



DEL MOMENTO AL MOVIMIENTO

LEAD, UNITE, TRANSFORM



2026 NEW YORK CONFERENCE - APRIL 18TH, 2026



HON. KARINES REYES, RN
CHAIR OF THE NYS SENATE
AND ASSEMBLY PR/HISPANIC TASK FORCE

HON. ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS
NYS SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
AND MAJORITY LEADER

HON. CARL E. HEASTIE
NYS ASSEMBLY SPEAKER





NYS ASSEMBLY & SENATE
PUERTO RICAN/HISPANIC
TASK FORCE



HON. CARL E. HEASTIE
ASSEMBLY SPEAKER
**HON. ANDREA
STEWART-COUSINS**
SENATE MAJORITY
LEADER & PRESIDENT
PRO TEMPORE

HON. KARINES REYES
CHAIRWOMAN



April 2026

Bienvenidos,

Forty years ago, Puerto Rican and Hispanic legislators decided Albany needed to hear from us — every year, on the record, in the building where decisions get made. That decision became SOMOS. Today, is the largest gathering of Puerto Rican and Hispanic civic and political leaders in New York State. This year, we celebrate 40 years of that insistence. But we're not here to look back.

Del Momento, Al Movimiento. From the moment, to the movement.

This moment is not a quiet one. Latino families across New York face real pressure — on immigration, housing, healthcare, education. At the same time, we are organizing, leading, and showing up in every sector of public life. Both things are true. That tension is exactly why this conference exists.

A movement isn't a feeling. It's organized by people with a shared direction. It's the legislator and the organizer in the same room. It's the policy conversation that becomes a bill. It's the student who came here to observe and leaves with a future in public service. That's what *Al Movimiento* looks like in practice.

On behalf of the 31 Executive Members of the NYS Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force — welcome. Lead where you're standing. Unite across the lines that usually divide us. Transform what you can reach. The moment is already here. The movement starts now.

¡Pa'lante Siempre!

Karines Reyes, R.N.
Member of Assembly – District 87
Chair – NYS Assembly & Senate’s Puerto Rican / Hispanic Task Force



Dear Friends, Sponsors, and Supporters,

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Operations Manager

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On behalf of the Somos Inc. Board of Directors, our Executive Director, Rosa M. Pelton Alcantara, we are honored to once again join in collaboration with the New York State Assembly and Senate Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force for this year's conference.

For four decades, Somos Inc. has stood as a bridge between community, leadership, and advocacy. Each year, through our Conference and Legislative Workshops, we bring together elected officials, community leaders, professionals, and students to engage in meaningful dialogue and develop solutions that directly impact the Latino community — not only across New York State but throughout the diaspora.

This year we are especially excited and honored to invite you to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Somos, Inc. as a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to uniting the Latino community, by advocating for equitable public policy, advancing educational and leadership opportunities for youth through mentoring, scholarships, and civic engagement programs.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our sponsors, partners, and participants whose unwavering support continues to make this important work possible. Your dedication over the past 40 years has empowered us to grow, evolve, and remain steadfast in our mission.

This year's conference represents more than just a gathering — it is a celebration of progress, collaboration, and unity. It is an opportunity to listen, learn, and lead together as we address the challenges that shape our present and define our future.

We encourage every participant to attend, engage, and contribute to the rich discussions and initiatives that make Somos such a vital platform for positive change. Your voice and participation are the driving force behind our continued success.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Somos family and for believing in our mission. Together, we will continue to build a stronger, more inclusive future for generations to come.

Somos Inc. Chairman

Hon. Francisco Diaz

Executive Director

Rosa M Pelton Alcantara

Rosa M Pelton Alcantara

SESSION 1: 9:00AM - 10:15AM

ROOM	LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP	LEGISLATIVE SPONSOR
Meeting Room 1	Advancing a Culture Shift on Gender-Based Violence in New York	Senator Nathalia Fernandez AM Amanda Septimo
Meeting Room 2	The State of the Human Services Workforce: Collaboration vs. Competition	Senator Nathalia Fernandez AM John Zaccaro, Jr. AM Yudelka Tapia
Meeting Room 3	Cultural Spaces as Community Hubs and Economic Drivers for the State's Affordability Agenda	Senator José M. Serrano Senator Zellnor Myrie AM Jon D. Rivera AM Ron Kim
Meeting Room 4	Funding Her Future: Access to Capital, Bias & Policy Reform for Women Entrepreneurs	Senator Luis R. Sepúlveda
Meeting Room 5	Economic Benefits of New York Expanding Its Professional Licensing Laws	Senator Gustavo Rivera
Meeting Room 6	Las Semillitas: Advancing Early Income and Asset Strategies Across New York State for Latinos	AM Manny De Los Santos AM Emérita Torres
Meeting Room 7	From Campus to Community: Empowering the Next Generation for Civic Action and Census 2030	AM Steven Raga AM Landon Dais

SESSION 1: 9:00AM - 10:15AM



**Nathalia
Fernandez**

Senator



**Amanda
Septimo**

Assemblymember

9:00am - 10:15am | Meeting Room 1

Advancing a Culture Shift on Gender-Based Violence in New York

Gender-based violence continues to impact individuals, families, and communities across New York, with communities of color and immigrant communities facing compounding barriers—cultural stigma, limited language access, and reduced willingness to seek help amid escalating federal enforcement. Lasting change requires more than expanded services; it demands a cultural shift that centers prevention, accountability, and community-based care. This panel brings together advocates, service providers, and policymakers to examine how strategic public investment can expand survivor-centered programming, strengthen culturally responsive care, and build the coordinated policy infrastructure needed to support survivors and prevent violence across New York State.

PANELISTS: Maria Lizardo, Executive Director, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation; Jeehae Fischer, Executive Director, The Korean American Family Service Center; Lorena Kourousias, Executive Director, Mixteca; Margarita Guzman, Executive Director, Violence Intervention Program; Mohamed Q. Amin, Founder & Executive Director, Caribbean Equality Project



Nathalia Fernandez

Senator



John Zaccaro, Jr.

Assemblymember

9:00am - 10:15am | Meeting Room 2

The State of the Human Services Workforce: Collaboration vs. Competition

New York's human services and mental health workforce is at a breaking point. Providers are being asked to meet rising and increasingly complex community needs while navigating chronic staffing shortages, inadequate reimbursement rates, and mounting administrative burdens—pushing organizations that should be partners into competition for the same limited resources. A 2024 survey found that half of children's outpatient providers paused new intakes in the past year, and 70% reported wait times of ten days or more. This panel examines the systemic barriers driving the crisis and explores how shifting from competition to collaboration can stabilize the workforce, improve retention, and build a more sustainable continuum of care for New York's most vulnerable families.

