

2021 Bio

Gianina Irlando

Gianina Irlando is the Principal at Irlando Consulting, LLC. She currently works with jurisdictions in Colorado and California to enhance oversight infrastructure for improved police accountability with an emphasis on stakeholder engagement. Gia is the former Community Relations Ombudsman with Denver's Office of the Independent Monitor. Her responsibilities included stakeholder engagement throughout Denver with community leaders and organizations, elected officials, law enforcement, and the media.

Hearing the community calls for better relations between youth and law enforcement, Gia spearheaded the development of the Youth Outreach Project, Bridging the Gap: Kids and Cops. Officers receive training on racial and ethnic disparities and adolescent development, youth are trained on their constitutional rights and their responsibilities when in contact with law enforcement, and community members are trained to facilitate youth and officers during five-hour forums. Gia is proud of this proactive approach to stakeholder engagement and law enforcement accountability and with federal grant funding, she oversaw the development of the curriculum, convened an expert advisory committee to guide the process, hired and managed staff and managed programming for over 5 years. The Project was recently evaluated and demonstrated notable effectiveness with a significant change in perceptions for youth and law enforcement towards each other in Denver.

Gia is a 2014 fellow of the National Hispana Leadership Institute and a graduate of the Executive Leadership Program at the Harvard Kennedy School. Gia has served on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement since 2018 and is the Co-Chair of the Annual Conference Committee and former Co-Chair of the Membership Support and Advocacy Committee. She also serves on the State Committee for Colorado Working Families Party and has served as the Co-Chair of the Colorado Latino Forum and various other community boards.

Gia attended the University of California, Berkeley and California State University, Hayward, focusing on politics, communications, and ethnic studies. She worked for numerous non-profits, labor organizations and continuously to increase political representation in elected office. Gia has had the great opportunity to work for state, municipal and community leaders and is an innovator in politics for candidates and issues important to low-income communities of color.