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THE EDWARD W. HAZEN FOUNDATION ELECTS THREE NEW BOARD TRUSTEES

Alberto Retana, Rukia Lumumba and Lorella Praeli join the Hazen Foundation's board of trustees, bringing new experience and energy as the Foundation goes all in for racial and education justice

NEW YORK - The Hazen Foundation, a private foundation supporting communities of color fighting for education and racial justice, has elected three new members to the board of trustees: **Alberto Retana, Rukia Lumumba and Lorella Praeli**, who will begin their terms immediately.

They will join the board leadership at a critical time when the foundation is going all in to support young people of color, their families, and communities rising up to challenge racist, homophobic, and xenophobic sentiment and policies. As long time campaigners and community organizers, these new board members will provide insight and guidance to align the foundation's grantmaking with insights from the field. All of these new board members are younger leaders of color who stand out from typical foundation trustees: a national survey of Foundation board members found that [85% of board members were white and 68% were over the age of 50](#).

"The Hazen Foundation is committed to sharing leadership with the field, and the selection of Rukia, Alberto and Lorella as trustees is an important testament to our institution living out our values," said Lori Bezahler, president of the Hazen Foundation. "All three new trustees have been personally affected by the issues central to our work, and they are impressive leaders, organizers, and advocates for racial justice."

As young people and communities of color continue to build their power to fight against structural inequity based on race and class, those who oppose them continue to scale up their attacks. Hazen's new board members are leaders in their communities and the national movement for racial and education justice, and their appointment to the Hazen Foundation board comes at a crucially important moment both for the foundation and the country.

"As the foundation moves into this phase of intensifying & expanding our giving, we are fortunate to engage each of these highly strategic movement leaders with the level of depth, intersectional expertise, and demonstrated commitment to our shared values," added Lori Villarosa, Chair of the Board of Trustees and founder and executive director of the Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity.

A community organizer and champion for educational justice, **Alberto Retana** has worked in Los Angeles and across the country to advance racial and economic justice for marginalized communities. A former youth organizer with Hazen Foundation grantee Community Coalition, he

currently serves as President & CEO of Community Coalition Los Angeles, and was the Director of Community Outreach for the U.S. Department of Education in the Obama Administration.

Lorella Praeli, a long time advocate for immigrant justice, is currently the Deputy National Political Director and Director of Immigration Policy & Campaigns at the American Civil Liberties Union. A formerly undocumented person herself, Praeli previously served as director of advocacy and policy for United We Dream and as national Latino vote director at Hillary for America.

A legal professional who has built her career supporting young people and fighting for improvements to our justice system, **Rukia Lumumba** will be a formidable addition to the board. She currently services as the Executive Director of the People's Advocacy Institute and Co-Lead of the Electoral Justice Project of the Movement for Black Lives allowing her to work at the intersections of criminal justice and electoral justice to make transformative system change.

The Edward W. Hazen Foundation, a private foundation established in 1925, is committed to supporting organizing and leadership of young people and communities of color in dismantling structural inequity based on race and class.