PANELISTS: Yvette B. Andre, President & CEO, Unique People Services; Diego Padilla Duran, Director of External Relations & Communications, POTS; Jihoon Kim, President & CEO, InUnity Alliance; Yolanda McBride, SVP of External Affairs & Public Policy, The New York Foundling; Kim Stella, Assistant Executive Director of Care Management & Prevention, Astor Services; Kayleigh Zolaga, President & CEO, NYS Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health



Yudelka Tapia

Assemblymember

SESSION 1: 9:00AM - 10:15AM

**José M. Serrano**

Senator

**Zellnor Myrie**

Senator

**Jon D. Rivera**

Assemblymember

**Ron Kim**

Assemblymember

9:00am - 10:15am | Meeting Room 3

Cultural Spaces as Community Hubs and Economic Drivers for the State's Affordability Agenda

Moderated by Senators Serrano and Myrie and Assemblymember Jon D. Rivera, this workshop convenes cultural leaders across New York to examine how arts and cultural spaces serve as economic engines for neighborhood vitality, workforce retention, and small business growth. As the state grapples with rising costs and widening inequities, these spaces are uniquely positioned to advance affordability goals—but only if investments are intentionally aligned with equitable development strategies. Panelists will explore the intersection of cultural infrastructure, housing policy, and public education access, and discuss how cross-sector partnerships between arts leaders, housing agencies, planners, and policymakers can prevent displacement while building stronger, more resilient communities.

PANELISTS: Mino Lora, Executive Artistic Director for The People's Theatre; Patricia McGregor, Artistic Director for New York Theatre Workshop; Cynthia Carrion, Director of Government and Community Affairs for El Museo del Barrio; Aaron Ott, Curator of Public Art, Buffalo AKG Art Museum; Charles Rice-Gonzalez, Executive Director for Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance; Cinthia Fernholz, Deputy Director & Director of Development, Hispanic Society Museum & Library; Maritza Carmona, VP, Government and External Affairs, BRIC Arts Media

**Luis R. Sepúlveda**

Senator

9:00am - 10:15am | Meeting Room 4

Funding Her Future: Access to Capital, Bias & Policy Reform for Women Entrepreneurs

Women entrepreneurs continue to face significant and well-documented barriers to capital—from lending discrimination and venture capital bias to exclusion from public procurement opportunities. This panel examines the data behind these persistent gaps and explores how they manifest across financial systems and institutional practices. Panelists will identify the state-level policy changes needed to expand opportunity and level the playing field for women business owners, with particular attention to women of color and immigrant entrepreneurs.

PANELISTS: Meiling Aquino, Founder, Voguish Agency; Nancy Carin, Executive Director, BOC Capital; Marlene Messina, VP Market Manager, Women in Business Ambassador / Valley Cares Champion, Valley National Bank

SESSION 1: 9:00AM - 10:15AM

**Gustavo Rivera**

Senator

9:00am - 10:15am | Meeting Room 5

Economic Benefits of New York Expanding Its Professional Licensing Laws

New York's professional licensing laws remain among the most restrictive in the nation, blocking thousands of skilled immigrants and undocumented residents from entering healthcare, education, and social services at a time of critical workforce shortages. Eleven states have already passed licensure reform; New York has not. The Empire State Licensing Act (S1086A/A675) would remove citizenship as a condition for obtaining a professional or occupational license, opening pathways for trained workers who are ready to contribute. This workshop examines how these restrictions limit upward mobility, deepen workforce gaps in essential sectors, and undermine New York's economy, and what passing the Empire State Licensing Act would change.

PANELISTS: Paul Zuber, Executive Vice President, New York Business Council; Adama Bah, Chief Executive and Founder, Afrikana; Marco Carrion, President of the Consortium for Worker Education; Murad Awawdeh, President of NYC Immigration Coalition

**Manny
De Los Santos**

Assemblymember

**Emérita
Torres**

Assemblymember

9:00am - 10:15am | Meeting Room 6

Las Semillitas: Advancing Early Income & Asset Strategies Across New York State for Latinos

In many Hispanic and immigrant communities, conversations about wills, estate planning, insurance, and long-term financial security remain avoided—yet without planning, families risk losing assets and missing opportunities to build generational wealth. Despite Latinos being one of the fastest-growing populations in the U.S., the root causes of the Latino-white wealth gap remain widely misunderstood, limiting policy responses to small-scale interventions rather than systemic solutions. Moderated by Bronx Assemblymember Emerita Torres, this session reframes financial planning as both a personal and a policy priority—offering culturally responsive strategies and bold approaches including guaranteed income programs, early asset-building investments, and cross-sector collaboration to expand economic opportunity for Latino families across New York.

PANELISTS: Assemblymember Emerita Torres; Assemblymember Manny De Los Santos; Debra-Ellen Glickstein, Executive Director, NYC Kids Rise; Tiffany Hervas, Revolution Financial Management; Madeline V. Marquez, Executive Vice President, Chief External Affairs Officer, Ponce Bank; Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet

SESSION 1: 9:00AM - 10:15AM**Steven Raga**

Assemblymember

**Landon Dais**

Assemblymember

*9:00am - 10:15am | Meeting Room 7****From Campus to Community: Empowering the Next Generation for Civic Action and Census 2030***

Young New Yorkers are not only tomorrow's voters—they are civic anchors in their households today, serving as trusted messengers who help immigrant and BIPOC families navigate complex systems and counter misinformation. This panel explores two pillars of democratic power: expanding youth voter participation and ensuring a full and accurate 2030 Census count. The discussion will highlight the Student Voter Empowerment Act (S.2056/A.3954) and Vote 17 NY (S.3231/A.6590), and examine how equipping young people as civic leaders creates a vital bridge between electoral engagement and Census outreach. Panelists will discuss cross-sector strategies to mobilize communities and secure New York's political power for the next decade.

PANELISTS: Assemblymember Steven Raga; Assemblymember Landon Dais; Senator Jamaal Bailey; Dr. Carlos Vargas Ramos, the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College; Sierra Ford, Generation Vote; Lorena Kourousias, Executive Director at Mixteca; Rebecca An, Civic Participation Manager, Minkwon Center for Community Action; Eli Valentin, Director of Latino Studies, Virginia Union University

SESSION 2: 10:30AM - 11:45AM

ROOM	LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP	LEGISLATIVE SPONSOR
Meeting Room 1	Liberating Public Health: Harm Reduction as a Strategy for Racial Justice in New York State	<i>Senator Nathalia Fernandez</i>
Meeting Room 2	La LUCHA Sigue: Exploring the Continued Effort to Close Disparity Gaps between Latinos and the Rest of New York	<i>AM Karines Reyes AM Amanda Septimo</i>
Meeting Room 3	Public Dollars, Private Divide: Examining the Real Cost of School Vouchers	<i>AM Jon D. Rivera</i>
Meeting Room 4	You May Approach the Bench	<i>Senator Luis R. Sepúlveda</i>
Meeting Room 5	Latino Movements Transcending Borders: Lessons on Building Power Locally and Globally	<i>AM Emérita Torres</i>
Meeting Room 6	Fulfilling the Promise of Foundation Aid: Unleash the Potential for All Students	<i>Senator Robert Jackson AM Manny De Los Santo</i>
Meeting Room 7	Stop Taking Our Pay: A Campaign to Stop Predatory Payday Lending in NYS	<i>AM Steven Raga</i>
LOB Hearing Room A	Hot Topics in Climate, Clean Energy, and Job Creation	<i>Senator Jessica Ramos</i>
LOB Hearing Room B	From Service to Support: Recognizing the Diversity of America's Veterans	<i>AM Karines Reyes</i>
LOB Hearing Room C	Reimagining Small Business & MWBE Advancement Opportunities Across NYS-Agencies	<i>AM Nikki Lucas AM Rodneyse Bichotte-Hermelyn</i>

