

Julian Posada

Executive Director

Julian is founder and Executive Director of LiftUp Communities, the non-profit arm of the LiftUp low-wage employment social enterprise platform. He is also founder and President of LiftUp Enterprises, the platform's for-profit holding company that focuses on both economic and social outcomes of low-income individuals as well as that further accelerates stability and mobility to the social fabric of employees.

An operationally-focused serial entrepreneur with over 25 years of experience creating and executing strategies to maximize enterprise value in both the private and social impact sectors, Julian previously served as COO of The Resurrection Project (TRP) where he focused on its core operations including Marketing, Community Ownership, IT, and Property Management. He was also the first Hispanic to serve as President and CEO of the Chicago Fire Soccer Club where he was responsible for the day-to-day operations while serving as the top Fire business executive leading the strategic planning and overall management of the club. Julian has worked in media in senior level roles at The Tribune Company and Hoy Newspaper, The Chicago Sun Times and Chicago Reader, as well as his own start-up, Café Media. In all these roles he led P&L, management and marketing responsibilities.

Julian has served on numerous not-for-profit boards throughout his career. Currently, he sits on the boards of Better Business Bureau, Chicago Public Media (Chicago SunTimes/WBEZ), HOPE Chicago, Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC), and Sprague Foundation. Additionally he serves on multiple leadership committees including the We Rise Together Coalition housed at the Chicago Community Trust and Crain's Forum Advisory Board to name a few.

Julian earned an MBA from Northwestern University J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management and a BA from Michigan State University. He has received several awards and recognitions for his business achievements and community service including being a Youn Impact Scholar with Northwestern Kellogg, McCormick Tribune Media Fellow, winner of Presstime's 20 under 40, and Streewise's 20 Most Inspiring Chicagoans.

Julian's personal mission is to produce a combined laser-focused effort that optimizes both its social outputs as well as its business performance to create inspiration and aspiration for Chicago's next generation, and aggressively share our learning across sectors as we grow and scale. In this, he seeks to disrupt how a non-profit can work in between the for-profit and nonprofit ecosystems. He credits his hard-working Colombian-immigrant parents for profoundly influencing his guiding principles.