

# Felix A. Urrutia Jr.

## Biography

Felix Urrutia has 19 years of community and youth development experience in the non-profit and government sectors. In his non-profit work, Felix administered public arts grants, organized minority and women-owned businesses, and directed community centers for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the Police Athletic League in Queens and the Bronx respectively. In city government, where Felix was named the Department of Sanitation's Civilian of the Year in 1993, he designed and implemented outreach strategies to educate New Yorkers about recycling and environmental responsibility. Felix also managed a federal crime prevention program for the Bronx District Attorney where he started up a truancy prevention center and received accreditation training from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.

The son of working class parents who moved from Puerto Rico to the Lower East Side of Manhattan in the 1950's to start a family; Felix understands life in the city and the pursuit of the American dream. After about 15 years of living in tenement apartments and working their way from blue to white-collar jobs, Felix's parents moved the family of five to Stuyvesant Town in the East Village where they began a middle class life.

Felix attended Catholic grammar and high schools before enrolling at Elizabeth Seton College, then New York Institute of Technology, and finally Empire State College to complete a bachelor's degree in Community and Human Services. He later attended Hunter College and completed a master's degree in Urban Affairs and was awarded the James Felt Fellowship Award for academic excellence and professional promise. In 1999, Felix completed the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Executive Management Training Program in Atlanta, Georgia.

Felix taught graduate level non-profit management at Hunter College for 8 years and community recreation and facility management at Lehman College for two years. He also lectured on the topic of mission and vision at the 2006 New York State Recreation and Park Society Conference. Felix's areas of expertise include planning, training, implementation, supervision, and evaluation of start-up, re-organization and turnaround projects. He considers himself a student and teacher of the non-profit and government sectors with particular interest in community and youth development work.

Having served as executive director of the Police Athletic League since 2006, Felix continues his commitment to applying all that he has learned and experienced towards the improvement and evolution of the agency, its mission, and services. Felix credits his success on his upbringing, love from family, support from colleagues, encouragement from friends, and his desire to make the world a better place, especially for kids.