



EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman Emeritus:



Heraldo Muñoz Valenzuela was Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile (2014-2018); Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Director of the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) (2010-2014); Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations between (2003-2010); Minister Secretary-General of Chile (2002-2003) Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (2000-2002).

He holds a Ph.D. in International Studies from the University of Denver; a Diploma in International Relations from the Catholic University of Chile (with honors); and a B.A. in Political Science from the State University of New York, Oswego, and was bestowed with the title of Doctor *Honoris Causa* by the State University of New York. He has been a visiting professor or lecturer at several universities in the United States, Europe and Latin America, having written or edited more than twenty books and dozens of essays in academic journals.

President



Gloria Garafulich-Grabois is a native of Chile and a citizen of the United States and Croatia.

In January 2018, the Government of Chile awarded her the grade of *Dame of the Order of Merit Gabriela Mistral*.

In October 2021, she was created *Dame of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem*.

Ms. Garafulich-Grabois works Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J., where she is Director of the G. K. Chesterton Institute for Faith & Culture and the Managing Editor of two highly acclaimed academic journals, *The Chesterton Review* in its English version and *The Lonergan Review*, and Editor of the Spanish, Portuguese, French and Italian editions of *The Chesterton Review*.

As President of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc. she has wrote, produced and directed various documentaries and special productions that highlight the life, the literary and humanitarian legacy of Gabriela Mistral. Is co-editor of the foundation's special bilingual publication *From Chile to the World—70 years of Gabriela Mistral's Nobel Prize in Literature* and of the Special Centenary edition of "Ternura," and Editor of the foundation's annual journal *The Mistral Review*.

She is co-leading the Gabriela Mistral Foundation's project "Mujeres Chilenas Líderes-NA" (Chilean Women in Leadership-NA), a joint project with We are MEF.

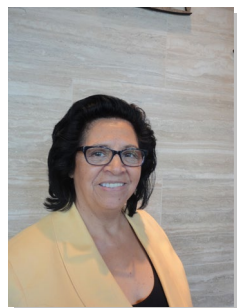
Areas of personal interest include a life-long commitment to international relations, women's and children's issues, literature, the arts, classical and world music and writing, particularly in relation to Gabriela Mistral, Chilean and Latin American culture and volunteer work. In 2010 she established the Estelita Adult Literacy Project in rural and semi-rural areas in Chile.

She has extensively translated the work of Gabriela Mistral and G.K. Chesterton.

Mrs. Garafulich-Grabois is the Founder and International Director of the Chapter in Chile of the National Museum of Women in the Arts (WDC) (founded in 2013); co-founder of the Mamalluca Chilean Cinema Series US (founded in 2019); member of the Executive Board of the Croatian Academy of America (as of 2017); Vice-President of the US Chapter of the World Association of Women Journalists and Writers) (WAWJW) (AMMPE-Asociación Mundial de Mujeres Periodistas y Escritoras) (as of 2022); and as of 2022 is a member of the International Jury of Mondial Art Academia in France.

In May 2014, Mrs. Garafulich-Grabois curated the US art exhibit “Lily Garafulic: Centenary Celebration” sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile which was presented in Washington DC and New York; and she completed the documentary about the Chilean sculptress entitled: “Lily Garafulic—in her own words” which was presented at a special event celebrating the centenary of her birth at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Santiago, Chile in May 2014, at the Embassy of Chile in WDC; the Organization of American States & the Art Museum of the Americas in WDC. The NY presentation was held as part of the Lily Garafulic Centennial Celebration at the Cervantes Institute in New York. The full-version of the documentary entitled “Lily Garafulic—a life” was presented in Chile in May 2017 and will be exhibited in Washington DC in May 2020.

Vice-President



Maria Josefina Grasso is a native of Chile who immigrated to the United States in the 1970s and currently resides in Massachusetts. Ms. Grasso an entrepreneur is proprietor of a diverse business portfolio in both Chile and the United States. Her business includes Las Perdices Ranch and Blueberry Farm in Rancagua, Chile; as well as The Wild Blueberry Restaurant and The Terrace by the Sea Hotel, both located in Ogunquit, Maine, as well as various other real estate holdings. As a philanthropist, Ms. Grasso is the founder and chair of The Elqui Valley Foundation. Named in honor of the birthplace of Gabriela Mistral, the foundation strives to continue a legacy of selfless giving and is dedicated to providing educational opportunities for youth in Chile and the United States. The Foundation also supports disaster relief through the organization ADRA Chile and participated in the “Un Techo para Chile” (A Roof for Chile) campaign providing housing for victims of the 2010 earthquake and tsunami. Ms. Grasso is honored to be able to give back to her beloved country.

