

ENCUENTRO DIGITAL 2026

HISPANIC FEDERATION'S DIGITAL SKILLING SYMPOSIUM

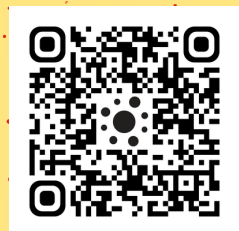
Agenda

SEPTEMBER 9-10, 2026 | Silicon Valley, CA

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SEPTEMBER 9-10, 2026 | Silicon Valley, CA

Welcome!

Encuentro Digital is Hispanic Federation's signature digital skilling and workforce development conference where leaders and allies from across the U.S. and Puerto Rico showcase the power of nonprofit, public, and private sector collaboration to expand digital opportunities for Latino families and workers.

This year, we are excited to bring leaders from organizations spearheading the AI revolution and discuss how we can continue to collaborate to address the Latino Digital Divide. Conversations will include opportunities and impacts of AI; digital equity funding landscape; training led by Google on AI tools; and meeting the existing digital needs of our communities.

Key Locations

Hotel | TownePlace Suites Downtown San Jose, 495 W San Carlos St, San Jose, CA 95110
Center for Employment Training | 701 Vine St, San Jose, CA 95110
Google Bay View | 100 Bay View Dr, Mountain View, CA 94043



Hispanic Federation, founded in 1990, seeks to empower and advance the Hispanic community, support Hispanic families, and strengthen Latino institutions through work in the areas of education, health, immigration, civic engagement, economic empowerment and environmental justice.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Google Bay View, Oracle Oak

100 Bay View Drive, Mountain View, CA 94043

Attendees meet in TownePlace Suites by Marriott San Jose Downtown lobby at 8:15am

Charter Buses depart for Google at 8:30am

Breakfast 9:00am – 9:45am

Opening Remarks 9:45am – 10:15am



Jesús García-Valadez, Head of Cultural Communications, Google

At Google for over a decade, Jesús is the first-ever Head of Hispanic Communications, where he builds and deploys communications strategies for Latino users and communities across the country and is a founding member of Google's Consumer Communications team. Jesús steers Google's cultural strategy in collaboration with product, marketing and policy to advance key business priorities. He has leveraged his deep relationships to champion Google's most impactful social responsibility and business initiatives including the Founders Fund, Election Tools in Spanish and Casa Google — a bespoke experience, connecting Latino media influencers with Google culture and technology. Most recently, he is driving a strategy to center cultural communities in the AI revolution in order to avoid what he terms a "digital divide 2.0." Prior to Google, Jesús distinguished himself in agency and in-house roles for top brands including HP, Marriott and AT&T, where he was instrumental in launching cultural communications teams, best practices and initiatives. He now serves as the Board Chair of the Mission Preparatory School in the heart of San Francisco's Mission District and on the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute's Corporate Advisory Council.



Frankie Miranda, President & CEO, Hispanic Federation

Frankie Miranda is the first openly gay president and CEO of the Hispanic Federation (HF), the nation's premier Latino non-profit membership organization. Frankie has worked rapidly to address the urgent needs of Latino communities and Latino-serving nonprofits as they faced the disproportionate effects of the pandemic. Since joining HF in 1998, he has played a key role in expanding the organization's operations while also establishing critical programs that support hundreds of thousands of Latinos. Frankie launched disaster relief and resiliency projects in Puerto Rico that expanded the island's reliance on renewable energy and revitalized the coffee industry, a key sector of the local economy. He also established the Advance Change Together (ACT) Initiative, a program designed to empower organizations that support the Latinx LGBTQ+ communities. He also oversees HF's annual gala, which now raises more than \$3 million annually. Frankie sits on the external Comcast Corporate DEI Advisory Council and is a trustee of Fundación Banco Popular. He holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Puerto Rico and an MA in Performance Studies from New York University. Frankie lives in Queens with his husband Ricardo and cat Valentina.

Wednesday, September 9, cont.

Opening Remarks 9:45am – 10:15am



Diana Caba, *Vice President for Community & Economic Development, Hispanic Federation (MC)*

Diana Caba is a nationally recognized social impact leader with expertise designing programs and advocating for public policies that advance economic opportunity for historically excluded communities. She serves as the Vice President for Community and Economic Development at Hispanic Federation (HF), a national organization dedicated to advancing Latino causes. At HF, she has led a \$100M+ multi-year, multi-region investment portfolio setting strategy, priorities, and learning across digital equity and technology access, financial capability, immigrant inclusion, poverty reduction, rural and urban community resilience, small business support, and workforce development. With over two decades of experience supporting upward mobility, Diana specializes in driving community-rooted insights into scalable solutions and measurable results.

Hispanic Federation Charla with Google's Melonie Parker

10:15am – 11:00am

As a leader within Google, who serves billions of people, Melonie Parker is responsible for helping cultivate a workplace culture where employees feel connected to purpose, innovation and impact. Her leadership sits at the intersection of talent, community, and organization culture, making her a powerful voice on how companies and nonprofits can work together to expand opportunities and strengthen communities. In this one-on-one conversation with HF President & CEO Frankie Miranda, Melonie will share how Google is partnering with nonprofits and leveraging its own strengths to support communities that have historically faced barriers to opportunity.



