



2013 SEIRN Conference Report

October 11th - 13th, 2013

*Philander Smith College
Little Rock, Arkansas*

November 26, 2013

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for joining us at the 2013 SEIRN Annual Conference at Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas from October 11-13. This was SEIRN's 7th regional convening since we first got together in Atlanta in December 2006. This year, 110 people from 28 organizations and 13 states participated in our annual gathering. As in past conferences, this year's gathering combined a strategy session to identify our strengths and priorities as a region with practical capacity building sessions a keynote panel lifting up the incredible social justice organizing work happening here in the South, and an action for immigration reform and against detentions and deportations. Prior to the conference, we held our first ever LGBTQ-Immigrant gathering. You can learn more about who came to the conference and what happened in this report.

Organizing this year's conference was a partnership with the Arkansas United Community Coalition, a SEIRN member. AUCC warmly welcomed us to their state and played a major role in all aspects of the conference and action organizing. Please join us in thanking them for all of their hard work and for bravely taking on the role of hosting the conference!

The annual gathering is a key component of SEIRN's work. But SEIRN is much more than an annual conference. Together we are building a vibrant regional network of immigrants, allies and partners working to transform the South into a region where the dignity of each and every one of us is a shared fundamental value. And we need you in order to accomplish this. These are just a few ways you can become involved with SEIRN:

- Join us for our monthly membership calls, on the second Thursday of each month, to learn about the major issues affecting immigrants and the South and what's being done. To find out about the next call, contact [Nayely](#).
- Go to our [webpage](#) or join us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) and learn about our campaigns and upcoming activities.
- If you are an organization, become a [SEIRN member](#).
- Please [support our work](#), which is only possible because of your generosity.

Once again, thank you for making the 2013 SEIRN Conference a huge success! Please join us on this journey towards transforming our region and making the South a place that welcomes everyone and upholds the dignity of all.

In solidarity and with gratitude,



Mónica Hernández
Regional Coordinator



Nayely Pérez-Huerta
Regional Organizer



LGBTQ-Immigrant Pre-Gathering

Right before the conference, SEIRN held its first ever LGBTQ-Immigrant Gathering, in partnership with Southerners on New Ground (SONG) and with the support of Miguel Carpizo of Greater Birmingham Ministries and Felipe Sousa-Rodriguez from Get EQUAL. Twenty seven LGBTQ immigrants, non-LGBTQ immigrant allies and non-immigrant LGBTQ allies participated in the convening. A follow up to the recommendations provided by an LGBTQ caucus that met at last year's annual conference, this gathering was an opportunity for LGBTQ immigrants and allies to:

- celebrate our lives and reflect on our experiences
- honor our collective contributions to our movements
- build and strengthen the network of LGBTQ immigrants and allies living and working for social justice in the South
- incubate strategies and collaborations to continue pushing the immigrant rights movement to fully embrace LGBTQ communities, gender and sexual liberation and intersectional movement building.

The gathering was an acknowledgement of how far the immigrant rights movement has come in understanding the critical importance of building solid, lasting relationships and alliances with those who share fundamental issues and values in common. It was also a recognition of the role that openly identified LGBTQ immigrant rights leaders are playing in pushing both the immigrant rights and

LGBTQ movements to integrate an intersectional approach to organizing in order to build the power necessary to move us beyond surface reforms and towards transformation and liberation. At the same time, we acknowledged that there is still much work to be done to create spaces where LGBTQ immigrants can bring their full selves to the immigrant rights and the LGBTQ movements in the South, as well as opportunities for both movements to learn from each other.

Activities included a historical timeline highlighting the intersection of LGBTQ and immigrant rights movements, story circles, a mapping of the political landscape of the South, especially in terms of immigrant rights and LGBTQ liberation, and a discussion about the challenges around intersectional work, strategies being pursued by our organizations, coalitions and alliances, and ways that SEIRN can help to address these challenges. A team was formed to continue the conversation and each participant was asked to make one personal commitment to move intersectionality work forward.



