

Legacy Gala

Nelson Soler

Dr. Nelson Soler, Ph.D., MBA, MS, EA, EDFP, is a distinguished entrepreneur, community leader, and advocate for economic empowerment, based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Born into poverty in Puerto Rico to a mixed-race family, Dr. Soler has committed his life to helping individuals and communities thrive through entrepreneurship and education. His work spans multiple continents, having supported the formation of over 6,200 enterprises in Wisconsin and provided culturally relevant guidance to entrepreneurs in Latin America, Ethiopia, Turkey, and Burma.

Dr. Soler is the founder of several organizations, both for-profit and non-profit, all focused on fostering economic growth. In 2017, he established the Latino Chamber of Commerce of Southeastern Wisconsin, where he serves as President and CEO. Under his leadership, the chamber has distributed over \$2.1 million in loans and grants, empowering hundreds of at-risk enterprises and offering critical technical assistance. Serving over 400 businesses annually, the chamber plays a vital role in local economic development.

His educational background is vast, including a Ph.D. in Leadership for the Advancement of Learning and Service from Cardinal Stritch University, an MBA, and a Master's in International Business and Marketing from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

He also holds several professional certifications, including as an Economic Development Financial Professional and Enrolled Agent by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Recognized for his impact, Dr. Soler has received numerous awards, including the Titan 100 in 2025, honoring his achievements as a top CEO. His ongoing leadership continues to create lasting change, especially within the Latino community.





Legacy Gala

David Crowley

In May of 2020, David Crowley became the youngest county executive in the history of Milwaukee County and the first Black leader elected to serve in the role. On April 2, 2024, County Executive Crowley was reelected to a second term with 85% of the vote.

David Crowley is focusing Milwaukee County on a vision of achieving racial equity, and by doing the becaming the healthing terminative forms to be achieved to the county of a characteristic Milwaukee County bases.

so, becoming the healthiest county in Wisconsin. Under his leadership, Milwaukee County has diversified positions, streamlined government services, addressed legacy fiscal challenges, and delivered investments that are moving the community forward. The fundamental tenet of Executive Crowley's administration is to build bridges that bring people together, deliver prosperity for working families, and foster a safer, stronger, and healthier Milwaukee County.

David attended Bay View High School and is currently finishing up his degree at UW-Milwaukee.

He lives in Milwaukee with his wife, Ericka, and their three young daughters





Legacy Gala

Cavalier Johnson

Mayor Cavalier Johnson took office as Acting Mayor of the City of Milwaukee in late 2021 and set out immediately to build a safer city. He has prioritized violence reduction, economic development, and roadway safety. Before taking on his role as Acting Mayor, Johnson served as Common Council President while representing the city's 2nd Aldermanic District.

In April of 2022, Mayor Johnson was elected as the forty-fifth chief executive of the City of Milwaukee, winning with more than seventy percent of the vote. He is the first Black Mayor elected in the city and only the fourth elected mayor in the past sixty-two years.

Mayor Johnson's commitment to public service began at an early age when he was selected by the YMCA to participate in a pre-college program for low-income Milwaukee Public School students. That program, Sponsor-A-Scholar, instilled in him a passion to make Milwaukee better for future generations.

Mayor Johnson was born on November 5th, 1986, in the 53206 zip code of Milwaukee. Growing up, his family moved frequently until middle school. Mayor Johnson attended a different Milwaukee Public School almost every year. He has seen violence, evictions, and food insecurity — challenges common in urban poverty. He brings that lived experience to his work as Mayor.



Latino Chamber of Commerce
of
Southeastern Wisconsin Inc.

Legacy Gala

Citlali Mendieta

Born into a family of restaurateurs, Citlali has carved her own path as a culinary expert and serial entrepreneur alongside her husband, Chef Nicolas Ramos. As the proud owner of Antigua Restaurant, she honors her heritage by showcasing traditional family dishes and the vibrant flavors of Latin American cuisine—including specialties from México, Argentina, El Salvador, Perú, and Cuba.