Melonie Parker, *Vice President of Employee Engagement, Google*

Melonie D. Parker is the award-winning Vice President of Employee Engagement at Google. As a masterful global HR executive with over three decades of experience, she is the architect of the transformative "Adding In instead of Fitting In" philosophy, driving highly engaged and successful company cultures. Prior to Google, she held executive roles at Sandia National Laboratories and Lockheed Martin. An alumna of Hampton and Villanova Universities, Melonie serves on key boards including The Executive Leadership Council and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. Melonie is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and The Links, Incorporated.



Frankie Miranda, *President & CEO, Hispanic Federation*



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Wednesday, September 9, cont.

CBO Spotlight | AI in Action 11:05am – 11:20am

Code the Dream is using AI to address one of the most persistent challenges in workforce and digital skills training: providing timely, personalized feedback at scale. Through AIRHub, its AI-powered assignment reviewer, students receive individualized coding feedback within minutes, enabling them to continue learning without waiting days for mentor review. The tool helps reduce barriers that contribute to student attrition while preserving the essential role of human mentors, responsibly augmenting human support in a resource-constrained environment.

Rachel Frenkel, Associate Director, Code the Dream

Break 11:20am – 11:30am

Panel Conversation | AI & Civil Rights 11:30am – 12:30pm

Algorithmic systems increasingly shape consequential decisions affecting how people engage with critical institutions, from criminal justice to employment to government services. While AI offers potential benefits, bias in these systems can deepen existing inequities, particularly for women, communities of color, and other marginalized groups. These risks are even more pronounced at a time when civil rights protection and disparate impact enforcement is being dismantled. This panel brings together civil rights advocates to examine how algorithmic bias operates in practice, identify gaps in current safeguards, and explore technical and policy solutions to mitigate these risks. Panelists will explore what communities, government, and companies can do to ensure AI systems are developed and deployed in ways that fair, accountable, and with respect for civil rights and human rights.



Julietta Lopez, Vice President for Federal Advocacy & Network Engagement,
Hispanic Federation (Moderator)

Julietta Lopez serves as the Vice President for Federal Advocacy and Network Mobilization at Hispanic Federation (HF), where she is responsible for shaping federal policies directly impacting the Latine community. She also mobilizes HF's network to promote civil rights, justice, equity, and empowerment. With an extensive background in public policy and community engagement, Julietta has dedicated her career to advancing the rights and well-being of underrepresented individuals and families. Prior to joining Hispanic Federation, Julietta served as a senior advisor to Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer for 11 years.



Alejandra Montoya-Boyer, Vice President, Center for Civil Rights & Technology,
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

Alejandra Montoya-Boyer (she, her, ella) is the Vice President of the Center for Civil Rights and Technology at The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, where she focuses on research, policy solutions, and advocacy that responds to the growing opportunities and challenges from AI and emerging technologies and their impact on marginalized communities. Alejandra's expertise ranges from broader AI governance to the impacts of AI and data privacy on economic systems and broader civil rights issues including immigrant enforcement and mass surveillance. Prior to The Leadership Conference, Alejandra was the Director of Policy at Prosperity Now and has also worked at the National Association of Counties, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, and the Office of Ben Ray Luján (NM-03). She has a diverse background in policy, political campaigning, and grassroots advocacy, with deep content expertise in tech policy, economic justice, and racial equity.



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Wednesday, September 9, cont.

Panel Conversation | AI & Civil Rights cont.



Hector Mujica, AI & Economic Opportunity Advisor

Hector Mujica is a technology and social impact leader focused on the intersection of artificial intelligence, economic opportunity, and public trust. He spent nearly 15 years at Google, most recently leading Google.org's philanthropy and economic opportunity work across the Americas. He oversaw nearly \$1 billion in investments spanning AI opportunity, workforce development, education, and economic mobility. In 2025, Hector left Google to pursue public service and ran for U.S. Congress in Florida. Today, he advises organizations working to ensure AI expands opportunity and delivers tangible benefits for workers and communities. A longtime advocate for the Latino community, Hector previously served on the board of the Hispanic Federation, Hispanics in Philanthropy and the Latino Community Foundation.



John Yang, President & Executive Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice

John C. Yang is the president and executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC. At AAJC, John leads the organization's efforts to fight for civil rights and empower Asian Americans to create a more just America for all through public policy advocacy, education, and litigation. His extensive legal background enables Advancing Justice | AAJC to address systemic policies, programs, and legislative attempts to discriminate against and marginalize Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) and other minority communities. John is an experienced attorney with over two decades of policy, litigation, and corporate expertise. He served in the Obama Administration as Senior Advisor for Trade and Strategic Initiatives at the U.S. Department of Commerce, where he was the principal advisor to Secretary Penny Pritzker on issues related to Asia and worked with the White House and other U.S. agencies on strategic and economics issues concerning the region.

Lunch 12:30pm – 1:30pm

CBO Spotlight | AI in Action 1:30pm – 1:45pm

America On Tech leveraged strategic partnerships to build an AI-powered agent that transformed its application review process across expanding programs and regions. The agent automates eligibility screening and extracts key information from submitted documents, reducing manual, repetitive tasks without compromising human oversight, keeping final decisions in human hands.

