

For Immediate Release:

March 4, 2015

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Announcing Mayor's Strategic Partnerships Team

SAN JOSE –Mayor Sam Liccardo today announced the appointments of Khanh Duy Russo as Senior Policy Advisor for Strategic Partnerships and Ingrid Holguin as Policy Advisor for Strategic Partnerships.

Russo serves as Public Benefit Investment Manager at Cisco Systems. Holguin is Savings Program Director at Opportunity Fund. In the Mayor's Office, they will be responsible for bringing new approaches, partners, and resources to support Mayor/Council priorities, especially new or improved service levels for the City.

“Silicon Valley companies and philanthropists have been telling me that they want to partner with the City to solve problems,” Mayor Liccardo said. “With their talent and experience in the philanthropic, corporate, and public sectors, Khanh and Ingrid will be a tremendous asset to the Mayor's Office as we launch these partnerships.”

This focus on strategic partnerships is a new role for the Mayor of San José. “If we want to restore services and public safety, we're going to have to find new ways of doing business,” Mayor Liccardo said. “Through these partnerships, we can work smarter and benefit all of San José's residents.”

Through Strategic Partnerships the Mayor's office hopes to catalyze and facilitate partnerships amongst the City, nonprofits, philanthropy, business and other sectors to share expertise and lessons learned. The goal is to develop a shared agenda and tangible strategy that leverages community resources and investments for creative public problem solving. By developing a shared agenda between sectors to engage in innovative and collaborative work, San José can be even more efficient and effective in strengthening San José's communities.

The initial strategic partnerships will focus on education and workforce development opportunities for underserved and at-risk youth.

The Mayor's SJ Learns initiative proposes to expand after-school programs for children in Kindergarten through grade 6. The SJ Learns Working Group is in the process of developing a roadmap that identifies best practices within after-school programs, and potential private investors to leverage an initial City investment and expand the number of high-quality after-school programs.

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The SJ Works initiative will increase youth employment and expand access to job training for at risk youth/young adults. Despite a growing regional economy, San José's youth unemployment rate continues to hover above 20 percent. SJ Works takes aim at this problem, addressing the intertwined challenges of economic disparity and public safety.

Russo and Holguin will be working on these initiatives and others, working to engage new partners and leverage new resources.

Biographies

Khanh Duy Russo has more than a decade of experience in philanthropy, business development, corporate affairs, and government relations. At Cisco, he guides the global strategy and implementation of technology based solutions addressing critical human needs, including water, hunger, shelter and disaster relief. Prior to his work at Cisco, he has held positions at Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, North Hills Community Outreach and The Forbes Funds. He holds a Master of Science in Public Policy and Management from Carnegie Mellon University, a Bachelor's in Political Science and Religious Studies from Santa Clara University, and was a Coro Northern California Public Affairs Fellow. Russo speaks fluent Vietnamese and is conversant in Spanish. He and his family currently reside in Downtown San José.

Before joining Opportunity Fund, **Ingrid Holguin** was a consultant in the philanthropic and non-profit sectors, working on issues of economic and community development with organizations including The Ford Foundation; Gray Ghost Ventures; MicroCredit Enterprises and Cyrano Management/Global Microfinance Facility. She previously worked as Asset Building and Economic Security Program Officer for the Ford Foundation in Mexico City, and Regional Field Director for Katalysis North/South Development Partnerships in Central America. She holds an MBA with an emphasis in Non-Profit Management from the University of California, Berkeley – Walter A. Haas School of Business completing the summer Public Policy Program for MBAs at Georgetown University, and a BA in Economics and Management from Ball State University. Fluent in Spanish, she lives in the Willow Glen area of San José.

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