SESSION 2: 10:30AM - 11:45AM

**Nathalia Fernandez**

Senator

10:30am - 11:45am | Meeting Room 1

Liberating Public Health: Harm Reduction as a Strategy for Racial Justice in New York State

Black and Latinx New Yorkers continue to face disproportionate overdose deaths and barriers to HIV care—not because of individual behavior, but because of entrenched structural inequities. This workshop advances harm reduction as a liberatory public health strategy rooted in racial justice and guided by the lived expertise of people most directly impacted by drug use, HIV, and criminalization. Effective public health policy must be shaped by people who use drugs, those living with HIV, frontline harm reduction workers, and community leaders—not imposed upon them. Panelists will examine how centering lived experience in legislation, funding decisions, and program design produces more effective, equitable, and sustainable public health outcomes for communities across New York.

PANELISTS: Tracie Gardner, Executive Director, National Black Harm Reduction Network; Toni Smith, New York State Director Drug Policy Alliance; Rosy Mota, Director of Health Policy Latino AIDS Commission; Shirley Torhio, President & Chief Executive Officer, Black Health; Anthony Feliciano, Vice President of Advocacy Housing Works (Co-Moderator)

**Karines Reyes**

Assemblymember

**Amanda Septimo**

Assemblymember

10:30am - 11:45am | Meeting Room 2

La LUCHA Sigue: Exploring the Continued Effort to Close Disparity Gaps between Latinos and the Rest of New York

Join a fireside style conversation featuring Chairwoman Karines Reyes and Assembly Member Amanda Septimo as they share behind-the-scene stories, reflect on the road to securing LUCHA funding, and discuss what is missing and what is to come in building Latino power across New York State.

PANELISTS: Pending

SESSION 2: 10:30AM - 11:45AM

**Jon D. Rivera***Assemblymember***10:30am - 11:45am | Meeting Room 3****Public Dollars, Private Divide: Examining the Real Cost of School Vouchers**

Federal efforts to expand school voucher programs are raising new questions about equity and the future of public education. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025 allows states to opt into a nationwide voucher program through tax credits supporting private and religious school scholarships, though key regulations remain unclear. This panel will examine how similar programs have operated in other states and explore concerns around segregation, resource allocation, and impacts on traditional public schools. Panelists will also discuss implications for Hispanic and Latino students and other underserved communities. Attendees will gain a clearer understanding of the policy landscape and its impact on students and schools.

PANELISTS: Melinda Person, President, NYSUT; Wendy Lecker, Senior Attorney, School Finance and Resource Equity, Education Law Center Kayla Mumtaz, Legislative Affairs and Community Engagement Specialist; Dr. Tamara Alsace, bilingual educator

**Luis R. Sepúlveda***Senator***10:30am - 11:45am | Meeting Room 4****You May Approach the Bench**

New York's courts are at the center of some of the most consequential legal battles of our time — from immigration enforcement and due process to access to justice and the composition of the bench itself. This candid conversation brings together judges and attorneys from across the state to offer a statewide view of what is happening inside our courtrooms and why it matters. Panelists will speak to their own expertise and experience, with dedicated time for audience questions that makes this one of the most dynamic and interactive sessions of the conference.

PANELISTS: Hon. Betty Calvo-Torres, Supreme Court Justice, 8th Judicial District; Hon. Yadhira Gonzalez-Taylor, Supervising Judge of Bronx Criminal Court; Hon. John A. Howard-Algarin, Bronx County Supreme Court – 12th JD; Hon. Jenny Rivera, Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals; Hon. Eric Gonzalez, Brooklyn District Attorney

SESSION 2: 10:30AM - 11:45AM

**Emérita Torres***Assemblymember***10:30am - 11:45am | Meeting Room 5*****Latino Movements Transcending Borders: Lessons on Building Power Locally and Globally***

From the Young Lords in the Bronx to the United Farm Workers, Latino communities have long led movements for democracy, economic justice, labor rights, and more. Across Latin America, organizers and advocates have pursued parallel struggles demonstrating that leadership and solidarity transcend borders. This panel examines how Latino leaders build power locally while influencing change globally through organizing, public service, entrepreneurship, the arts, and diplomacy. Panelists will draw on historical and contemporary examples demonstrating how these efforts remain interconnected and advance justice across the Americas.

PANELISTS: Assemblymember Emerita Torres (Moderator); The Point CDC; Mayor's Office of International Affairs; Brides March

**Robert Jackson***Senator***Manny De Los Santos***Assemblymember***10:30am - 11:45am | Meeting Room 6*****Fulfilling the Promise of Foundation Aid: Unleash the Potential for All Students***

New York's Foundation Aid formula was designed to ensure all students have access to the resources they need to succeed, yet implementation and impact vary across districts. As schools work to address student needs and reduce exclusionary discipline, questions remain about how effectively these funds are being used. This panel will highlight how schools across the state are leveraging Foundation Aid to support student success and create more inclusive learning environments. Panelists will share strategies, challenges, and promising practices from the field. Participants will gain insight into how targeted investments can better support student outcomes.

PANELISTS: Senator Jackson; Assemblymember De Los Santos; Annie Minguéz-García, GSS - Moderator; Isaiah Sanitago, Families Together; Soraya Shri-Pathman, AQE; Abe Fernández, Vice President of Collective Impact and Director of the National Center for Community Schools at Children's Aid; Chancellor Kamar Samuels, NYC Department of Education

SESSION 2: 10:30AM - 11:45AM

**Steven Raga***Assemblymember***10:30am - 11:45am | Meeting Room 7****Stop Taking Our Pay: A Campaign to Stop Predatory Payday Lending in NYS**

Despite New York's legal cap on interest rates, predatory lending persists through financial technology companies that misclassify high cost products to evade state law. Earned Wage Access (EWA) apps have rebranded payday lending for the digital era, extracting over \$650 million fees from working New Yorkers since 2019 and disproportionately affecting low-income communities and communities of color. This panel will examine the evolution of these practices, their impact on workers, and how they fit within a broader history of efforts to circumvent usury laws. Panelists will also discuss ongoing enforcement and legislative efforts, including the Stop Taking Our Pay Act (S8939/A9644), as well as community-driven solutions such as public banking and living wages. Workshop participants will gain a deeper understanding of the policy landscape and strategies to advance financial justice.

