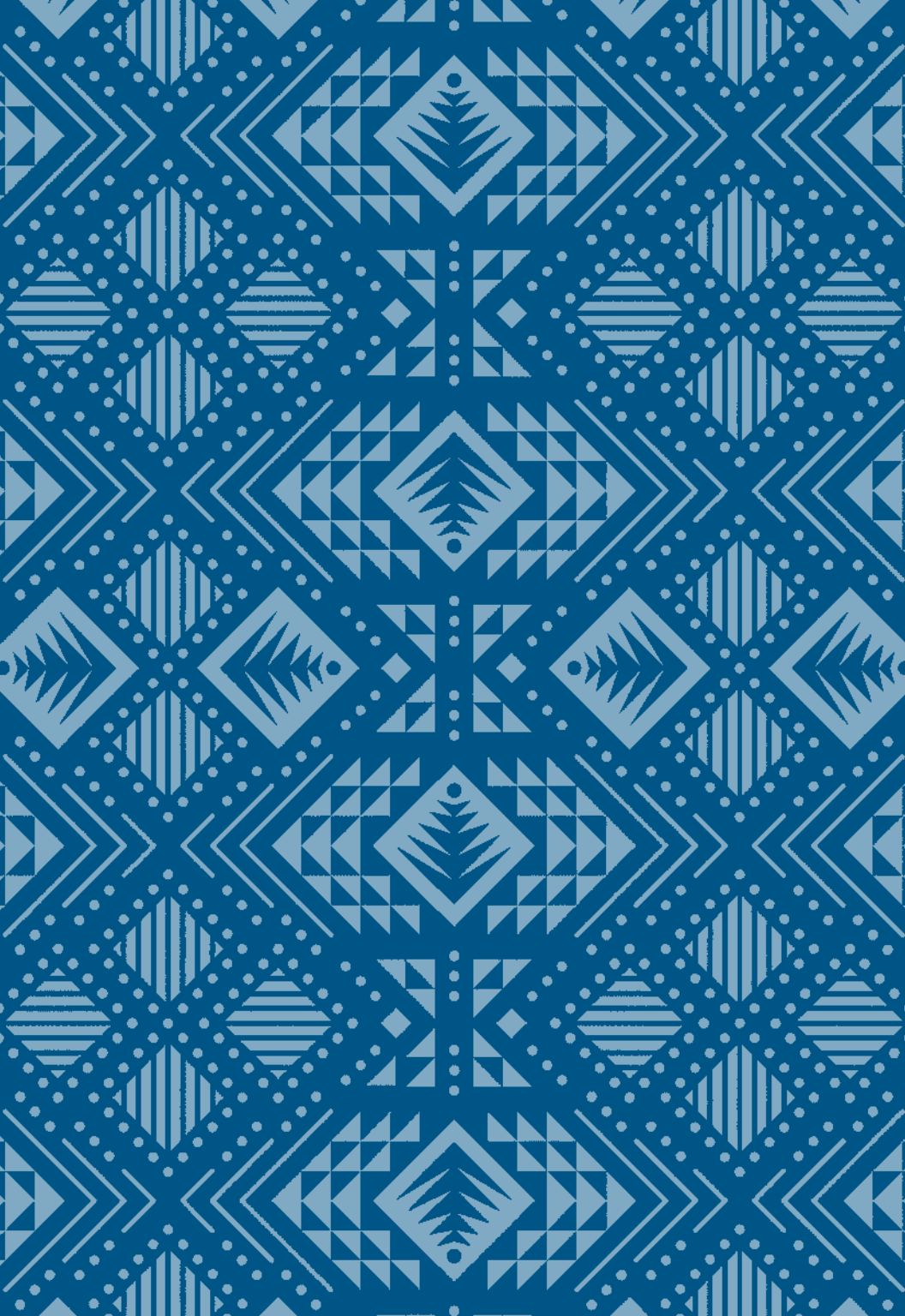


MORENA

UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Initiative

.....
**Expanding
Opportunity
& Centering
Dignity**

2021 Annual Report





OUR VISION FOR 2022

Over the past two years, COVID-19 has ravaged the health and wealth of Latino communities, exacerbating inequality and putting opportunity further out of reach for far too many people. At the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative, we know that the future of America is dependent on Latinos and that it's time to build an inclusive democracy and economy that creates shared prosperity for all.

THERE IS NO AMERICAN AGENDA WITHOUT A LATINO AGENDA



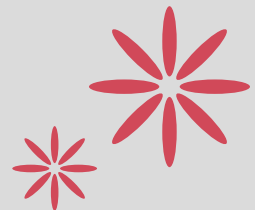


Photo by Ryan Rodrick Beiler on Shutterstock



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Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Latinos, more than any other demographic group, have shouldered the nation's burden of infections and mortality all while keeping the economy afloat as frontline workers."

SONJA DIAZ
UCLA LPPI Founding Director





Photo by Diego G Diaz on Shutterstock

shifting values. Latinos also have an outsized role to play in the path forward for democracy. Our research on the 2020 election showed that Latinos across the nation voted decisively to safeguard our democracy and cement their support for a policy agenda that expands access to quality healthcare, improves the economy and firmly rejects hatemongering. Latinos were also critical in the 2021 California gubernatorial recall election, with our researching finding that they voted against the recall by a 3 to 1 margin, even as the state went through the surge of the Delta variant. Given this backdrop, Latino communities cannot be ignored as our nation continues to face an avalanche of attacks on free and fair elections, rampant voter suppression and the aftermath of last year's insurrection. Latinos are key to expanding the electorate, and it's time that their voices are included in the vision of a vibrant, diverse future for the nation.

Yet, we know building the democracy and economy we all deserve will be no easy feat. An unacceptably flawed 2020 Census is driving a redistricting cycle that aims to curb the political voice of Latino, Black, Asian American and Indigenous communities. And the judiciary is aligned with a regressive policy agenda that is set on restricting rights rather than expanding them. However, we also

recognize that failure is not an option and that the opportunity for true transformation is too close to pass up.

