

Sacramento Children's Fund Commissioners

Gina Richardson District 1

Gina "RichE" Richardson is an energetic, encouraging, inspirational speaker, empathetic facilitator, the Founder of The Mindfully Rich Brand, and creator and host of The Mindfully Rich Podcast. Gina holds over 17 years of experience as a financial wellness professional and brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise as an energetic and encouraging Certified Financial Educator, Coach, Inspirational Speaker, and empathetic facilitator. In addition to thriving in the media space, Gina is a champion of financial health, diversity, equity, inclusion, and youth development.



Verbal Adam District 2

Verbal Adam currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Sacramento Children's Fund Planning and Oversight Commission. He was appointed to that role for his extensive work on behalf of underprivileged youth in Sacramento. In addition to being a youth advocate, Verbal is an experienced media professional who has worked for global media entities like Sirius XM Satellite Radio and World Wrestling Entertainment. He holds multiple press credentials and most recently served as Correspondent to the Sacramento Observer which was named #1 Black Newspaper in America in 2023. In addition to his professional experience, Verbal is also a graduate of the FBI Citizens Academy and received an award from the FBI in 2023 for Marksmanship.



Volma Volcy District 3

Volma Volcy is dedicated and committed to making a real difference in Sacramento. As a father, husband, and someone who juggles the hats of a community organizer, labor leader, small business owner, and non-profit executive, Volma is deeply invested in building a better, more equitable Sacramento for his kids and every child in the community. His journey is fueled by a desire not just to dream of a fairer society but to roll up his sleeves and work towards it every day.



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Shannon Williams District 4

Shannon Williams is the Executive Director of the Institute for Social Research at Sacramento State University. Shannon has over 25 years of experience conducting evaluations of programs and policies focused on the well-being of children and youth. Shannon is a proud native of Sacramento and is committed to ensuring that all communities have equitable access to the resources and supports they need to thrive. Shannon lives in East Sacramento and is the mom of a middle-schooler.



Davon Thomas District 5

Davon Thomas is an Associate with Townsend Public Affairs. As the son of a formerly incarcerated individual, Davon has always believed that your zip code should not determine your quality of life. He received his Bachelor of Arts in American History from UC Santa Cruz, where he served as Student Body President. Davon went on to obtain his Masters in Public Administration from the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Policy & Governance.



Lilian Ghafari District 6

Lilian Ghafari is a Marriage and Family Therapist who specializes in working with children and youth. Lilian received a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Therapy at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts and received a Master of Science degree in Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling at California State University, Sacramento. Lilian has over 10 years of experience working in direct services, providing services for various populations including youth experiencing homelessness, victims of sexual assault/domestic violence, and children in the foster system. Lilian currently serves as Vice President of the Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association and loves living in Sacramento.



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Nicole Kravitz-Wirtz District 7

Nicole Kravitz-Wirtz is a graduate of Miwok Middle School (formerly Sutter Middle School) and C.K. McClatchy High School. After receiving her masters degree in public health and her doctoral degree in sociology, Nicole returned to Sacramento in 2017 and currently resides in District 7. She is passionate about her ongoing work as an educator and applied researcher with the UC Davis Violence Prevention Research Program, where she continues her more than a decade of work using data and evidence to lift up non-punitive, community-centered efforts for reducing and preventing violence and improving community safety and health equity outcomes for all young people, families, and communities in the Sacramento region, and particularly those experiencing the greatest burdens of violence and systemic inequities.



Khaalid Muttaqi District 8

Khaalid has overseen the design and implementation of violence prevention, intervention and youth development programming in several California cities as a direct service provider, manager, and director in both non-profit and local government settings for over twenty years. He has led citywide grantmaking processes that prioritize investments in the most high-need populations while lifting up community-led alternatives to punishment and incarceration. He authored and implemented a comprehensive strategic plan for the City of Sacramento which resulted in historic reductions in gang and youth violence. He currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer for Advance Peace, a national gun violence reduction agency, where he works to ensure its strategic direction by strengthening structure, management systems and collaborative partnership outcomes.



Mónica Ruelas Mares District 8 Chair

Mónica Ruelas Mares (she/they) - Chair and Mayoral Appointee to the Sacramento Children's Fund Planning and Oversight Commission. Mónica was born and raised in Meadowview/South Sacramento and is the proud daughter of immigrants from Mexico. She is passionate about policy change via building transformational relationships and partnerships between local government/institutions and the communities they serve. Mónica is the Manager of Local Children's Policy at Youth Forward, an organization that is dedicated to improving the health, education, and wellbeing of Sacramento's most vulnerable youth and children.

