

Liz Ramírez

President & CEO, Chicano Federation



Liz Ramírez is a nonprofit executive and community leader committed to advancing equity, opportunity, and economic mobility for underserved communities. With more than a decade of experience in the nonprofit sector, she currently serves as President & CEO of Chicano Federation, a 57-year-old organization serving more than 50,000 individuals and families annually through early childhood education, affordable housing, workforce development, leadership development, advocacy, and community-based programs.

Raised on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border in the Imperial Valley, Liz comes from a low-income, immigrant, and first-generation household. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from UC San Diego and later pursued a Master's Degree in Educational Counseling, driven by a desire to address inequities in education and expand access and opportunity for historically underserved youth. Her lived experience continues to shape her leadership and her belief in the transformative power of representation, mentorship, and community.

Since assuming leadership of Chicano Federation in 2022, Liz has led a period of significant growth and transformation, centered on amplifying community voice, expanding access to resources, and addressing inequities in affordable housing, education, workforce development, and leadership opportunities. Under her leadership, Chicano Federation launched a bold strategic plan grounded in its mission to cultivate opportunities and advocate for a more equitable comunidad.

Among the initiatives Liz has championed is the opening of Chicano Federation's Resource Center, creating a welcoming and accessible space where families can connect to resources, services, and support. She also led the relaunch of the Leadership Training Institute after a 20-year hiatus, reimagining the program to equip and mobilize the next generation of leaders to address some of the region's most pressing equity challenges. Most recently, Liz led the historic union of Chicano Federation and Barrio Station, bringing together two organizations with more than a century of combined service to San Diego's Latine community. Barrio Station, with more than 50 years of history in Barrio Logan, has long been a cornerstone for children, youth, and families. The union builds upon the legacies of both organizations while creating new opportunities to deepen their collective impact for generations to come.

Liz's leadership extends beyond Chicano Federation. She serves on the Board of Directors of Community HousingWorks and MANA de San Diego and contributes her perspective to several regional advisory councils, including those supporting the San Diego Housing Commission, San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera, and Southwestern College President Dr. Mark Sanchez. Through these roles, she brings a community-centered perspective to conversations about housing, education, economic opportunity, civic engagement, and the future of the San Diego region.

Liz has been recognized for her leadership and community impact through numerous honors, including the San Diego Regional East County Chamber of Commerce Women in Leadership Award; San Diego Business

Journal's Latino Leaders of Influence, 500 Most Influential People in San Diego, and CEO of the Year honors; and LEAD San Diego's Visionary Ronald Kendrick Memorial Award for Regional Collaboration. She was also named a SHERo by Chairwoman Nora Vargas and recognized by Mayor Todd Gloria as a Woman of Distinction.

At the heart of Liz's leadership is a belief that lasting change happens when communities have the opportunity, resources, and power to shape their own futures. She is particularly passionate about developing the next generation of leaders, building meaningful cross-sector partnerships, and ensuring historically underserved communities have a voice in the decisions that impact their lives.

Outside of work, Liz enjoys dancing cumbias, meditating, practicing yoga, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. To learn more about Liz and the work of Chicano Federation, visit ChicanoFed.org.