



DENICE GARCIA, MPA (10 & 17)

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Denice Garcia was born in Tijuana, Mexico and raised in San Diego. Growing up in a dynamic border town had a strong influence on her desire to pursue a career in government and international relations. Through her work and civic commitments, she became passionate about binational issues and Latino business community empowerment.

Before joining the Office of Supervisor Vargas, Ms. Garcia served as San Diego Mayor's Director of International Affairs and Deputy Director of the Department of Government Affairs. Her portfolio included U.S. – Mexico relations, international affairs, and immigration policy. She led the Welcoming San Diego initiative with a steering committee, and through this initiative, she secured the first Immigrant Affairs position for the City of San Diego. She previously served as Director of Community Outreach and Economic Development for San Diego Councilman Mark Kersey, helping to establish a new bi-national focus for his office. Prior to that, she worked in the Office of San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders as Director of Boards and Commissions and Protocol/Binational Affairs.

Before embarking on her civic career, Ms. Garcia worked as Events and Corporate Relations Manager for the San Diego County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and as Special Projects Director at Latino Literacy Now/Edward James Olmos Latino Book and Family Festival. She executed the first annual National Latino Literacy Day and Folklorico Championships for the organization.

Ms. Garcia earned her Master's Degree in Public Administration as a National Urban Fellow at CUNY in New York City. She is also a graduate of San Diego State University, with a degree in International Business, and an emphasis in Latin America and Spanish, and a minor in Psychology. She studied at the Universidad de Salamanca, Spain.

Ms. Garcia's professional development includes current Board Member of the Red Cross of San Diego and Imperial Counties; Board Member of the New Americans Museum; Board Member of Create Purpose; Board Member of SIMNSA Fundacion A.C.; past Legislative Chair and Honorary President of the National Latina Business Women Association, San Diego Chapter; a graduate from LEAD San Diego's Impact program (2010) and Advance program (2017); and a graduate of the H.O.P.E Leadership Institute (2009), from Hispanas Organized for Political Equality. She received the South County EDC 2017 Binational Endeavor Award and, in 2016, received the Bridge Builder Award from the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce.