

Community Redistricting Leaders Class of 2011

Rhea Aguinaldo

Originally from San Diego, Rhea is associate director of the National Asian American Coalition, formerly known as the Mabuhay Alliance, the leading resource and service provider to Pan Asian and other underserved communities for home ownership retention and small business development. She received her B.A. from CSU Fullerton and is an active member of Young Fil-Am Professionals of San Diego as well as the FilAmVote San Diego Outreach Committee.

Adam Briones

Adam is originally from Oakland, CA. He received his B.A. from the University of California, Santa Cruz and is currently working toward a graduate degree in Urban and Regional Planning at UCLA. His main area of focus is community economic development and affordable housing. Adam is also former program manager at the Greenlining Institute where he worked on a variety of initiatives including community reinvestment and redistricting. He returns to us now to help increase civic participation around redistricting in L.A. County.

Hugo Mora

Hugo is from South San Francisco. He attended the College of San Mateo where he organized outreach events for underrepresented high school students and later transferred to UC Santa Cruz where he completed his B.A. with honors. During his senior year, Hugo participated in the UC-DC program and was education program intern for the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and intern for Congressman George Miller. Hugo is eager to get involved in redistricting and understands the impact it will have on other policy issues.

Blessing Okourogo

Originally from the Berkeley, CA, Blessing received an Msc degree from King's College in London and recently completed a policy fellowship at The Mercator Fund, an international policy think tank. As a policy intern, Blessing conducted research on topics including social welfare, drug policy, and global philanthropy in the Middle East and Africa. Having returned home to Sacramento, Blessing is interested in engaging her community in local and state-wide policy concerns to improve opportunities for the economically disadvantaged.

Sonia Ruiz

Sonia comes to us from Gilbert, Arizona where she was born and raised. She attended Arizona State University where she earned her doctorate in clinical psychology before moving to California in 1999. She is an active member of the San Diego community and is involved with many organizations as a volunteer. Sonia has sat on the advisory board for the San Diego County Community Action Project, the executive board for the House of Mexico in Balboa Park, and the Panorama Teen and Family Resource Center in San Marcos.

Jonathan Munoz

Jonathan is a Central Valley native. He graduated from Fresno State where he earned a double bachelor's in History and Chicano and Latin American Studies. He also holds a Certificate in Grant Writing and Non-Profit Management. Jonathan first became involved in redistricting as a summer associate at Greenlining in 2010 and is excited to return now as a Community

Redistricting Leader to help ensure that low-income and minority communities from the Central Valley are fairly represented throughout the redistricting process.

Carolyn Patton

Carolyn is an active member of both Los Angeles County and the Inland Empire. She is a Real Estate Coordinator and Housing Consultant for the West Angeles Community Development Corporation and holds several volunteer positions as a member of Life Church of God in Christ, including being a board member for Life Net Community Development Corporation. Carolyn believes community participation in redistricting for 2011 will be a unique opportunity for the voice of the people to be heard.

Billie Williams

Billie has been a resident of Corona, California for more than 10 years after moving from her hometown of Memphis, Tennessee. She attended El Camino College in Torrance, CA and received her B.S. in Business Management in 2009. She is an active member of her community and active member of her church where she participates in the Christian Women Council and is co-president of Women of Life. Throughout her life, she has maintained a passion for people and social justice.

Abigail Garcia

Abby is an English teacher at Animo Leadership Charter High School in Los Angeles and is currently working on a second Masters in Bilingual and Intercultural Education at Loyola Marymount University. She sits on the board of directors for Green Dot Public Schools and has experience in union organizing. She hopes to use her experiences to help inspire underrepresented communities in L.A. to get involved in the redistricting process. She believes educating people about what it is and why it is important is the best way to promote civic engagement.