But Citlali's impact extends far beyond the kitchen. She is a passionate Latina entrepreneur who seamlessly blends warmth, efficiency, and cultural richness across multiple ventures. Her approach to business is rooted in a deep commitment to hospitality, ensuring that every meal, event, and interaction is not just a service—but a memorable experience that fosters belonging.

Beyond her entrepreneurial journey, Citlali is an active leader in the community, serving on multiple nonprofit boards, including Milwaukee Area Technical College and the Wisconsin Restaurant Association.





Legacy Gala

Diana Gutierrez

Prior to her current role, Diana served as the co-anchor of WISN 12 News This Morning and anchor of WISN 12 News at 11:00. During this time, her dedication to excellence was recognized with an Emmy Award and a regional Edward R. Murrow Award.

In 2023, Diana was honored as one of "Wisconsin's 40 Most Influential Latino Leaders" by Madison 365, in recognition of her impactful work in journalism and community involvement. She also received a Wisconsin Broadcasters Association award for Best Use of Social Media. Outside her journalism duties, Diana is deeply involved in community advocacy. She serves as a regional director of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ) and is an executive board member of the Daisie Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting innercity families.

As first-generation college graduate, Diana earned her bachelor's degree from DePaul University and began her journalism career in South Bend, Indiana, as a weekday reporter and weekend morning anchor.





In Loving Memory of Margaret

Capper

Margaret Capper

Serving as Senior Vice President of Commercial Banking, Margaret Capper leads North Shore Bank's efforts to provide customized solutions for middle market all the way to small businesses in Wisconsin. With an emphasis on developing strong relationships, Capper works closely with owners and key managers of businesses to assist with their financial needs. Serving business clients for over 25 years, Capper brings valuable knowledge of day-to-day banking needs, cash flow strategies, startup businesses and merger and acquisition funding. Along with her work at North Shore Bank, Capper is a strong community advocate, supporting the nonprofit sector for educating new business owners and facilitating seminar series with other community groups such as the Latino Chamber of Commerce. She has a lifelong passion with a strong background in nonprofit and sits on various boards supporting the community.



Latino Chamber of Commerce of Southeastern Wisconsin Inc.



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Luis Barbosa

BMR Design Group, Inc. is a 4 person, Milwaukee-based corporation, specializing in Architectural and Structural Design, and Interior Planning. Established in 1987, it is a merger of professional individuals with extensive technical backgrounds and a diverse range of experience spanning 28 to over 50 years.

BMR Design Group, Inc. is owned & led by Luis Barbosa, Sr., graduate from Milwaukee School of Engineering, a senior project manager, principal and registered Architect with more than 49 years of experience in design, coordination of construction documents and specifications, construction management, providing Architectural Consulting Services for educational, commercial, institutional, mercantile, food processing establishments, commercial kitchens, restaurants, children and adult care centers, cultural, religious, residential, medical, and veterinarian facilities throughout the State of Wisconsin





Legacy Gala

Marta Bianchini

Marta Bianchini, a Cuban immigrant who arrived in the U.S. at six months old, was raised in New Jersey and earned a full-tuition scholarship for an accounting degree. She began her career as an assistant controller at Goya Foods. In 1995, she moved to the Midwest and became the CFO of Osteria del Mondo, an acdaimed Italian restaurant owned by her husband, Chef Marc Bianchini. Together, they built a successful hospitality empire, including:

- Cubanitas (2003) Milwaukee's first Cuban restaurant.
- Indulge Event Venue Room (2008) A premier event space.
- Bianchini Experience A restaurant consulting and catering company.

 A restaurant consulting and catering company.

