

# EQUITY ARCATA COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## Rooted in Relationships

**Thank you for checking out equity arcata's winter & spring edition of our newsletter!**

In this issue we meet the new equity arcata Board and take a look at some of the other key projects and relationships that we have centered in the last few months.

*equity arcata is a partnership between the City of Arcata, Cal Poly Humboldt, and other community leaders working to create a more welcoming, safe and racially equitable community.*

Visit us at:

<https://www.equityarcata.com/>



## This issue:

**Getting to Know our Board**

*Page 02*

**International Latino Film Festival**

*Page 06*

**Centro Del Pueblo Safety Plan**

*Page 08*

**Campus and Community  
Dialogue on Race**

*Page 09*

**Upcoming Events (HAPI)**

*Page 10*

**Contact Us**

*Page 12*



# GET TO KNOW THE EQUITY ARCATA BOARD!

The equity arcata Board held its inaugural meeting in October of 2023. The staff asked the Board members a few questions and some of their answers are featured here.

## **SARAH KERR**

I have worked in community health care for over 20 years in a variety of roles and settings, currently as Vice President of Operations North for Open Door Community Health Centers. I'm also a founding board member of Humboldt Area Center for Harm Reduction and firmly believe that harm reduction has a vital role to play in many areas of social justice.

White supremacy culture creates and maintains inequities in the social, political, and economic status and outcomes of our society. As a white person, descended from colonizers and imperialists, I believe it is my responsibility to understand and dismantle these oppressive systems. I am motivated by a desire to improve the lived experience of everyone in our community – none of us are free until all of are free. I am eager to work towards these ends with equity arcata.





**KAREN DIEMER**

Representing residents and visitors in our City has afforded me a lens into the barriers that exist that limit the choices available to many in our community.

My hope for equity arcata is two-fold. First, by supporting the work prioritized by our BIPOC community members we stay focused on eliminating those barriers most immediate in our local community. We know that by eliminating racially discriminatory barriers we improve access for everyone. And second, by being engaged in the work of creating a welcoming and equitable community we are more aware and have accountability to make change in our own organizations to end policies and practices and further inequities.

**ROSAMEL BENAVIDES-GARB**

I serve as the Associate Vice President for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and Campus Diversity Officer for Cal Poly Humboldt.

Professionally, I have been motivated over decades of service to our university and community to model active leadership in all matters related to diversity, equity and inclusion, including direct support to equity arcata. Personally, I have a great sense of gratitude to the Humboldt community at large as my wife, Sarina and I have raised our three outstanding children, Benicio, Carmen, and Alejandro in this community.





**ROGER MACDONALD**

I am superintendent of the Northern Humboldt Union High School District and grateful for the opportunity to serve with equity arcata. We moved to my wife's hometown twelve years ago and our two children are products of Arcata schools; this community is very important to me.

Our community is much more strong and vibrant when all of us are seen and have the opportunity to live a rich and beautiful life. As I close in on thirty years in public education I have seen first hand how different a student can learn when they are celebrated for who they are and when they can see the contributions of their ancestry vauded and their culture honored.

**RON WHITE**

I identify as cis-gendered, male, Black (or African American depending on how aligned U.S. public policies are with my vision of inclusion). I came to Humboldt to work at the Humboldt Area Foundation in 2015 to promote the Common Good and work with others to build a community of Belonging.

I believe together we can shape our institutions, businesses, government, and nonprofits' policies to allow us to be fully who we are without fear. I believe by tapping the talents of our whole community we could be a model of innovation, inclusion, social and economic justice, and environmental balance for other small towns.





**GINO GRANADOS**

Gino Granados is a Cal Poly Humboldt alumni and now operates Pupuseria San Miguel, a popular food truck in Humboldt County. He is an active member of the community who gives his time to Big Brothers Big Sisters, Home Away From Home, and equity arcata.

**KINTAY JOHNSON**

Dr. Kintay Johnson is the Director of Student Equity & the Multicultural & Equity Center at College of the Redwoods. He also serves as the President of the Eureka NAACP and attends meetings of the Humboldt Equity Consortium.



