

2021 Arizona Housing Forum

BRIAN MICKELSEN HOUSING HERO AWARD Arthur Crozier Partner in Housing

Elisa de la Vara

Elisa de la Vara is being honored for a lifetime of exemplary service, leadership, and commitment to community and housing during her remarkable professional career that has spanned five decades.

Elisa's effectiveness as a leader with style and grace has earned her respect, admiration, high honors and accolades from numerous organizations and the Arizona Governor's Citation for Outstanding Service.

Elisa has found numerous ways to advance housing education addressing complicated issues, such as the mortgage process, and focused on the rights responsibilities of homeownership.



Elisa has served as president of the Hispanic Association of Real Estate Professionals and as chairwoman of the city of Phoenix Housing Commission; on the city of Phoenix Civil Service Board - including one year as chairwoman- and on the Phoenix Industrial Development Authority.

Elisa has recently retired as chief community officer for the Arizona Community Foundation where she oversaw the ACF Affordable Housing Fund. Elisa continues to respond to community needs as a member of the Turning the Corner Steering Committee, focusing on equitable neighborhood change in four Phoenix neighborhoods.