• The Mitch (2020), The Clybourn (2023), and The Rotunda (2024) — Three sought-after event venues. Marta resides in Milwaukee with Marc, their three daughters, Cristina, Valentina, and Isabella, and their dog, Leo. Awards & Accolades:

- U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce & Wells Fargo Grant for Women Entrepreneurs (2006) One of ten female recipients nationwide.
- Downtown BID 21 Milwaukee "Entrepreneurial Spirit Award" (2007) Recognized for shaping the downtown restaurant scene.
- Philanthropy & Advocacy Supports numerous charities, served on the board of St. Francis Hospital, and advocates for Alzheimer's awareness.
- Skylight Music Theatre Board (2010-2022) Board President from 2018-2020.
- Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee "Entrepreneurial Spirit Award" (2015) Honored for business leadership and impact.





Legacy Gala

Jaime Hurtado

Jaime's journey is a testament to resilience and commitment. As an immigrant from Peru, he founded Intec in 1985, transforming it into a leading family-owned company specializing in insulation innovations, doors, siding, and windows for residential and commercial clients. His leadership has not only paved the way for Intec's success but also made a lasting impact on the southeastern Wisconsin construction market.

Key Highlights of Jaime's Journey:

Innovative Leader: Over 39 years of pioneering advancements in energy conservation and building performance.

Community Advocate: Actively supports smaller enterprises and mentors emerging business owners. Serves on multiple nonprofit boards.

Educational Background: Graduated with a BA in Economics from Lewis University in Illinois, where he laid the groundwork for his successful career.

Join us in honoring Jaime at the Inaugural Wisconsin Legacy Awards on April 19, 2025, at the Potawatomi Bingo and Casino, starting at 6:00 PM. This event will not only celebrate Jaime's achievements but also highlight the contributions of entrepreneurs who shape our business landscape.



Latino Chamber of Commerce of Southeastern Wisconsin Inc.

How much money has the Latino Chamber of Commerce distributed?



Legacy Gala

Victor Huyke

Victor Huyke has been the Publisher and CEO of El Conquistador Latino Newspaper for more than 26 years. He is well known for his community involvement, contributions, food drives, and dressing as Santa at local community organizations.

Victor's career in the media industry spans an impressive 45 years, during which he has worked for various newspapers and media outlets, from general to niche-market publications. His experience is a testament to his deep understanding of the industry and his ability to adapt to diverse media environments. He also organizes multiple community festivals and events that draw thousands of people, showcasing his versatility and wide-reaching influence.

Victor's professional journey is marked by a diverse skill set and a comprehensive understanding of the media landscape. His experience spans administration, sales, marketing, editing, graphic design, special events planning, and circulation, including paid and free distribution. This versatility makes him a trusted figure in the industry.

Victor's visionary leadership was instrumental in the creation of El Conquistador Latino Newspaper, Wisconsin's most sought-after Spanish/ English newspaper. His commitment to promoting Latino culture is further evident in the diverse range of events he organizes. These events, from the annual Latino Wedding & Quinceañera EXPO to the Caribbean & Latin American Festival, serve as a testament to his dedication and impact.





Legacy Gala

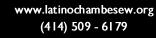
Citlali Mendieta

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Association.

Legacy Gala

Darryl D. Morin

Darryl D. Morin is the President and CEO of Advanced Wireless, Inc. (AWI), a leading provider of technologies that enable Unified Enterprise Mobility. AWI specializes in wireless LAN, mobile computing, and barcode scanning and printing solutions, proudly serving hundreds of customers across all 50 U.S. states and 19 countries. Notable clients include Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Crate and Barrel, Rockwell Automation, MilliporeSigma, True Value Hardware, Graymont, and others.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Mr. Morin is dedicated to creating meaningful social impact. Through AWI, he launched the Wireless School Initiative, a program that has donated over \$2 million worth of WLAN equipment and technical services to schools and nonprofits in underserved communities. In 2024, the initiative expanded its reach internationally, delivering over 850 repurposed site-survivable Wi-Fi access points to the City of Irpin, Ukraine, to support schools devastated by Russian military attacks.