As a Latina-led organization at the nation's preeminent public research university, we know this change requires elevating new voices from the periphery to the core who share a hopeful optimism that we all have the power to shape a better tomorrow. So, as we embark on our fifth year of operation, UCLA LPPI is committed to continuing rigorous research that ensures Latinos are visible; engaging with partners - from the White House to the boardroom - to drive new conversations on what equitable policymaking looks like; pushing policymakers toward solutions grounded in data; and developing the leaders of today and tomorrow who will build a democracy and economy where no one is left behind.

Sincerely,

Sonja Diaz

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sonja", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

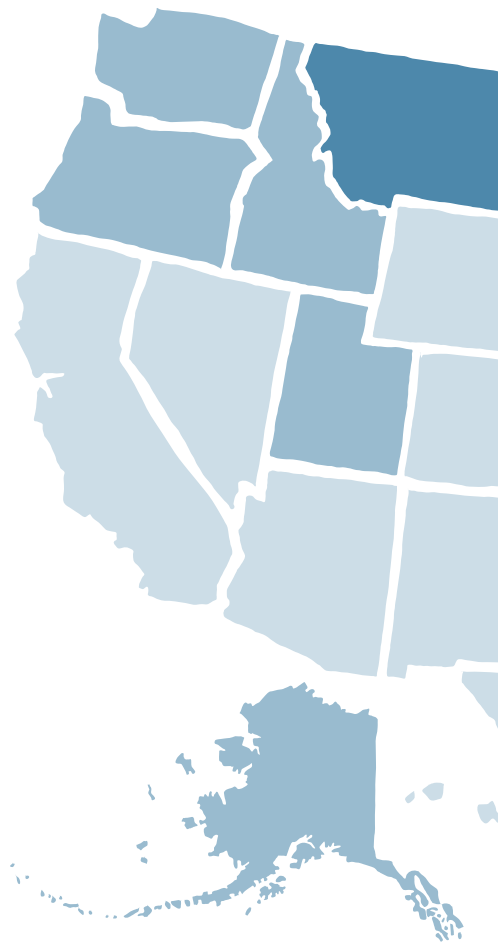


AMERICA'S FUTURE



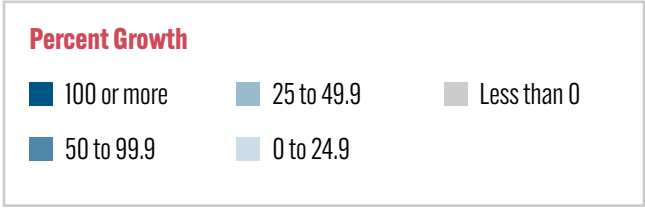
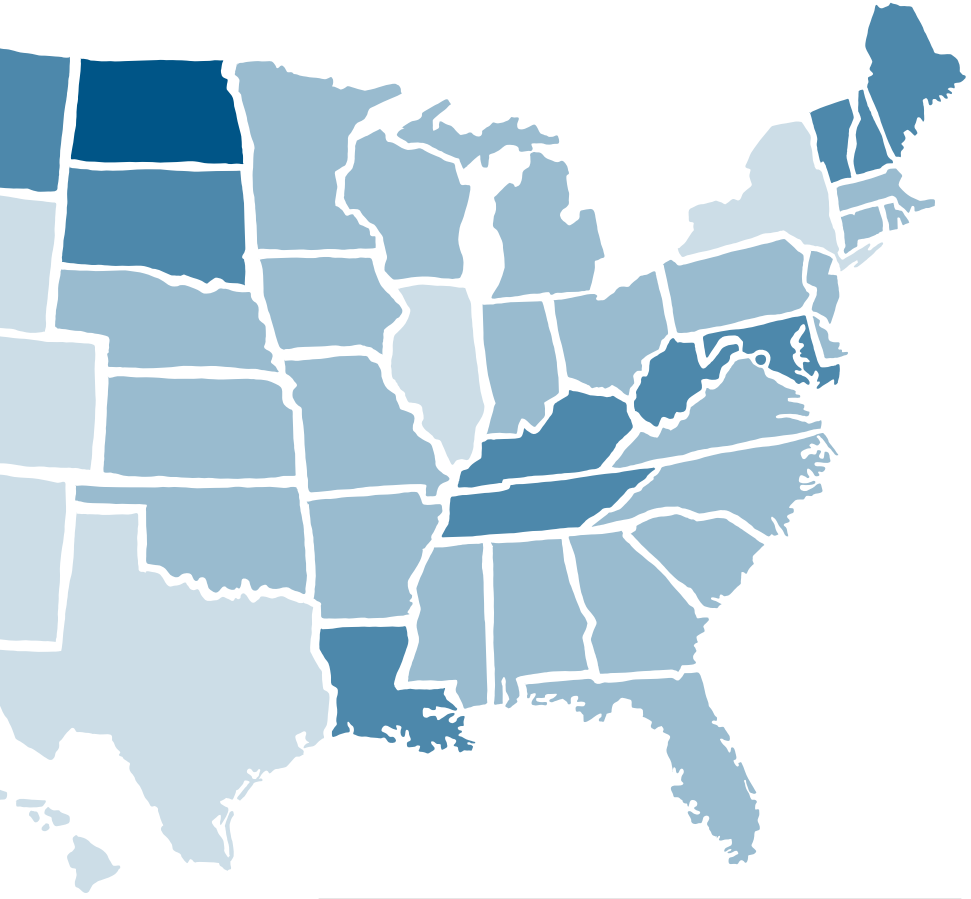
Over the last decade, the U.S. **Latino population increased by 11.6 million, accounting for 51.1%** of the total population growth in the U.S.

The Latino population grew fastest in the Plains states, Appalachia, some Southern states and the Northeast.





2010-2020 Growth in Latino Population by State



SERVING THE NATION'S DIVERSE LATINO COMMUNITIES

UCLA LPPI's nationwide focus serves to inform policymakers and drive action that addresses the challenges and opportunities that lay squarely within America's new majority.

Our work spans four major areas:



We conduct rigorous Latino-centered research that is responsive to the immediate and long-term policy needs of Latinos and other communities of color.



Through our fellowship program, we are training a new generation of leaders whose empathy will be research-informed to build will lead with empathy that is informed by data and research that builds a better tomorrow for all.



