



**Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission**

**Annual Report 2021**

**Chair: Carlos Bejarano**

**Vice-Chair: Jania Rivera Wester**

**Message from the Chair:**

While much of our focus shifted to protecting our health and the health of our families, the Commissioners of The Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission continued our work and service during the current global pandemic. As Paola Ramos states in her book *"Finding Latinx"* "our American system, as it currently stands, is not built for us. And the only way to change it, so that it counts for black and brown people, is by first recognizing who we are." I believe the global pandemic has given us time to think about who we are and what we can do in Tulsa to be a more welcoming city and collaborate beyond our comfort zones. The Commission is a pillar in this progressive change and understands that a win for us, is a win for our parents, and a win for future generations. We understand that each win builds on generations of struggle that have brought us to serve as commissioners for the city/county and inspire us to continue building. In this new year of service, we aim to expand our collaboration with fellow Title V Commissions, recruit members of the community to serve on our committees, and continue to celebrate the Latinx experience in Tulsa with those who welcome it.

**2021 OFFICERS**

CHAIR | CARLOS A. BEJARANO

VICE CHAIR | JANIA M. RIVERA-WESTER

HISTORIAN | ANGELICA S. REINA

RECORDER | STEPHANIE DURAN QUINTANA

**MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Hosted the Tomas Rivera Latinx Excellence in Education Ceremony on May 13, 2021 at Living Arts of Tulsa. Recognized ten (10) Heroes in Education and twenty-two (22). Scholars from throughout the Tulsa Metro Area for their commitment, support, dedication, and impact on and within the Latinx Community.
- Finalized updates to the Commission bylaws with the change in names to incorporate "Latinx" and revamp committee names for the Community Advocacy Committee (formerly known as



Employment Advocacy Committee) and Immigration Committee (formerly known as International Committee) to better align with their purposes.

- Continued to promote and advocate for the Hispanic/Latinx citizens of Tulsa by highlighting the work of organizations and individuals advancing the goals of the City's Resilience Plan through our Facebook page and monthly guest speakers.

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH**

- 1,075 FOLLOWERS
- 123 REACH\*
- 19 ENGAGEMENT\*
- 116 TOTAL POSTS

\*90 Day average

#### **FUTURE INITIATIVES**

- Continue to promote vaccines and the adoption of proper health protocols to stop the spread of COVID-19 and maintain good health. Continue information sharing and collaboration with the Tulsa Health Department and related agencies.
- Focus committees work to better align with goals of the City's Resilience Plan and increase activity for committee members to effectively monitor/ support/highlight/connect, and advise/inform the community, fellow Commissions, Commissioners, and City leadership.
- Plan and execute a collaborative job fair through the work of the Community Advocacy Committee to promote the strength of a diverse workforce and present different career opportunities for Hispanic/Latinx members of the Tulsa community.

Save the Date for Tomas Rivera Awards

**Recognition Ceremony will take place on  
Thursday, May 12, 2022 from 6:00-8:30 pm at Central Library's Aaronson Auditorium.**

**This year's theme is "Education Empowers You!"**