Agenda -2013 SEIRN Conference-

Friday, October 11

9:00am – 4:00pm

Southeast Immigrant-LGBTQ gathering

5:00 pm – 6:00pm

Registration

6:00pm- 8:00pm

Dinner

Welcome-Mireya Reith, Arkansas United Community Coalition & Nayely Pérez-Huerta, SEIRN
SEIRN highlights

Solidarity greeting for NDLO Arizona gathering

Preparation for tomorrow

Saturday, October 12

7:30am – 9:00am

Registration

8:00am – 9:00am

Breakfast

9:00am – 9:30am

Welcome-Elvia Orozco, Comité de Mujeres de Nashville and Mónica Hernández, SEIRN

Introductions

Review agenda

9:30am- 10:30am

Keynote panel: *Organizing to Advance Immigrant and Human Rights in the Southeast*

Felipe Sousa-Rodriguez, Get Equal- moderator

Evelyn Servin and Natividad Gonzalez, Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice

Demetrius Fisher, New Orleans Workers Center for Racial Justice

Ciara Taylor, Dream Defenders

10:30am – 12:00pm

Strategy session: reflecting on the past year, analyzing the current moment, preparing for 2014

Facilitators: **Pancho Argüelles, Living Hope Wheelchair Association, Cathy Montoya, SEIRN**
and **CAMBIO, and Mónica Hernández, SEIRN**

12:00pm- 1:00pm

Lunch

1:00pm – 3:00pm

Strategy session – continued

3:00pm – 5:00pm

March & rally – Southerners United for Dignity

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Dinner

Solidarity greeting from NDLO Arizona gathering

Telling our stories- testimonies and story circles

facilitated by **Pancho Argüelles, Living Hope Wheelchair Association** and **Paulina Helm-Hernandez, Southerners on New Ground**

Sunday, October 13

8:00am – 9:00am

Breakfast

Review agenda/ capacity building sessions- **Victor Alvarez, Coalición de Organizaciones Latinoamericanas/Western North Carolina Workers Center** and **Meredith Cabell, Southern Poverty Law Center**

9:00am – 12:30pm

Capacity Building sessions (see attached descriptions)

*Deportation Defense- *Kendall Nugent*

*Fundraising- *Titus 119*

*Direct Action & Civil Disobedience- *Kendall 204*

*Popular Education and Organizing- *Kendall 103*

*Strategic Communications- *Titus 118*

12:30pm – 1:00pm

Evaluation and closing–Bartolo González, Comunidades Unidas en Un Voz and **Nayely Pérez-Huerta, SEIRN**

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Lunch



Picture by: Miguel Carpizo

On Saturday morning, the 2013 SEIRN Conference kicked off with an inspiring and encouraging panel discussion focused on local victories from Alabama, Louisiana and Florida, and sharing strategic lessons that others in the South could apply. The panel was organized by Monona Yin from the Four Freedoms Fund, moderated by Felipe Matos-Rodriguez from Get Equal and consisted of Natividad Gonzalez and Evelyn Servin from the Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice (ACIJ), Demetrius Fisher from the New Orleans Workers Center for Racial Justice (NOWCRJ), and Ciara Taylor from Dream Defenders.

Natividad Gonzalez and Evelyn Servin spoke on how the leadership in Alabama, and specifically at ACIJ, has shifted in the last two years after HB56 was passed, and how this new leadership is coming from the grassroots community and is representative of those who are directly affected. They also reminded us of the importance of being intentional about developing the leadership of the grassroots community and creating the space and structure to ensure their participation and leadership development. As Evelyn put it, the greatest victory in Alabama has been to create the space for grassroots members to take the leadership and lead the fight for justice in the state, and as Natividad stated, we can be afraid, but we can't let the fear paralyze us.

Demetrius Fisher shared NOWCRJ's experience with a 3-year campaign that brought a great victory to New Orleans with

a policy that keeps ICE out of New Orleans' jails. This is the first time such policy is enacted in the Deep South, which makes it a great victory not only for New Orleans, but also for the entire Southeast. Some of the key factors that made this victory possible were: the leadership of those directly impacted and the structure of the organization that allowed their voice to be heard; the role of key allies that stood with them throughout the process and turned out their members to support the campaign; continuing to move forward despite all the odds and setbacks; and celebrating small victories along the way, with a clear focus on the end goal.

Ciara Taylor reminded us of the importance of intersectionality, the power of story sharing, and how crucial it is for our communities in the South to continue to work together to build the power we need. Ciara shared with conference participants the powerful action by Dream Defenders when they occupied the Florida State Capitol for 30 nights and 31 days demanding a review of the "stand your ground" law in that state. Ciara shared that some of their key wins were being able to bring together youth from different backgrounds, creating a collective and inclusive space, and being able to draw attention from around the country to the issue of criminalization and mass incarceration of people of color.

After the panelist shared their stories, Felipe opened the space for questions from the conference participants and Ciara closed the session with [this energizing chant](#).