Utilizing the convening power of the nation's leading public university, we connect innovators from the streets, boardrooms, courts and elected offices of America to amplify a data-driven Latino agenda and increase the capacity for transformational policy reform.



We advocate for increased representation, from the White House to judicial benches. Leveraging the research prowess of UCLA's issue experts, we highlight the investments needed to recognize Latinos' contributions to the American story are and fully unlock their potential.



Photo by YES Market Media on Shutterstock

RESPONSIVE AND NIMBLE

UCLA LPPI is Driving Transformational Change

Since our founding, UCLA LPPI has been leading a national conversation on Latinos and how to institute transformational representation and policy changes that improve the lives of all Americans. In 2021 we celebrated the following accomplishments:

20

Fellows trained

13

Reports released

335

Media mentions across radio, TV & print

5

National partnerships

116

Elected officials engaged across 21 different states

15

Issue areas covered with a team of four dozen experts

7

Events hosted with over 2,000 registrants & nearly 30,000 social media impressions





Photo by Ladanifer on Shutterstock

2021 HIGHLIGHTS


In 2021, UCLA LPPI was focused on building an inclusive democracy and ensuring an equitable recovery that protects the health and wealth of Latinos as COVID-19 continues to devastate their households in their most productive years.

In service of these two goals, UCLA LPPI's research put a spotlight on:

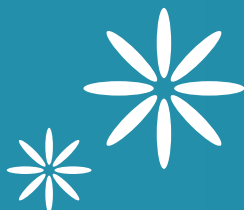
- ★ The disparate impact of the pandemic on the Latina workforce.
- ★ The role of unions in providing job protections and economic security for vulnerable populations amid the pandemic.
- ★ Low utilization of the critical Paycheck Protection Program by BIPOC communities and the barriers to accessing the program.
- ★ Latinos' electoral power and how it will continue to grow.
- ★ The economic might of immigrants and how a pathway to citizenship will build America's prosperity.

UCLA LPPI also worked diligently to drive more equitable policy by:

- ★ Providing expert testimony to the U.S. Congress on voting rights, expanding access to the ballot box and ensuring free and fair elections.
- ★ Driving targeted advocacy for more equitable vaccine distribution in California that focused on frontline, essential workers.
- ★ Pushing for fair redistricting processes in Texas, California and Washington.
- ★ Mobilizing advocates and elected leaders from the Northeast, Southeast, Southwest and Midwest to consider criminal justice reform through a Latino lens.



CASE STUDIES





Voting rights are fundamental to who we are as a country. And while the attacks that are happening at the national

level get all the attention and resources, a similar assault is slipping under the radar at the local level. The UCLA Voting Rights Project is addressing this critical gap, and in the process helping communities from California to Texas gain access to the ballot box and the political power that comes with it.”

SONNI WAKNIN

UCLA VRP Managing Attorney and Voting Rights Counsel



RESEARCH AND LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHT

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

In 2021 Latinos continued to experience significant economic vulnerability. With this in mind, UCLA LPPI set out to identify the burdens of COVID-19 on Latino workers and the solutions necessary to help them thrive post-pandemic. One of our biggest reports this year revealed significant exacerbation of gender and racial inequity during the pandemic, finding that Latinas exited the workforce at the highest numbers of any group. Our team found that the causes of the Latina workforce exodus were lack of quality healthcare and a high prevalence of employment in low-wage jobs without paid leave. The report was covered from coast to coast, including by the Associated Press, ABC News and Telemundo, highlighting the need for key policy reforms recommended in the report - policies which mirror those in the Biden Administration's Build Back Better agenda.

At the same time, UCLA LPPI was also highlighting factors that protected workers. Research detailed in our “More Than Solidarity” report demonstrated that labor

unions helped Latinos weather the pandemic by providing job security and economic stability. Our team found that unionized Latino workers were more likely to preserve their jobs and wages during the pandemic, showing the crucial role unions can play in uplifting Latino workforce prosperity and making workers less economically vulnerable.

Policy analysts Kassandra Hernández and Nick Gonzalez led key pieces of the research for these critical reports, respectively. In doing this work, both got the opportunity to do real-world research that resulted in engagement with media, elected officials and labor and civil society leaders. These interactions provided vital insight into collective strategies for bolstering wages, improving working conditions and providing workers with resources like quality healthcare and childcare that will help Latinos thrive in a post-COVID economy.



Photo by Steve Skjold on Shutterstock. Illustration by Shanthy Art & Design.



The devastation COVID-19 has wrought on communities has given us

a huge opportunity to identify failed systems that need transformation and to strengthen those that are working. Through this effort, we demonstrated the power of unions to protect wages and jobs even amid a global crisis. Now, we must use that learning to create more resiliency such that all of our workforce has the economic stability and dignity they deserve.”

NICK GONZALEZ

UCLA LPPI Fellow '20 & Policy Analyst



A strong economic recovery that prepares us for a prosperous future is

dependent on a stable Latino workforce made up of both men and women. Yet, our research clearly showed that systemic barriers are leaving Latinas behind. We need targeted investment that strengthens our social safety net and centers our most vulnerable workers, because when they have the resources to thrive, we all benefit.”

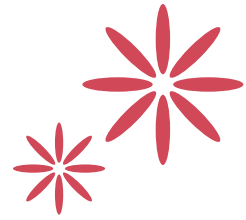
KASSANDRA HERNÁNDEZ

UCLA LPPI Fellow '20 & Research Analyst



MOBILIZATION HIGHLIGHT

HEALTH



America's health care systems have always had significant disparities in access to services that has negatively impacted the wellbeing of communities of color, and these disparities have far too often been ignored. Thus, the significance of the leading journal on health policy research, *Health Affairs*, devoting an entire issue to immigrant health cannot be understated. And, UCLA LPPI was there to lead the conversation.