PANELISTS: Andy Morrison, Associate Director at New Economy Project; Assemblymember Steve Raga; Brittany Stinson, Deputy Political Action and Legislation Director at District Council 37; Kristen McManus, Director of Government Affairs & Advocacy

**Jessica Ramos***Senator***10:30am - 11:45am | LOB Hearing Room A****Hot Topics in Climate, Clean Energy, and Job Creation**

Recent federal, state, and local actions, including drastic claw backs of clean energy funding and changes in regulatory and permitting landscapes, have drastically altered the climate and clean energy landscape. This panel explores the extent of those changes, including their impacts to the Climate Leadership and Protection Act, and efforts to modernize power delivery in both New York and Puerto Rico. Panelists will explore paths forward to meeting clean energy goals through smart investments in a diverse, equitable, and unionized clean energy economy.

PANELISTS: Zach Cunningham, Assistant Director, Climate Jobs Institute at Cornell's ILR School; Esther Rosario, Executive Director, Climate Jobs New York; Erland Castillo, Associate Director, Educational and Cultural Trust Fund of the Electrical Industry; Lisa Dix, Principal, Athena Initiative LLC

SESSION 2: 10:30AM - 11:45AM

**Karines Reyes**

Assemblymember

10:30am - 11:45am | LOB Hearing Room B**From Service to Support: Recognizing the Diversity of America's Veterans**

The U.S. military is increasingly diversifying across axes of both race/ethnicity and gender, necessitating urgent reforms to better support Latino, other BIPOC and women servicemembers and veterans. This session outlines the challenges these groups face, and steps policymakers and service providers can take now to ensure that they have equitable access to health care, housing, employment, and more, with particular attention to the gaps in self-identification and recognition.

PANELISTS: Michael Matos, President of Five Borough Veterans (Civic Engagement); Kevin Meggett, CEO and Chair of Veteran Action Now (Poverty); Maritza Australia, Founder and President of Worldwide Vets (Social Services); Betsy Montenez, Director of the New School's Center for Military Affiliated Students (Education); Yesenia Mata, Commissioner of NYC Department of Veteran Services

**Nikki Lucas**

Assemblymember

**Rodneyse Bichotte-Hermelyn**

Assemblymember

10:30am - 11:45am | LOB Hearing Room C**Reimagining Small Business & MWBE Advancement Opportunities Across NYS-Agencies**

New York State and City have committed to directing a meaningful share of government contracts to small businesses and Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises — yet for Latino and Hispanic immigrant-owned businesses, the gap between that promise and reality remains wide. This panel takes a data-driven look at what agencies are paying out, who is receiving those contracts, and where Latino-owned businesses are being left out. From bodegas and beauty salons to construction firms, transportation companies, and legal practices, panelists will examine the structural barriers limiting MWBE participation and the concrete tools, resources, and policy levers that elected officials can deploy to ensure Latino entrepreneurs are not just eligible for government contracting, but positioned to win it.

PANELISTS: Gregorio Mayers, Esq. Chair School Construction Authority Advisory Board and President of GM Consulting (Moderator); Quenia Abreu, Women Chamber of Commerce; Elizabeth Vélez, The Vélez, Group, and College Professor from Lehman School of Business; Maria Teresa Osorio, NYC SCA Senior Director and Chief Diversity Officer; Kenny Minaya, NYC SBS Commissioner; Laban "Jimmy" McCormack, McCormack Enterprises; Michael J. Garner, New York City's Citywide Chief Business Diversity Officer

SESSION 3: 1:45PM - 3:00PM

ROOM	LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP	LEGISLATIVE SPONSOR
Meeting Room 1	Overcoming New Barriers to Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Care	<i>Senator Nathalia Fernandez</i>
Meeting Room 2	Driving for Positive Change – The Role of Demographic Data in Criminal Justice to Ensure Justice and Equality	<i>AM Gabriella A. Romero</i>
Meeting Room 3	Strengthening Food Access Across the Life Span: Partnerships Between, Healthcare, Community, and Food Economies	<i>AM Charles Fall AM Karines Reyes</i>
Meeting Room 4	The Next 40 Years: Power, Justice, and the Future of Green Work	<i>AM Catalina Cruz</i>
Meeting Room 5	From Workforce to Careforce: Advancing Equitable Child Care Solutions for New York's Working Families	<i>Senator Jamaal T. Bailey AM Maritza Davila</i>
Meeting Room 6	Supporting School Children & Families of Color: The Importance of Trauma-Informed Services Across Community Institutions (Healthcare and Education)	<i>AM Manny De Los Santos AM Marcela Mitaynes</i>
Meeting Room 7	A Multitude of Local Voices Shaping the American Fabric: Community Media + More	<i>AM George Alvarez</i>
LOB Hearing Room A	The Diaspora Connection: Housing Lessons from NYS's Latino Communities	<i>Senator Julia Salazar AM Jon D. Rivera</i>
LOB Hearing Room B	How Vulture Funds Use Our New York Courts to Extract Billions	<i>AM Karines Reyes AM Jessica González-Rojas</i>
LOB Hearing Room C	Modernizing New York's Democracy Infrastructure to Protect the Vote in 2026 and Beyond	<i>Senator Kristen Gonzalez</i>

SESSION 3: 1:45PM - 3:00PM**Nathalia Fernandez***Senator***1:45pm - 3:00pm | Meeting Room 1****Overcoming New Barriers to Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Care**

Adults, children, and families living with substance use disorders (SUD) and mental health (MH) conditions face increasing barriers to prevention and care, including changes in insurance coverage, rising safety and privacy concerns. For many, these pressures lead individuals to delay or forgo life-saving services. This panel identifies the new and compounding obstacles facing people who need care and highlights clinical, peer-based, and community-driven strategies for staying connected to services. Panelists will also examine anticipated Medicaid policy changes and their likely impact on access, and offer practical, family- and youth-centered approaches for supporting safe engagement and continuity of care in affected communities.

PANELISTS: Chinazo Cunningham, MD, Commissioner, Office of Addiction Services and Supports; Blanca Ramirez, President & CEO, Communilife; Miguelina Fabian, Care Navigator, Healthy Capital District; Randy Marshall, CRPA-P, CASAC-T, Policy Coordinator, InUnity Alliance

**Gabriella A. Romero***Assemblymember***1:45pm - 3:00pm | Meeting Room 2****Driving for Positive Change – The Role of Demographic Data in Criminal Justice to Ensure Justice and Equality**

A justice system that cannot clearly see all of its people cannot serve them equitably. Demographic data—particularly on race and ethnicity—is essential for understanding who interacts with the criminal justice system, at which points, and with what outcomes. Yet this data is often incomplete, inconsistently collected, or difficult for policymakers and practitioners to access. This workshop brings together researchers, state leaders, and technology innovators to explore how New York State collects, analyzes, and applies demographic data to promote more just and equitable outcomes. Participants will gain insight into where racial and ethnic disparities are most pronounced and how data-driven approaches are helping practitioners make more equitable decisions for the communities they serve.

