



Watts College
of Public Service
and Community
Solutions

Arizona State
University

**Inclusive
Design for
Equity and
Access**



Cynthia Aguilar

ASU Alumna | Director of Phoenix Parks and Recreation

"I learned the importance of giving back to the community at an early age, and it is a natural fit for me to stay here (working) for my community." - Cynthia Aguilar, MPA

Cynthia Aguilar is a native of Phoenix, Arizona and the first Latina director for the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department. As a proud Sun Devil, she has earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in public administration from Arizona State University. ASU works closely with Cynthia and the Parks and Recreation Department to provide applied research and volunteer opportunities for students and interns. Many ASU graduates have received career opportunities to work as professional staff in the department.

Cynthia started her 22-year-city career as a part-time employee in the Parks and Recreation Department while attending ASU. Throughout her career, she has had opportunities working for various departments for the city of Phoenix and contributed to the local community. In June 2021, Cynthia was promoted to be the city's parks and recreation director. In her current role, she is responsible for managing the municipal parks system in Phoenix and guiding her team to provide safe and accessible parks and programs for the public. Additionally, Cynthia is an active member of both the National and Arizona Recreation and Parks Associations and was named one of the Valle del Sol's 40 Hispanic Leaders Under 40.

#HispanicHeritageMonth
#AZWattsInfluencer