

Agents of Change

Activist Hilary Stern

Founder and Executive Director,
Casa Latina, 1994-2016



"What I'm most proud of is lifting up the voices of a group of people who had no voice in Seattle before. Immigrant day laborers were seen from the outside as objects, as a public nuisance. We created an organization where they were able to gain a voice, figure out how the system works, and learn how to advocate for themselves. The biggest thing is helping people share their perspective—not just the perspective of somebody like me representing them, but their own perspective—to bring about change and make things better for their community."

Born in Los Angeles, Hilary Stern spent her early years in Maryland before her family moved to Seattle when she was seven years old. The daughter of a University of Washington physics professor, she spent formative years in Israel as a teenager and Nicaragua after college, and has worked her entire adult life to make a difference for underprivileged and undocumented immigrants in Seattle. Since she founded Casa Latina in 1994, the vibrant worker rights organization has helped thousands of day laborers find work, learn English, and fight for their rights, bringing them off the streets and into a three-building campus in Seattle's Central District. In addition to directly serving the Latino community in King County, Casa Latina has also had national impact, providing programs, curricula and operations models for day worker centers throughout the country.



Growing up; protesting immigration policy; spa day at Casa Latina.

Washington State
**JEWISH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

50

1968 ▶ 2018

Washington State

**JEWISH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**