UCLA LPPI Director of Faculty Research Dr. Arturo Vargas Bustamante, who is also a professor of health policy and management at UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, served as the issue's editorial advisor. In this role, he helped curate more than a dozen research studies to provide an in-depth understanding of the effects of U.S. immigration policy on the care, coverage and outcomes for immigrants in the U.S. and those returning to their home country. The issue included topics such as health disparities for non-citizen children in mixed-status families, the impact of

immigration enforcement on the use of health services like Medicaid and state policies to restore safety net access for immigrants. Dr. Vargas Bustamante also co-authored two peer-reviewed studies for the issue, one with UCLA LPPI Research Director Dr. Rodrigo Dominguez-Villegas and another with senior policy fellow, Lucía Félix Beltrán. The publication was accompanied by a featured interview with Dr. Vargas Bustamante on the *Health Affairs* podcast and UCLA LPPI experts participating in a national webinar on immigrant health.

We know that Latinos, regardless of immigration status, are integral to our nation's economic success. Providing a dedicated Latino lens such as the one in *Health Affairs* is critical to creating better policies that meet economic goals, address inequity, upholds our responsibility to protect health as a human right and build a prosperous future in post-COVID America.



Having such a big platform dedicated to the health of immigrants demonstrates that the way we view America's immigrant population is fundamentally shifting. It recognizes their contributions to the social and economic fabric of our country and identifies immigrants as a population that is key to America's prosperity."

-DR. ARTURO VARGAS BUSTAMANTE

UCLA LPPI Director of Faculty Research

IMMIGRATION



As the Biden-Harris administration considered its path forward on immigration reform last spring, UCLA LPPI partnered with the UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment and the UCLA North American Integration and Development Center to provide a research lens on the economic impact of four different pathways to citizenship. Researchers found that providing citizenship to all unauthorized workers would generate at least \$1.5 trillion for the American economy and \$367 billion in federal and state

tax revenue over the next decade. The study also found that legalization provided better access to jobs and economic opportunities, increasing immigrant wages by 25%. The economic gains extended beyond workers and their families, fueling increases in economic output, tax revenue and job creation. The report was shared with members of the U.S. Congress and utilized by advocates, including CHIRLA and America's Voice in their digital advocacy efforts.

Using its most powerful tool - data - UCLA LPPI showed that keeping immigrants in the shadows costs billion in economic output and tax revenue and stifles job creation. At a time when tensions are at an all-time high around immigration policy debates, UCLA LPPI provided essential analysis and evidence for legislators to engage in rigorous discussion and make policy decisions that create greater opportunity for all Americans.



Latinos were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic largely due to their role as essential workers. Our study made it clear that implementing comprehensive immigration reform is both an economic and moral imperative and that exclusionary policies are costly compromises we can't afford to make."

DR. RODRIGO DOMINGUEZ-VILLEGAS

UCLA LPPi Director of Research



MOBILIZATION HIGHLIGHT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

To put a Latino lens on criminal justice reform, UCLA LPPI partnered with LatinoJustice PRLDEF, the Drug Policy Alliance and the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators to host “Advancing Criminal Justice Reform Through a 21st Century Latinx Lens.” The virtual convening, held in May of 2021, brought together civil society leaders, state legislators, advocates, system-involved individuals and philanthropic partners to discuss the profound and systemic impacts of the criminal legal system on the nation’s diverse Latino communities.

Over two days, 40 experts discussed how to increase the visibility of Latinos within the justice reform movement, identified opportunities to build solidarity with Black Americans and probed for ways to advance transformative policy focused on justice rather than punishment. Faculty experts, such as UC Berkeley Law Professor Jennifer Chacón and UCLA History Professor Kelly Lytle-Hernández, led discussions for more than 1,000 participants on topics that included ending youth incarceration, defunding the

police and the intersection of the criminal legal and immigration systems - all with a Latino lens. Additionally, through a partnership with NowThis, the convening’s plenary was streamed to 26,000 viewers, increasing their understanding of the data gap that obscures the true impact of the criminal legal system on Latinos.

To close out the convening, participants heard from Juan Cartagena, president and general counsel emeritus of LatinoJustice PRLDEF and a UCLA LPPI Advisory board member. Cartagena underscored that while the U.S. criminal legal system hasn’t changed much in the past five decades, it is on the precipice of significant transformation and Latinos must be at the table.

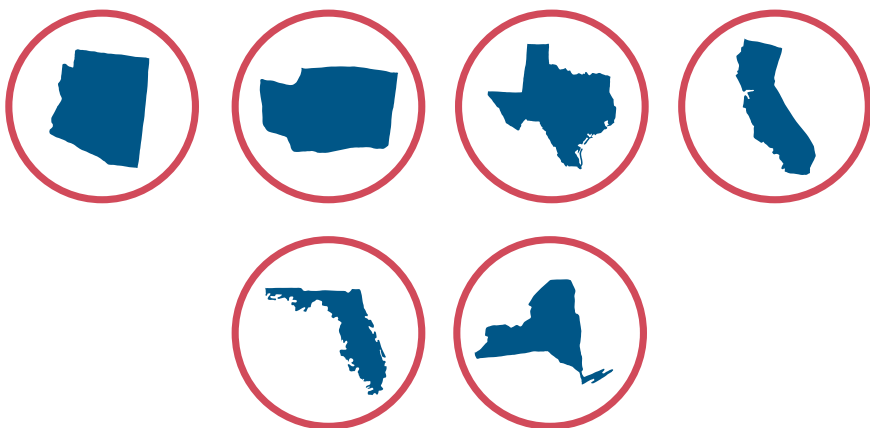
In 2022, we will continue this work by creating a national policy agenda that will inform federal, state and local advocacy and organizing efforts to advance substantive criminal justice reforms that secure dignity and opportunity for all.



“We cannot lose sight of the fact that there have been amazing opportunities for organizing people around truth and for having that truth talk to power. I think we’re stronger than ever to actually have conversations about dismantling systems, about what it means to invest in our communities in different ways and to think outside of every box at every corner so we can get things done.”

JUAN CARTAGENA

President and General Counsel Emeritus, LatinoJustice PRLDEF



PARTNERSHIPS WITH IMPACT

In 2021, UCLA LPPi partnered with organizations across the country to propel new data-driven dialogues that will shape more equitable policy and a new American narrative with Latinos at the center.