Dr. Johnson serves as Co-Chair of the equity arcata Board.



**SARAH SCHAEFER**

Sarah Schaefer has been a council member for the City of Arcata since 2020. She was born and raised in Arcata and currently teaches high school History in Humboldt County. She has also been involved with Rotary and the Lost Coast Rotaract service club and served on the board as President and Public Relations chair.

Sarah Schaefer serves as Co-Chair of the equity arcata Board.

# INTERNATIONAL LATINO FILM FESTIVAL

The International Latino Film Festival took place on the evenings of February 27th through the 29th at Mill Creek Cinema in McKinleyville. This festival is a partnership between Cal Poly Humboldt and the College of the Redwoods. The three films shown were *Nostalgia de la Luz* (2021), *El Abrazo de la Serpiente* (2015), and *A Million Miles Away* (2023). Each film was followed by a panel discussion and a Q&A with the audience.

Equity arcata sponsored and participated in the planning, assessment, and event support of the festival. This is the first time the film festival has been available fully in Spanish due to the work of the Cal Poly Humboldt Center for Interpretation and Translation.

One of our SAGE students, Kamar Little, is working on a mini documentary about the festival. Assessment for the event is being headed by equity arcata co-coordinator Lisa Bond-Maupin.



Above: Aubrey Pongluelert, Kamar Little, and Anita Mercados representing equity arcata  
Left: Organizers, panelists, and moderator of the Film Festival's second night

# INTERNATIONAL LATINO FILM FESTIVAL

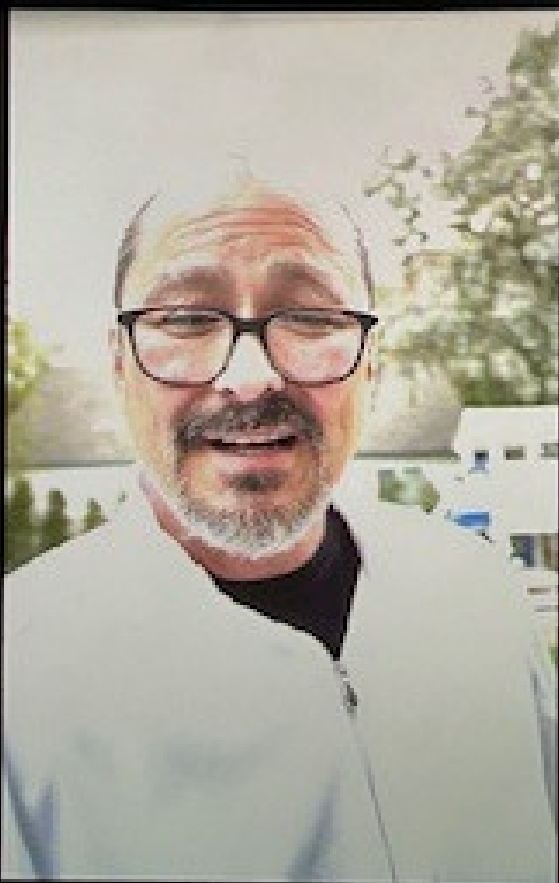


This year, the festival celebrated its 25th Anniversary. The original founders of the festival were honored on the opening night.

Left: International Latino Film Festival founders, Rosamel Benavides-Garb and Ana Maria Romo de Mease.

Bottom left: Producer of A Million Miles Away recorded a special message for the festival about what the film meant to him

Bottom Right: Anita Mercado, equity arcata intern, posing with Alyssa Hughlett, one of the festival planners



# CENTRO DEL PUEBLO

## Safety Network



On January 19, equity arcata met with Brenda Perez, members of Centro del Pueblo, Karen Diemer, Meredith Matthews, the Arcata Chief of Police and the Police Lieutenant to discuss a Safety Plan for the Sanctuary Gardens. In this meeting, attendees developed first steps to support and protect the Gardens as a sanctuary space and an integral part of the Arcata community.