Regional Strategy Session

The regional strategy session consisted of three parts: mapping a timeline of the immigrant rights movement and the political context from 2006, when SEIRN first convened, to the present; taking stock of the present political moment to identify opportunities and threats; and discussing what is coming, where we are going, what can we do, and what it means for our movement.

After participants spent time studying and discussing the timeline they had helped create the night before, Pancho Argüelles offered an analysis of the current political moment. How do we describe the political environment in the South? From Houston to Florida there is increased militarization of the border and repression in interior communities because of the union between local law enforcement and ICE. The comprehensive immigration reform proposals, while offering hope to some, threaten to exclude many more with a number of exclusions, including the unemployed and underemployed. The proposals also tie a pathway to legal status to increased enforcement, detention and criminalization of our communities. We cannot ignore the fact that enforcement is a multi-million dollar industry and that there are strong ties between leaders in that industry and those who make the laws, primarily through campaign contributions. Our communities have been further devastated by budget cuts and elimination of essential services. All of these factors combined create an environment of oppression and repression for our communities. But there is hope because there is memory and memory shows us how far we have advanced. The difference between politics and a popular movement is that we don't just want to understand the climate, we want to be the climate.

Participants then broke off into small groups to identify the threats and opportunities presented by the current political climate.



Regional Strategy Session Continued...



Opportunities:

- Republicans in Florida are trying to attract/cater to Latino vote
- Lots of organizations working
- We were able to get a conservative representative in Alabama to publicly commit to not separating families
- Connect to the regional history of civil rights struggle to invite next circle of people.
- Local elected officials actually know who we are and want to work with us.
- Small communities have been effective because tight knit and easier to involve most affected.
- Launch local campaigns to create a moral crisis for the states and the nation
- Use the momentum around immigration reform to unite for a better community.
- Educate about our communities by lifting up our stories and making us more human.
- Occupy is an example of reawakened disobedience.
- Continue to pressure the government on our issues even when they are preoccupied with other issues...this is still a good time.
- Use fear to motivate others
- Demonstrate that there is hope in the long term. We are strong economically. Victory is achievable.
- Our coalitions are bringing diverse communities together: African American, API, Middle Eastern. We are getting to know each other and fighting for diversity. There needs to be an intentional effort to outreach to Asian, Black and Middle Eastern communities
- Get Out the Vote and voter education campaigns.
- Continue the struggle and motivate the community to achieve social change.
- Youth taking leadership positions
- We have people power
- Social media enables direction connection to the masses.

Threats:

- Oppressors have more access to funding.
- Our communities are living in fear.
- Access to education threatened
- When thinking about immigration, we often forget that this issue expands beyond Latino communities.
- CCA and GEO are based in TN and FL
- Jobs crisis used as a talking point to scapegoat immigrants
- Politicians changing what they say based on audience/convenience.
- Mainstream media bias. Not reporting full stories.
- 1,600 deportations daily
- Criminalization of migrants via CIR
- Switching from reactive to proactive (from what we want to what we don't want)
- Silencing us through criminalization. Silence leads to deaths.
- It's hard to get people out of their comfort zone
- We give up by feeling we are defeated (apathy)
- State and local legislative bodies controlled by Republicans
- Lack of collaboration; self-censorship
- Lack of unity among the community
- Implementation of anti-immigrant laws
- Republicans, anti-immigrant groups, local law-enforcement-ICE collaboration, detention and jailing, deportation, opposition to visas, abuse of undocumented people with disabilities

Regional Strategy Session Continued...



Cathy Montoya led the discussion around possible scenarios for the coming year and what we can do. The four scenarios we explored were:

- 1) Immigration reform passes (like S744)
- 2) Administrative relief (DACA for everybody)
- 3) Increase in state-initiatives (bad state legislation that attacks immigrants)
- 4) backlash- increase in enforcement

These different scenarios could come to fruition simultaneously. If immigration reform passes, state and local politicians could potentially react because they are against it by trying to pass restrictions. This happened when DACA was approved. We also don't want to imply that only these scenarios are possible. But we need to consider what the implications could be for each of these scenarios in order to plan our strategy.

Participants broke up by state to discuss the scenarios and consider the following questions:

What are the implications of each scenario for our communities?

Regardless of the scenarios, what do we need to continue doing to strengthen our power?

What can help us become stronger?

What strengths do we already have to confront each of these scenarios?

