

Co-Chair Platform Statement
Steven Bender
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Dear Friends/Board Members:

I'm very appreciative of the opportunity to serve as co-chair. My nomination to fill the vacancy of Frank Valdes as co-chair is daunting knowing there is no way that one person can replace Frank. Rather, I will hope to contribute in the areas of my strengths mentioned below, while at the same time pulling together with the other co-chairs to substitute by committee for Frank's boundless energy and invaluable efforts.

My contributions to LatCrit as co-chair will build on three of my strengths: (1) fiscal management, (2) corporate stability, and (3) conference planning, as follows:

(1) ENHANCING OUR FINANCES & RESOURCES:

As the current Treasurer (until replaced at the officer election concurrent with the co-chair vote), I've gained a keen understanding of the LatCrit finances, as well as opportunities for growth. I'm committed to seeking sustained sources of funding for our current projects, particularly the annual conference. This fundraising will involve identifying and nurturing potential partnerships with law schools and others. In my role as co-chair, I will also work closely with the successor Treasurer to continue implementing sound fiscal policies for LatCrit.

(2) CONSOLIDATING CORPORATE STABILITY & SELF-GOVERNANCE:

I intend to protect LatCrit as an institution with my knowledge of sound business practices and representation of businesses as part of my 20-year legal experience, and my involvement with non-profit organizations, specifically my several years as President and Board Chair of Centro LatinoAmericano, one of Oregon's largest and oldest Latina/o social service organizations. By remarkable coincidence, current co-chair Mary Romero and I were board members of this organization during its most difficult times when litigation was threatened and the organization was in turmoil; with our help and that of others we steadied this non-profit that thrives over ten years later. For LatCrit I will ensure its organizational status, protect its intellectual property, update its bylaws, and maintain and expand its website.

(3) ENSURING CONTINUED SUCCESS OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE PLANNING:

As the primary conference planner for LatCrit VII held in Portland, Oregon, I benefited from two years of involvement in helping to plan earlier conferences, and from participation in subsequent conference planning. I strongly support the continuation of the annual conference and the annual symposium as ways to build LatCrit community while providing opportunities for scholarly cultivation and publication vital for our tenure-track teachers. I intend to

participate in planning the LatCrit X conference in Puerto Rico, as well as annual conferences in the coming years. I attended the first LatCrit gathering in Dorado, Puerto Rico in October, 1994, and will profit from my sustained involvement with LatCrit and attendance at every annual conference held by LatCrit. In particular, I feel it important for LatCrit X to return in its substantive panel discussions to some of the cleavages that LatCrit has experienced and overcome through the years, such as the Black-White paradigm, and the role of religion in Latina/o and race dialogues. In addition to the annual LatCrit conference symposium publications and our new Clave journal, I will pursue appropriate publication opportunities for LatCrit, including on-line publications, a LatCrit book, and a free-standing themed symposium in a prestigious journal.

Finally, I intend to develop the LatCrit community by nurturing and expanding our membership with those who value our communal goals.

I appreciate your consideration for the position of co-chair of an organization that deserves the best of our efforts, attention, and love.

Steven Bender