Mr. Morin is also the National President of Forward Latino, a non-profit, non-partisan service and advocacy organization active in 29 states. His role has led him to meet with U.S. presidents, foreign heads of state, legislative leaders, and cabinet officials to provide insights and counsel on critical issues such as education, economic mobility, health equity, trade, and immigration. For his expertise, he has appeared on numerous networks including ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN, FOX News, MSNBC, Telemundo, and Univision, and he has been quoted in esteemed publications such as The New York Times and The Washington Post.





How many counties has the Latino Chamber of Commerce helped?

9 Counties

Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Waukesha, Ozaukee, Washington, Walworth, Sheboygan

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Austin Ramirez

Husco was founded in 1946 as a one-man engineering operation, specializing in high-performance hydraulic components for the Off-Highway industry. In 1947, the business moved from Ohio to Waukesha, Wisconsin, continuing to create products for the off-highway industry.

In 1985, Gus Ramirez, a Puerto Rican immigrant with a strong belief in the American dream, led a buyout of Husco from AMCA International, marking a significant turning point for the company and the Ramirez family.

As the company grew, it diversified its product line and began to develop products for the automotive industry. Husco expanded its global footprint, growing from 300 employees and two locations to a multinational corporation with over 1,500 employees in the United States, United Kingdom, China, India, Brazil, and Germany.

Today, Husco remains a family-owned business, with Austin Ramirez, Gus Ramirez's son, serving as CEO. Under Austin's leadership, Husco's growth has continued, reaching more than \$500 million per year in revenue, driven by technological advancements and product innovation for the Off-Highway and Automotive industries.

Husco is deeply committed to giving back to the communities it operates within. In 2023, The Milwaukee Business Journal named Husco the top corporate charitable donor in the state, with donations topping \$23 million for the second year in a row. Husco focuses the majority of its giving on K-12 education, including the establishment of St. Augustine Preparatory Academy in 2017 and the new north campus opening in 2026.





Legacy Gala

Jose Sanchez

With over 25 years of dedication, Sanchez Painting Contractors has earned a stellar reputation for quality performance and service in commercial and industrial painting. Jose's commitment to excellence ensures that every project not only meets but exceeds customer expectations.

A true trailblazer, Jose was recommended by the Chamber to the Stanford Latino Entrepreneurial Program, making history as the first participant from Wisconsin. He also cofacilitates culturally relevant leadership training through Life Camp with his sister, Rosario, empowering the next generation of leaders.





Legacy Gala

Harry Santiago

The Santiago Insurance Agency, LLC opened its doors in the heart of the Latino community on October 1st, 2005 representing and sponsored by Erie Insurance Company. As time has passed, the agency has added several other insurance carriers, including Progressive Insurance Company. Principal Agent Harry E Santiago was born in Arecibo, Puerto Rico and attended Lincoln High School, UWM and Cardinal Stritch University. As an independent, fully bilingual insurance agency, the Santiago Insurance Agency, LLC serves a wide variety of dients seeking home, auto, commercial and life insurance. The Santiago Team believes in customer satisfaction and consistently strives to provide the best possible service along with competitive rates in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. As a result, personal referrals from clients have been the agencies strongest marketing and promotional tool.





How many businesses has the chamber visited?



Legacy Gala

Ernesto and Beto

El Rey was started on February 15, 1978 by 3 Villarreal families when there was very little Hispanic products being offered in Wisconsin and especially in Milwaukee where the greatest concentration of Hispanics lived.

A small grocery store went up on the corner of south 16th Street and Mineral Street along with a small corn tortilla machine that could be run by one of the brothers and his two young sons. The store and tortilla plant became so successful that the store was moved across the street and the tortilla plant to a much larger location.

We are very proud of the high quality corn tortillas we produce, using only high grade corn grown in the midwest, steeped in tanks on-site and stone ground for the highest quality corn tortillas We have sophisticated tortilla making machines and there is now 4 full service retail grocery stores.

Our family is honored to serve our Wisconsin communities with our corn tortillas, corn tostaditas, USDA inspected tamales and an array of Hispanic products from Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean and have done so proudly since 1978.









