



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

January 11, 2022

2021- 2022 Board Members

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Astrid Chirinos, Executive Director, Community Engagement, YMCA of Greater Charlotte

By Suzanne Bledsoe

Astrid Chirinos moved to Charlotte over 35 years ago. Raised in Caracas, Venezuela, she graduated St. Mary's College and NC State University. Throughout her career she has worked to bridge divides between diverse communities in Charlotte and beyond. Her current position as Community Engagement Executive Director at the YMCA of Greater Charlotte has allowed her to build and nurture connectivity in both the public and private sectors. Her skills have been honed through years of working to eliminate disparities for Latinos and African Americans, and other immigrant communities, create opportunities for economic development and create leadership opportunities and initiatives that will promote and support success in the broader community. Astrid has been recognized at local, state and national levels for her success in this area.

In her own words, Astrid attributes her actions to four major areas of focus:

1. **Courage.** We all have courage within ourselves to do the right thing. We have to trust our instincts, value our differences and follow our hearts.
2. **Conviction.** We have to "walk the talk"; believe that equity, inclusion and access are important to everyone. We have to work hard to ensure that opportunities are available, accessible and relevant
3. **Collaboration.** For the best shot at success, we have to collaborate, communicate and demonstrate our courage and conviction in order to find common ground.
4. **Community.** Change is ever present. Be adaptable, responsive and consistent. Create and nurture an environment that values the

best attributes of community engagement and development.

Astrid shared with us her version of a new year's resolution. Rather than making a list of do's and don'ts she identifies a word—just one word—that she hopes will shape her actions in the coming year. Her word for 2022? Discover. Words from our fellow Rotarians: Commitment, Happiness, Gratitude, Prepared, Successful.

Use your words in your everyday actions, make them meaningful to who you are to yourself and to others. Make it matter.

What's your word?

*A recording of the program is available here <https://vimeo.com/664944136>

The program introduction begins at 22:20 minutes.