Janine Quijje, Vice President of Development, America On Tech

Wednesday, September 9, cont.

Panel Conversation | Philanthropic Initiatives to Address the Digital Divide

1:45pm – 2:45pm

The cancellation of the federal Digital Equity Act programs in 2025 changed the digital equity landscape, creating new funding gaps and raising an important question: What role can philanthropy play in ensuring communities are not left behind? This panel will explore how philanthropic initiatives are responding and expanding the conversation beyond broadband access. Closing the digital divide today means looking beyond connectivity to affordable devices, digital and AI skills, trusted community support, stronger capacity for grassroots organizations, and opportunities for communities to have a voice in the technology decisions that affect them. The challenge is no longer only who has access to technology, but who has the opportunity to benefit from what comes next. Panelists will discuss how philanthropy can partner with community-based organizations to close existing gaps while creating new pathways for Latino communities to participate, lead, and benefit from technological change.



Almirca Santiago, *Vice President for Grantmaking & Capacity Building, Hispanic Federation (Moderator)*

Almirca Santiago is a nonprofit management leader with over 22 years of experience dedicated to equity in her community through the strengthening and building of infrastructural capacity for community-based organizations that address the needs of Hispanics, immigrants and overall BIPOC communities. Currently, she is the Vice President for Grantmaking and Capacity Building at Hispanic Federation. For over 11 years, she has held roles that are key to the organization's expansion of services and operations. Most recently, she led the management and distribution of over \$60 million in emergency recovery grants throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. She is also a mayoral appointee serving as commissioner on the New York City Commission on Racial Equity (CORE).



Lili Gangas, *Chief Technology Community Officer, Kapor Foundation*

Lili Gangas is the Chief Technology Community Officer at the Kapor Foundation, a private foundation at the intersection of technology and racial justice, providing research and thought leadership, operating programs, supporting strategic partnerships and investments to increase diversity across the tech ecosystem, aiming to level the playing field in tech. She co-leads the Kapor Center's Equitable Tech Policy Initiative with a focus on responsible AI and emerging technology policy and advocacy as well as providing foundational support across civic engagement issues and tech enablement of civic organizations. Lili's previous tech fellowships include Omidyar Network's Digital Luminaries, America CA, Aspen Institute Tech Executive Leadership Initiative (TELI), and served on the FCC's Consumer Advisory Committee. And before coming to the Kapor Center, Lili was an Associate Principal at Accenture Technology Labs, Sr. Associate at Booz Allen, Sr Multi-Disciplined Software Engineer at Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems.



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Wednesday, September 9, cont.

Panel Conversation | Philanthropic Initiatives to Address the Digital Divide, cont.



Cristal Mojica, *Senior Program Manager, Digital Equity, Michelson Foundation*

Cristal is the Senior Program Manager for Michelson 20MM Foundation's Digital Equity Initiative. The initiative works to close the digital divide by advocating at the state and local level for paradigm-shifting policies — and convening cross-sectoral leaders to increase investments in solutions that put communities first and tackle barriers to broadband access. Prior to Michelson, Cristal was a manager at the Anita Borg Institute advocating for STEM higher education opportunities and career pathways for BIPOC students, with the goal of a future where the people who build and advance technology mirror the communities for whom they build. Cristal started her career with Booz Allen Hamilton, serving the Administration for Children & Families as a Program Support Specialist for the Office of Head Start, where she managed relationships with over 160 Head Start and Early Head Start grantees.



Diana Otero, *Vice President of Nonprofit Capacity Building, Latino Community Foundation*

With over 20 years of experience in immigration law and nonprofit advocacy, Diana is a passionate and visionary bilingual leader dedicated to creating lasting change in the communities she serves. Her journey into the nonprofit sector was driven by a profound belief in the power of community; a commitment to ensuring that community members and their leaders feel safe, seen, and respected as they dream big and build spaces that truly feel like home. At LCF, she leads transformative initiatives like the Latino Nonprofit Accelerator, The Capital Campaign, and Rest is Power, all designed to support and uplift community leaders and organizations. She is also deeply passionate about creating spaces where people feel welcomed and valued whether through her leadership or her talent for curating meaningful, beautiful, and inclusive events. She serves on the boards of the St. Francis Center in Redwood City and Northern California Grantmakers.

Break 2:45pm – 3:00pm



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Wednesday, September 9, cont.

Interactive AI Demo led by Google 3:00pm – 4:30pm

Artificial Intelligence is not just impacting the economy and workforce, but how we operate as nonprofit leaders. While a recent report cited that 92% of nonprofits are using AI, only 7% are using it strategically to see real impact on their mission. In this interactive session, Google employees will lead a workshop to teach strategic AI tools that you can bring back to your nonprofit and implement. This session will cover how AI can be a tool to support your outreach strategy, program operations and other topics that are essential to nonprofit operations. Please have your laptop or cellphone ready to use to fully participate in this session.

Tiq Chapa, VC & Startup Partnerships at Google Cloud, Google

April Alvarez, Head of Experience and Engagement, Google

Taylor Shine, Community Engagement Manager, Google

CBO Spotlight | AI in Action 4:30pm – 4:45pm

Digital NEST developed AI.BizzNEST, a custom-built AI Learning Hub designed to make AI education more accessible, practical, and engaging for staff, nonprofit partners, and community members. The hub houses two flagship interactive tools, including the Prompt Engineering Studio, where learners can build AI skills in a low-stakes, approachable environment that turns abstract concepts such as prompt engineering into practical experience. Users can also access guided resources and hands-on workshops that provide accessible pathways for building confidence and competency with emerging technologies.