Innovation

SMART SPACES, originally the AV Division at BSI (Building Service, Inc.), has evolved into a leading audio-visual integration company. With a rich history of innovation and a commitment to excellence, SMART SPACES has transformed the way businesses approach workspace design and technology integration.

Founded with the vision of creating dynamic and collaborative work environments, SMART SPACES blends design and technology to deliver comprehensive solutions that enhance productivity and foster collaboration. The company's team is dedicated to providing clean installations, proper training, and ongoing support, ensuring that clients receive the highest level of service from start to finish. Today, led by Victor Hernandez, SMART SPACES offers a wide range of services, including the design, engineering, and implementation of technology solutions for single rooms or entire buildings. Their expertise extends to various aspects of workspace integration, making them a trusted partner for businesses looking to optimize their work environments.

SMART SPACES' commitment to innovation is evident in their approach to creating vibrant hubs that boost productivity and spark collaboration. By pushing the boundaries of design and technology, they craft spaces that not only look good but work beautifully. Their seamless solutions integrate design, tech, and furniture to effortlessly enhance efficiency and bring clients' visions to life.







Wisconsin Latino Entrepreneurial Innovation

Marina llari is an ATA-certified translator and CEO of Terra Translations, bringing two decades of expertise in the translation industry with a focus on video game localization. She is passionate about the intersection of gaming and languages. She serves as an Adjunct Professor at New York University, where she teaches Audiovisual Translation. At Terra, she leads a talented and passionate team of localization professionals, guiding the company with a people-centric approach to innovation and quality.

Terra Translations is a language services company specializing in multilingual translation and localization. Additional services included in Terra's portfolio are subtitling, voice-over, quality assurance, transcreation, cultural consultancy, and technology implementation. Founded in Buenos Aires, Argentina over 25 years ago and established as a Limited Liability Company in the State of Wisconsin in 2015, Terra is currently headquartered in Milwaukee, with additional offices in Madrid, São Paulo, and Buenos Aires.

With decades of experience in the translation industry, Terra is now composed of a 240 employee team and collaborates with over 2,000 linguistic professionals across the globe. Our work provides access to over 40 different languages within the following specialized industries: government (local, state, and federal), education, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, safety and training, and video games.



Terra Translations





Innovation

ALLCON, LLC is a Hispanic, Female owned general contracting firm. We offer a unique blend of self-performing electrical and carpentry disciplines. Our team can take your project from the planning stage to final comple\text{\text{\text{omple}\text{\text{\text{om}}}} on, our staff of in-house carpenters and electricians have the flexibility to accommodate construction needs ranging from service contracts to new construction and renovations.

Our current office staff has experience in many disciplines beyond wood an electricity. Our project managers, engineers and site supervisors have worked in the steel, concrete and masonry industries giving us tremendous insight into how other disciplines affect our work. This skill set has allowed us to complete multiple projects for the Department of the Army, United States Army Corps of Engineers, the State of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Area Technical College, Milwaukee Public Schools, and Milwaukee County. It is our number one goal to bring in your project to satisfaction on time and under budget. ALLCON's success over the years is due to its employee's dedication to excellent work, customer service that exceeds expectations, and a safety program that has led to zero-accident hours. Open communication has empowered ALLCON's workforce since day one, and it shows in our work.







Innovation

Rapido Talent is revolutionizing recruitment through a groundbreaking proprietary model that makes elite hiring simple and accessible. With over 50 years of collective recruiting expertise, we don't just fill positions - we transform how companies build their teams. While others promise talent, we deliver a complete recruiting revolution. As trusted partners to the nation's leading construction, engineering, and manufacturing companies, we connect exceptional talent with opportunities that drive real impact. Our approach is refreshingly simple: we combine deep industry expertise with proven recruitment strategies to secure hard-to-find talent for mission-critical positions. From pioneering general contractors to cutting-edge manufacturers, we empower the organizations that build America's future. Our vision is bold: to become a premier recruitment partner by 2030 and generate over \$5 million in savings for our clients







Innovation

Dr. Roberto Monteagudo is a highly respected dentist in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, known for his expertise in advanced dentistry, temporomandibular joint disorders (TMD), and sedation techniques. Born in Puerto Rico, he pursued his passion for dentistry at Marquette University, earning his Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree in 1990. He later advanced his education at the Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies, refining his skills in cutting-edge dental care.

