

2020 Stand Against Racism Content Curator Marty Martinez



Marty Martinez

Chief of Health & Human Services, *City of Boston Mayor's Office*

Marty Martinez serves as the Chief of the Mayor's Office Health and Human Services for the City of Boston, the largest agency within City government. Chief Martinez oversees 10 departments that include the Boston Public Health Commission, the Office of Recovery Services, and Boston Centers for Youth & Families, as well as the Department of Youth Engagement and Employment. Chief Martinez currently leads the City's response to the opioid epidemic as well as the City's overall recovery infrastructure.

Chief Martinez also oversees the expansion of youth development programming that encompasses the City's violence prevention and intervention efforts. Martinez, who is one of the highest-ranking Latinos in Boston city government, has served the Boston and surrounding area for more than 20 years, combining a career in youth development, public health and social justice.

Discussion Content

"Dolores Huerta: The Civil Rights Icon Who Showed Farmworkers 'Sí Se Puede'" **by Maria Godoy**

National Public Radio

Brief intro:

I was raised and developed my grit and desire for social justice for my community by strong Mexican-American women. Being raised by a single mother who committed her life to the cause of Mexican-American activism and justice gave me a deep admiration for the work of Dolores Huerta. This background on her life and the recent documentary about her tells the story of her struggles as a woman, an activist, a mother and most importantly as a fighter for her people, and it's that fight that gives me inspiration every day.

Martinez's Discussion Questions

1. "Sí se puede" was a phrase I learned early on in life. Beyond the literal translation, what does it mean to you and the work of racial equity?
2. Protesting and boycotts have always been a part of fighting for social justice. Why do you think they are so central to most movements for equality?
3. There is a line in this story and the documentary where Dolores' daughter says, "The movement became her most important child." What does that tell you about the work that Dolores took on and the sacrifices that activists, especially women activists, make to make change happen?