Alex Rodriguez, Director for Software Development and Design, DigitalNEST

Jacqueline Perez, Senior Software Development Associate, DigitalNEST

Closing Remarks 4:45pm – 4:50pm

Group Photo Outside Google Bay View 4:50pm – 5:00pm

Reception | BV100 Googler Plaza 5pm – 6:30pm



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

**Center for Employment Training,
Morales Hall**

701 Vine Street, San Jose, CA 95110

Attendees to arrive at Center for Employment Training by 8:30am

Guest Arrival 8:30am

Breakfast 8:30am – 9:15am

Opening Remarks 9:15am – 9:25am

WELCOME FROM CENTER FOR EMPLOYMENT TRAINING



Frankie Miranda, *President & CEO, Hispanic Federation*

Frankie Miranda is the first openly gay president and CEO of the Hispanic Federation (HF), the nation's premier Latino non-profit membership organization. Frankie has worked rapidly to address the urgent needs of Latino communities and Latino-serving nonprofits as they faced the disproportionate effects of the pandemic. Since joining HF in 1998, he has played a key role in expanding the organization's operations while also establishing critical programs that support hundreds of thousands of Latinos. Frankie launched disaster relief and resiliency projects in Puerto Rico that expanded the island's reliance on renewable energy and revitalized the coffee industry, a key sector of the local economy. He also established the Advance Change Together (ACT) Initiative, a program designed to empower organizations that support the Latinx LGBTQ+ communities. He also oversees HF's annual gala, which now raises more than \$3 million annually. Frankie sits on the external Comcast Corporate DEI Advisory Council and is a trustee of Fundación Banco Popular. He holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Puerto Rico and an MA in Performance Studies from New York University. Frankie lives in Queens with his husband Ricardo and cat Valentina.



Peter Michelen, *Director for Workforce Initiatives, Hispanic Federation (MC)*

Peter Michelen is the Director for Workforce Initiatives at Hispanic Federation, where he is responsible for developing the strategy and programmatic activities of HF's national workforce development programs. Peter's career in the non-profit and corporate social responsibility sector is driven by a commitment to creating equitable solutions to society's most pressing issues. Prior to joining Hispanic Federation, Peter spent four years in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic where he led a vast corporate social responsibility initiative including recycling programs, building entrepreneurial ecosystems and healthy food access. Coming from an immigrant family, Peter is passionate about immigrant rights and establishing opportunities for immigrant families.

Thursday, September 10, cont.

Hispanic Federation Charla | Retrospective on the Latino Digital Accelerator

9:30am – 10:10am

In late 2019, Hispanic Federation & Google partnered to establish the Latino Digital Accelerator, a nonprofit capacity building and grant making initiative with the goal of addressing the Latino Digital Divide in the workforce. Early in the creation of this program, the global pandemic forced many families & workers to stay inside and depend on digital skills for their work livelihoods overnight. This program has continued through the AI revolution. Despite the rapid evolution of the skills required for workers in the 2020s, this program has trained over 30,000 individuals, leading to 4,000 jobs placements. In this Charla, HF's President & CEO Frankie Miranda sits down with Hector Mujica, former Head of Americas Philanthropy at Google.org and an architect of the Latino Digital accelerator, to discuss the program to date and where the program is heading.



Hector Mujica, AI & Economic Opportunity Advisor

Hector Mujica is a technology and social impact leader focused on the intersection of artificial intelligence, economic opportunity, and public trust. He spent nearly 15 years at Google, most recently leading Google.org's philanthropy and economic opportunity work across the Americas. He oversaw nearly \$1 billion in investments spanning AI opportunity, workforce development, education, and economic mobility. In 2025, Hector left Google to pursue public service and ran for U.S. Congress in Florida. Today, he advises organizations working to ensure AI expands opportunity and delivers tangible benefits for workers and communities. A longtime advocate for the Latino community, Hector previously served on the board of the Hispanic Federation, Hispanics in Philanthropy and the Latino Community Foundation.



Frankie Miranda, President & CEO, Hispanic Federation



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Thursday, September 10, cont.

Opening Plenary | Latino Leadership & Digital Equity in Silicon Valley

10:10am – 11:10am

Silicon Valley is both a global center of technological innovation and a region with deep Latino roots. Latino families, workers, entrepreneurs, students, and community organizations have played an essential role in building and sustaining the region. Yet its extraordinary growth and prosperity continue to coexist with significant disparities in broadband access, digital skills, educational and career pathways, philanthropic investment, and representation in the institutions shaping our technological future. This conversation will explore digital equity as more than access to devices and connectivity.