With over 34 years of experience, Dr. Monteagudo leads WisconsinSmiles in West Allis, providing compassionate, patient-focused care. He is praised for his ability to craft personalized treatment plans that prioritize comfort and long-term oral health.

In 2016, he co-founded Emergency Dental of America, a rapidly growing network dedicated to providing urgent dental care. The organization has expanded to 18 clinics nationwide and continues to grow, offering essential services to communities in need of 7-day-a-week emergency dental care.



Wisconsin Smiles



Maria Perl Chief Executive Officer History:

Wisconsin Latino Entrepreneurial

Innovation

Maria's career began in Mexico as a medical practitioner. She then transitioned into the role of a successful entrepreneur in the metal fabrication sector, demonstrating her remarkable dedication, strong work ethic, and deep compassion. Her medical background instilled a profound sense of responsibility and empathy, which continues to shape her personal and professional life.

Maria and her husband, Bryan, built a family and collectively have nurtured a shared vision. This shared dream led to the creation of Spark Ops Metalworks in 2022. Located in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, Spark Ops was established with a clear mission: to challenge the norms in the metal fabrication industry and create an inclusive environment.

As a woman and minority-owned business, Spark Ops offers diversity in an industry traditionally dominated by a male workforce. Maria's leadership and vision have been instrumental in creating a workplace culture celebrating differences and promoting teamwork, resulting in an impressive array of projects. Spark Ops' portfolio ranges from collaborations with local businesses like C.D. Smith and Road America to partnerships with internationally recognized organizations such as FOX Sports, Polaris, and the NFL Network.



SparkOps Metalworks





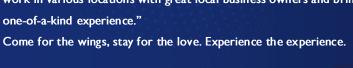
Innovation

Manny Ramirez, founder and proud owner of Mr. Wings, is a true hometown hero with a passion for flavor and community. Born from the hustle of the pandemic, Mr. Wings took flight by hitting bar after bar, bringing bold, crispy wings to the people when they needed comfort food the most. What started as a pop-up operation in Kenosha quickly turned into a local sensation—earning Best of Kenosha and Hometown Hero Awards four years in a row.

Now, Manny is spreading the flavor further, with recent success inside Milwaukee's 3rd Street Market Hall, where wing lovers welcomed Mr. Wings with open arms during its Halloween weekend debut. Next up: Chicago! Mr. Wings is proud to call its new home State & Washington inside the Washington Food Hall, opening April 1st (no joke — even though it's April Fools Day!).

"The beauty of being able to do what I love and being a pop-up chicken wing joint is I'm able to work in various locations with great local business owners and bring the community together for a one-of-a-kind experience."

Driven by passion and fueled by community, Manny says it best:





Mr. Wings



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Husco International

Antigua Restaurant

Wisconsin Smiles

El Rey

Allcon

Cubanitas

BMR Design Group

Harry Santiago Insurance

Agency

Sanchez Painting

Thank you to our Inaugural Gala Co Chairs



Eliana M. Williams

Chairman of the

Board

Northwestern

Mutual



Jeff Musa *Co-chair*People State Bank

Thank you to our board

Carmo Martella, Froedtert Bobby Warren, Meijer Fred Johnson, Erie Insurance Amanda Roman, Domina Ranyblimg, Maximus Vincent Price, Summit Credit Union | Miguel Maldonado, Town Bank Ivan Cicla, CIBC

Thank you to our team



Ben MoralesDirector of Engagement



Yusuf Buckley
Program Coordinator



Bryan Basurto



Dr. Nelson SolerPresident/CEO



Eileen FigueroaEmpowerment Manager