

# Patricia T. Nájera

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## CORE COMPETENCIES:

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- Coalition Building
- Fund Development
- Grassroots Advocacy
- Community and Government Relations
- Strategic Planning: Analysis, Assessment and Evaluation

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

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University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee

1998 – Present

**Director of Partnerships and Fund Development, Electa Quinney Institute (EQI)**  
for American Indian Education

### Primary Responsibilities:

- Facilitate partnerships with 12 tribal nations and community organizations in the Greater Milwaukee Area and the State of Wisconsin.
- Support faculty/staff/students and community members with research and program interests to enhance in areas related to education, economic development, cultural arts, gerontology, and summer youth enrichment programs.
- Prepare, submit and manage extramural funding opportunities for EQI and partners.

### Key Accomplishments:

- Built coalitions and partnerships with local public service organizations including: Gerald Ignace Health Center, Southeast Oneida Tribal Services, Spotted Eagle, Inc. and Indian Community School.

**Assistant Director, Center for Urban Initiatives and Research (CUIR)**

### Primary Responsibilities:

- Facilitated partnership with business organizations, government agencies, schools, nonprofit organizations with faculty, staff and students to enhance collaborative opportunities between the university and the community.
- Served as the Project Director on multiple community-building and student educational grants sponsored by private foundations and federal agencies.
- Led neighborhood wide strategic planning efforts throughout the County of Milwaukee.

### Key Accomplishments:

- Created and negotiated university-community partnership between UWM and the United Community Center from 2006-2014, collaboratively raised over \$3.1 million in extramural funding to support K-16 education, cultural arts, housing, mental health, and gerontology

programs and research. This model program was replicated by the Medical College of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

- Led and facilitated planning process with seven municipalities near General Mitchell International Airport (GMIA), building a coalition of urban planners, public officials (appointed and elected), and business leaders to develop an economic development plan for underutilized areas adjacent to the GMIA. Ability to work with diverse group of stakeholders from South Milwaukee, Cudahy, Oak Creek, Franklin, Greenfield, St. Francis, and Milwaukee. These early efforts led to the Milwaukee Airport Gateway Business Association (AGBA) and Aerotropolis Milwaukee™.
- Designed a Resident Leadership Program for building social capital on neighborhood initiatives related to public safety, recreation, housing, and educational programs.
- Developed strategic planning process in conjunction with Walnut Way (2009), Journey House (2010) and Layton Boulevard West Neighbors (2011) for each respective Quality of Life Plans funded by the Zilber Family Foundation.
- Managed Community Development Work Study Program funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, awarded over \$450,000 from the Office of University Partnerships.
- Provided applied research expertise to aid nonprofit organizations including: conducting surveys, interviews, and focus groups.
- Led campus wide community wide engagement: annual urban initiatives conference, Appointed representative to several committees across campus including: School of Education, Graduate School, Academic Affairs, and the College of Letters and Science.
- Assisted the City of Milwaukee – Housing Authority in annual proposals for HOPE VI grant applications. UWM's connection to HOPE VI grants is because we have extensive research on housing initiatives and we are part of a network with practitioners and advocates promoting affordable housing in the City of Milwaukee.
- Directed university-community revitalization partnerships fostering partnerships across with a variety of faculty/staff from across the campus. Managed four different components of the grant including: Internship program, Pre Urban Planning for PUPS (academic course work for middle-school students to learn about theory and practice of planning), Walls Project (project development of a non-violence art memorial), and Oral Traditions in the Walnut Way Community.

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Milwaukee Inner city Congregations Allied for Hope (M.I.C.A.H)

1992-1998

## COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

### Key Accomplishments:

- Developed and implemented 18-month plan of recruitment and outreach to ecumenical group in Milwaukee.
- Recruited and provided training for hundreds of individuals to serve on a number of task forces focused on: drugs and crime, educational enhancement, recreational opportunities, affordable and decent housing, homeownership, and alcohol and drug treatment services.
- Negotiated successful membership of churches south of National Avenue to join city-wide organization.

## CIVIC APPOINTMENTS

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Appointed Member, City Plan Commission, City of Milwaukee

1999 - Present

**Primary Responsibilities:**

- Provide leadership to City Plan Commission on all master planning activities in the City of Milwaukee.
- Ability to work effectively with groups from different sides, provide an objective opinion and recommendation to Zoning and Neighborhood Development on a variety of land development issues including: zoning map changes, revisions in the zoning ordinance, subdivision approvals, tax increment districts, business improvement districts, street and alley vacations, and public land disposition and acquisition.

**Key Accomplishments:**

- Appointment to CPC by Mayors Barrett and Norquist, elected chair in 2006

Appointed Member, Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Committee

2015 - Present

**Land Use Planning Committee:**

**Primary Responsibilities:**

- Help guide visioning and planning process of VISION 2050 in all seven counties and several municipalities.

## EDUCATION

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Ph.D. Candidate, Urban Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

2011 - Present

M.S., Urban Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

2003

B.S., Economics, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

1991

## PROFESSIONAL and CIVIC ACTIVITIES

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Member, 27<sup>th</sup> Street Advisory Committee

April 2016

Jurof, MANDI Awards, Local Initiative Support Corporation

2014 and 2015

Board Member, Spotted Eagle Inc.

2013-present

Previous service: Boys Scout Troop 228, UWM Latino Council, YWCA of Greater Milwaukee, Roberto Hernandez Center, Alternative to Incarceration Conference, Milwaukee Saves Campaign, Get Out the Vote Campaigns Committee, Chancellor's Latino Advisory Committee, Latino Health Organization, Tippecanoe School (MPS).