

# Promoting Financial Justice for Immigrant New Yorkers



NEDAP's mission is to promote community economic justice, and to eliminate discriminatory economic practices that harm communities and perpetuate inequality and poverty.

Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project  
73 Spring Street, Suite 506, New York, NY 10012  
[www.nedap.org](http://www.nedap.org)

**Wednesday, February 8, 2006**  
**8:30 am - 12:30 pm**

*Presented by NEDAP and the  
NYC Immigrant Financial Justice Network*

## NYC Immigrant Financial Justice Network Members

- ☞ ACCION New York
- ☞ Bethex Federal Credit Union
- ☞ Citizens for NYC
- ☞ Credit Where Credit Is Due
- ☞ Erasmus Neighborhood Federation
- ☞ Fifth Avenue Committee
- ☞ Forest Hills Community House
- ☞ Institute for Puerto Rican & Hispanic Elderly
- ☞ Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union
- ☞ Mid-Bronx Senior Citizens Council
- ☞ MFY Legal Services
- ☞ Nat'l Federation of Community Development Credit Unions
- ☞ Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project
- ☞ New Immigrant Community Empowerment
- ☞ The New York Immigration Coalition
- ☞ New York City Financial Network Action Consortium
- ☞ Project Enterprise
- ☞ Sanctuary for Families
- ☞ Talking Democracy Media, Inc.
- ☞ Urban Justice Center Community Development Project

*(as of Feb. 2006)*

## NOTES:

## Acknowledgements

NEDAP and the NYC Immigrant Financial Justice Network would like to thank Alvin Starks and the Open Society Institute for generously hosting today's forum.

### Forum Planning Team:

Deyanira Del Rio

Kihani Brea

Liliane Loya

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Florence Juillard

Lydia Sierra

Meagan Van Harte

### For more information...

Presentations, maps and other materials presented today will be available on NEDAP's website: [www.nedap.org](http://www.nedap.org). The conference report and video will be available in spring 2006.

For more information about the NYC Immigrant Financial Justice Network, please visit [www.nedap.org](http://www.nedap.org).

## Promoting Financial Justice for Immigrant New Yorkers

### Agenda

- 8:30-9 am Breakfast
- 9-9:15 am **Welcome**  
*Sarah Ludwig, NEDAP*
- 9:15-10:30 am **Panel 1: Financial Justice Issues Facing Immigrant Communities**  
*Deyanira Del Rio, NEDAP/Immigrant Fin. Justice Network*  
*Charu Chandrasekhar, Chhaya CDC*  
*Mayra Peters-Quintero, NYU Immigrant Rights Clinic*
- 10:30-12:00 am **Panel 2: Community Responses**  
*Liliane Loya, NYC Financial Network Action Consortium*  
*Andres Urribe, Forest Hills Community House*  
*Francisca Martinez, Union de la Comunidad Latina*  
*Michelle Matos, Fifth Avenue Committee*  
*Saru Jayaraman, Restaurant Opportunities Center of NY*
- 12-12:30 pm **Strategy Session**  
*Facilitator: Mark Winston Griffith, NEDAP*

## Speaker Bios

**Charu A. Chandrasekhar** serves on the board of directors of Chhaya Community Development Corporation, which addresses the housing, community and economic development needs of South Asian Americans and other immigrant communities regardless of class, caste, country of origin or religious affiliation. Charu is a staff attorney fellow at the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project (ACLU-RFP) in NYC.

**Deyanira Del Rio** directs the NYC Immigrant Financial Justice Project at NEDAP, where she has worked since 2000. Dey was previously a program officer at the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions. She is board president of the Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union and is currently completing a Charles Revson Fellowship at Columbia University.

**Mayra Peters-Quintero** co-teaches the Immigrant Rights Clinic at NYU School of Law, focusing on low-wage and immigrant labor and social justice lawyering with community-based organizations. She previously worked at the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund as a Skadden Fellow and staff attorney. She clerked for the Hon. Sterling Johnson Jr. and at the Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center in San Francisco.

**Liliane Loya** joined the NYC Financial Network Action Consortium (NYCfNAC) as the Director of Outreach and Education in Sept. 2003. She is responsible for implementing the *Initiative for Outreach to the Unbanked* (IOU), which focuses on building the financial skills of immigrant New Yorkers. Before joining NYCfNAC, Liliane worked for a human rights organization based in Mexico City where she was responsible for outreach and advocacy on immigrants' rights issues.

**Francisca Martinez** is a member of La Union de la Comunidad Latina (UCL). She was born in Michoacan, Mexico and has lived in the U.S. for the past 10 years. Francisca became a UCL member after attending monthly legal clinics at St. Agatha's Church. Soon after, she began holding house meetings in her apartment and led UCL with the thought that "we need to organize ourselves. Without unity, we will gain nothing." Francisca, one of UCL's strongest leaders, is also a member of the PTA at her daughter's school.

**Saru Jayaraman** co-founded, with workers from Windows on the World, the Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York, an immigrant workers' center focused on organizing restaurant workers. Saru was previously an Attorney/Organizer at the Workplace Project where she created The Alliance for Justice, a law and organizing program. She is professor of political science and labor law at Bklyn College, Queens College and NYU, and recently published *The New Urban Immigrant Workforce*.

**Michelle Matos** is the Economic Justice Organizer at Fifth Avenue Committee in Brooklyn, NY. Much of her current work focuses on developing the leadership of immigrant workers and leading the development of La Union de la Comunidad Latina, FAC's current effort to organize new immigrants around economic justice.

**Andres Uribe** is from Medellin, Colombia, and has lived in New York for ten years. He became involved with the Forest Hills Community House in January 2005 around a cooperative business project that became a credit union. He is married and has a daughter who is one-and-a-half years old.