

2019 IMMIGRANT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Program:

- **Opening Performance** Members of the San Francisco Taiko Dojo
- **Welcome** Adrienne Pon, Emcee
- **Introduction of Commission & Immigrant Leadership Awards**
Celine Kennelly, Chair & Mario Paz, Vice Chair
- **Acknowledgments**
- **Reception**

ABOUT THE IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

The Immigrant Rights Commission is an appointed 15-member body that informs and advises the Mayor, Board of Supervisors and City officials on the well-being of San Francisco's immigrant residents and workers. Full Commission meetings are open to the public and held on the second Monday of every month at 5:30 pm in City Hall Room 416.

Visit sfgov.org/immigrant for more information.

COMMISSIONERS:

Celine Kennelly, Chair
Mario Paz, Vice Chair

Elahe Enssani
Donna Fujii
Haregu Gaime
Ryan Khojasteh
Florence Kong

Paul Monge
Amro Radwan
Nima Rahimi
Franklin M. Ricarte
Jessy Ruiz Navarro*
Alicia Wang
Michelle Wong

*incoming

Executive Director:

Adrienne Pon
Office of Civic Engagement
& Immigrant Affairs

Clerk:

Elena Shore
Office of Civic Engagement
& Immigrant Affairs

A special thanks to:



Office of Mayor London N. Breed
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

OCEIA SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE OF
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
& IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

Kristian Kabuay
prePhilippine calligraphy art performance

Amy Chan & Gilman Louie
Henry Him | Martha Cohen

Friends of Crystal City Pilgrimage
Exhibit



ramar foods international
the flavor of the philippines

SAN FRANCISCO IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

2019 IMMIGRANT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Monday, June 10 2019 | 5:00 pm
North Light Court | San Francisco City Hall

This event is co-hosted by the
San Francisco Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs

@oceia_sf

sf_immigrants

/sfgov.oceia

sfgov.org/oceia

2019 IMMIGRANT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission honors the powerful contributions of local immigrant leaders, supporters and champions of immigrant communities. The Commission thanks all honorees for their dedication and fearlessness in fighting for immigrant rights.

HONOREES

Corporate Leader: Rainbow Grocery



Rainbow Grocery has valued workers' rights and sustainable food practices since its inception in 1975. Rainbow supports local communities through employment, livable wages, and donations to non-profits and community outreach programs. Rainbow advocates for the rights of all workers and supports organizations that impact immigrant communities maintaining themselves with fair trade practices and policies.

Industry Leader: Leonardo Sosa, <dev/Mission>



Leonardo Sosa came to San Francisco from Guatemala in 1985 and earned a degree in IT from City College in 2000. He launched three youth technology programs before starting his own non-profit, <dev/Mission> (devmission.org), which aims to train young adults ages 16-24 for careers in tech. He has worked in many neighborhoods, including the Mission, Bayview Hunters Point, Western Edition, and Visitacion Valley, helping connect low-income families to broadband, distributing computers and building computers labs in affordable housing communities.

Grassroots Leader: Vanessa Moses, Causa Justa :: Just Cause



Vanessa Moses is a powerful Black Bay Area leader and the Executive Director of CJC. She has a long track record of building the leadership of working-class communities. She served as CJC's Co-Director of Programs for 12 years, and has served as co-chair of San Francisco Rising. In 2016, her leadership led to the formation of Bay Rising, a regional alliance of community-led organizations working to address inequality. Vanessa was also one of the co-creators of Bay Resistance, a multi-sector rapid response network of over 50 organizations.

Grassroots Leader: Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)



KIND works to ensure that no refugee or immigrant child faces immigration court alone. It does this through direct representation of children, recruiting and training pro bono attorneys, and advocating for policies that protect the rights of unaccompanied children. KIND opened its San Francisco office in February 2016. It is a member of the San Francisco Immigrant Legal Defense Collaborative (SFILDC). KIND attorneys participate in the Rapid Response Network and volunteer as Attorneys of the Day in immigration court.

Grassroots Leader: Jehan Hakim, Yemeni Alliance Committee



A San Francisco native and a mother of four, Yemeni-American Jehan has been involved in community organizing for years. She chairs the Yemeni Alliance Committee (YAC), which was formed to support Yemeni American communities in the Bay Area during periods of social unrest. YAC's advocacy and organizing efforts challenge harmful national security and foreign policies that impact Yemeni Americans and their families here and in Yemen. Jehan was previously a community advocate for the Asian Law Caucus.

Public/Private/Nonprofit Collaborative Leader: Calle 24 Latino Cultural District



Calle 24
Latino Cultural District

Calle 24 began in 1999 as a grassroots organization formed by community members of Calle 24 in the Mission District. Its council members represent merchants, residents, landlords, service non-profits, arts organizations, youth, renters, homeowners, families and artists. In May 2014, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the Mayor officially established the Latino Cultural District. Calle 24's mission is to preserve, enhance and advocate for Latino cultural continuity, vitality, and community in San Francisco's Latino Cultural District and the greater Mission neighborhood.

Vera Haile Champion of Justice Award: San Francisco Public Defender Immigration Defense Unit



On May 23, 2017, under the leadership of the late Public Defender Jeff Adachi, the San Francisco Public Defender's Office launched its first-ever deportation defense program. Its goal is to ensure that detained immigrants facing deportation in immigration court have access to counsel. The unit has handled more than 240 cases and helped stop the deportation of around 75% of its clients. It is now among the largest publicly funded detained removal defense providers in California.

Emerging Leader: Carla Laurel, West Bay Pilipino Multi-Service Center



Carla is a second generation Filipina American and Bay Area native. She began working at West Bay a decade ago as a volunteer. Since then, she has helped launch the first culturally sensitive college prep program for Filipino youth in SoMa. She also helped expand West Bay's services to immigrant families from other countries. As Executive Director, Carla supports West Bay's mission to enhance the quality of life of underserved youth, seniors and their families through after-school programs, college prep services, case management, and parent workshops.

Volunteers of the Year: The Wang Family



Amy Wang is the volunteer coordinator for the San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative, where she has coordinated hundreds of volunteers, including her own parents, Andy Wang and Anly Chen, and her sister, Abby Wang. The Wang Family has supported SFPCI's mission to promote citizenship in San Francisco and has volunteered at nearly every naturalization workshop since it started in 2013. Amy is also staff attorney at the Immigration Institute of the Bay Area, a nonprofit organization that provides immigration legal services to low-income immigrant communities.

Special Recognition: Friends of Crystal City Pilgrimage



The Friends of Crystal City Pilgrimage is a group of 60 Japanese American and Japanese Peruvian pilgrims, including survivors of the WWII Crystal City internment camp in Texas, who traveled to Texas this year to speak out against immigration detention. On their pilgrimage, they visited the site of the Crystal City internment camp and protested the imprisonment of women and children at the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, the largest immigrant detention center in the country today. They carried 25,000 hand-folded origami cranes to the prison fence in solidarity. #tsuruforsolidarity