German Cash, California State Director, Hispanic Federation (Moderator)

German Cash serves as the California State Director for Hispanic Federation, where he leads the organization's statewide strategy across public policy, grantmaking, programs, fundraising, and partnerships. Since joining Hispanic Federation in 2024, he has spearheaded the organization's West Coast expansion and the opening of its first California office in Los Angeles. He now supports a statewide network of more than 50 Latino-led and immigrant-serving nonprofit organizations. Under German's leadership, HF has expanded its California investments and launched initiatives addressing digital equity, workforce development, economic mobility, mental health, civic participation, and community resilience. Before joining Hispanic Federation, he served as Political Director for New American Leaders and as Director of Learning, Development and Inclusion at Leadership for Educational Equity, where he trained thousands of leaders in antiracist and inclusive political leadership.



Gabby Chavez-Lopez, Executive Director, Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley

Gabby Chavez-Lopez is an influential leader in Silicon Valley, dedicated to empowering economic and civic participation for sustained regional growth. As the founding CEO and Executive Director of the Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley (LCSV), Gabby drives an agenda that strengthens the role of Latinas in advancing economic development, leadership, and civic influence. Headquartered in downtown San Jose, LCSV is positioned at the heart of the city's economic engine. This strategic location not only anchors the organization in a hub of innovation but also contributes to the vibrancy and job growth that are vital to downtown's revitalization and long-term prosperity. Under Gabby's direction, LCSV has achieved remarkable 20x growth across budget, staffing, and reach—a reflection of both the demand for its services and her commitment to results-focused collaboration with philanthropic, private sector partners and government agencies at local, state, and federal levels.



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Thursday, September 10, cont.

Opening Plenary, continued



Enrico Ramirez-Ruiz, *Director, Center for Reimagining Leadership, UC Santa Cruz*

Enrico Ramirez-Ruiz is a professor and the Vera Rubin Presidential Chair of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Born in Mexico, he is driven by a desire to understand our origins and our place in the universe. Using powerful computer simulations, he explores the lives and deaths of stars, black holes, and the cosmic origins of the elements that make up our world. He is a member of the Mexican Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Equally central to his work is expanding who has the opportunity to imagine, discover, and lead. As founder and director of the Lamat Institute, Ramirez-Ruiz has built pathways into science for students historically excluded from STEM. In recognition of this work, he received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring from President Joe Biden. He believes talent is everywhere, and discovery flourishes when opportunity, mentorship, and belonging are too.



Moses Zapien, *Executive Vice President, Silicon Valley Community Foundation*

Moses Zapien is Executive Vice President of Community Impact and Policy at Silicon Valley Community Foundation, where he leads strategies to advance economic mobility, early childhood development, housing, and civic engagement. Originally from California's Central Valley, Moses is the proud son of Mexican American immigrants who began as farmworkers and later became small business owners. He was the first in his family to graduate from college. As an attorney and experienced public and philanthropic leader, Moses previously served as CEO of the Community Foundation of San Joaquin and represented Stockton on both the City Council and the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors. Throughout his career, he has built partnerships across philanthropy, government, business, and community to address inequities and expand opportunity.

Break 11:10am – 11:20am

Thursday, September 10, cont.

Panel Conversation | Tech & Democracy 11:20am – 12:15pm

Governments worldwide are deploying technology in ways that have tremendous consequences for the future of democracy. While some states are adopting technology to improve services, many others are using it to suppress dissent, target marginalized communities, and undermine democratic institutions. This panel examines how authoritarian and democratic governments alike are deploying surveillance, censorship, and AI-driven targeting against their own populations, and what it means for democracy and human rights when these tools proliferate without accountability. We'll explore how digital repression operates in the United States compared to global trends: Which technologies are being deployed? Who bears the burden? What threats does this pose to voting rights, free speech, and political participation? And critically, what does civil society resistance look like when the state deploys these tools? Drawing on examples from the U.S. and around the world, panelists will discuss the infrastructure of techno-authoritarianism, the disproportionate impact on Latino and other marginalized communities, and the hard dilemma of how to entrust government with the power it needs to protect and provide for people while safeguarding privacy and individual liberty.



Samuel Boehms, AI & Digital Access Specialist, Hispanic Federation (Moderator)

Sam Boehms is the AI & Digital Access Specialist at Hispanic Federation, where he works at the intersection of technology policy, civil rights, and digital equity on behalf of Latino communities across the United States. Based in Washington, D.C., Sam leads HF's federal advocacy on AI governance, digital rights, media diversity, and digital access — engaging Congress, federal agencies, and the private sector to advance policies that protect Latino communities in an era of rapidly evolving technologies. Prior to joining HF, Sam worked on international democracy assistance and human rights advocacy with extensive experience in Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Western Europe. He holds a Master of Human Rights from Sciences Po in Paris and is completing a second master's in International Technology Policy at George Washington University, where his research focuses on the impact of emerging technologies on democracy and human rights.



Adam Fivenson, Non-resident Fellow, Center for Security, Innovation, and New Tech, American University

Adam Fivenson is a writer, researcher, and convener focused on driving innovation in democratic practice globally. His work explores how authoritarian actors are leveraging artificial intelligence, a changing information environment, and a rapidly evolving geopolitical situation to undermine democracy and human rights globally; as well as how civil society and democratic governments can leverage the same shifting dynamics for democratic advantage. Adam is a Non-resident Fellow at American University's Center for Security, Innovation, and New Technology (CSINT), Principal Consultant at Five Suns Global, and was formerly a professor at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. His work has appeared in the Washington Post, New York Times, Tech Policy Press, Just Security, Cognitive Crucible and TVP World.