PARTNERS

Arizona

- ★ Arizona State University Center for Latina/os and American Politics Research

Washington

- ★ Tri-Cities Washington LULAC
- ★ Latino Community Fund
- ★ Southcentral Coalition of People of Color for Redistricting
- ★ University of Washington Latino Center for Health

Texas

- ★ LULAC Texas

California

- ★ California Latino Legislative Caucus
- ★ Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
- ★ Hispanas Organized for Political Equality
- ★ CHIRLA
- ★ National Hispanic Media Coalition
- ★ Filipino Voter Empowerment Project
- ★ Orange County Civic Engagement Table

Florida

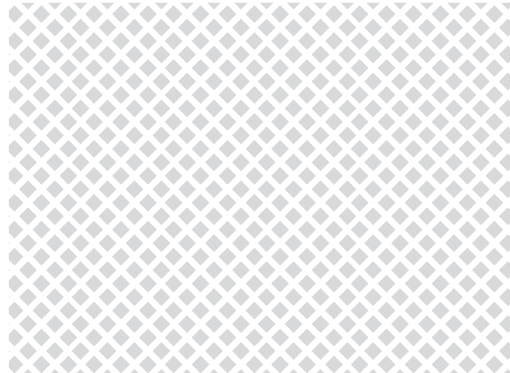
- ★ University of Florida Samuel Proctor Oral History Program

New York

- ★ CUNY Hunter Center for Puerto Rican Studies
- ★ Drug Policy Alliance
- ★ LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Washington, DC

- ★ Hispanics in Philanthropy
- ★ Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
- ★ NALEO Educational Fund
- ★ National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators

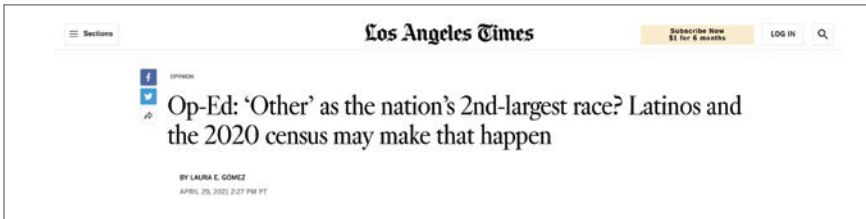




NOT WITHOUT US: NEW NARRATIVES OF OPPORTUNITY & EQUITY

In 2021, UCLA LPPI continued its commitment to ensuring Latinos are visible and that their stories are told by experts through both rigorous research and lived experience. Over the last four years, UCLA LPPI and our bench of experts have become an invaluable resource for data and insight for media

partners. Leveraging novel research, the UCLA LPPI team consistently put a bright spotlight on Latinos and the issues that matter most to them, including COVID-19 and healthcare access, the economy, voting rights, redistricting and the need to strengthen the social safety net. In doing so, UCLA LPPI



consistently ensured that Latinos' unique challenges were seen, their contributions to the American story were uplifted and the untapped opportunity held within Latino communities was recognized as the pathway to prosperity for all.

UCLA LPPI also convened important conversations that highlighted immigration, unions and jobs, voting rights and, notably, the growing cadre of Latino/a journalists documenting the Latino story during a time when culture, identity and politics and the way it is covered are shifting profoundly.

UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Initiative

IMMIGRATION REFORM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Exploring Pathways to Safer and More Prosperous Communities

Tuesday, May 4 | 10am - 11am PST

Confirmed Speakers:

- Dr. Cecilia Menjivar, Darity Mason Chair in Social Equity and UCLA Prof. of Sociology
- Richard Latta, President, Migration Policy Institute
- Regina Latta, Executive Director, UCLA
- Robert Gutierrez, Asst. Prof. & Justice Reporter

Moderated by:

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/3zcw5fh9>

UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Initiative **SCLAA**

UNIONIZATION & THE FUTURE OF COVID RECOVERY

Strengthening the Resilience of Our Multi-Racial Workforce

Tuesday, October 12 | 1:00 p.m. PT / 4:00 p.m. ET

Special Guest: Senator Maria Blasco, California State Senate

Guest: Congressman Mark DeFazio, House of Representatives

Dr. Patricia Campos-Molina, The Worker Institute

Moderator: Joseba T. Hicks, NYC Central Labor Council

Panelists: Yaira Marino, UCLA; Ailing Park, The Sacramento Bee

Register: <https://bit.ly/3CTaLeh>

LIVE • ACTIVATING JUSTICE THROUGH A LATINX LENS

MARIA HINOJOSA

UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Initiative



Photo by Sonja Diaz, mural by Elizabeth Blancas, San Francisco, CA

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Transformational change requires bold leadership. That is why UCLA LPPI is investing in developing a new generation of leaders who will carry our nation into a brighter future. In just four short years, we have trained nearly 60 undergraduate and graduate students who have gone on to jobs in the California and Texas state legislatures, national think tanks and preeminent graduate programs. With the addition of Juana (Hernandez) Sánchez as director of programs, we are excited to expand our policy fellow program in 2022. This will include providing career immersion, mentorship and hands-on experiences with the goal of accelerating the leadership

trajectory of our fellows. Our leadership efforts will also build in an the expansion of the UCLA Voting Rights Project summer legal internship program and the launch of our first national policy summit that will offer new professional development and engagement opportunities for our alumni.

As with all our previous fellows, this year's fellows class is already an accomplished group, which includes a small business owner, get-out-the-vote campaign leader, nonprofit program manager, legal aid service provider and even an elected official.



As a UCLA LPPI fellow, I not only studied the barriers to voting access in America but got to figure out how to break them down. This fellowship provided me with the skills to create fundamental change that will help our country finally live up to its ideals.”

Tye Rush
Political Science Doctoral Candidate



My work in this fellowship touches on issues that directly impact my family and others like mine. UCLA LPPI understands that lived experience is as important as academic expertise and that strengthens its research and policy insights.”

Rocío Perez
Master of Public Policy Student



UCLA LPPI is a place where students like me can lean into our identities and experiences to create meaningful change. As a fellow, I’m learning skills that I’ll carry into my career, and I’m building relationships that I’ll use to transform systems of harm into systems that ensure we all thrive.”