One of these steps was the creation and installation of two new signs at Jardin Santuario. With art designed by a Centro del Pueblo member, these signs visibly reaffirm the City's support and protection of the space and invite assistance in the ongoing investigation of the hate crimes against the Garden and its community. On March 30, equity arcata joined Centro del Pueblo to celebrate unveiling the signs of solidarity.



# CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ON RACE



CDOR was held on October 23rd through October 27th, 2023. The theme was “(Re)Defining Difference, Honoring Collective Resistance.” The keynote speaker was Dr. Tara Yosso who gave a talk titled “A Community Cultural Wealth Approach to Student Success: Reclaiming Our Past, Reimagining Our Future.”

Other featured events included a film screening of “Many Moons” followed by a discussion with the director, Chisato Hughes, a talk from Dr. Verónica N. Vélez on “Building the Futures We Deserve: The Urgency of Intergenerational Movement-Building,” and a presentation from Dr. James Binnall on “The Moral Character and Fitness Determination: Navigating the Process with a Criminal Conviction.”

equity arcata provided daily staff support to the events. Planning meetings have begun for the upcoming 2024 Campus and Community Dialogue on Race.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**We hope to see you at upcoming community events!**

California Indian Big Time - April 6, 11 AM - 6 PM, Cal Poly Humboldt campus

Indigenous Foods Festival - May 4th, 11 AM - 3 PM, Wiyot Plaza/Native American Forum

Eureka Chinatown Street Festival (Year of the Dragon) - May 4th, 6-9 PM in front of the Clarke Historical Museum

Home Away From Home Potluck - May 5th, 5 PM - 6 PM, D St. Neighborhood Center

3RD ANNUAL  
**EUREKA CHINATOWN STREET FESTIVAL**  
YEAR OF THE DRAGON  
**MAY 4TH, 4-9PM**  
E Street between 1st and 3rd, during Arts Alive

CELEBRATE AAPI HERITAGE MONTH WITH CHINESE LION DANCERS, DRAGONS, CULTURAL PERFORMANCES, FOOD, VENDORS, KIDS ZONE & MORE

**FREE FAMILY EVENT**

HAPI  
HUMBOLDT AREA FOUNDATION

MORE INFO: HAPIHUMBOLDT.ORG  
FB/IG: @HAPIHUMBOLDT

**Rou Dalagurr**  
Food Sovereignty Lab & Traditional Ecological Knowledges Institute

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SATURDAY, MAY 4th**  
**Indigenous Foods Festival**  
11 am - 3 pm  
at Wiyot Plaza  
The Native American Forum  
Cal Poly Humboldt  
Union/E 16th Street

**FEATURING**  
Indigenous organizations, food producers, food vendors, hands-on activities, music, speakers, discussion panels, and more!

**MORE INFO**  
[nasp.humboldt.edu/fsl](http://nasp.humboldt.edu/fsl)

**DONATE**  
to support this event and others!

Funded by Sustainable Humboldt Innovative Futures Trust (SHIFT), Cowell Foundation, Humboldt Ethnic Studies Council, and Donors Like You!

# EQUITY ARCATA BOARD & PARTNERS

## EQUITY ARCATA BOARD

**Rosamel Benavides-Garb**

*Cal Poly Humboldt, Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*

**Karen Diemer**

*City of Arcata*

**Roger Macdonald**

*Northern Humboldt Union High School District*

**Sarah Schaefer**

*Arcata City Council*

**Ron White**

*Humboldt Area Foundation + Wild Rivers Community Foundation*

**Gino Granados**

*Pupuseria San Miguel*

**Sarah Kerr**

*Open Door Community Health Centers*

**Kintay Johnson**

*College of the Redwoods & Eureka NAACP*

## GROWING LIST OF PARTNERS



# *contact us*



---



**736 F St, Arcata, CA 95521**



**(707) 822-5953**



**equityarcata@gmail.com**



**@equityarcata**

*Thank  
you!*