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Thursday, September 10, cont.

Tech & Democracy cont.



Claudia Ruiz, Senior Policy Advisor, Civil Rights, UnidosUS

Claudia Ruiz is the Senior Civil Rights Policy Advisor at UnidosUS, the nation's largest Latino civil rights and advocacy organization, where she leads work at the intersection of civil rights, democracy, and technology. Her work confronts the civil rights and civil liberties threats posed by unchecked surveillance and data exploitation while fighting for robust governance frameworks that allow emerging technologies to deliver on their promise of shared opportunity and prosperity. Her work is guided by a core conviction: the values we all share—fairness, dignity, freedom, equality—are not obstacles to innovation, but rather the terms on which technology should be governed. Claudia also leads UnidosUS's work on voting rights and democracy reform, and frequently speaks on the threats posed by online mis- and disinformation, including the role of social media in amplifying false claims that suppress voters and undermine elections. Claudia was most recently appointed to CA Governor Newsom's AI Innovation Council, serves as Co-Chair of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights' Media/Telecommunications Task Force and is a former Co-Chair of the Federal Communications Commission's Consumer Advisory Committee.



Ramakrishnan Sundara Raman, Assistant Professor, UC Santa Cruz

Ram Sundara Raman is an Assistant Professor in Computer Science and Engineering at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Ram's research lies in the intersection of computer security, privacy, networking, and AI. His group research has produced large-scale empirical systems for studying Internet censorship, geoblocking, privacy-enhancing mechanisms, and AI abuse. He has been recognized as a Rising Star at the Workshop on Free and Open Communications on the Internet (FOCI) and his work has helped prevent large-scale attacks on Internet users.

Lunch 12:15pm – 1:15pm

Thursday, September 10, cont.

**Panel Conversation | Health, Wealth & Dignity in the AI Economy:
From Regional Action to Statewide Change 1:15pm – 2:15pm**

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping our economy, workplaces, public institutions, and daily lives. Latino communities must do more than respond to these changes after decisions have already been made. We must help define the policies, investments, and systems shaping this new economy so that our voices, priorities, and aspirations are represented from the outset. The session will explore how organizations can proactively shape conversations about Latinos and the AI economy, ensure community voices are represented at decision-making tables, and turn shared priorities into coordinated action. Participants will leave with practical coalition-building strategies, policy insights, and regional models they can adapt in their own communities, states, and regions.



Susi Collins, Founder & Principal, Tide & Thrive Co. (Moderator)

Susi Collins is the Founder and Principal of Tide & Thrive Co., a seasoned Social Impact Strategist with twenty years of global, high-impact leadership experience from organizations including The Gates Foundation, Lara Lee & George Gund III Foundation, Salesforce, AWS, and Nordstrom. She excels at driving resource mobilization strategies, building multisector partnerships, focusing on the crucial intersection of equity, philanthropy, and organizational effectiveness. She holds a Master of Nonprofit Administration from the University of San Francisco and a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion certificate from Cornell University, and is certified with the Ocean Healing Institute. She currently serves as a Board Director for the Acevedo Foundation and Poderistas.



Sonja Diaz, Founder & Managing Director, Unseen

Sonja Diaz is a nationally recognized civil rights attorney, policy advisor, and c-suite executive driving innovation at the intersection of equity, governance, and public narrative. As the founder of Unseen, she leads a future-forward organization leveraging influence, storytelling, and policy advocacy to advance the leadership of Americans hidden in plain sight. Diaz previously founded and led two groundbreaking initiatives at UCLA: the Latina Futures 2050 Lab and the Latino Policy and Politics Institute (LPPI), the University of California's first Latino-focused think tank. Under her leadership, LPPI secured over \$40M in funding to produce actionable research on democracy, health, and equity. A trusted advisor to lawmakers, Diaz routinely briefs elected officials nationwide on data-informed policy solutions and has testified on voting rights, immigration, and Latina economic mobility. She served as policy counsel to Vice President Kamala D. Harris and directed voter protection efforts in the 2016 election. Her expertise has been featured by The New York Times, CNN, NBC, and NPR and she currently sits on the board of LatinoJustice PRLDEF.



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Thursday, September 10, cont.

Health, Wealth & Dignity in the AI Economy cont.



Dr. Vicky Gomez, *Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health, San Jose State University*

Dr. Gomez is an experienced community-based participatory researcher with an emphasis on centering meaningful community engagement and collaboration. Her current research agenda includes addressing health inequities in marginalized communities and developing digital stories as a community health promotion strategy. Currently, Dr. Gomez is the qualitative lead on a mixed methods research study to assess the status of Latinas in the Silicon Valley, a collaboration with local community-based organizations, Latinas Contra Cancer and Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley funded by the U.S. Department of Labor. Dr. Vicky Gomez was born and raised in San Francisco's Mission District and obtained her BS in Health Science and BA in Raza Studies from San Francisco State University. She went on to obtain her Master of Public Health degree in Community Health Education from SFSU and completed her Doctor of Public Health degree from UC Berkeley's School of Public Health.