Marcos Ruiz Rojas
Public Affairs Undergraduate Major



UCLA LPPI staff and 2021 fellows class

THE TEAM FIGHTING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Four years ago, UCLA LPPI set out to build an institution that gave Latinos their rightful place at the center of America's future. And with the announcement of UCLA's aim to become a federally designated Hispanic-serving institution by 2025, the work of UCLA LPPI has become even more critical. But we know that our work is not possible without our talented staff who give voice to the needs of the nation's growing new majority.

In 2021, UCLA added to our capacity to build a brighter future by adding nine new staff members, including a director of mobilization, director of programs and another director of research. These positions, along with additional research staff and our fourth cohort of policy fellows, will increase our ability to respond to issues in real-time with a Latino lens, engage partners to drive better policymaking and train representative leaders that reflect the diverse communities who are most in need of innovative policy solutions.

STAFF MEMBERS

★ **Sonja Diaz, JD, MPP**

Founding Director

★ **Dr. Matt Barreto, Ph.D.**

Faculty Director of Research

★ **Dr. Arturo Vargas Bustamante, Ph.D.**

Director of Faculty Research

★ **Dr. Rodrigo Dominguez-Villegas, Ph.D.**

Director of Research

★ **Dr. Silvia R. González, Ph.D.**

Director of Research

★ **Chad W. Dunn, JD**

UCLA VRP Director of Litigation

★ **Paul Barragan-Monge, JD, MPP**

Director of Mobilization

★ **Juana (Hernandez) Sánchez, MPP**

Director of Programs

★ **Sonni Waknin, JD**

UCLA VRP Managing Attorney & Voting Rights Counsel

★ **Ricardo Quintero**

UCLA Luskin Director of Development

★ **Alise Brillault, MA**

Communications Manager

★ **Misael Galdámez, MCP**

Research Analyst

★ **Julia Silver, MS**

Research Analyst

★ **Michael Rios, MPP**

Research Analyst

★ **Gabriella Carmona**

Policy Analyst

★ **Bernadette Reyes, JD**

Staff Attorney

★ **Mildred Quintos Artuz**

Operations Manager

★ **Marvin Pineda, JD**

Government Affairs Advisor

★ **Jhonny Pineda**

Government Affairs Advisor

★ **Lys Mendez, MURP**

Strategic Communications

★ **Kacey Bonner**

Strategic Communications

Staff Highlight:

JUANA (HERNANDEZ) SÁNCHEZ



Juana (Hernandez) Sánchez

This year, UCLA LPPI was excited to add Juana (Hernandez) Sánchez to the team to further build out our leadership programs as our new director of programs.

As a Latina alumna of UCLA with a master's degree in public policy and over a decade of experience in training and mobilizing leaders across a variety of sectors, Sánchez brings a unique mix of personal and professional experience to this new role. Professionally, she has managed the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities National

Internship Program, coordinated the Public Policy Leadership Conference at Harvard University and helped launch diversity outreach initiatives for consortium members of the Public Policy and International Affairs Program. Furthermore, in her time as a public policy consultant, she supported local, state and federal leaders in designing strategies to better serve diverse student populations, including undocumented immigrants, former foster youth and Pell grant recipients.

Sánchez also brings a lifetime of personal

experience to this position that reflects the challenges students of color face. As a first-generation college graduate with a direct service background, she has a deep understanding of what it means to successfully support historically underrepresented students.

As we look toward the future, Sánchez is not just important to the future of UCLA LPPI. She has been and will continue to be

a leader across campus, including in her volunteer roles with the UCLA Latino/a Alumni Association and the Academic Advancement Program. The insights she brings to UCLA LPPI will not only enable us to continue building a world-class training program that develops the leaders who will shape and transform American domestic policy for decades to come but will be critical to the university's success as it transitions to a Hispanic-serving institution.



Joining UCLA LPPI allows me to marry my passion for equitable policymaking and public sector leadership development, with supporting students of color who often face systemic challenges to their success. I'm proud to be a part of this team that encourages all of its staff to lean into their identities because they know it will make the work stronger."

JUANA (HERNANDEZ) SÁNCHEZ
UCLA LPPI Director of Programs



SHIFTING THE POLICY LENS

UCLA LPPI's advisory board is essential to shaping our research agenda; identifying the most urgent issues that would benefit from analysis in real-time; and providing insights for sustainable organizational growth, grounded in equity and diversity. Thus, our advisory board is filled by leaders in healthcare, philanthropy, finance, law and media. As we head into another critical election year, we are lucky to have such an accomplished board helping us drive cross-sectoral policy change in important states across the U.S.

Advisory Board Members

- ★ **Erica Bernal-Martinez**, Chief Operating Officer, NALEO Educational Fund
- ★ **Patrick Butler, Assistant Chief (Ret.)**, Los Angeles Fire Department
- ★ **Dannielle Campos**, Senior Vice President & National Philanthropy Director, Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- ★ **Juan Cartagena**, President & General Counsel Emeritus, LatinoJustice PRLDEF
- ★ **Hector Cuellar**, President, Gassó Capital Markets
- ★ **Max Espinoza**, Senior Program Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- ★ **Alfred Fraijo Jr.**, Partner, Sheppard Mullin
- ★ **Sergio Garcia**, Senior C-Suite Executive and Attorney (Ret.)
- ★ **Alicia Miñana de Lovelace, CEO**, Law Offices of Alicia Miñana
- ★ **Berenice Nuñez Constant**, Vice President of Government Relations, AltaMed Health Services Corporation
- ★ **Michele Siqueiros**, President, The Campaign for College Opportunity
- ★ **Peter Villegas**, Co-Chair, Actum
- ★ **Joe Waz**, Senior Strategic Counselor Comcast Corp & NBCUniversal Media, LLC



Photo by Julaix on Shutterstock

Advisory Board Highlight

ERICA BERNAL-MARTINEZ



Erica Bernal-Martinez

Like all the members of our advisory board, Erica Bernal-Martinez is a leader in her field. As the Chief Operating Officer at NALEO Educational Fund (NALEO) - the nation's leading non-profit organization focused on Latino participation in American democracy - Bernal-Martinez is responsible for the strategic development, planning and implementation of all programming and membership services for the organization. She is also an expert on the issue of Latino political participation and governance. Bernal-Martinez

has provided essential advice on emerging issues that strengthen Latino elected representatives and democratic institutions and she has helped us mobilize a network of partners for advocacy efforts around key issues.