Scenario 1: Immigration reform bill similar to S744 passes

Implications:

- Many of us would not qualify
- More deportations
- E Verify would make workers more vulnerable
- More deaths on the border due to militarization
- Huge surge of people applying
- S.744 would stop ICE raids at churches, hospitals, and schools
- Utilizing the existing networks like DACA to assist in legalizing their status

Our strengths:

- Capacity to document and report border deaths.
- Capacity to do a boycott or week without immigrants
- Worker's center to help with labor abuses
- Unity amongst ourselves to confront challenges of bad information and abuse
- We can develop the capacity to help meet the challenge of people applying to fill in gaps left because of lack of agencies and attorneys
- Grassroots Community campaigns to ensure a just and clean process
- CIR implementation clinics
- CDBs (Comite defensa de barrio)
- Educational workshops for leaders and the community
- Legal clinics
- Workshop on taxes
- Ability to grow our membership (ACIJ).

Regional Strategy Session Continued...

Scenario 2: Successful push for administrative relief (“DACA for everyone”)

Implications:

- Work and live without fear
- People still marginalized without medical and social services
- People settle and stop pushing for reform

Strengths:

- Capacity to help people apply
- Capacity to educate the community
- More flexibility to organize and participate
- Strong grassroots committees
- Experience with DACA and citizenship clinics
- Economic contributions to strengthen the movement
- (to obtain administrative relief) Boycotts, infiltrate jails, seek allies
- Implementation clinics
- Direct action to get our full rights
- One central target, one ask - pressure the president
- Expand communications capacity

- Stronger actions
- Voter registration
- Volunteer recruitment

Scenario 3: Increased anti-immigrant initiatives at the state level

Implications:

- Migration out of the state because of fear
- We are forced to play major defense
- People mobilize
- More detentions and deportations

Strengths:

- Mobilize and organize more people
- Work in coalition to stop bad laws
- Lawsuits
- Build alliances and grassroots committees
- People become citizens and vote
- Massive marches
- Take initiative with progressive legislation
- Prepare our own candidates/forums.
- State level Arkansas - we convene on odd # of years

usually from Jan to March/April., so more time to organize, recruit, testify against bad bills to override them in supreme court.

- Pending formation of a civil rights commission to protect rights in our state in response to any political climate
- Civic engagement: workshops to educate the community, promote the vote, direct action (marches, vigils, etc.)
- Campaign to stop deportations

4: Backlash- increased enforcement

Implications:

- Demobilization and radicalization
- More deaths
- More detentions
- More deportations
- More poverty

Strengths:

- Community solidarity
- Alliances with other groups
- Issue based - GOTV
- We are FL on
- shut it down! campaign



Southerners United for Dignity & Reform –March & Rally



Pictures by Will Coley

On Saturday afternoon, conference attendees participated in a march that started at Philander Smith College, while a simultaneous march of community members and allies from Arkansas started at Dickey Stephens Ballpark. Both marches merged on the steps of the Arkansas State Capitol Building for the Southerners United for Dignity and Reform rally. The rally called for real policy solutions for all communities including; immigration policy change that provides a roadmap to citizenship and an end to discriminatory criminalization policies that put more young people of color behind bars, in detention, or separates families. Speakers included Leticia Reta and Josh Andonaeagui (AUCC undocumented Change Agents), Evelyn Servin (ACIJ), Mireya Reith (AUCC), Alan Hughes (President AFL-CIO), Bishop Anthony Taylor and Senator Joyce Elliott. As Southerners United for Dignity and Reform, we called on Congress and public officials like Governor Mike Beebe to support a just immigration process that upholds our values of fairness and justice for all regardless of race, faith, national origin, education level, criminal background, sexual orientation or gender identity.



Picture by Will Coley

Deportation Defense

Facilitated by Catalina Nieto from the Detention Watch Network, Special Sanders and Rosa Velazquez from Dream Coalition of Arkansas.

Session synopsis by Catalina Nieto

During the deportation defense workshop, we shared with each other what has been our direct experience and knowledge of the system of detention and deportation. Some of the things we learned from each other were that ICE-Police collaboration programs are key triggers to detention and deportation, that more than 400,000 immigrants were detained and deported in 2012, and that private prison corporations such as the Correction Corporation of America and GEO Group are profiting from keeping immigrants detained. We also reflected on how detention and deportation affects all of us. After learning from each other, we took a look at the historical context of mass incarceration in the United States, and made connections to the current system of immigrant detention. We learned that in the 13th amendment of the Constitution of the U.S., slavery was abolished,

