

EQUITY IN CALIFORNIA'S STATE BUDGET A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION with SENATOR MARK LENO

HOSTED BY: THE GREENLINING INSTITUTE ■ CALIFORNIA FORWARD ■ LATINO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

AGENDA

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

■ REGISTRATION and REFRESHMENTS

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

■ WELCOMING ADDRESS

Orson Aguilar, *Executive Director*,
The Greenlining Institute



ORSON AGUILAR

10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

■ KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Hon. Mark Leno, *State Senator - District 11*,
California State Senate



MARK LENO

10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

■ PANEL DISCUSSION

MODERATOR:

Michelle Romero,
Claiming Our Democracy Director,
The Greenlining Institute



MICHELLE ROMERO



VALERIE CUEVAS

PANELISTS:

Valerie Cuevas, *Director of External Relations*,
The Education Trust - West

Raquel F. Donoso, *Executive Director*,
Latino Community Foundation



RAQUEL F. DONOSO

Chris Hoene, *Executive Director*,
California Budget Project

Mai Yang Vang, *Policy Associate*,
California Forward



MAI YANG VANG



CHRIS HOENE



ELLEN WU

12:00 p.m.

■ ADJOURN

OVERVIEW

When it comes to racial equity, California is ground zero. There is nothing more important to California's *Equity Ecosystem* than California's state budget. The Latino Community Foundation, California Forward, and The Greenlining Institute welcome you to an important forum to discuss equity in California's state budget on November 25th at the Bechtel Conference Center at the Public Policy Institute of California in San Francisco.



PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA ■ MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2013
(BECHTEL CONFERENCE CENTER), 500 WASHINGTON STREET ■ SAN FRANCISCO

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Hon. Mark Leno

State Senator – District 11, California State Senate

Mark Leno was elected to the California Senate in 2008. He currently represents the 11th Senate District of California, which includes San Francisco, Broadmoor, Colma, Daly City and portions of South San Francisco. Senator Leno chairs the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee. From 2002-2008, Senator Leno served in the California State Assembly, representing the 13th District, which encompasses the eastern portion of San Francisco. Prior to his election to the Assembly, he served for four and a half years on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

During his tenure in the Legislature, Senator Leno has fought for better schools and access to higher education, foster youth, a cleaner and sustainable environment, single-payer universal health care, improved transportation, renewable energy, safer streets and equal rights for all Californians.

Orson Aguilar

Executive Director, The Greenlining Institute

Orson Aguilar is the Executive Director of The Greenlining Institute, one of the nation's largest and most successful multi-ethnic public-policy non-profits in the country. Greenlining works to bring the American Dream within reach of all communities, regardless of race or income.

Orson's leadership has been featured in major media such as *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, Univision, Telemundo, *La Opinion*, NPR, Politico, The Huffington Post and many other news outlets. He meets regularly with major Fortune 100 CEOs and with many of our nation's political leaders. Orson's passion is fueled by his experiences growing up in the immigrant and working class neighborhood of Boyle Heights in Los Angeles. He attended U.C. Santa Cruz and received a master's degree in Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin.

Michelle Romero

Policy Director – Claiming our Democracy, The Greenlining Institute

As the Claiming Our Democracy Director at The Greenlining Institute, Michelle works to strengthen democracy by ensuring that communities of color have a voice. In 2010-11, Michelle led a statewide campaign to involve an unprecedented number of people of color in California's process of redrawing the state's legislative and congressional districts – the first time districts were drawn by a citizen commission. As a co-founding member of the Future of California Elections Collaborative, she also partnered with county election officials, civil rights and good government groups to improve the state's voting materials and advance best practices for compliance with the National Voter Registration Act at public assistance agencies. Michelle also wrote and lobbied for legislation to extend language access to the initiative process and voting rights to former felons.

Michelle earned her B.A. from the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she organized state and national campaigns for higher education and immigrant rights. Currently, Michelle serves on the Executive Committee of the board of California Common Cause and on MapLight's Advisory Board.

