2018 IMMIGRANT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

PROGRAM:
• Welcome Adrienne Pon, Emcee
• Introduction of Commission & Immigrant Leadership Awards Celine Kennelly, Chair & Mario Paz, Vice Chair
• Acknowledgements & Closing Performance
• 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 and integration of immigrants in San Francisco. 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
Donna Fujii
Haregu Gaime
Russ Gurvits
Ryan Khojasteh
Florence Kong
Amro Radwan
Nima Rahimi
Franklin M. Ricarte
Angeles Roy
Alicia Wang
Michelle Wong

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

Clerk:
Elena Shore
Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs

A Special Thanks to our Partners:

June is Immigrant Heritage Month!
For more ways to celebrate, visit our partners at iamanimmigrant.com.

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

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2018 IMMIGRANT LEADERSHIP AWARDS
The San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission 2018 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

Industry Leader: Golden Gate Restaurant Association
The Golden Gate Restaurant Association was an early supporter of the Sanctuary Restaurant movement, which stood against discrimination in all forms. Since early 2017, it has hosted workshops to educate members about how to deal with immigration enforcement and how best to support their employees and businesses.

Public, Private, Nonprofit Collaborative Leaders: Lawyers in the Library
Lawyers in the Library, a collaboration among the San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative, immigration law firm Fragomen, and the San Francisco Public Library, provides one-on-one help with citizenship applications. Attendees receive a free, private consultation with an attorney as they prepare their applications using citizenshipworks.org. SF Pathways partner Jewish Family and Children’s Services coordinates the workshops and San Francisco Public Library contributes space and resources. Since its launch in 2017, the collaboration has provided free, quality assistance to dozens of immigrant residents.

Corporate Leader: Citi Community Development
Citi Community Development works with cities, community groups and leading nonprofit organizations to increase financial inclusion and economic empowerment for underserved and under-represented individuals, families and communities.

Grassroots Leader: San Francisco Rapid Response Network
The San Francisco Rapid Response Network is a collaboration of over 20 organizations that form part of San Francisco Immigrant Legal and Education Network (SFILEN) and San Francisco Immigration Legal Defense Collaborative (SFILDC). Together, they have instituted a system to respond quickly to immigration enforcement actions through a 24-hour hotline (415-200-1548), raid verification, and activation of attorneys to represent detained immigrants.

Entrepreneur Leader: Eskender Aseged | Radio Africa & Kitchen
Growing up in Ethiopia, Chef Eskender Aseged would gather with other kids to listen to soccer matches and music at the one house in the neighborhood that had a radio. When he opened his restaurant in 2012, he named it after those memories. Today, Radio Africa & Kitchen hosts Community Tuesdays, featuring local music and art, and serves as a community hub in the Bayview neighborhood.

Vera Haile Champion of Justice Award:
Lara Kiswani | Arab Resource & Organizing Center
A Bay Area native, Lara Kiswani has been involved in community activism for years. As a student organizer, she helped establish the Middle East South Asia Studies program and cofounded Students for Justice in Palestine at UC Davis. As executive director of Arab Resource & Organizing Center (AROC), Lara provides legal, language access, and case management services to low-income Arab and Muslim community members in the Bay Area and organizes for social change across all communities.

Youth Leader: Ingrid Rojas Contreras
Ingrid Rojas Contreras is an award-winning author who was born and raised in Bogotá, Colombia. She is the book columnist for KQED, the Bay Area’s NPR affiliate. Ingrid has taught at the University of San Francisco, and she currently teaches writing to immigrant high school students as part of a San Francisco Arts Commission initiative bringing artists into public schools. She is the author of Fruit of the Drunken Tree (2018).

Special Recognition: Carl Larsen Santos
Originally from Puerto Rico, Carl Larsen Santos oversees immigration projects at La Raza Community Resource Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to meeting the needs of low-income, primarily Spanish-speaking residents. As an immigration attorney, Carl provides direct legal services to clients, helps people apply for citizenship as part of the San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship Initiative, and dedicates his talents to plan local DACA and TPS renewal events.

Special Recognition: Theo Rigby | iNation Media
iNation Media is a production company dedicated to creating complex and nuanced stories about immigrant experiences in the U.S. Founder Theo Rigby’s current projects include a short documentary series about young people with DACA, and a feature documentary about the faith-based sanctuary movement.

Special Recognition: The Lee Family
Mayor Edwin M. Lee was a longtime supporter and champion of immigrants and the underserved. In addition to his decades of City and community work, he launched the SF Pathways to Citizenship Initiative in 2013 and announced the inaugural Immigrant Leadership Awards in June 2017. This year, the Immigration Rights Commission is honored to recognize Mayor Lee’s family, Anita and daughters Tania and Brianna, who continue their commitment to an inclusive and just world for all.