

## AT A GLANCE

### History & Mission:

Founded in March 2019, The Southwest Collective is a collection of local volunteers & nonprofit groups dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Midway area.

### Achievements:

- Assisted in the fight to keep Sor Juana Elementary's Classical program from being moved out of the neighborhood
- Established resources and bootcamp classes for small businesses
- Created Freebies for Families, a safe space for parents to trade and donate children's clothing & items

### Current Goals:

- Establish a chamber of commerce for the Midway area
- Demand improvements and upgrades for Curie Park
- Fight for a community center
- Improve voter turnout by registering youth on high school campuses

### Inquiries:

Jaime Groth Searle, President & Founder  
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## GET IN TOUCH

 [swcollective.org](http://swcollective.org)  
 [info@swcollective.org](mailto:info@swcollective.org)

 [@theswcollective](https://www.facebook.com/theswcollective)  
 [@swcollectivechi](https://www.instagram.com/swcollectivechi)



THE  
SOUTHWEST  
COLLECTIVE

## MISSION

The Southwest Collective is an organization that moves past exclusionary politics to focus on the many needs of our diverse population.

Our mission is simple: we break down barriers—social, political, linguistic, economic—and build up communities through tailored communication and outreach.

We connect victims of crimes with CAPS officers in settings that feel safer to them. We make sure low-income families have access to necessary resources. We advocate for small and local business owners who are not heard by those in power locally.

Because divisiveness and fear are the opposites (and opponents) of progress.

THE  
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COLLECTIVE



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



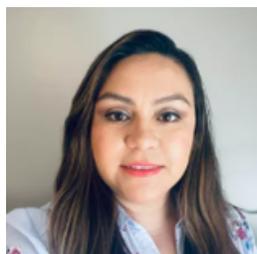
Jaime Groth Searle  
President



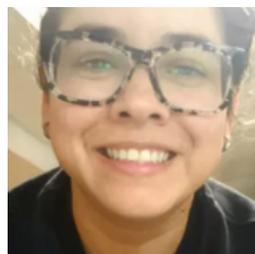
Enrique Mendoza  
Vice President



Adriana Vargas  
Freebies Lead



Mayra Avila  
SW Chi Chamber



Ari Favela  
Operations



Michelle Valdez  
Civic Engagement



Onintze Contreras  
Green Spaces Lead

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# STEWARDS, ADVISORS & PARTNERS



Nicole White, RN  
Healthcare Equity



José Luis Torrez  
Grantwriting & Policy



Rolando Favela,  
Green Spaces



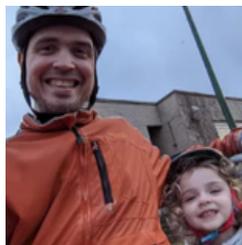
Jocelyn Aguilera,  
Healthy Chicago Equity Zone  
PHA Team Lead



David Ruiz  
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion



Diane Ruiz,  
Chief Financial Officer



Dixon Galvez-Searle  
Cycling Advocate



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COLLECTIVE

## HOW WE WORK + ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Southwest Collective consists of four current breakout groups that focus on specific issues:

- Small Business Support
- Parenting Connections
- Civic Engagement
- Green Spaces
- Healthcare & Food Equity

Each group has a point person from our Board of Directors (or, alternatively, one of our stewards/advisors) that assumes leadership duties and provides a monthly progress update to the full Collective.

The Collective meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 8pm, virtually.

At this monthly meeting, we provide updates by group, vote on new business and address any new concerns or initiatives.

We also use this time to determine where we should apply our "people power" to support a grassroots movement.

## FAQ

### **Who can get involved?**

Anyone who lives, works or owns property in the Midway area, and wants to see improvements.

### **Is this group affiliated with any political org?**

No. We are nonpartisan. While we may work with current politicians, candidates or organizations like IPOs on a community issue, we do not endorse anyone or allow solicitation at our meetings.

### **How long has this group been established?**

We were established in March 2019, and incorporated in August of the same year.

### **Is there a board?**

Yes. There is a 7 person board that meets monthly, immediately ahead of the general meeting.

### **Is the group bilingual?**

Yes. Several members are bilingual in English/Spanish, and are happy to help translate.

### **Are there membership fees or donations required?**

Right now, no, as we're still starting up. Currently, the board covers any costs out of their own pockets, as an investment in the community. However, you can support us with a donation via our website, [swcollective.org](http://swcollective.org).