PANELISTS: Vanessa Baird-Streeter, President and CEO, Health and Welfare Council of Long Island (Moderator); Krystal Rodriguez, Policy Director, Data Collaborative for Justice, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Emily Dattilio, Deputy Commissioner for Data Analytics and Program Support, New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services; Omar Usmani, CEO, Aeon Nexus Corporation; Gabriella Romero, Assemblymember

SESSION 3: 1:45PM - 3:00PM

**Charles Fall**

Assemblymember

**Karines Reyes**

Assemblymember

1:45pm - 3:00pm | Meeting Room 3

Strengthening Food Access Across the Life Span: Partnerships Between, Healthcare, Community, and Food Economies

Food insecurity remains one of the most pressing and increasing challenges facing vulnerable communities across NYS as it does not occur at a single stage of life, affecting children, working adults, and older populations. This panel will explore how to address these interconnected challenges through policy approaches such as the Chef to Community Tax Credit and partnerships between hospitals, community-based organizations, and independent restaurants that can strengthen food access and improve health outcomes. Speakers will share real-world models of expanding access to nutritious meals that connect culinary expertise, healthcare innovation, and community food programs to strengthen sustainability and community food infrastructure to support individuals and families across communities.

PANELISTS: Tania Capaz Topping, Food Systems & Philanthropic Partnerships (Moderator); Adaeze Okoli, Chief of Staff, Rethink Food; Evelyn Garcia, Executive Chef & Director of Culinary Programs, Lenox Hill Neighborhood House; Dr. Robert Graham, Co-Founder, Fresh Med NYC

**Catalina Cruz**

Assemblymember

1:45pm - 3:00pm | Meeting Room 4

The Next 40 Years: Power, Justice, and the Future of Green Work

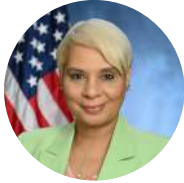
New York stands at the intersection of climate urgency, workforce transformation, and demographic change — and Latino and immigrant communities are not waiting to be included. They are leading. Hosted by Con Edison, this panel brings together Hispanic Federation, Neighborhood Housing Solutions of Queens, Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, and Mixteca to examine how community-based organizations are building the pathways, protections, and programs that will define the next generation of green work. From legal services and crisis support to culturally responsive worker safety training and renewable energy credentials, panelists will show how cross-sector collaboration is turning today's moment into a broader movement — one rooted in justice, opportunity, and inclusive climate leadership across New York State.

PANELISTS: Assemblymember Catalina Cruz (Moderator); Yoselin Genao-Estrella, Executive Director, Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS); Diana Caba, Hispanic Federation's Vice President for Community & Economic Development; Evelyn Ortiz, Co-CEO of Mission Advancement, Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow; Maria Lizardo, Executive Director, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation (NMIC); Lorena Kourousias, Executive Director, Mixteca; Costa Constantinides, CUNY Law CUER (Environmental Law Clinic) CEO, Variety Boys & Girls Club of Queens

SESSION 3: 1:45PM - 3:00PM

**Jamaal T. Bailey**

Senator

**Maritza Davila**

Assemblymember

1:45pm - 3:00pm | Meeting Room 5

From Workforce to Careforce: Advancing Equitable Child Care Solutions for New York's Working Families

Caregiving is not a personal challenge — it is an economic one. As Guardian Life's Workforce to Careforce research makes clear, today's employees are navigating professional responsibilities alongside caregiving demands that our public systems were not built to support. The result is a workforce participation crisis that falls hardest on low-income families and communities of color. This panel examines what it would take for New York to move from a workforce model that excludes caregiving to a careforce framework that treats it as essential to economic stability and growth — exploring solutions ranging from universal child care models to employer-supported benefits and public-private partnerships. The conversation will focus on closing persistent gaps and building an economy resilient enough to support the families that power it.

PANELISTS: Ellie Jurado-Nieves, Head of Strategic Public Policy and Assistant General Counsel (Moderator); Gene Lanzoni, Head of Enterprise Content, Enterprise Marketing, The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America; Teresa Roma, Head of Insurance Solutions, Wellthy; Simone C. Hawkins, Deputy Chancellor, Division of Early Childhood Education, New York City Public Schools; Ingrid Matias Chungata, Executive Director, Nuestros Niños Child Development School; Ramon Peguero, President & CEO, Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, CHCF; Laura Walsh, Chief Program Officer, Literacy in Community, LINC

**Manny De Los Santos**

Assemblymember

**Marcela Mitaynes**

Assemblymember

1:45pm - 3:00pm | Meeting Room 6

Supporting School Children & Families of Color: The Importance of Trauma Informed Services Across Community Institutions (Healthcare and Education)

Latino and Hispanic families, immigrants, and BIPOC communities across New York are navigating growing mental health challenges shaped by trauma, system inequities, and ongoing threats to family stability and well-being. This workshop brings together voices from healthcare and education offering trauma-informed, culturally responsive guidance for practitioners, advocates, and policymakers working with children and families on the front lines. Panelists will examine both the individual impacts and the systemic conditions driving them and provide workshop participants with practical insights to strategies that support children and families across community based settings.

PANELISTS: Dr. Helen Arteaga Landaverde, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services; Grace Bonilla, Esq., President and CEO of United Way of New York City; Laudy Burgos, LCSW-R, PMH-C, Associate Director, Department of Social Work at The Mount Sinai Hospital; Dr. Erinma Ukoha, OB/GYN, Mount Sinai; Lorena Kourousias, LMSW, Executive Director of Mixteca; Dr. Trina Nurse, Program Manager at the Office of Community Schools for NYC Public Schools

SESSION 3: 1:45PM - 3:00PM

**George Alvarez**

Assemblymember

1:45pm - 3:00pm | Meeting Room 7

A Multitude of Local Voices Shaping the American Fabric: Community Media + More

In recognition of America's 250th anniversary, this workshop reflects on the role of community media centers in shaping and strengthening democracy, representation, and civic engagement for more than 50 years. Panelists will examine how pioneers across the nation-built community media centers as catalysts for community change. This interactive discussion will allow participants to explore how community media platforms can be leveraged to counter misinformation, strengthen civic engagement, and ensure that Latino and immigrant voices shape the narratives that shape democracy.

PANELISTS: Angela Fernandez, Executive Director of the Lawyers Alliance for New York; Angel Hernandez, Official Bronx Borough Historian and President of the Huntington Free Library & Reading Room; Michael Max Knobbe, Executive Director of BronxNet Public Media; League of Women Voters of New York; Creatives Rebuild New York

**Julia Salazar**

Senator

**Jon D. Rivera**

Assemblymember

1:45pm - 3:00pm | LOB Hearing Room A

The Diaspora Connection: Housing Lessons from NYS's Latino Communities

From the South Bronx to Buffalo, and from Long Island's suburbs to the rural Hudson Valley, Latino families are on the front lines of New York's affordable housing crisis. A 2025 report by the Center for Puerto Rican Studies found that more than 55% of Hispanic-headed households in New York experience at least one form of housing insecurity—nearly double the rate for white households. This panel explores how Latino leadership, community development corporations, mission-driven developers, and state housing agencies are working together to expand access to stable, affordable homes. Panelists will examine what tools are working, where critical gaps remain, and how cross-sector partnerships can ensure Latino families not only remain in their communities, but thrive in them.

