



## Noel Andrés Poyo, Executive Director



Noel Andrés Poyo is a national leader in the community development and asset building industry. His career has focused particularly on (i) Integrating low-income people and immigrants into the mainstream financial services and real estate sectors of our economy; (ii) Improving the livability and sustainability of affordable housing communities; (iii) Strengthening the non-profit community development sector, particularly in communities of color.

As the Executive Director of NALCAB - National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders, Mr. Poyo represents and serves a diverse national network of more than seventy Latino-led community and economic development organizations. He advocates nationally on behalf of the NALCAB membership and low-income Latino communities. Previously, as a private consultant, Mr. Poyo developed an outstanding reputation for his work in connection with neighborhood redevelopment, troubled municipal agency recovery projects and the evaluation of community development programs. Mr. Poyo has extensive experience working with diverse community leaders to operationalize their visions for community improvement through specific and measurable plans that lead to tangible, positive community change.

Mr. Poyo is a frequent public speaker on topics related to building assets in communities of color and non-profit innovation. A graduate of Yale University, Mr. Poyo is bicultural and bilingual.

## Patricia Mejia, Deputy Director



Patricia Mejia joined NALCAB in 2007 and currently serves as the Deputy Director. In her work with NALCAB, Patricia works with member organization leaders to increase access to capital to develop and expand programs to create jobs, develop neighborhoods, and build family wealth. Ms. Mejia plays a critical role developing and implementing innovative programs within the organization, such as regional and national conferences, to strengthen peer network opportunities for practitioners to share best practices of culturally relevant programs. Utilizing her expertise in leadership development, Mejia has developed and leads *NALCAB's Colegio*, a premier Community and Economic Development Fellowship, to nurture “next generation” leaders from across the country through a nine-month program focused on personal leadership, advocacy, and the essential tools of community and economic development.

Ms. Mejia has over ten years of experience in leadership and organizational development for community based organizations. In her previous work as Executive Director and Co-Founder of the 21st Century Leadership Center at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, Patricia developed innovative curriculum including international and cross cultural programs, as well as coached and trained numerous community leaders, students, and organizations to utilize their own social and cultural capital to build and transform communities.

In 2007 she completed the Executive Leadership Program through the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and the Center for Creative Leadership in San Diego, CA as a National Hispana Leadership Institute Fellow. In 2006 she traveled to Bangladesh to learn more intimately women's

leadership of microenterprise in developing countries. Patricia is also a trained mediator and facilitator. This varied training makes her uniquely prepared to engage people who vary in age, profession and cultural backgrounds.

Patricia is a dual graduate of St. Mary's University, receiving a BA and MA in Political Science/Public Administration. Recognizing these critical economic times and their impact on our nation's most vulnerable, Mejia has taken a leave of absence from pursuing a Ph.D. in Social Policy with a concentration in Assets and Inequalities at Brandeis University, to continue her work at NALCAB. With a commitment for social justice, Mejia also serves on the Board of Network, a National Catholic Social Justice Lobby and the San Antonio Area Foundation's Women & Girls Fund. Additionally, Patricia has traveled to Honduras, Turkey, Spain, and France to study faith-based development opportunities.

Of Mexican heritage, Patricia was born and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas. She has two rat terriers, Chucho and Lola, and enjoys traveling the world all while listening to conjunto/tejano music.