Valerie Cuevas

Director of External Relations, The Education Trust—West

Valerie works for The Education Trust-West, a statewide education civil rights organization based in Oakland that works for the high academic achievement of all students by exposing opportunity and achievement gaps that separate students of color and low-income students from other youth, and advocating for the strategies that will forever close those gaps. With an expertise in education equity, state legislative policy and K-12 governance, she is a former director with the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) – where she worked with hundreds of elected officials across the country. In addition to her work nationally, Valerie has a wide-range of experience at both the state and local levels in California. She previously served as an aide to the chair of the California Assembly Committee on Higher Education, and as chief of staff to a member of the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education. As an education practitioner, Valerie also held student affairs positions at various 2- and 4-year colleges and universities. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California and a master's degree from California State University, Long Beach.

Raquel F. Donoso

Executive Director, Latino Community Foundation

Raquel F. Donoso is an accomplished community and public policy leader with over fifteen years of policy advocacy experience at the state and regional level. She has devoted her career to policy issues affecting children and families. Prior to joining LCF she served as the Associate Director of Latino Issues Forum (LIF), a statewide policy organization. At LIF she championed campaigns to increase health access, improve environmental conditions and address education equity. She also authored four publications, including pioneering primary research on reproductive health issues. Ms. Donoso is the Co-Founder and Board Chair of California Latinas for Reproductive Justice. She serves on the boards of the National Latina Institute, Planned Parenthood Shasta Pacific, Greenbelt Alliance, and IGNITE. From 2006-2012, she served on the California Department of Health Services Women's Health Advisory Council. Ms. Donoso holds a master's degree in Public Health and an undergraduate degree in Anthropology, both from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Chris Hoene

Executive Director, California Budget Project

Chris Hoene joined the CBP as Executive Director in 2012. Prior to joining the CBP, he was director of the Center for Research & Innovation at the National League of Cities in Washington, DC, leading efforts to analyze trends in local and state government and promote constructive policy action on issues including public finance, economic development, governance, housing, sustainability, and infrastructure. Chris previously worked for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and the Public Policy Institute of California. In 2010, he was inducted as a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration for his service and expertise in the areas of public policy and government. Chris holds a Ph.D. in political science from Claremont Graduate University and a bachelor's degree in political science from the College of Idaho.

Mai Yang Vang

Policy Associate, California Forward

Mai is a policy associate at California Forward and is passionate about improving outcomes in marginalized communities. Mai brings with her a passion to advance California Forward's efforts in bringing transparency and accountability to the people of California. Mai has spoken at various academic and community conferences such as the Annual National Hmong Conference and the Annual National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education.

Prior to California Forward, Mai worked as a Research and Policy Graduate Assistant at Alcohol Justice, Health Law Fellow at the Asian Pacific Islander Health Forum, Voter Registration and Education Coordinator for the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance in Los Angeles, and served as a Barbara Jordan Health Policy Fellow for Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton.

Mai holds dual bachelor's degrees in Biology and Sociology at the University of San Francisco and two master's degrees in Public Health and Asian American Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Ellen Wu

Executive Director, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN)

Ellen Wu has been the Executive Director of the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN) since 2001. CPEHN is a statewide health policy organization whose mission is to eliminate health disparities by advocating for public policies to improve the health of communities of color.

Ellen received her master's in Public Health from UCLA and is an adjunct faculty member at San Francisco State University. She serves on numerous boards and advisory committees including on the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board as Senate President Pro Tem Steinberg's appointee, the California Association of Nonprofits Board of Directors, the California Budget Project's Board of Directors, and the City of Oakland's Park and Recreation Commission. Prior to joining CPEHN, Ellen consulted with the Community Health Center Network, was a Program Officer at the Tides Foundation, and served as Director of Health Education and Cultural Linguistic Services for the Alameda Alliance for Health.