Treasurer & Secretary



Mario J. Paredes, K.G.C.H.S a native of Chile and a naturalized US citizen, has over 30 years of experience as an executive in healthcare administration and has extensive experience as a leader in business development. His expertise encompasses international diplomacy, finance, philanthropy, business development, and healthcare. He has worked extensively with nonprofits, governmental organizations, and religious entities.

He has headed the operations at SOMOS since 2015, when the first network of primary care providers in the City of New York, with over 2,500 members and 800 practices of private physicians, was established. Mr. Paredes oversaw grants worth over \$700M from the State of New York for reforming the Medicaid health system; he was a key facilitator during the discussions between the respondents to the COVID-19 pandemic and health authorities in the State and the City of New York.

Before joining SOMOS, Mr. Paredes served at Merrill Lynch as Vice President of Business Development in April 2001. He was later appointed Director of the U.S. Hispanic Market for the Multicultural & Diversified Business Development Group in 2002. In February 2007, he moved to their Corporate Division.

Previously, he served as a consultant for Latin America under President Ronald Reagan, overseeing elections and political transition to democracy in Suriname, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Haiti. He participated in the peace processes in El Salvador. Under Mayor Edward Koch, he served as Commissioner for the *Charter Revision of New York City*.

Mr. Paredes served as personal advisor to John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York. He has served as a consultant to the Justice and Peace Commission of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops and the Latin American Commission of the Vatican. Mr. Paredes was also the founder and first director of the Regional Center established by the Catholic Bishops of the Northeast to care for Spanish-speaking immigrants. Mr. Paredes served in this capacity under Cardinals O'Connor, Law, Hickey, Bevilacqua, and O'Malley. He is a published editor of scholarly scriptures, and his writings and videos have been shared on the world's most critical Catholic media platforms.

Mr. Paredes has also coordinated relief programs for hurricane victims in the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Haiti, and Honduras. Also, he has collaborated with Caritas Dominicana in the health field and created a co-management to administer the children's hospital Robert Reid Cabral known as La Angelita. For years, he has supported this entity in collaboration with Saint Claire Hospital of the New York Archdiocese and developed plans to build a new children's hospital with Mr. Oscar de la Renta and Cardinal John O'Connor.

Mario is a Founder and Chairman of the Board for Catholic Association of Latino Leaders (CALL) and is today its Chairman Emeritus. He is founder of the national weekly *El Visitante Dominical* in USA and *El Visitante de Puerto Rico*. Mario has served as an Editorial Board Member of *El Diario-La Prensa*, *Catholic New York*, *The Tablet* and *El Pregonero*. He continues his affiliation with

American Bible Society (ABS) as a member of the Board of Trustees after serving for seven years as its Presidential Liaison to Roman Catholic Ministry from which he retired in 2015.

In 2018 he was awarded by the Government of Chile the Order of Merit Gabriela Mistral. He is Treasurer and former Vice President of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc. In 2017, he received a “Doctor of Liberal Arts” degree from The Catholic University of America. Mr. Paredes was created Knight Grand Cross of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem (K.G.C.H.S.) in 2012. He is also board member of the Latin American Catholic Leaders Organization and a member of the Board of Directors of America Media, is a Director and former President of the North American-Chilean Chamber of Commerce of New York, a Director of En Familia Radio and Notes for Growth.

Mr. Paredes earned his Master of Philosophy at the Catholic University of Argentina, his Masters in Religious Education at Loyola University Chicago, and his postgraduate studies at Georgetown University.

Among his many honors and commendations, he received the *Catholic Press Association Award*, the Archbishop Patricio Flores Medal from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB), the *Fr. Joseph Fitzpatrick, SJ Award* from Fordham University, and *The Pierre Toussaint Medallion* by the Archdioceses of New York in New York. The Holy See awarded him the highest decoration for a layman, the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* (“For Church and Pope) an honour awarded by the Pope to members of the clergy and laity for service to the Catholic Church.