PANELISTS: Blanca Ramirez, President and CEO, Comunilife (Moderator); Carlos Vargaz-Ramos, Director for Public Policy, External and Media Relations, and Development, Center for Puerto Rican Studies; Rafael Cestero, President and CEO, Community Preservation Corporation; Juan Ramos, Executive Director, Los Sures; Anivelca Cordova, Principal, Lemle & Wolff Companies; Representative of Acacia Network; Finance Division, NYS Homes and Community Renewal

SESSION 3: 1:45PM - 3:00PM



**Karines
Reyes**

Assemblymember



**Jessica
González-Rojas**

Assemblymember

1:45pm - 3:00pm | LOB Hearing Room B

How Vulture Funds Use Our New York Courts to Extract Billions

New York's courts have become a preferred global venue for vulture funds—investors who purchase distressed sovereign debt at steep discounts and then use aggressive litigation to recover many times their investment, often destabilizing entire economies in the process. The human consequences have been severe and well-documented, from Puerto Rico and Argentina to Ecuador and across the Global South. This panel examines how these funds exploit New York's legal system, the economic and social harm their tactics produce, and what legislative reforms—including champerty reform—could restore meaningful safeguards. Panelists will discuss how New York can protect its courts from predatory litigation while ensuring that its legal system serves justice rather than financial speculation.

PANELISTS: Rob Solano, Executive Director of Churches United for Fair Housing (Moderator); Assemblymember Jessica González Rojas; Michael Kink, Executive Director for Stronger Economy for All; Jose Gonzalez, Senior Director and Policy Researcher at New York Communities for Change (NYCC); Melissa Mark-Viverito, President at Hamilton Campaign Network and former New York City Council Speaker



Kristen Gonzalez

Senator

1:45pm - 3:00pm | LOB Hearing Room C

Modernizing New York's Democracy Infrastructure to Protect the Vote in 2026 and Beyond

As the federal government pushes to nationalize elections and pressure on state systems intensifies, New York's Latino community stands at a critical moment, one that calls for leadership, action, and a clear strategy for protecting democratic participation. Led by the Let NY Vote Coalition, this workshop will focus on concrete, state-level reforms that safeguard voters and strengthen election resilience heading into the 2026 cycle and beyond. The conversation will cover important topics such as modernizing election infrastructure, preventing voter intimidation, and expanding ballot access for all eligible New Yorkers. Other essential infrastructure reforms include language access, access for incarcerated individuals, and engagement on college campuses. Workshop participants will leave with a clear picture of what voting protections are advancing this legislative session, practical strategies for mobilizing Latino civic power, and a stronger sense of how to help build a resilient, fully representative democracy in New York.

PANELISTS: Brendan Cushing, Managing Director of GenVote; Erica Smitka, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of New York State; Clyanna Lightbourn, Campaign Director of League of Women Voters of New York State; Pharein Griffith, Executive Committee Member and Chairperson of Civic Engagement Committee for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) New York Branch; Jarret Berg, Co-Founder and Voting Rights Counsel of Vote Early New York; Louie Sawi, Coordinator of Let NY Vote

SESSION 4: 3:15PM - 4:30PM

ROOM	LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP	LEGISLATIVE SPONSOR
Meeting Room 1	Completing the FAFSA / DREAM Act as Key to Unlocking Student Support	AM Gabriella A. Romero
Meeting Room 2	AI, Cybersecurity and Digital Equity: Protecting Latino Communities in New York and the Caribbean	Senator Monica R. Martinez AM Steven Otis
Meeting Room 3	Centering Identity and Belonging: Expanding Access to Culturally Responsive Curricula	AM John Zaccaro, Jr.
Meeting Room 4	Constituent Services and ICE Enforcement: How Elected Officials and Organizations Are Responding to ICE in Their Communities	AM Catalina Cruz
Meeting Room 5	A Moment for Courage: Why We Need Affirmative Immigration Legislation in NY Now	AM Chris Burdick
Meeting Room 6	Community Health Centers as Civic Anchors: Mobilizing Latino Power Through Health, Housing, and Education	AM Marcela Mitaynes
Meeting Room 7	Centering Communities and Workers in the Age of AI	AM George Alvarez
LOB Hearing Room A	Community Defense: Navigating Queer & Trans Safety and Belonging	Senator Julia Salazar AM Jessica González-Rojas
LOB Hearing Room B	Latino Futures: Building Economic Power Through Apprenticeships	AM Larinda Hooks
LOB Hearing Room C	Mapping NYS Immigrant Integration: Data Tools, Services, and Policy	AM Diana Moreno

SESSION 4: 3:15PM - 4:30PM

**Gabriella A. Romero***Assemblymember***3:15pm - 4:30pm | Meeting Room 1****Completing the FAFSA / DREAM Act as Key to Unlocking Student Support**

Thousands of New Yorker students miss out on critical financial aid each year, with an estimated \$250 million in federal support left unclaimed due to incomplete FAFSA and DREAM Act applications. When students do not apply, they are more likely to forgo college or face financial and basic needs insecurity while enrolled. This panel will highlight strategies to increase completion rates, including Governor Hochul's Universal FAFSA Completion Initiative and statewide outreach efforts. Panelists will discuss key programs such as HESC's FAFSA Ready Training Program, SUNY's FAFSA Corps, and CUNY FAST, which support students and institutions across New York. Attendees will gain practical tools and resources to help gain practical tools and resources to help students access financial aid and navigate challenges to college affordability.

PANELISTS: Doris Gonzalez, President, HESC; Student, Empire State Service Corps, SUNY; CUNY Representative; Juliana Hernandez-Commisso, Assistant VC for Policy Implementation & Deputy Chief of Staff, SUNY System Administration

**Monica R. Martinez***Senator***Steven Otis***Assemblymember***3:15pm - 4:30pm | Meeting Room 2****AI, Cybersecurity and Digital Equity: Protecting Latino Communities in New York and the Caribbean**

Artificial intelligence, cybersecurity threats, and unequal access to digital technology are not abstract policy concerns — for Latino communities in New York, Puerto Rico, and across the Caribbean, they are daily realities with material consequences. Barriers to digital access and literacy leave families more vulnerable to cyber risks, more exposed to exploitation, and less able to benefit from the emerging technologies reshaping work, services, and civic life. This panel examines what it will take to close the digital divide, strengthen community resilience, and ensure that the communities building this city and state are not left behind by the tools transforming it.

PANELISTS: Jose Luis Rodriguez, Founder and CEO of Can Code Communities; Jesus E. Delgado, Ph.D, President of Team 1144; Gaby Marano, Markets Technology Director at Microsoft

SESSION 4: 3:15PM - 4:30PM

**John Zaccaro, Jr.***Assemblymember***3:15pm - 4:30pm | Meeting Room 3****Centering Identity and Belonging: Expanding Access to Culturally Responsive Curricula**

As New York City advances the implementation of a Latinidad in Schools curriculum, expanding access to culturally responsive education remains critical to supporting diverse student populations. Ensuring that students see their identities reflected in the classroom is essential to fostering belonging, engagement, and academic success. This panel will examine how culturally responsive curricula can move beyond representation to create inclusive learning environments and improve student outcomes. Panelists will also discuss strategies for equitable implementation, including policy alignment, professional development, and resource allocation across schools. Attendees will gain insights into advancing identity-affirming practices and expanding access to culturally responsive curricula at scale.

