

NONPROFIT WESTCHESTER ANNOUNCES NEW 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The new Board of Directors is comprised of local nonprofit leaders making a difference in Westchester County

White Plains, N.Y. (December 20, 2021) – [Nonprofit Westchester](#) (NPW) is pleased to announce its new Board of Directors for 2022. New board members include Ron Abad, CEO of [Community Housing Innovations](#); Kathleen Macias-Torres, Executive Director of [SPARC, Inc.](#); Lucria Ortiz, CEO of [The Yonkers Family YMCA](#); Theo J. Oshiro, Co-Executive Director of [Make the Road New York](#); and Henry Wilson, Executive Director of [Youth Community Outreach Program \(Y-COP\) of Mount Vernon](#) all of which will take their place on the board starting in the new year.

The new Board Vice President will be Allison Lake of [Westchester Children's Association \(WCA\)](#). She will be joining the NPW Executive Committee with Board President Anahaita Kotval (Lifting Up Westchester), Co-Vice President Rich Nightingale (Westhab), Treasurer Erica Martinson (Brown & Brown of NY Inc.), and Secretary Heather Miller (Thomas H. Slater Center).

- **Allison Lake** became Westchester Children's Association's (WCA) Executive Director in July 2018. She joined WCA in 1998 as the Program Coordinator for the Children's Health Initiative. In 2008, she was promoted to Deputy Director, responsible for WCA's programmatic initiatives, leading WCA's advocacy partnerships and community mobilization efforts. She brings over 25 years of experience in nonprofit and community work both in the US and West Africa, as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Ms. Lake has worked in youth development with the City Volunteer Corps program in New York City and the YWCA of White Plains & Central Westchester. Allison received her BA from Amherst College and an MBA from the NYU Stern School of Business.
- **Ron Abad**, CEO of Community Housing Innovations joined this organization in March of 2021 to serve as the second CEO in the organization's 30-year history. Previously, Abad was the Senior Vice President for Acacia Network Housing, one of New York City's largest homeless providers. He also spent time serving as Assistant Commissioner for Capacity Planning and Development for Families with Children shelters for the New York City Department of Homeless Services. Abad holds a Juris Doctor from Boston College Law School and a Bachelor's degree from Howard University.
- **Kathleen Marcias-Torres** joined SPARC, Inc. as Executive Director in May 2019. Previously, she served as the Associate Executive Director of Community Resources Center for the Developmentally Disabled, Inc. where she was responsible for managing the organization's operations providing clinical, community habilitation, and residential services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Marcias-Torres holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of New Haven and a Bachelor's degree from Boston University.
- **Lucria Ortiz** joined The Yonkers Family YMCA as CEO in November 2019, leading staff to provide vital support to a community hardest hit during this unprecedented time. She has a multi-faceted 20 year. In 2002, she began practicing law as a public defender, working for the non-profit Bronx Defenders and subsequently worked for criminal and civil court judges in New York City. Previously, she served as the Senior Vice President of Strategic Advancement at

Ridgewood YMCA, overseeing philanthropic and organization development, communications, and diversity and inclusion work. Ortiz holds a Juris Doctor from Northeastern University and a Bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University.

- **Theo J. Oshiro**, Co-Executive Director of Make the Road New York joined this organization in 2005 and is currently responsible for overseeing their services departments, including Adult Literacy and Health Advocacy, and serves as the organization's lead health policy expert. He has been recognized for his contributions to immigrant communities and has won the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest's Felix A. Fishman Award. His MRNY's advocacy led to the passage of a city-level law and the state-level SafeRx legislation to require comprehensive interpretation and translation services to limited English proficient patients. Oshiro holds a Master's degree from the University of Chicago.
- **Henry Wilson** joined the Youth Community Outreach Program of Mount Vernon in June of 2011 and has since taken on the role of Executive Director. He has more than 35 years of professional experience serving disadvantaged, under-represented, at-risk populations, which include the youth, the homeless, and the incarcerated. Previously, Wilson was the Program Coordinator of the STRONG Program at the Mt. Vernon Youth Bureau where he was responsible for working closely with school administrators, teachers, counselors, and parents on behalf of the students in the program while ensuring the recruitment and enrollment of at least 300 students. Wilson holds an Organizational Management degree from Mercy College.

Nonprofit Westchester would like to thank the outgoing 2021 board members for their wonderful service. Members of the 2021 board include Carola Bracco, Executive Director, Neighbors Link; Maria Imperial, CEO, YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester; Tracy Kay, Former CEO, Westchester Children's Museum; and Marjorie Madfis, Founder and President of Yes She Can Incorporated.

To see all NPW Board Members, [click here](#).