

Sandra L. Vargas, Vargas Consulting and Coaching, Principal Consultant

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Vargas centers the issues of racial, social, and economic equity in her consulting and coaching practice which she started in 2019. She also specializes in executive coaching in the public and non-profit sectors with senior leaders. Her clients include Ramsey County, LifeSource, Cultural Wellness Center and LatinoLead among others.

Prior to starting her practice, Vargas served as President and CEO of The Minneapolis Foundation from 2007 to 2016. The Minneapolis Foundation is one of the 35 oldest and largest community foundations in the country. Her focus was connecting the foundation to the needs of communities of color and integrating community voices into foundation strategies. Donors were also a high priority and Vargas started committees and connections to bring donors closer to the work of the foundation in addition to cultivating their charitable interests.

After she retired from the Minneapolis Foundation, Vargas was appointed a Senior Executive Leadership Fellow with the Hubert Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. In that role she worked with the Humphrey Non-Profit Center to co-lead a leadership program focused on leaders of color in collaboration with the Cultural Wellness Center.

Ms. Vargas previously served as the Hennepin County administrator, the top executive position in Hennepin County government. She managed a \$2 billion dollar budget and 12,000 employees. She began her career as a small-business consultant in the Minnesota Department of Economic Development, and held management positions at the City of Minneapolis and the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Vargas was awarded a Bush Fellowship supporting her efforts to complete a master's in public administration from the Kennedy School of Public policy at Harvard. Her undergraduate degree is in business from St. Catherine University.

As a volunteer, Vargas currently chairs Esperanza United, a Latin@ led national organization that works to end domestic violence and sexual assault in the Latino community and beyond. She also participates on the boards of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota and Twin Cities Public Television.

Over her career, Vargas has received awards for her diligence in leading organizations toward more equity, diversity, and inclusion and achieving strategic goals.