Darcie Green, *Executive Director, Latinas Contra Cancer*

Darcie Green is a bridge-builder, strategist, and advocate with 20+ years of experience advancing justice through healthcare, public policy, organizing, and systemic reform. Her work spans local and state government, electoral politics, nonprofits, and abolitionist movements, all rooted in a commitment to dismantling inequities and holding space for the power marginalized communities. As the Executive Director of Latinas Contra Cancer, she leads with a vision of health justice, centering underserved Latiné communities. She's expanded the organization's reach, launched programs to empower patients, and championed policies addressing health disparities. At Kaiser Permanente, she developed strategies that improved health outcomes for underinsured populations. Earlier, as a Field Representative in the California State Legislature, she built partnerships and supported community-focused healthcare, education, and economic justice policies. In electoral politics, she has served as President of the Santa Clara County Board of Education and Vice President of the Alum Rock Union School Board, championing racial equity in education and closing achievement gaps for students of color.

Thursday, September 10, cont.

Panel Conversation | Nonprofit Partnerships with AI Companies

2:15pm – 3:05pm

For many grassroots organizations, AI can feel like a conversation happening somewhere else, inside technology companies, universities, and organizations with bigger budgets and dedicated tech teams. But what if nonprofits and the communities they serve could help shape that conversation? Jacob Martinez of Digital NEST and Ramiro Rodriguez of Code the Dream will share what they have learned from bringing emerging technologies into community-centered work and building relationships with technology companies. Joining them is Amy Whittaker of Anthropic, who will offer the perspective of an AI company working directly with nonprofits and share what Anthropic is learning from organizations using Claude. Together, they'll explore what meaningful nonprofit–AI partnerships can look like, what each side brings to the table, and what grassroots organizations can do to get started. This is a practical conversation about moving from watching AI happen to having a seat at the table—and bringing new skills, resources, and opportunities back to our communities.



Laine Rolong, *Associate Vice President for Programs, Hispanic Federation*
(Moderator)

Laine Rolong is a bilingual and bicultural social impact executive with more than 20 years of experience across the nonprofit, government, private, and philanthropic sectors. Her work centers on advancing economic mobility across the Americas, with a particular commitment to strengthening institutions serving Latino communities. As Associate Vice President for Programs at Hispanic Federation, Laine helps shape a national portfolio spanning entrepreneurship and small business development, workforce pathways, digital inclusion, financial empowerment, immigration, education, and health. She has led complex, multi-million-dollar initiatives, including a \$50M+ federal program implemented across 45 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Throughout her career, Laine has worked at the intersection of strategy and implementation, bringing together people, resources, partnerships, and systems to move ideas into action. Her experience across microfinance, financial inclusion, workforce development, homeownership, and food security has given her a perspective shaped by both the institutions designing and funding solutions and the organizations and communities putting them into practice.



Jacob Martinez, *Founder and CEO, DigitalNEST*

Jacob Martinez, founder & CEO of Digital NEST, is a social entrepreneur, tech educator, and community collaborator. His mission is to advance economic justice in communities impacted by proximity to the wealth and power of Silicon Valley, but excluded from its benefits. Recognition for Martinez's work includes: 2020 James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award, the Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation Entrepreneur Fellowship, 2024 UC Santa Cruz Alumni Achievement Award, and the 2015 Entrepreneur of the Year for Santa Cruz County, among others. He sits on the boards of the Santa Cruz Community Foundation, Silicon Valley Leadership Group Foundation and the Center for Rural Innovation. He is an External Special Adviser to the UCSC Chancellor as well as an Advisor for Reservoir Ventures, a modern investment firm focused on supporting entrepreneurs in Central California and the Monterey Bay Area.



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Thursday, September 10, cont.

Nonprofit Partnerships with AI Companies, cont.



Ramiro Rodriguez, *Co-Founder and CTO, Code The Dream*

Ramiro is co-founder and CTO at Code The Dream, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating opportunities in tech for people facing career barriers. Ramiro immigrated to the US as a child and went on to study computer science and work as a software developer for many years.



Amy Whittaker, *Claude for Nonprofits, Anthropic*

Amy Whittaker is a nonprofit and social impact leader with more than 20 years of experience helping mission-driven organizations strengthen their operations, scale their impact, and drive meaningful social change. Currently at Anthropic, Amy brings extensive expertise in nonprofit strategy, philanthropy, leadership development, and organizational growth. Throughout her career, Amy has worked at the intersection of technology, social innovation, and community impact, supporting organizations tackling some of society's most complex challenges. Her leadership experience spans nonprofit management, fundraising, stakeholder engagement, and strategic planning, with a strong focus on building sustainable, high-performing organizations.

Break 3:05pm – 3:15pm

Panel Conversation | Addressing the Immediate & Long-Term Digital Needs of the Community

3:15pm – 4:15pm

Digital access and skills are increasingly essential to participating fully in today's economy and society, yet many communities continue to face barriers to affordable connectivity, devices, digital skills, and meaningful opportunities to benefit from technology. This panel will explore how community-based organizations, philanthropy, government, and the private sector can respond to immediate digital needs while building sustainable, long-term digital inclusion strategies. Panelists will examine emerging challenges – from access to technology and digital literacy to workforce readiness and the rapid evolution of AI – and discuss strategies that center community voice, strengthen local capacity, and ensure that communities are prepared to thrive in an increasingly digital future.



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Thursday, September 10, cont.