Non-Violent Escalation, Direct Action and Civil Disobedience

Facilitated by: *Xiomara Corpeño from CHIRLA and Salvador Cervantes from Center for Community Change*

Let's Inspire each other to take greater risks and Build confidence and skills needed to escalate and win Immigrant Justice! Groups will be able to role play different actions and get telephone technical support after the workshop for future actions.

except as punishment of a crime. We also learned about historical and current laws and policies that have constructed criminality in order to maintain a system of profit and social control; such as the black codes, the convict leasing system, three strikes laws, mandatory detention, the immigration detention bed quota, the 287 (g) program, Secure Communities, among many others. We also shared facts and figures, for example: 1) The U.S. is the country with the largest prison population in the world; over 2 million people are in prison. 2) The immigration detention system has been expanding rapidly, in particular after the passage of mandatory detention laws in 1996. 3) There are now over 250 detention centers across the country, and 34,000 immigrants are in detention every day due to an arbitrary immigration detention bed quota. The second portion of the workshop focused on how to fight back as a community, and organize campaigns to release immigrants from detention and stop their deportation.



Report of Sessions continued...

Grassroots Fundraising Session

Facilitated by Naomi Folami Randolph
Session Synopsis by: Naomi Folami Randolph

The Main Points of discussion in the session were: assessment of fundraising readiness; review of the core components of a healthy organization; discuss individual views and relationship to or with money; how does the organization need to prepare to raise funds; primary categories of support for nonprofit or community based groups; components of an effective fundraising plan; creating a three month fundraising action plan. Participants experience in fundraising varied, some participants had some experience while others none. Many of the organizations did not have an individual in the organization that

was committed to fundraising, nor did they have a fundraising plan. The topics that generated the most discussion were: creating a three-month action plan and the discussion around how fundraising impacts them emotionally. In general, questions seemed to center around "the how "of grassroots fundraising as well as how to maintain momentum and get to a point of sustainability.

These are questions discussed in the workshop and the groups' responses to those questions:

If your organization had all the money you needed what would you be doing differently? Larger spaces/offices - Transportation - Increase in staff - Increase in direct action/organizing - Expand the work - Provide support to others - Become self-sustaining.

How do our values influence our

fundraising? We do not change what we do we do to chase money - Value our partners and our constituents.

If your organization did not exist who or what will be impacted (this is where you can find greatest support)

Residents and undocumented citizens - Latino residents - Asian-Americans in the South (progressive) - Cameroonian immigrants in Arkansas - People who have trouble asserting their voice - Grassroots leaders - Families and individuals impacted by deportation - Groups who are trying to build and work in coalitions - Immigrant leaders – undocumented organizers.

Strategic Communications

Facilitated by Julie Fisher Rowe from The Opportunity Agenda, Denice Zeck from American Forum, and Jimmy Durchslag from Mainstream Media Project

Session synopsis by Chuy Sánchez

The Opportunity Agenda coordinated the communications component of the capacity building session at the SEIRN Conference as part of our Communications Leadership Course curriculum. The focus of training was on the following: 1) Immigration Narrative & Messaging, participants learned the best practices in message development based on the latest public opinion research. 2) Op-Ed Writing, participants learned about

crafting and placing an opinion piece. 3) Radio Spokesperson Skills, participants were exposed to the radio landscape and practiced on how to be an effective spokesperson.

Participants in the session were engaged, asked questions that related to their work and for clarification throughout the course. In the narrative and messaging session, participants wanted to know how to talk to people who they felt were worried about the impact new immigrants were having on changing their communities and who were responding to that worry with negativity toward new immigrants. One of the most pressing concerns related to the radio session was participants'

desire to learn how to deal with difficult questions and unsympathetic hosts in an interview setting. In the writing session participants expressed frustration with the lack of positive coverage in mainstream media of new immigrants and looked forward to sharing their stories to change that. They came up with very good ideas for op-eds working in groups and shared a great interest in reaching out to the media with these stories. The Opportunity Agenda intends to continue to work with the spokespeople who participated in the session by actively pitching them for radio and writing opportunities in local /regional media.



