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 wellbeing and integration of immigrants in San Francisco. Members of the Commission must be citizens of the United States and at least eight members must be immigrants. Full Commission meetings are open to the public and held on the second Monday of every month in City Hall Room 416. Visit sfgov.org/immigrant for more information.

COMMISSIONERS:

Celine Kennelly, Chair
Mario Paz, Vice Chair
Elahe Enssani
Felix Fuentes
Donna Fujii
Haregu Gaime
Ryan Khojasteh

Florence Kong
Melba Maldonado
Franklin M. Ricarte
Andrei Romanenko
Angeles Roy
Alicia Wang
Michelle Wong

Executive Director:
Adrienne Pon
Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs

Clerk:
Jamie Richardson
Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs

June is Immigrant Heritage Month! For more ways to celebrate, visit our partners at iamanimmigrant.com
Entrepreneur Leader: Alba Guerra | Sun Rise Restaurant

Alba Guerra immigrated to the U.S. from El Salvador in 1989, first arriving as an undocumented immigrant seeking Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and eventually gaining citizenship in 2007. Alba is the owner and founder of Sun Rise Restaurant, located in San Francisco’s Calle 24, Latino Historical District in the Mission. Opening its doors in 2005, Alba sees her adaptation of El Salvadoran cuisine to the neighborhood’s changing palate—she offers more vegetarian and vegan options than most restaurants in the area—as her key to success. An avid supporter of neighborhood artists and community groups, Alba opened Sun Rise’s doors on Thursday evenings to any member of the community to host events ranging from personal fundraisers to arts gatherings. Her message to other immigrants is to stay informed, know your rights and resources, and don’t be intimidated.

Grassroots Leader: Lorena Melgarejo | Faith In Action

Lorena Melgarejo was born in Paraguay. She immigrated to the U.S. in 1993 and lived the first decade of her life in the United States as an undocumented immigrant. This experience, along with her faith, led her to become a community organizer. She has spent the last 15 years working with labor, community and faith organizations to build a movement for social, racial and economic justice. Her work has been focused on inviting the people who are closest to the pain into leadership, to speak with their own voice, and become agents of change through organizing. She lives in the Mission with her eight-year-old daughter. Currently, she is the community organizer for the Office of Human Life and Dignity of the Archdiocese of San Francisco and with Faith In Action Bay Area. Lorena is a former member of the Immigrant Rights Commission where she served as Vice Chair.

Grassroots Leader: Adoubou Traore | African Advocacy Network


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**The Immigrant Rights Commission Proudly Presents:**

**The Inaugural Immigrant Leadership Awards**

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

**HONOREES:**

**Corporate Leader:** Kate O’Sullivan | Microsoft

Microsoft Corporation set the tone for the business sector early on in its open support and recognition of the contributions that immigrants bring to the tech industry and to the country. In 2017, Microsoft led the way in opposing the Muslim travel ban executive order and reaffirming its support of immigrants. Since 2016, Microsoft, led by industry affairs, legal and corporate affairs general manager Kate O’Sullivan and her team, has supported the SF Pathways to Citizenship Initiative by hosting free citizenship workshops at the Microsoft headquarters in the heart of the downtown San Francisco’s South of Market area. Not only have Kate and her team gone above and beyond by providing space, food and technical support, but their commitment and respect of immigrants is apparent in every aspect of how they conduct business.

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Public, Private, Nonprofit Collaborative Leaders:
San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative

Since 2013, the San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative has conducted 25 free group processing workshops, reaching over one million Bay Area residents through outreach and assisting nearly 10,000 residents with eligibility screenings. With the dedication of over 4,000 volunteers, SF Pathways has prepared nearly 7,000 citizenship applications. Workshops are organized and staffed by a coalition of community-based service providers led by Self-Help for the Elderly, and include: Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, Catholic Charities CYO, International Institute of the Bay Area, Jewish Children and Family Services, La Raza Community Resource Center and We Rise SF Center for Immigrant Justice.

Vera Haile Champion of Justice Award

Karen Korematsu | Fred T. Korematsu Institute


Korematsu, the daughter of the late civil rights leader, reminded the public that the 45th president’s executive orders against Muslims and any other attempts to single out groups for repression were a stark reminder of the injustice committed against 320,000 Japanese Americans — law abiding, mostly U.S. citizens— who were incarcerated during World War II, despite the government’s lack of evidence of any case of disloyalty. The parallels are extremely evident, and today, Korematsu calls for the American people to reject discrimination based on religion, race or national origin.

Youth Leaders:

Camila Razavi and Kayla Razavi | #NoBanNoWallSF

In response to the proposed Muslim Ban and Mexican border wall, sisters Camila Razavi and Kayla Razavi co-organized a successful, peaceful #NoBanNoWallSF mass protest that brought together thousands of people in solidarity with affected immigrant communities. The protest was covered by major news networks and the Razavis are currently developing an organization to fight for social justice in the new administration. Camila Razavi serves as operations associate at Ploughshares Fund. An advocate for diplomacy who worked on securing the Iran Deal through community organizing, Camila was a White House intern in President Barack Obama’s Domestic Policy Council and Office of Social Innovation. She has published articles on nuclear weapons, Iran, and U.S. foreign policy and has been an active volunteer with Moms Against Poverty for eight years. Kayla Razavi is a Quality Manager at Originate, a software development company in San Francisco. Her passions reside in technology for the greater good, mental health and sexual violence activism. She is the founder of a social impact startup called Thera, an online chat platform that connects survivors of sexual assault to locally sourced and certified volunteers.

Special Recognition: Commissioner Felix Fuentes

Commissioner Fuentes has provided 10 outstanding years of service on the Commission, serving two consecutive terms as Vice Chair. He has dedicated his professional life to advocating and empowering the Latino immigrant community and ensuring fair labor practices for immigrants and workers in San Francisco, including playing a major role in organizing Mission District residents to participate in the 2010 decennial census count. He attended the Universidad De San Carlos Law School in Guatemala and is a graduate of the City College of San Francisco Labor Council Leadership Institute in Labor and Community Studies. Fuentes is an active member of numerous organizations, including many immigrant worker and labor rights groups in San Francisco. In honor of his retirement from the Commission, we thank Fuentes for his dedicated service.