Addressing the Immediate & Long-Term Digital Needs of the Community, cont.



Diana Caba, *Vice President for Community & Economic Development, Hispanic Federation (Moderator)*

Diana Caba is a nationally recognized social impact leader with expertise designing programs and advocating for public policies that advance economic opportunity for historically excluded communities. She serves as the Vice President for Community and Economic Development at Hispanic Federation (HF), a national organization dedicated to advancing Latino causes. At HF, she has led a \$100M+ multi-year, multi-region investment portfolio setting strategy, priorities, and learning across digital equity and technology access, financial capability, immigrant inclusion, poverty reduction, rural and urban community resilience, small business support, and workforce development. With over two decades of experience supporting upward mobility, Diana specializes in driving community-rooted insights into scalable solutions and measurable results.



Luis Sandoval, *Executive Director, Building Skills Partnership*

Luis has twenty years of experience in nonprofit management, leading Latino-led and Latino-serving organizations to create, communicate, implement, and sustain strategic initiatives. As the Executive Director of Building Skills Partnership (BSP), he is responsible for scaling the California nonprofit's programs aimed to improve the quality of life of property service workers in low-wage industries, as well as their families and communities by increasing their access to education, leadership, and career advancement. Luis' experience includes developing, managing, leading initiatives that reach those most vulnerable communities. His skills have allowed him to assist with strategic planning, board facilitation, fundraising, capacity building and programming as a consultant. He is also co-founder of the California Advocacy Network for Aging Latinos and co-founder of the AZ-CA Humanitarian Coalition, an interconnected network responding to the migrant humanitarian crisis and provides critical support to migrants at various stages of their journey. Luis has been a featured participant as a fellow in Hispanics in Philanthropy Next Generation Latino Philanthropy Leadership Program, and is a former participant of the CA Latino Caucus Leadership Institute.

Thursday, September 10, cont.

Addressing the Immediate & Long-Term Digital Needs of the Community, cont.



Jillian Spindle, *Chief Strategy and Advancement Officer, Mission Economic Development Agency*

Jillian Spindle is the Chief Strategy & Advancement Officer at the Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA), where she leads strategic initiatives, technical assistance, and policy advocacy. Using her 17 years at MEDA, Jillian has championed agency growth and place-based impact, including spearheading the design of the Mission Promise Neighborhood and its expansion to a Citywide effort through Promise City. With a background in digital equity, she developed MEDA's inaugural technology initiatives through NTIA funding, expanding digital access and skills training for underserved communities. Previously, Jillian served as MEDA's Chief Operating Officer, overseeing finance, fundraising, and operations. Her career reflects a deep commitment to social equity, rooted in her prior work developing tech-centered programs for workforce development and social justice with non profit organizations in Chicago, Jamaica and Honduras.



Mayra Castillo, *Chief of Innovation & Impact, New Economics for Women*

Mayra Castillo is a dynamic leader and strategic connector with a proven track record of building transformative corporate partnerships, and a passion for driving social impact and economic justice. She began her career as an entrepreneur, where for over 16 years she honed her ability to develop creative solutions. Her commitment to community development led her to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, a nationally recognized hub for urban innovation, where she spearheaded External Affairs, forging strategic partnerships that advanced the Yard's mission of fostering economic growth and revitalizing communities. In her role as Director of Innovation and Impact at New Economics for Women (NEW), Mayra leads strategic initiatives designed to shape the organization's next 40 years, ensuring bold solutions and a robust system for measuring community impact.

Thursday, September 10, cont.

Lighting the Path Ahead: Group Activity

4:15pm – 5:00pm

The challenges our communities face don't pause when the conference ends, and neither should our collaboration. As we close out two days together at Encuentro Digital, this interactive session will turn the conversations, insights, and relationships built into a lasting, year-round support network for nonprofit leaders working at the intersection of technology, digital equity, and community transformation. This practical, action-oriented session features hands-on activities to move us from single-event networking to continuous impact, laying the groundwork to map shared goals, foster ongoing resource-sharing, and ensure every leader leaves with concrete tools, relationships, and momentum needed to drive digital empowerment together long after the Encuentro doors close.



Marlena Matute, Online Community Manager, Hispanic Federation

Marlena Matute is a content strategist and the Online Community Manager at Hispanic Federation, where she leads the growth and daily operations of the HF online learning and community platform. With over a decade of experience in the dynamic world of communications and marketing, she has served as a content creator, community manager, influencer manager, and communications manager for small businesses, startups, grassroots nonprofits, e-commerce brands, and even self-published authors.



Chrystian Rodriguez, Senior Director for Capacity Building, Hispanic Federation

Chrystian Rodriguez is the Senior Director for Capacity Building at Hispanic Federation, where he leads work focused on learning, leadership development, resource sharing, and shared practice across the HF community. For nearly 20 years, Chrystian has built and led equity-centered programs across social justice, movement building, media, arts, and cultural spaces. His work has focused on strengthening how people and organizations learn, communicate, tell stories, build power, and move ideas into action, drawing from popular education, narrative and communications strategy, community organizing, and cultural strategy.

Closing Remarks 5:00pm – 5:10pm

Evening Reception in CET Courtyard 5:10pm – 7:00pm

Music by **Mariachi Estelar**