Picture courtesy of Pancho Argüelles

Popular Education and Community Organizing

Facilitated by Pancho Argüelles, Executive Director,
Living Hope Wheelchair Association

Session synopsis by Pancho Argüelles

This bilingual workshop (English – Spanish) was a space for participants to share experiences, learn new techniques and reflect about the principles of popular education and the central elements of a community organizing process. We put special attention to the role of culture and language as tools for resistance and organizing. During this workshop we started by opening the space for our dialogue, we physically rearranged the classroom to be seating in a circle looking at each other, instead of being in rows looking at the “teacher or expert”. We reflected about the importance of acknowledging that, from a popular education perspective, we all educate each other and we are all experts on our own experiences. The group used several “dinámicas” (icebreakers) to get to know each other and model the popular education definition: *Opening a space for participation and trust, rooted on personal and collective identity and respect. Sharing our experiences through dialogue to better understand our context in order to transform it.*

Participants shared experiences about good and bad practices of facilitators and community leaders and identified the principles attached to those practices and its implications for community organizing. After identifying the core elements of a popular education

approach, using the PICOSO guide, we used the “Iceberg or social change exercise” for a conversation about the importance of having a clear theory of change and how our understanding of how the system works determines the actions and strategies we choose to change it. We used the example of current immigration reform to highlight the limits of conventional organizing and advocacy models and the need to develop organizations and campaigns that are not just about responding to grant deliverables by winning very limited policy outcomes but also about building power to transform the systems and strengthen our communities. We shared examples of how our groups are doing this, and took some time to identify concrete steps each group needs to take to strengthen its base building and leadership development processes. We took time to reflect about the key role that multilingual spaces and cultural activities have to open the space for real grassroots leadership.

As a closing we also talked about the critical importance of rooting our organizing efforts in our collective identity as communities that have been resisting colonialism and imperialism for a long time and now are facing policies that criminalize our people. We spoke about the importance of honoring and celebrating our resistance and thinking beyond short term policy campaigns to continue building a movement where we won’t adjust to the political climate but will become a storm that changes it.

Evaluations



Picture by Miguel Carpizo

Evaluations

In general, the large majority of participants who filled out the evaluations thought the conference was “excellent” overall. The majority rated the strategy session on Saturday as “good.” The action and rally were mostly rated as “excellent,” as well as the Saturday night program, which focused on story sharing.

Highlights

- The large participation of the grassroots leadership
- Sharing SEIRN’s story on the timeline activity
- The popular education activities on Saturday
- The inclusive environment
- The capacity building sessions on Sunday
- The engaging sessions and the welcoming spirit of attendees
- LGBTQ Pre-gathering and the action on Saturday
- The stories shared on Saturday night
- Inclusion of the LGBTQ community
- The panel on Saturday
- Interacting with other conference participants
- Time for discussion

Recommendations:

- Have more control over the time
- Provide opportunity to rotate to different capacity building sessions
- The program of the march was long
- Make the strategy session simpler
- Make sure the action for next year is more accessible for people in wheel chairs
- We need more time to go to more workshops
- Promote everyone’s participation
- More “dinámicas” (icebreakers)
- More capacity building sessions
- Reach out to more youth to participate in the conference

Thank You!

The 2013 SEIRN Conference could not have been possible without the great work and support from the following people and institutions:

Conference Planning Committee:

Evelyn Servin, Chuy Sánchez, Francennett Herrera, Mireya Reith, Mary Hooks, Miguel Carpizo, Mónica Hernandez, Monona Yin, Nayely Pérez-Huerta

Strategy Session Planning Committee:

Catherine Montoya, Stephanie Teatro, Isabel Vinent, Pancho Argüelles, Paulina Helm-Hernandez, Nayely Pérez-Huerta, Mónica Hernandez

LGBTQ Gathering Planning Committee:

Paulina Helm-Hernandez, Miguel Carpizo, Mónica Hernández, Felipe Sousa-Rodriguez, Heather Cronk

Local Action Planning Committee:

Special Sanders, Rosa Velazquez, Mireya Reith, Cathy Montoya, Chuy Sánchez, Mónica Hernández, Nayely Pérez-Huerta, Ana Aguayo

This year's host organization:

Arkansas United Community Coalition

Major sponsor:

The Opportunity Agenda

Other conference sponsors:

Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation
Center for Community Change (CCC)
Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCHR)
Coalición de Líderes Latinos (CLILA)
Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights (GLAHR)
Southerners on New Ground (SONG)
Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC)
Welcoming America

LGBTQ-Immigrant Gathering sponsor:

Four Freedoms Fund
Grassroots Exchange Fund (Common Counsel Foundation)

Our longtime supporters and sponsors:

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Individuals that contributed to our fundraising campaign:

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Childcare team:

Gloria and Lucia Mendoza

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And a big thank you to all 2013 Conference participants who helped us have yet another successful conference. Thank you for your commitment, your energy, and for bringing your full selves to the conference.