

# Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission 2024 Annual Report

### **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

What an incredible year 2025 promises to be!

The Commission continues to build momentum in 2024, making meaningful strides in community engagement, strengthening partnerships, and expanding our impact across Tulsa. This year, we remain committed to showing up for our community with purpose, dedication, and action. I am honored to work alongside such a dynamic and motivated group of individuals. Every commissioner contributes unique backgrounds, skills, and perspectives that elevate our work and drive the Commission's success forward. Reflecting on our progress, I am reminded of the unifying statement we created during our strategic planning session:

"The GTAHLAC will work to expand its activities related to community engagement in order to increase the Commission's visibility as part of Tulsa's City Government and the greater Tulsa community, propelling the Commission to better identify areas of improvement and bring about positive change to the communities the Commission serves."

This statement remains at the heart of our mission as we take on 2024's key objectives:

- Supporting undocumented communities in Tulsa by increasing access to identification documents.
- Access to identification is more than paperwork—it is a pathway to opportunity, security, and dignity.
- This year, we will focus on empowering individuals to navigate systems, access essential resources, and participate fully in our shared community.
- By strengthening trust and building resilience, we aim to create lasting, positive change for those we serve.

I am confident that 2025 will be another year of growth, impact, and collaboration. Thank you to our commissioners, guest speakers, business leaders, and community partners for standing alongside us in this work. A special acknowledgment to my executive committee—your leadership, passion, and dedication are truly invaluable. Together, I know we will accomplish extraordinary things as we continue to uplift and serve the Tulsa community. Here's to a year of progress, unity, and empowerment!

Amairani Perez Chamu, Chair



#### CITY EXPERIENCE

Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

### **2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

CHAIR - AMAIRANI PEREZ CHAMU
VICE CHAIR - JACKIEZ GONZALEZ
HISTORIAN - MIMI MARTINEZ HERRERA
RECORDER - CHRISS CHAVEZ
PAST CHAIR - JESSICA LOZANO ALVAREZ

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### TOMAS RIVERA IN EDUCATION AWARD

The Tomas Rivera Awards celebrate the incredible strides made by Tulsa's growing Hispanic/Latinx community in education. This annual event honors the achievements of students and community advocates whose dedication and success contribute to a brighter and more inclusive future for our city. These awards embody Tulsa's resilience by fostering a welcoming environment that uplifts and honors all Tulsans. Congratulations to this year's recipients for their remarkable accomplishments and unwavering commitment to education!

### **SCHOLARS**

Alondra Santana Juarez
Andres Alejandro Urquiola Medina
Bethzabet Sierra
Brisa Martinez
Daniela Ofelia Llamas
Giovanny Hernandez
Gustavo Angel Balderas
Iris Palma Armendariz
Ivan Herrera
Janet Aburto

Jehovany Sanchez
Joseph A. Martinez Espinoza
Joseph Ronquillo Mendoza
Karen Rangel Valero
Kristina Marquez Esparza
Lesley Carranza Arana
Luis Sanchez Dominguez
Maria Aleman Pacheco
Rebecca Garcia
Vanessa Solis

#### HEROES IN EDUCATION

Blanca Willis
Daniel Chaboya
Joey Reyes
Jorge Ibarra
Taylor Pride

Kali Anderson Amy Smith Abby Lehman Elizabeth Benavides Michael DuPont

### SPEAKERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

January: Dr. Ebony Johnson (Superintendent, Tulsa Public Schools)
June: Dr. Laura Latta (Commissioner, Tulsa Women's Commission)
September: Dr. John Federline (Superintendent, Union Public Schools)

November: Cynthia Jasso (Program Officer, George Kaiser Family Foundation)



## CITY EXPERIENCE

Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

### **LOOKING AHEAD: 2025 PRIORITIES**

As we begin 2025, the Commission is committed to achieving a key objective: Increasing Access to Identification Documents for Undocumented Communities

This initiative aims to address a critical barrier faced by undocumented individuals across the City of Tulsa. Access to identification documents is essential for:

- Securing employment and housing opportunities
- Enrolling in education and healthcare services
- · Navigating daily life with safety, dignity, and confidence
- By focusing on this effort, we will continue to build trust, empower individuals, and create pathways to opportunity for historically underserved communities.