

Rocio Torres is a dedicated individual who has spent her life working to improve her community. She began her journey as a neighborhood leader at the age of 18 and has continued to be an advocate for her community ever since. Rocio graduated from the Neighborhood Leadership Program in 1998 and was presented with the Mayor Beverly O'Neill Lifetime Leadership Award by the Neighborhood Services Bureau in 2018.

After 19 years of being a teacher, her commitment to education led her to become a school counselor at an underserved elementary school in Long Beach. Rocio's passion for creating new learning experiences for her students earned her the Educator of the Year Award from the Women's Business Council of Long Beach in 2017.

During the pandemic, Rocio and her neighbors fed over 1000 residents throughout Long Beach and collaborated with other community leaders to sponsor and mentor new leaders in the West side of LB and Downtown LB.

In addition to her work in education, Rocio is also actively involved in her community through the Anaheim, Orange, Cherry and 7th Neighborhood organization in 90813. She helped to create the AOC7 Annual literacy fair, which won the Neighborhood USA Grand Prize Award in 2019.

As a member of Friends of MacArthur Park, she advocated for 8 years for park equity after a long battle to obtain funding for a Park Visioning, finally it was funded. Rocio was instrumental in organizing the visioning process. In 2021, \$8.5 million were allocated to park improvements. Recently, another \$2.5 million was allocated to the MacArthur Park improvements which will start in April 2024.

Together with neighbors, community based organizations and nonprofits, Rocio will continue to advocate for equity for her neighborhood.