



Chica Project announces Lina Cañon as its new Interim Executive Director with the departure of Erika Rodriguez.

Please see details in the attached letters.

**Celebrating our
10th year!**

chica

October 28, 2021



Dear Friends, Colleagues and Supporters,

This is an exciting time for **Chica Project**. We are celebrating our tenth anniversary. We are welcoming new board members. And, we are looking forward to building on a solid financial foundation.

So it is with a feeling of mixed blessings that we announce the departure of Erika Rodriguez, **Chica Project's** Executive Director, who has resigned to begin a new chapter in her career. Under Erika's leadership, the organization has grown the number of grants exponentially, responded to the pandemic, and helped to transform the lives of Latinas and other Women of Color by empowering them with the skills, confidence and network to thrive personally and professionally. We thank Erika for her remarkable service to the **Chica Project** community during the past decade. We will miss her and wish her well.

As part of the transition, we are excited to inform you that Lina Cañon, **Chica Project's** current Director of Operations will serve as interim Executive Director, effective immediately. As you may be aware, during the past few years, Lina has managed the organization's development, operations and finances in addition to providing support to marketing and programming. Lina is a graduate of Suffolk University with a degree in Government and Sociology. She recently obtained her MBA from Boston University's Questrom.

Lina will lead the organization and provide continuity as we begin our formal search for a new Executive Director. We will share the details about the search with you in the coming days.

We ask for your continued support as we enter this next phase of our growth. We remain committed to serving as many young women as we can while we continue our work to close the opportunity gap.

If you have questions, suggestions or concerns, please contact info@chicaproject.org

Con mucha gratitud,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Malia Lazú".

Malia Lazú
Chair, Board of Directors

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A large, stylized, red lowercase "chica" logo. The letters are thick and rounded, with a dot above the 'i'. The 'c' has a large loop, and the 'a' has a wide, curved tail.

October 28, 2021



Dear community,

I hope you and yours are remaining safe and healthy. Sending you all un fuerte abrazo.

It is bittersweet to announce that I am transitioning out as the Executive Director of **Chica Project**. I am excited to begin the next chapter in my life which is applying to graduate school. I am also enthusiastic and hopeful to continue witnessing **Chica Project's** growth and impact led by Lina Cañon (who is currently the Director of Operations and will now serve as Interim Executive Director!) and the board of directors.

It has truly been four wonderful years, a journey where I've learned and built alongside all of you in supporting over 3,000 youth and over 500 Professionals of Color since inception. Part of **Chica Project's** legacy has been cultivating the intergenerational pipeline of Women of Color particularly for its youth and mentors. Shortly after founder Nurys Camargo started the organization, I signed up as a mentor and then, six years later, became the first full-time paid employee and Executive Director of **Chica Project**. It was a dream come true for me, a first generation Dominican-American 25 year-old who grew up in Boston's positive youth development organizations, and as someone who deeply believes in youth-activism and social justice. I am beyond grateful to my village of love, **Chica Project**, for giving me this opportunity to take my leadership to the next level and advancing the next generation of leaders in Massachusetts and now, nationwide and internationally. **Chica Project** has had brilliant and powerful staffers, mentors, volunteers, board members, supporters, and partners - thank you all for your commitment.

Please, let's continue to stay connected, you can reach me at, erikarodrg@gmail.com. And, let's continue to cheer on **Chica Project** as it's on its way to more continued greatness.

Con mucha gratitud,

Erika Rodríguez

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