PANELISTS: Chancellor Kamar Samuels, NYCPS; Frankie Miranda, CEO Hispanic Federation; Grace Bonilla, CEO United Way of New York City; Rachel Talbert, Research Associate Professor, Columbia University; Nora Melendez, AVP Education Equity, United Way of New York City

**Catalina Cruz***Assemblymember***3:15pm - 4:30pm | Meeting Room 4****Constituent Services and ICE Enforcement: How Elected Officials and Organizations Are Responding to ICE in Their Communities**

As ICE enforcement operations intensify across New York State, elected officials and community organizations are building coordinated responses to protect residents and limit harm. This panel examines how officials and advocates are fighting back—through rapid response networks, legal and social services for affected families, and community know-your-rights infrastructure. Drawing on lessons from enforcement surges in Chicago, Minneapolis, and New York, panelists will share what is working, what gaps remain, and how communities can prepare for continued federal escalation. Attendees will leave with concrete strategies, partnership models, and policy tools to strengthen constituent services and community defense in the face of aggressive and unpredictable immigration enforcement.

PANELISTS: Assemblymember Jonathan Rivera; Evelin Vazquez, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Catalina Cruz; Katherine Gomez, Executive Director, La Victoria Foundation; Meghan Maloney de Zaldivar, Vice President of Advocacy at The New York Immigration Coalition, NYIC; Jonathan W. Campozano, Immigration Attorney, Neighbors Link

SESSION 4: 3:15PM - 4:30PM

**Chris Burdick**

Assemblymember

3:15pm - 4:30pm | Meeting Room 5***A Moment for Courage: Why We Need Affirmative Immigration Legislation in NY Now***

Over the last year, unprecedented federal attacks on immigrant communities have fueled social and economic upheaval across the nation. This session explores the states New York can take to protect families and safeguard livelihoods as the federally-led campaign against Latino and immigrant communities escalates. Panelists will outline what New Yorkers can expect next in the federal crackdown, its impacts on vulnerable communities, and permanent policy solutions to these threats.

PANELISTS: Fabi Dávila, Senior Program Associate, Vera Institute of Justice; Murad Awawdeh, President and CEO, New York Immigration Coalition; Arlette Cepeda, Interim Executive Director, La Colmena; Mohamed Q. Amin, Founder and Executive Director, Caribbean Equality Project; Carlyn Cowen, Chief Policy and Public Affairs Officer, Chinese-American Planning Council

**Marcela Mitaynes**

Assemblymember

3:15pm - 4:30pm | Meeting Room 6***Community Health Centers as Civic Anchors: Mobilizing Latino Power Through Health, Housing, and Education***

Health outcomes are deeply shaped by social determinants such as housing stability, access to legal resources, and community support. Community health centers are uniquely positioned to identify these challenges through screening for social determinants of health and connecting patients to critical services beyond the clinical setting. This panel will explore how health centers can address housing insecurity by partnering with tenant organizers, legal service providers, and community advocates to support patients and families facing housing instability. The discussion will also highlight strategies for mobilizing patients and communities around policies that impact housing and health, reinforcing the role of health centers as both care providers and community advocates. Together, these approaches strengthen care delivery, support vulnerable families, and advance health equity.

PANELISTS: Renee Hastick-Motes, MPA, CEO JPAFHC (Moderator); Assemblymember Marcela Mitaynes; Andre White, CEO, Phipps Housing; Alicka Ampry-Samuel, Deputy Commissioner for Asset and Property Management

SESSION 4: 3:15PM - 4:30PM

**George Alvarez**

Assemblymember

3:15pm - 4:30pm | Meeting Room 7
Centering Communities and Workers in the Age of AI

As artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping work, public services, and civic life. Yet, vulnerable communities and those most impacted are often expected to adapt without a seat at the table. This panel examines the ethical, social, and environmental implications of AI adoption and governance through a racial equity lens. Panelists will explore key concerns, including surveillance, job displacement, data privacy, and the growing energy demands of AI infrastructure. This panel will discuss how New York can align technological innovation with worker protections, community stability, and long-term societal well-being ensuring that the benefits of AI are broadly shared.

PANELISTS: Assemblymember George Alvarez; Renaldo Alba PhD., Assistant Vice President, Office of Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunity, Fordham University (Moderator); Chalapathy Neti, Assistant Vice President, Enterprise AI, Fordham University; Yasmin Fisher, Director of Higher Education Opportunity Program, Siena University; Catholic Charities Community Services; Association of Professional Administrators C-STEP and STEP; New York Immigration Coalition; United Bodegas Association

**Julia Salazar**

Senator

**Jessica González-Rojas**

Assemblymember

3:15pm - 4:30pm | LOB Hearing Room A
Community Defense: Navigating Queer & Trans Safety and Belonging

Black, Caribbean, Latinx, and Indo-Caribbean immigrants and LGBTQ+ New Yorkers face compounding and intersecting threats—from the federal administration's escalating mass deportation agenda to targeted attacks on queer and trans identity and safety. This workshop explores organizational strategies for strengthening community defense, safety networks, and collective power in this environment. Panelists will center Know Your Rights trainings, targeted advocacy, and community-led support systems as tools for protecting immigrant families and marginalized communities. The conversation will examine how organizations are building resilience, sustaining belonging, and developing the internal capacity needed to support their members through an extended period of federal hostility and uncertainty.

PANELISTS: Kei Williams (they/them), Executive Director, The NEW Pride Agenda; Mateo Guerrero (he/him), Trans Justice and Leadership Program Manager, Make the Road NY; Galloway (they/them), Advocacy Manager, Ali Forney Center; Mohamed Q. Amin, Executive Director, Caribbean Equality Project (CEP); Louisa Benarbane (she/her), Network Manager, The Center; Lyndel Urbano (he/him), Senior Director of Public Policy & Government Relations, Amida Care; Mar Henriquez (they/them), Learning & Community Engagement Specialist, Legal Aid Society LGBTQ+ Law and Policy Unit

SESSION 4: 3:15PM - 4:30PM

**Larinda Hooks***Assemblymember***3:15pm - 4:30pm | LOB Hearing Room B****Latino Futures: Building Economic Power Through Apprenticeships**

Latino communities are central to New York's economic future, yet too many young people remain disconnected from clear pathways into stable, well-paying careers. As industries increasingly prioritize skills, hands-on experience, and industry-recognized credentials, there is an urgent need to rethink how we prepare students for the workforce. This panel will explore how modern apprenticeships and career-based learning can be embedded directly within public high schools—creating opportunities for students to earn while they learn, gain real-world experience, and transition seamlessly into the workforce. Bringing together leaders from labor, education, and government, the conversation will focus on scaling apprenticeship pathways as a strategy to strengthen economic mobility, close opportunity gaps, and build long-term prosperity for Latino communities across New York.

