

DR. LAURA MURILLO

PRESIDENT & CEO, HOUSTON HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FOUNDING PRESIDENT & CEO, GREATER HOUSTON HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

FOUNDING EXECUTIVE PRODUCER/HOST & NATIONAL PODCASTER

CBS - KHOU 11, AUDACY, UNIVISION, TELEVISION & RADIO (3.3 MILLION AUDIENCE REACH)

PUBLISHED AUTHOR, #1 INTERNATIONAL BEST-SELLER (US, Canada, Australia)

LEAD IN LIFE, PEOPLE. PASSION. PERSISTENCE.



In 2007, Dr. Laura Murillo was named President and CEO of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Under her leadership, the Chamber has set unprecedented records in membership and revenue, becoming one of the most influential Chambers in the nation. Just two years after taking the helm, Murillo, the Board of Directors, and dedicated staff won the National and Regional Hispanic Chamber of the Year Award from the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Throughout her tenure the Chamber has continued to receive recognition—including Marketer of the Year by the American Marketing Association three-times—a clear testament to her leadership. Dr. Murillo is the first and only Houstonian to be appointed to the Washington, DC Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System Community Advisory Council (CAC), which has national public policy implications. In 2025, she was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Texas Business Hall of Fame and was voted as Top 25 Business/Civic Leaders by the Center for Houston’s Future.

Dr. Murillo is the Founding President and CEO of the Greater Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation. During her tenure, the Emerging Leaders Institute was established and has celebrated over four hundred graduates. She is the Founding Executive Producer/Host of the Chamber’s Radio and Television Programs on CBS - KHOU 11, Audacy, Univision (with a cumulative audience reach of 3.3 million). She is also a commentator on national media outlets and national podcaster and is a #1 International Best-Selling Author in the US, Canada and Australia.

She holds a B.A., a Master’s Degree, and a Doctorate from the University of Houston, where she served as an Executive for fifteen years and became the youngest Director in UH history. The University of Houston bestowed its highest honor, the President’s Medallion, to the Chamber and Dr. Murillo. The University of Houston houses Dr. Murillo’s personal and professional archives. Prior to her current role, she served as an Executive at Memorial Hermann- Texas Medical Center for seven years and served on the CEO’s Executive Committee, where she was accountable for a \$300 million budget, 500+ employees, and ten departments.

In 2021 & 2022, Dr. Murillo was appointed to two Corporate Boards which include Prosperity Bancshares Inc., a \$37 Billion+ regional financial holding company in Texas and Oklahoma, and The Plaza Group, a \$650 Million+, privately held global petrochemical firm. In 2021, she was admitted into the Harvard University Women on Corporate Boards Executive Program (selected among women from across the globe). She was named as a Corporate Director Coach for 50/50 Women on Boards - Houston.

In 2023, Dr. Murillo became the first and only Hispanic featured on the cover of the Houston Business Journal and the Houston Chronicle’s Texas Inc. Magazine. In 2022, the Houston Business Journal awarded her with the HBJ Diversity in Business Lifetime Achievement Award and the Outstanding Diversity Champion. She was named the “2021 Global Leader of Influence Honoree” by the World Affairs Council and received the “Women of Substance Award”. She was named *Texas CEO Magazine’s* “Top 30 Texas CEOs” during COVID-19 for exceptional leadership in 2020 and was featured in *Global Influence Magazine’s* “Championing the Success of Women in the Workplace.” In 2018, she was named *Houston Business Journal’s* “Most Admired CEO” and “Texas 100 People to Watch in 2022 List,” “Distinguished Alumni Award” by the University of Houston, and “Mother of the Year” by the Houston Latin American Philharmonic. She has received many state, national, and international honors including being named among the “Most Powerful & Influential Women in Texas” and the “Top Latino Leader Award” by the National Diversity Council, 2017 “Power 25 Houston Award” by Walker’s Legacy, “Woman of the Year” by *Success Magazine*, CKW LUXE “Top 20 Impact Maker Honoree,” the “Outstanding Community Service Award” by the Hispanic Bar Association of Houston, “2019 Civil Liberties & Justice Award,” the “Global Impact Award” by Global Seven, the “International Leadership Award” by Texas Women’s Empowerment Foundation, and the “Women of Substance Award.” The Social Book, named her as the “2023 Houston Treasure.”

Dr. Murillo was featured in the *Houston Chronicle’s* 2016 “Women Who Run Houston” and among the “10 Houston Latinos Who Are Making A Difference” articles. She was named Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America, Inc., “Women of Distinction,” and was the “Outstanding Service Honoree” by the Mexican-American Bar Association of Texas Foundation. The National MBA Organization honored her with the “Excellence Award” and D-mars.com named her as an “Icon Honoree.” She was also named “Top 10 Who’s Who in Business” and has been named among the “Top 5 C-Suite CEOs” by the *Houston Business Journal*. In 2014, she was honored with the “Hispanic Leadership Award” by the National Football League (NFL), 2024 Houston Humanitarian Award Honoree and 2024 Texas Children’s Champion Honoree. She is also the recipient of the 2024 International Trade Center for the Minority Business Impact Award.

The Ohtli Award—the highest honor bestowed by the Mexican government to a Mexican American—was awarded to Dr. Murillo for her advocacy and civic leadership in 2016. She has attended several U.S. Presidential Inaugurations, and has joined several Houston Mayors on international business delegations to Brazil, Turkey, China, Mexico, Cuba, Argentina, Peru, Chile, and other countries.

Additionally, she served on the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas Business and Community Advisory Council, the Houston BBVA Board of Directors, the University of Houston Board of Advisors, the University of Houston College of Medicine Committee, the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Board of Visitors, Port Houston’s (The International Port of Texas) Business Equity Founding Advisory Council, the Texas Southern University Chairman and President’s Council, the Mayor’s Hispanic Advisory Board, Avangard Board, Mayor’s Hire Houston Board, Co-Chair for the Harris County International Committee, the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority Executive Committee, the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority Foundation-Secretary, the 2026 FIFA World Cup Houston Bid Executive Committee, the Houston Super Bowl Committee, the Houston Symphony Advisory Board, the Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau Board, the Kinder Institute’s Kinder Houston Area Survey Advisory Board, the Friends of the American Latino Museum Committee, St. John’s School Audit & Finance Committee, the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition’s Advisory Committee, the Houston Stronger Coalition, the Mayor’s Task Force on Policing Reform, Rice Management Company, Workforce Development, and CenterPoint’s Customer Advisory Council. She also serves on the METRO Senior Advisory Committee, and the Harris County Women’s Commission.

The youngest of nine children, Dr. Murillo was born to Mexican immigrant parents and was raised in Houston’s East End/Magnolia, where she began working at age ten at her family’s restaurant. She is the single mother of Marisa and Mia, both honors graduates of St. John’s School in River Oaks. Marisa earned a Mechanical Engineering degree from Columbia University, Ivy League and worked at an Artificial Intelligence company as an Astrophysics Researcher. Currently, she is earning her Master’s and Ph.D. in Planetary Science as a part of her work for NASA’s Artemis V. Mia is an honors graduate of Georgetown University in Washington DC (Government major) and was an Advance Associate at The White House. Currently, she is the Deputy Lead for Melinda Gates, America’s wealthiest woman. Mia is also pursuing a law degree and is a marathon runner.