

WOMEN of INFLUENCE 50 OVER 50 2024



MARY ENGLAND
CEO
La Mesa Chamber of Commerce

Mary England is a devoted community advocate and proud CEO of the La Mesa Chamber of Commerce. As the Chamber celebrates 15 impactful years, she has been instrumental in organizing events like Salute to Local Heroes, Business Expos, and Taste of San Diego East, fostering community spirit and supporting local businesses. Her commitment extends beyond events to meaningful charitable activities. Partnering with the La Mesa Police Department and the Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol, the Chamber adopts homebound seniors and military families in La Mesa, making a positive impact year-round. Proudly a non-profit, the Chamber believes in leading as good community stewards, embodying compassion and service. England is excited about her ongoing journey, grateful for the community's support, and committed to the La Mesa Chamber's continued growth.



MAGDA FERNANDEZ
Chief of Police & VP, Public Safety
San Diego Harbor Police Department

Magda Fernandez was appointed Port of San Diego Harbor Police chief and vice president of public safety in May 2022 after previously serving as acting chief and acting assistant chief. Chief Fernandez is the first Latina chief of Harbor Police. She joined the Harbor Police Department as a recruit in 2001 and rose in the ranks to captain in February 2021. Over the years, she has led various department units, including investigations and intelligence, professional standards, and training as well as the patrol and administrative sections. Chief Fernandez also represented Harbor Police as a detective on the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force and helped establish the department's Terrorism Liaison Officer program, which focuses on educating officers and members of the Port community on being aware of potential terrorism and criminal activities.



JOSIE FLORES-CLARK
President
SDCHCC & NLBWA-SD

Josie Flores-Clark is a dynamic leader dedicated to business advocacy and community empowerment. Currently serving as President of the National Latina Business Women Association and the San Diego County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, she champions diversity and growth in both sectors. Josie's extensive volunteer work include working with other organizations, alongside efforts to address homelessness, human trafficking, and veteran support. As Executive Assistant to the National City Mayor and former COO of a private sector company, Josie has led transformative initiatives, including pioneering financial literacy programs in partnership with the Mexican Consulate. Her outstanding contributions have earned recognition from the Office of the Governor, Congressional representatives, military bases, and diplomatic missions. Her unwavering dedication and leadership have left an indelible mark on both local and international communities.



FRAN FORMAN
Senior Director, Early Childhood Development & Programs
Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center

For the past six years, Fran Forman has served as the Senior Director of Early Childhood Development and Programs at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center in San Diego, California. In this role, she has positively influenced the lives of countless children and their families in the San Diego community. Fran is responsible for overseeing engagement opportunities and implementing high-quality community-building and connecting programs tailored to newborns, their parents, preschoolers, school-age children, and their extended families. Beyond her dedication to educating children, Fran also serves as a subject matter expert in early care and education and TK to help parents make informed decisions about their child's development and education. Additionally, Fran has actively contributed to the advocacy for social justice within the Jewish Community, continually developing and leading programs that foster community connections and provide assistance to those in need.



AMY FORSYTHE
Author and Speaker
KOCT

Amy has served more than 30 years in uniform, on active duty and the reserves, and continues to be a leader in the San Diego military community by connecting people and resources wherever possible. She's continually engaged with community leaders, veterans' groups and high school and college-aged young adults to strengthen ties between the military and civilian communities. Her journey from enlisting in the U.S. Marines in 1993 to becoming a Public Affairs Officer in the U.S. Navy has brought her to overseas locations like Iraq, Afghanistan, and Romania to cover military exercises and operations. She's also the author of "Heroes Live Here" that serves as a tribute to Marines that served at Camp Pendleton. Amy is the host of the American Legion's Be The One podcast and the host of KOCT Today, a program highlighting community leaders in north San Diego County.



LORIE HEARN
CEO
inewssource

Lorie Hearn is founder, CEO and editor of inewssource, one of the first local nonprofit newsrooms in the nation. inewssource serves the San Diego region with data-based, fact-checked investigative and accountability reporting. Lorie is a lifelong journalist, having built a reporting career at five newspapers on both coasts. She moved into editing roles at the San Diego Union-Tribune after returning from a Nieman fellowship at Harvard. Lorie oversaw local coverage and investigations as Metro Editor and then as a Senior Editor. She started inewssource in 2009 as a nonprofit solution to the drastic downsizing of commercial media.



CATHARINE HUGHES
Director, Interior Design
AVRP Studios

Catharine Hughes, Director of Interior Design at AVRP Studios, blends 30-plus years of experience and a passion for shaping inclusive environments for clients like a major San Diego school district. Specializing in workplace design, and anticipating an office-space resurgence, Catharine emphasizes the importance of aligning interior design with company culture to foster engagement. In her design work, which extends into healthcare and educational environments, she explores the psychology of spaces, focusing on neurodiversity and creating environments that accommodate a range of needs and encourage better healing, learning and working. Catharine is involved in CREW San Diego. A past president and board advisor, she has played a pivotal role in establishing mentoring programs to empower women in commercial real estate. Her excellence in project management, industry relationships, design aesthetic and technical expertise keep Catharine at the forefront of design innovation.



BARBARA JIMENEZ
Community Operations Officer
County of San Diego - HHSA

Barbara has over 34 years of experience in providing, promoting and overseeing social and human services throughout San Diego County within the Health and Human Services Agency. She is known for her passion and dedication in serving communities and her longstanding dedication to elevating binational work with Mexico. She worked closely with community on the COVID-19 emergency coordinating the expansion of outreach and resources. She was most recently recognized by the Baldrige Foundation with a Community Leadership Award. She has mentored many individuals either while teaching, at work and via her community volunteer work in particular with young Latinas. She currently is responsible for oversight for three offices within her department that is coordinating countywide a focus on ending homelessness, Immigrant and Refugee Affairs and Equitable Communities.

