



CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITIES and ADVANCING ECONOMIC INCLUSION & MOBILITY

Eastern Bank Foundation Honors Vanessa Calderón-Rosado of Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA) with 2023 Social Justice Award



Energy and inspiration was in the air as hundreds of community and business leaders recently came together for the annual Eastern Bank Celebration of Social Justice to honor Vanessa Calderón-Rosado, Chief Executive Officer of Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA) and her team with the 2023 Social Justice Award. The award, now in its 35th year, spotlights an outstanding leader who, through their dedication and passion, has made significant contributions to advance social justice in our communities.

Vanessa has been a leading advocate for racial and economic inclusion and mobility for the Latino community of Boston's South End Villa Victoria neighborhood and beyond for decades, and is widely known as an authentic, trusted, and reliable voice for the advancement of social justice.

Through close collaboration with community members, nonprofit, for-profit, and public leaders, Vanessa and her team have built IBA into the largest Latino-led nonprofit organization in Massachusetts and a nationally recognized community development corporation. Leveraging \$294MM in assets and 667 housing units, IBA's innovative and wholistic model brings together high-quality-affordable housing with crucial wrap around services for early childhood education, youth development, family financial empowerment, resident engagement, and the celebration of art and culture.

Vanessa's body of work is defined by firsts and onlies. She became the first Latina to be appointed to the Massachusetts Board

of Elementary and Secondary Education, is a founding board member of the Margarita Muñiz Academy, the first dual-language innovation high school in Massachusetts, and is co-founder of the Greater Boston Latino Network whose members touch the lives of over 50,000 people. Helping shape policy, Vanessa serves as a member of Massachusetts Governor Healey's Council on Latino Empowerment, is a sought-after voice and collaborator with Boston Mayor Wu's office, and is part of the Boston Foundation's Latino Equity Fund Advisory Committee increasing access to capital for small business owners, homeownership, and livable wage jobs.

Capping off the Eastern Celebration of Social Justice evening – which also included a reception and award ceremony – was a compelling fireside chat and 1x1 conversation with Eastern Bank CEO and Chair of the Board Bob Rivers. Vanessa spoke about her fascinating journey to IBA – which began growing up in a civically active family in Puerto Rico before entering education and academia which has given her unique perspectives to apply to her work leading IBA. She also shared how IBA and others across the city banded together to get Villa Victoria residents access to early COVID vaccines, and previewed future efforts including expansion of their early childhood education program, a moon shot effort to support homeownership, and the creation of a new IBA headquarters that will provide residents with the bulk of IBA services and art and cultural events under one roof (with current IBA headquarters being converted

into additional, affordable housing.)

Commenting on Vanessa's award and legacy, Nancy Huntington Stager, President & CEO of Eastern Bank Foundation said, "Thanks to Vanessa and her team's passionate advocacy, action, and holistic approach, she is creating a community of connection, growth and cultural celebration that is helping individuals and families build more financial stability, resilience, and economic justice more broadly. For more than 20 years, Vanessa has been and continues to be a force for good. We are delighted to collaborate with her and recognize her leadership and the positive and enduring impact she has on Boston and beyond."

Speaking to the honor, Vanessa Calderón-Rosado, added, "Eastern is a leader in corporate philanthropy, and truly shares in the vision and dedication to bend the arc of history toward justice. I am very grateful to be recognized by Eastern Bank with this award and to have collaborated with the Eastern Bank Foundation on so many shared interests over the years. I consider my work a joy, knowing that all we really want as people, and as residents of Boston and Massachusetts, is to give our children and families the best home, neighborhood, education and set of opportunities we can."



NANCY HUNTINGTON STAGER

*President & CEO,
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About Eastern Bank Foundation: To achieve a just, equitable and inclusive society we believe individuals, families and communities who have been historically and systematically excluded from America's prosperity need access to the resources and opportunities that can help them thrive. We invest in community-led organizations to promote structural change that builds economic inclusion, mobility and social justice, with one of our core focus areas being to secure safe and affordable housing. For more information, please visit www.easternbank.com/foundation.