DIRECTORS:



E. Cecilia Alatriz a native of Chile has been a fundraiser for the past 30 years. Her career began with Houston Public Television—she then moved to the University of St. Thomas in Houston. She joined Rice University, University of Houston, The Nature Conservancy, the Greater Houston Partnership among other worthy organizations throughout her career. She currently works for Houston Methodist Hospital Foundation, Development Director, Corporate Partnerships. Ms. Alatriz has volunteered her services to many different organizations, such as Medical Bridges, Advisory Board of Children at Risk, and as an avid animal advocate which she also volunteers with several Houston dog rescues. Currently, she sits on the board for Houston PetSet and the Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc. Ms. Alatriz is a Certified Fund-Raising Executive, CFRE, and is a graduate of Universidad Tecnológica Instituto de Capacitación in Santiago, Chile.



Fernando Burgos is a Financial Advisor specializing in US Chile financial and trade business. He joined Banco Unido de Fomento in 1976 later becoming Head of its Foreign Trade Area. He later moved to Banco de Santiago, as Deputy Manager of the International Division. In 1985 he traveled to New York to become the Representative for the Bank, until 1987 when he returned to Chile to join Banco O'Higgins as Head of its International Division. In 1995 joined Banco Osorno as Head of Investment Banking. Due to the sale of this bank to Banco Santander, he moves to Banco Concepción, just acquired and controlled by Mr. Alvaro Saieh. Banco Concepcion later changes name to CorpBanca.

Fernando Burgos became Head of the International Division at CorpBanca in 1996. Was a Member of the Board of CorpBanca Venezuela until its sale in 2006. In 2010, was appointed General Manager of Itaú CorpBanca, New York Branch where he remained until 2017. Mr. Burgos is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy located in Colorado, USA, majoring in Business and Economics. Speaks English, Spanish and Portuguese and can get by reasonably in French.



Marie Solange D'Costa was recently appointed Executive Vice President, Philanthropic Partnerships at Silicon Valley Community Foundation (Mountain View, California). Previously she was Vice-President & Chief Development Officer at The New York Community Trust working with donors and institutions with a broad range of interests to create personalized philanthropic plans that impact our community today, and for generations to come. For more than 25 years, she has helped design campaigns and has worked with donors to create transformational gifts to improve the lives of New Yorkers.

Before joining The Trust in 2017, she worked in fundraising and marketing at the Visiting Nurse Service of New York and at UJA-Federation of New York. She is also a partner of several privately-owned companies in New Jersey, including The National Hotel, Freedom Farm, and American Spirits Roadhouse, as well as managing family business interests in Chile. A former board member of Bronx Works, and trustee and co-vice president of the Delaware Valley Education Foundation, she volunteers with nonprofit groups including the Tinicum Park Polo Club in Pennsylvania. Marie was born in Chile, grew up in Spain and New York, and has two daughters. She is an equestrian and an avid traveler. She earned a B.A. in public relations and advertising as well as an M.A. in international relations both from the City College of New York, CUNY.



Pedro Maino Swinburn, holds a degree in Language and Hispanic Literature from the Pontifical Catholic University in Valparaíso. Since 2007 he has worked as editor, researcher, cultural manager and art curator. He was director of Origo Ediciones (2010-2017) and Ediciones de los Diez. In his professional life he has specialized in Chilean Literature and Visual Arts (painting) of the first half-of the twentieth century. He is the former Executive Secretary of the National Council of Books & Reading of Chile. Currently, he serves as Director at Fundación Bellas Artes of Chile and co-founder of Pintura Chilena.

In 2021, he was invited to join the Honorary Board of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc., and in February 2023 he was invited to join the Executive Board of the Foundation.



Oscar Stephens is a Shareholder at Greenberg Traurig, LLP, where he represents sponsors and lenders in a variety of financing transactions with a focus on Latin America. He has relevant experience in the energy, oil & gas, renewables, banking, financial services, construction, manufacturing, and food & beverage industries. A native of Chile, Oscar holds an LL.M. degree from Northwestern University, Pritzker School of Law, and a law degree from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

With more than twenty years of legal practice. From 2022-2025 he was President of the North American-Chilean Chamber of Commerce in New York, an institution with more than 100 years of existence with a mission of strengthening commercial relations between Chile and the United States.



Norah Valentine is a native of Argentina who has extensive administrative management experience. For many years she was Registrar at Atlantic Union College in Massachusetts as well as in other capacities in Human Services, Finance and Student Services and was a member in several administrative committees. Currently she handles private affairs and administration for various enterprises and businesses. Ms. Valentine has great interest in history and languages, and over the years she has also done some freelance translations. "My love for Chile and for the work of Gabriela Mistral goes back to my youth when we traveled across the Andes from my native Argentina to the southern regions of our sister country."