PANELISTS: Ari Espinal, Mason Tender's Union: Political & Policy Coordinator; Jane Martinez Dowling, NYC Public Schools: Chief of Student Pathways; Ismail Ocasio, Mayor's Office of Talent and Workforce - Apprenticeship Accelerator: Executive Director; Vincent Alu, Laborers Local 66: Business Manager / Secretary Treasurer; Steven R. Jackson, Aviation High School: Principal

**Diana Moreno***Assemblymember***3:15pm - 4:30pm | LOB Hearing Room C****Mapping NYS Immigrant Integration: Data Tools, Services, and Policy**

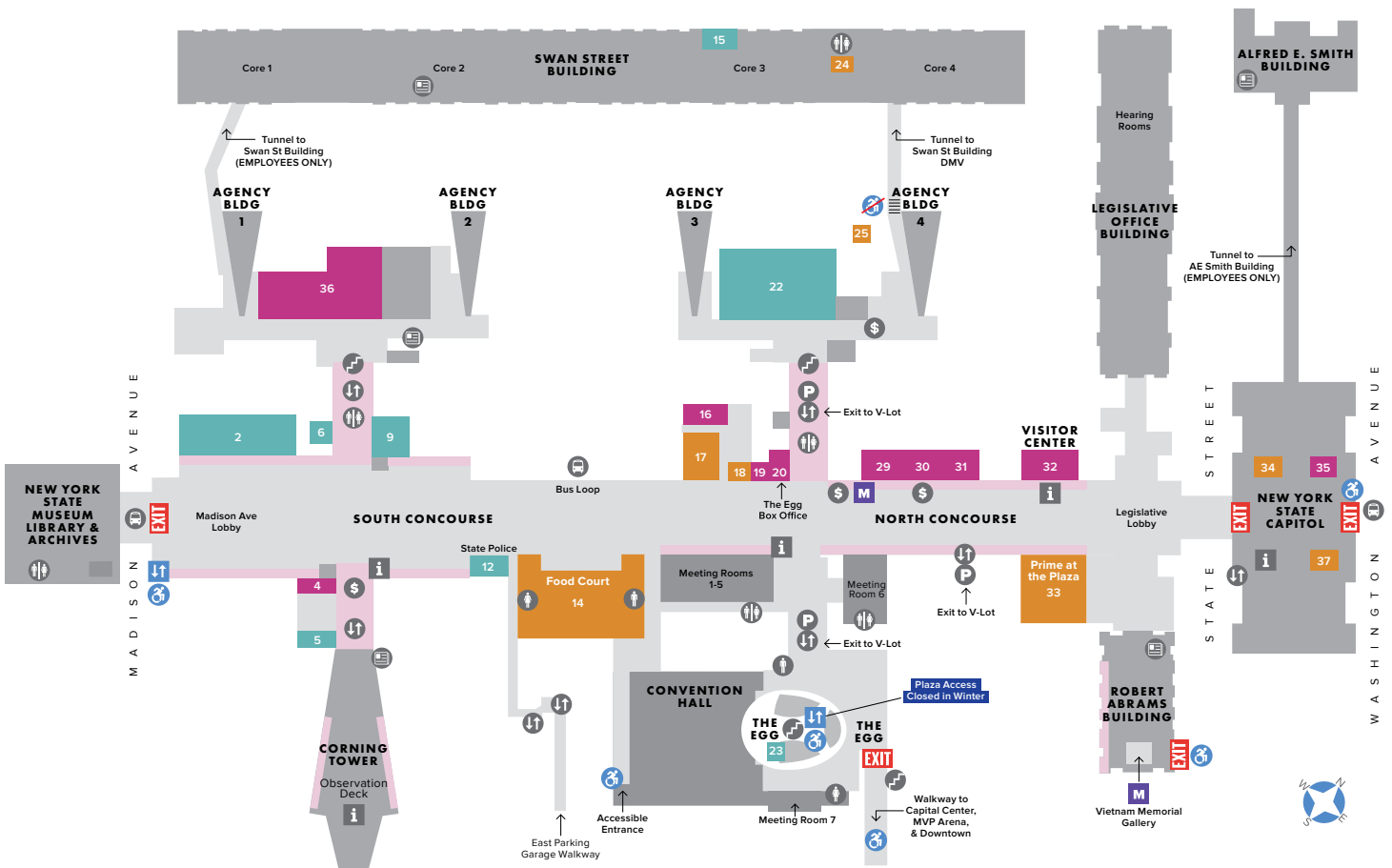
This workshop introduces free online data tools, including the NYS Office of Language Access (OLA) Language Dashboard, the Institute on Immigrant Integration Research and Policy's Data Gateway, and the NYS Office for New Americans' Snapshot of regional data sheets and demonstrates how they can be used to track demographic change, English proficiency trends, and geographic distribution of key services. Participants will receive timely program updates from ONA, OLA and the Institute on Immigrant Integration Research and Policy, and learn how these resources can sharpen advocacy, improve service planning and guide equitable investment across New York State.

PANELISTS: Dr. Laura V. Gonzalez-Murphy, Executive Director, NYS Office for New Americans; Alejandro Cintron, Executive Director, NYS Office of Language Access; Dr. Dina Refki, Executive Director, Institute on Immigrant Integration Research & Policy

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CONCOURSE LEVEL



Map Key

- i** Information
- \$** ATM
- Exit** Exit to Plaza
- ↑↓** Elevator
- ↑↓** Elevator to Plaza Level **♿** Accessible
- P** Parking (use elevators)
- Bus** CDTA Bus Stop
- Newsstand** Newsstand Convenience Store
- M** Memorials
Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial
Vietnam Memorial Gallery
- Art** Empire State Plaza Art Collection

Food

- 14** Food Court
Herbie's Burgers
Uncommon Grounds
PBD Kitchen
Kuma Ani
Taco Libre
Umana Yana
Honest Weight
Pho Yum
- 17** Logan's Deli and Market
- 18** Logan's Italian Bakery
- 24** Swan Street Cafeteria
WV Pizza
- 33** Prime at the Plaza Café
- 34** Dunkin' Donuts
- 37** Logan's Express Stand

Services

- 4** Post Office
- 16** American Red Cross
- 19** Patsy's Barber Shop
- 20** The Egg Box Office
- 29** Green Sugar Leaf Farms
- 30** Broadview Federal Credit Union
- 31** DMV
- 32** Visitor Center & Gift Shop
- 35** Post Office
- 36** Retro Fitness

State Offices

- 2** Media Services Room #146
- 5** Conference Room #125
- 6** Parking Management Room #144
- 9** Plaza Operations Room #130
- 12** NY State Police Room #115-1
- 15** Department of Motor Vehicles
- 22** Convention & Cultural Events, Curatorial Services Room #120
- 23** Convention Center Office

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