

V Liwai Garcia (they/she) Western Regional Minority Supplier Development Council Vice President of Program Development & Minority Business Services

V Liwai Garcia has spent over fifteen years impacting minority communities in the nonprofit sector. In their current role as WRMSDC's Vice President of Program Development & Minority Business Services, V provides strategic leadership in the areas of program development, marketing and communications, knowledge management, community relations, and events in addition to the development and delivery of Minority-owned Business Enterprise (MBE) engagement, training, and services. They have been instrumental in growing the Council's events and communications impact, including increasing the net profit by 42% over three years for the Minority Business Opportunity Expo and 229% over six years for the Excellence in Supplier Diversity Awards Gala, and increasing the Council's LinkedIn followers network by 2,001% over four years.

Prior to joining WRMSDC, V helped minority students gain funding and support within the field of finance, as well as worked in development, operations, research, marketing, communications, and sales. V holds a master's degree in English from Mills College in Oakland, California, and comes from a diverse cultural and ethnic background, including Native Hawaiian and Japanese. They are a proud member of the neurodivergent and LGBTQIA+ communities and have dedicated their career to serving diverse families and communities.

"A Found Family is not your family of origin, but the family you choose. Mine includes those who are ethnically diverse, neurodivergent, LGBTQIA+, and many who stand out simply for being themselves. They are my North Star. Marian Wright Edelman said, 'It's hard to be what you can't see.' While diverse folks may be in the minority, we bring unique abilities, rich cultures, unconventional origin stories, passion, and minds of all kinds to the table. My life's work is ensuring each one of us gets a seat."