During her time on the UCLA LPPI advisory board, Bernal-Martinez has been a mentor to UCLA LPPI staff and fellows, an essential partner in our leadership development and policy training work with Latino elected

officials in key states across the country and a critical voice in shaping where and how we focus our voting and democracy work to have the greatest impact. Furthermore, she has helped build trust with strategic partners that enables UCLA LPPI to move beyond the walls of academia so that our work has an on-the-ground impact that uplifts communities.

In 2022, we look forward to continuing to partner with Bernal-Martinez to

engage legislators on issues from healthy communities to emergency preparedness, as well as with our entire board, to create a transformative democracy and equitable economy that lives up to the ideals America was founded on.



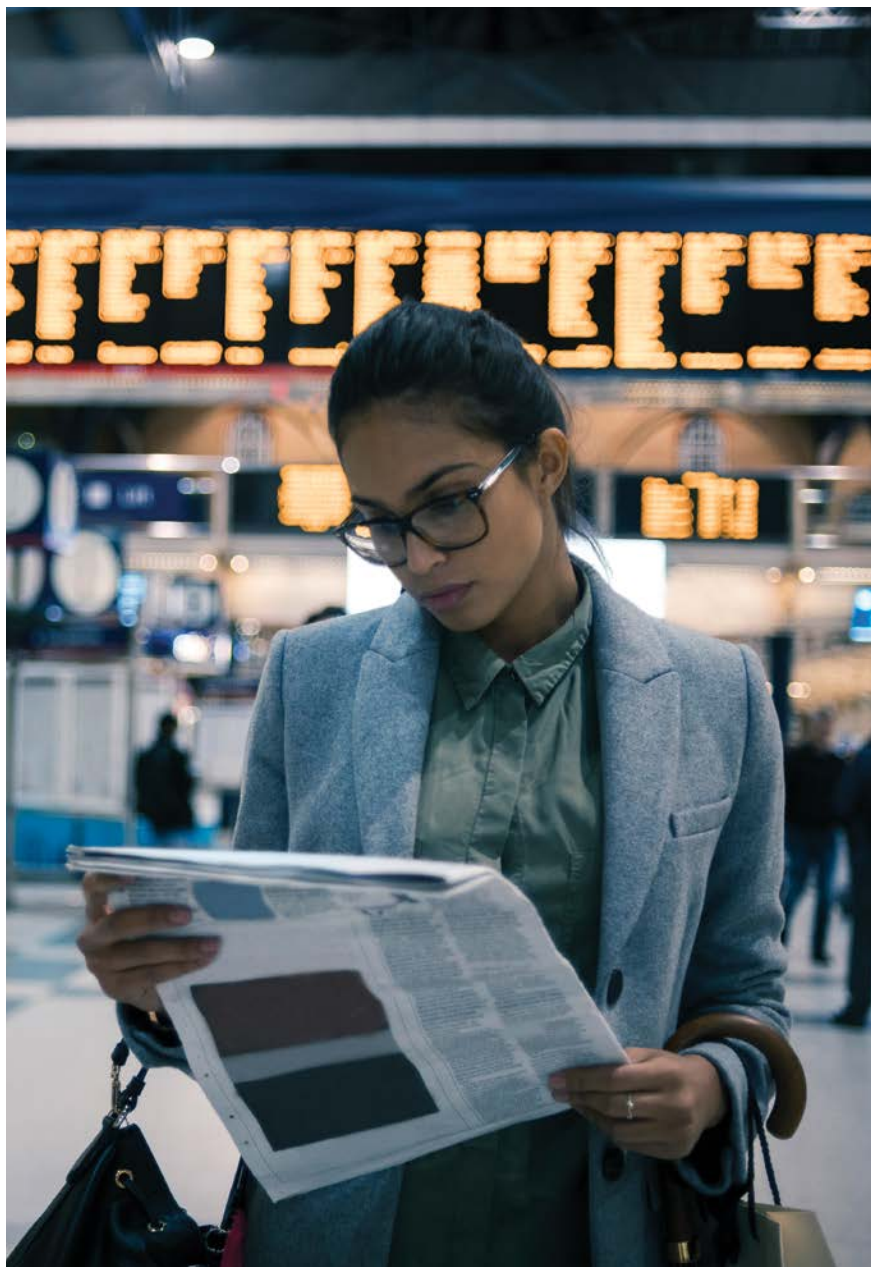
UCLA LPPI is filling critical data gaps and putting Latinos at the center of conversations where they have historically been ignored. I'm proud to partner with this organization that is writing a new American story grounded in facts and the people who the country's present and future prosperity depends upon."

ERICA BERNAL-MARTINEZ
Chief Operating Officer at NALEO Educational Fund



ACTIVATING A LATINO LENS

While Latino underrepresentation in academia continues, UCLA has amassed the nation's deepest bench of Latino scholars. UCLA LPPI harnesses that expertise by convening experts from across the university to consolidate focus on the issues that impact Latinos and other communities of color. In doing so, we provide an invaluable one-stop resource for advocacy partners, media and elected officials to close data gaps, understand the effects of current policy and drive new narratives that accurately reflect the challenges and opportunities within Latino communities.



Source: iStock; Credit: DaniloAndjus

Faculty Expert Highlight

ANA-CHRISTINA RAMÓN



Ana-Christina Ramón

UCLA LPPI understands that our commitment to equity must include building up and supporting the voices of women in academia. That's why we strive to engage with Latina experts across the university and provide a platform to amplify their work.

One of those voices is Dr. Ana-Christina Ramón, who spends her time making sure Latinos get the attention and visibility they deserve, especially in Hollywood. Movies

and television have an outsized impact on how the public perceives and understands communities of color and many of our most pressing social issues - from structural racism to climate change. Ramón puts a spotlight on how Latinos are excluded by popular culture from the American story. Every year, since 2014, her critical analysis in the "Hollywood Diversity Report" offers an eye into Latino representation in film and television.

