

BIO

Pilar Sanchez is a Vice President at the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA), where she has served the most vulnerable residents of Austin for over 19 years. As VP of operations she oversees 80 employees who provide housing to over 4,300 individual nightly at 18 public housing sites. As VP of Community Development she oversees all of HACA's resident programming in Workforce Development, Youth Education and Health & Wellness. She is currently co-managing several modernization, refinancing and complete redevelopments of HACA's public housing properties.

Pilar has an entrepreneurial spirit; she has been instrumental in leading, starting or repairing multiple special programs at the Authority. In 1997 she was hired to reorganize the admissions department that was causing bottlenecks and delaying housing assistance to the thousands of families on the waitlist. In 2000 she was tasked with building HACA's first subsidiary from the ground up. She hired and trained over 50 new employees to carry out a large contract awarded to the Authority. In 2008, she brokered a three-tiered partnership and oversaw the creation of a business development resource center in East Austin. The business incubator was owned and funded by the Authority (her employer), the Hispanic Chamber was responsible for public relations and executive oversight of the incubator (she was a board member), and the Hispanic Technology Institute of Austin was responsible for day to day operations (she was board chair of HTIA). The incubator has since become an independent non-profit, EGB, but is still financially supported by HACA. Most recently, she is co-leading the Authority's modernization and redevelopment of their 18 affordable housing properties.

Pilar was born and raised in El Paso, Texas and moved to Austin in 1989 to attend the University of Texas. Ms. Sanchez has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Masters degree from the UT LBJ School of Public Affairs - Executive Masters in Public Leadership program. The youngest of 8 children, she lives in Austin, Texas with her loving husband, John Hernandez and beautiful 9 year old daughter, Victoria.

AWARDS

2018 GAHCC Award for Latina Leader in Housing Industry
2011 Community Leadership Circle Award from UT Austin
2012 Trailblazer by the El Paso Social Network
2010 Woman of the Year award from the YWCA as the "Leader of Promise"
2009 GAHCC Chair's award

COMMUNITY INTERESTS

Board Member – Ballet Austin 2017 - present
Current Chair and Board Member – Economic Growth Business Incubator formerly known as HTIA 2005-present
Member – Women in Housing 2016- present
Member – Futuro Fund
2013 McBee Fellow – Austin Area Research Organization
2012 President – HACA Toastmasters
2010 Chair and Board Member – Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GAHCC) 2006 -2011
Ex-officio Board Member – Austin Chamber of Commerce 2011
Leadership Austin Graduate, Class of 2009
Commissioner -- City of Austin's Technology and Telecommunications Commission in 2006-2007
Member – Board of Directors – Literacy Austin 2005
Member/Mother – Girl Scouts of Central Texas 2016- present