

PUENTE

Executive Director, Rita Mancera, goes on sabbatical this summer.



Dear friends, partners and community,

I have some exciting news to share! I will be going on sabbatical from June 1st to August 31st.

Having worked at Puente for 18 years, the last eight and a half years as the Executive Director, I am excited to take this 3-month long break. My sabbatical is possible through a program offered by the Latino Community Foundation, [Rest is Power, Rest is Revolution](#).

I am very excited about our progress to promote and advocate for equitable access to health, education and economic security and I am proud of the impact Puente has had over the more than 25 years that we have served the South Coast community. I am honored to work in partnership with our vibrant community and I can't wait to take a nice long break and come back rested and ready to embark on new initiatives, including new housing solutions.

During my absence, Puente will stay in excellent hands. Arlae Alston, Program Director will assume the Executive Director role and Pescadero resident, Corina Rodriguez, Community Development Director, will be Arlae's right hand. Together, they will provide continuity to our regular programming, lead our priorities and support our team and community. They will be supported by our board of directors and a strong, vibrant and active team as well as coaching provided by the Latino Community Foundation.

During the summer, I have plans to travel and visit my family and I want to spend time at home as well here in Pescadero. If you see me, I would love to talk about my sabbatical and my summer. I will kindly ask you not to discuss Puente work.

During my sabbatical, I will not be connected to Puente or checking email and I will not respond to emails received during those three months. If you need to reach me, please contact me until my return on September 1, 2024. If you need to contact Puente, please reach out to the appropriate team member, Arlae or Corina.



Thank you for all your support to Puente and the team during the next three months. I look forward to seeing you in September.

Rita Mancera

Rita Mancera
Executive Director

Arlae Alston, Program Director,
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Arlae has been at Puente since 2015. She has been working with families and children for 20 years and in 2020 she became Puente's Program Director. She received her Early Childhood Education degree from Cabrillo College. At Pacific Oaks College, Arlae completed her Master's Degree in Human Development with a specialization in Leadership in Education and Human Services and a sub-specialization in College/Teaching Adults. She also worked at Cabrillo College Children's Center for ten years as a Master Teacher. Arlae has worked abroad in Managua, Nicaragua at different orphanages. She has also worked for Early Head Start in Santa Cruz County as a Teacher-Director for six years.



Corina lives in Pescadero, she first joined Puente as a Youth Program participant in 2012 and has held a variety of roles within the organization since then. Corina most recently joined Puente in July 2015 and she is Puente's Community Development Director. She oversees Puente's immigration and safety net services and the role of Puente as a San Mateo County CORE Services Agency. She also establishes collaborative relationships with appropriate community organizations, farm and nursery owners, and other safety net services organizations throughout the region. Corina has a BA in Collaborative Health and Human Services with a Minor in Public Administration from California State University Monterey Bay. Corina is also Notary Public, an IRS certified tax preparer, and is a partially accredited representative who can counsel immigration clients, complete immigration forms, and represent clients at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) interviews.



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