Ramón's analysis of the entertainment industry has become increasingly important in media and industry circles, making it clear that the disposability of Latinos cannot continue. Her work underscores why we must do more to recognize and reward women of color by investing in their success.

UCLA LPPI is proud to partner with Ramón and other experts like her who are driving the conversation about why representation matters and ensuring diverse Latino communities will no longer be ignored.



Across academia, Latinas are doing amazing research, but rarely are they recognized for their talent and hard work. UCLA LPPI is breaking the mold by lifting up these women and making sure their voices and work are seen. In doing so, they are creating the conditions necessary for greater equity not just for those doing the work, but for those affected by the work in their everyday lives.”

DR. ANA-CHRISTINA RAMÓN

UCLA College of Social Science Director
of Research & Civic Engagement



BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE INSTITUTION

In 2021, UCLA LPPI received game-changing, ongoing investment from the California State Legislature. UCLA LPPI also secured core support from new philanthropic partners such as the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, Casey Family Programs, the Weingart Foundation and the California Endowment, just to name a few.

These investments, along with the support of all our existing partners, made clear that Latinos are essential to the future of America.

They will enable UCLA LPPI to continue the rigorous research that has set us apart since our founding, build new data collection infrastructure that ensures Latinos and their needs are visible and continue training the leaders of tomorrow. As we head into our fifth year, we are grateful to all our supporters and excited for the work ahead that will cement UCLA LPPI as the nation's leading Latino think tank.

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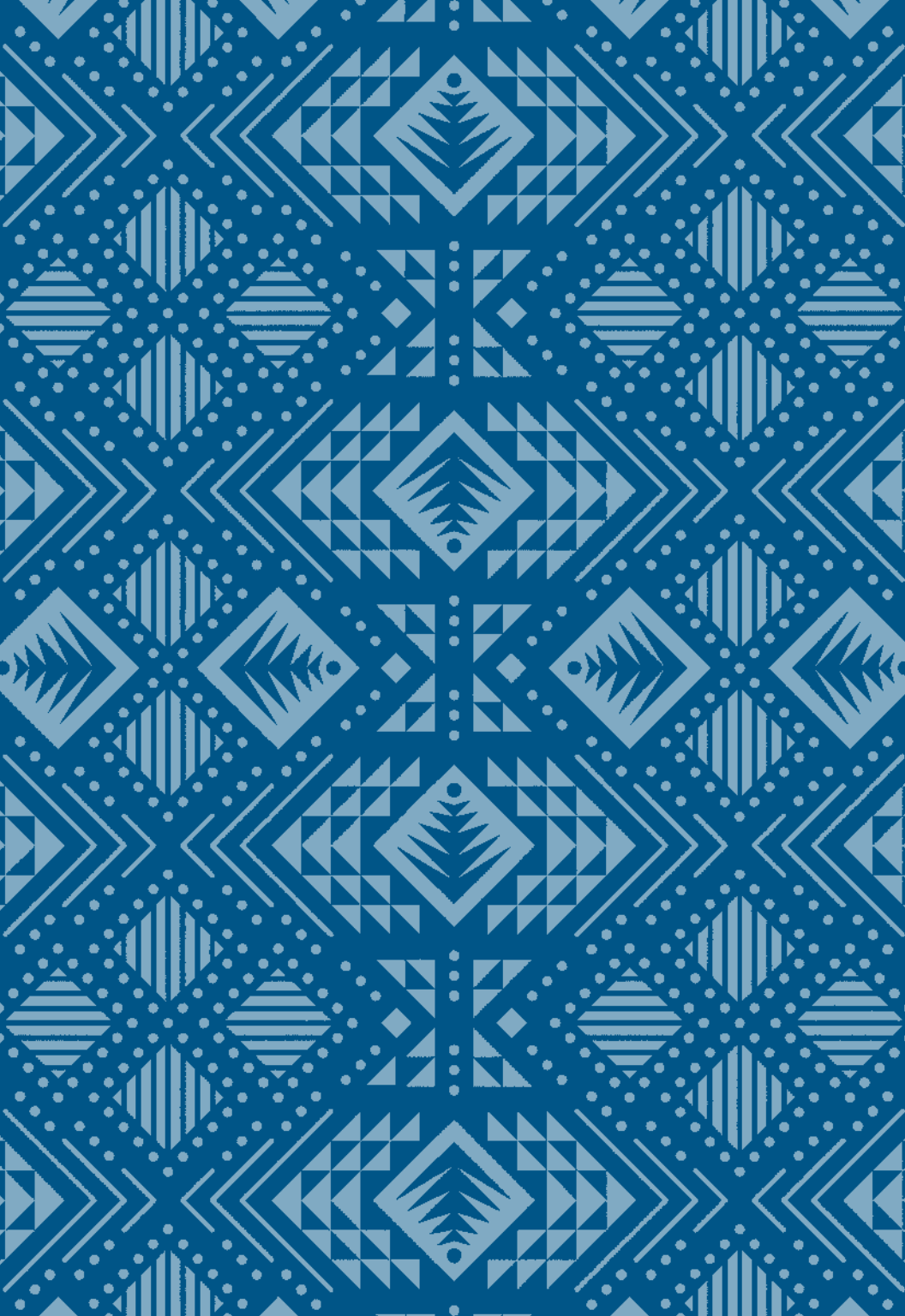


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EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY IN 2022

Since our inception, UCLA LPPI has pursued the future we deserve - a future where we all can thrive. And with a pandemic that has disproportionately impacted the health and economic wellbeing of Latinos, and an economy that will rely upon the work of Latinos for generations to come, we have no intention of stopping. We must create opportunity where it has previously been denied, which begins with an inclusive democracy and economy that leaves no voice unheard and no one behind.

UCLA LPPI is uniquely positioned to help build this America with research and advocacy led by people who reflect the communities that its outcomes will most impact. As we look ahead, we remain committed to shining a bright light on America's diverse Latino communities and their contributions, pushing policymakers toward transformational change and building toward a country where everyone can thrive.





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**Latino Policy &
Politics Initiative**



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