Schedule at-a-glance

7:30am Registration, Breakfast, and Exhibits

8:30am Welcome
Cindy Blain & Haydi Danielson, California ReLeaf

9:00am Snappy Scan of Network
Melissa Gutierrez & Cindy Blain, California ReLeaf

9:30am Local Advocacy: The Elected’s Perspective
Cindy Montañez, TreePeople

10:15am Break & Chat

10:30am Volunteer Tree Stewards: Lessons Learned
Gail Church, Tree Musketeers
Doug Wildman, Friends of the Urban Forest

11:15am Friendraising in Fundraising
Lupe Solorio, Community Partners

12:00pm Lunch
Sharing Adrenaline & Challenges

1:00pm Growing the Canopy: Racial Justice
Leo Buc, Common Vision

3:00pm Break & Networking

3:30pm ReLeaf: Strategic Priorities & Projects

4:45pm Closing (with group photo!)

5:00pm Reception for all Conference Attendees
Pico House Courtyard

6:15pm Walking Tour: El Pueblo & Historic Trees

About The Speakers

Cindy is an Angeleno through and through, bringing extensive policy experience and deep community roots to our organization. She was raised in the City of San Fernando, along with her five siblings, by parents who emigrated from Mexico. After attending UCLA, she was elected to the San Fernando City Council, later becoming Mayor. Cindy then went on to serve the community at the State level when she won a seat in the California State Assembly. She made history as the youngest woman ever elected to the California State Legislature, as well as becoming the first Latina, and the first Democratic woman to chair the Assembly Rules Committee. Most recently, she served as Assistant General Manager to partners at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Gail left an airline management career in 1988 to help the young founders of Tree Musketeers forge the youth environmental movement. She applied lessons learned in volunteer service to youth, the needy, and union activism to her position; and subsequently took up graduate studies in nonprofit organizational management.

For over sixteen years, Doug has planned, worked, coordinated and written grants for programs at Friends of the Urban Forest to improve San Francisco’s urban forest and to help bond neighborhoods through community-based urban forestry. Doug currently serves on the board of the Western Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture and Cal Fire’s California Urban Forest Advisory Council (CUFAC).

Lupe coordinates Community Partners’ fiscal sponsorship services. She also provides project leaders with individualized technical assistance and facilitates internal and external trainings in program planning, board development, proposal writing, and evaluation. In addition to her work at Community Partners, Lupe has served as a reader for the Proposition 10 Commission, as a selection panelist for Public Allies LA, and on the steering committee for the Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month for the City of Los Angeles. Lupe continues to be active in the community, serving on the board of the Asian Business League.

One of the founders of Common Vision’s school programs, Leo leads CV’s daily operations and longterm strategy, fundraising, and financial reporting. A small business owner, farmer, and educator in his own right, Leo’s sound business sense, orchard-culture knowledge, and commitment to social justice have helped steer Common Vision for over a decade.