

LIEP is the newest signature program of the Community Development Institute (CDI). Founded in 1979, CDI's mission is to develop well-trained leaders and support community-based organizations, public agencies, and businesses to promote community self-determination and sustainability. CDI has provided leadership training to over 1,200 youth and serves as a fiscal sponsor for more than a dozen community-based Bay Area organizations. CDI also provides programs and services under its Leadership Training Academy (LTA), Empowerment Research (ER!) and Nonprofit Incubator (NI) programs.



To learn more about LIEP, contact

Valicia Saucedo, Director  
Leadership Institute East Palo Alto  
321 Bell Street  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

Tel: (650) 327-5846 ext. 314

Fax: (650) 327-4430

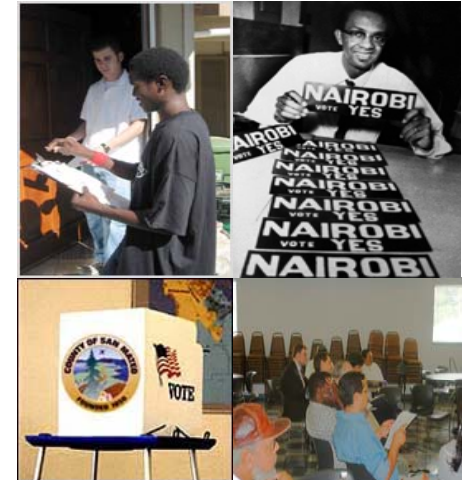
Email: [Valicia@cdi-usa.org](mailto:Valicia@cdi-usa.org)



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE



## Leadership Institute East Palo Alto



*Promoting civic engagement  
and homegrown leadership with  
education and training*

## WHO WE ARE

The Leadership Institute East Palo Alto (LIEP) seeks to educate the community at large on key policy issues and produce a new vanguard of leadership for East Palo Alto (EPA).

## WHAT WE DO

LIEP has two integrated components that seek to create civic engagement critical mass: 1) Issues forums and 2) Candidate training. **Issues forums** will present research to inform the community on key issues such as economic development, transportation justice and affordable housing. Past and present elected officials, professionals and knowledgeable community leaders will facilitate the **candidate training** sessions, bringing their intimate experience of public policy, campaigns, fundraising and ethics. Great care is taken to make the curriculum culturally and language inclusive.

## WHY LIEP?

Dramatic demographical shifts, massive gentrification, and high rates of crime make LIEP critical to the overall development of East Palo Alto.

### FACTS:

- Numerous news articles assert that Latinos are not assuming elected or appointed positions in EPA.
- Across ethnicities, there are very few 25-40 year olds engaging in public policy formulation.
- Young leaders are not at the table when critical policy decisions are being made.
- Many potential leaders do not fully understand the issues and the process of becoming elected or appointed officials.
- There is very little intergenerational transfer of information among mature and young leadership in EPA.
- **There is a critical need to develop a new vanguard of young leaders to engage in public policy in EPA.**

## LIEP STAFF

### **Valicia Saucedo, Director**

Originally from Lindsay, CA, Valicia is a graduate of Stanford University with a degree in Political Science and a minor in Japanese. Her research focused on the growing trend in European countries of granting non-citizens limited voting rights and the feasibility of such an initiative in the United States. Valicia is also the Program Director for Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto. She was also a researcher for Joaquin Avila at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) in Los Angeles. Valicia has spent time abroad including working as a researcher and documents translator for the East Japan Railway Company in Tokyo, Japan and an overseas study abroad program in Chile.

### **Kaara Baptiste, Research Assistant**

As a Research Assistant, Kaara has explored sustainable community economic development models, and provided substantial research and logistical support for the launch of LIEP. Originally from Brooklyn, New York, Kaara is a Stanford graduate, earning a Bachelors degree in Psychology and African and African American Studies.