



Board of Directors

Dayanna Torres

Dayanna is currently the Director of the Blackstone Charitable Foundation. By leveraging the resources and intellectual capital of Blackstone, the Blackstone Charitable Foundation creates programs to empower entrepreneurs and an environment where careers can flourish and support the communities in which we live and work.



Prior to her position at the Blackstone Charitable Foundation, Dayanna was a NLC (New Leaders Council) Institute Fellow. With its institute, New Leaders Council equips leaders with the skills to run for office, manage campaigns, create startups and networks of thought leaders. NLC leaders, such as Dayanna, take their activism back into their communities and workplaces to impact progressive change.

Dayanna was formerly the Director of Economic Opportunities & Business Partnerships at JobsFirstNYC. JobsFirstNYC is a non-profit intermediary where she led the strategy for employer partnership, market driven talent pipeline solutions, and coordinated mechanisms for communities to leverage economic development investments for economic opportunities, workforce development, and business development. She has over 10 years of experience in higher education, nonprofit, and the public sector. She recently served as the senior project manager for partnerships and business development at the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) leading projects to spur inclusive economic development and talent pipeline solutions for the city's high growth industry investments, City assets undergoing City Council Land Use Review and company expansion and relocations.

Prior to NYCEDC, she served as the Founding Manager for Single Stop at CUNY John Jay College, a Robin Hood funded program offering first generation college students and their households on campus free tax services, financial literacy, legal aid and customized support services to navigate public systems and access the resources they need to persist toward college completion. Before John Jay College, Dayanna held roles at the New York City Housing Authority where she launched and managed partnerships that connected public housing residents with adult education and training, financial literacy & asset building, and business development, and launched the Goodwill Industries Jobs Plus site and the North Bronx Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability (REES) Zone. Prior to NYCHA, Dayanna served as the first Outreach Recruiter for the Big Brothers Big Sisters Brooklyn & Queens Mentoring Children of Prisoners program where she established partnerships with the NYC Department of Corrections and community organizations to connect youth impacted by incarceration to mentors. Dayanna started her career as a TRIO undergraduate counselor for the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP).

Dayanna is a first-generation New Yorker from the Bronx. She served for over three years as a member of the Bronx Community Board 5, where she also chaired the Youth Committee. Dayanna earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Syracuse University including two Masters Degrees from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.