



Selina Barajas is a fourth generation Tucsonian, urban planner, creative entrepreneur and democratic candidate for Tucson City Council representing Ward 5. She centers her work on community-driven development, ensuring Tucson neighborhoods have a voice in shaping the future of Tucson. She focuses on strengthening her community by celebrating Tucson's heritage, improving the public atmosphere of Tucson, allowing for housing to be more accessible and affordable, and even creating her own small business. Selina is very involved with providing justice for the lack of investment in environmental justice for "underserved communities". Therefore, she has involved herself as a Program manager for Mountain Mamas, an organization that helps protect impacts of air, water, and public lands by encouraging the voices of the mothers and families that are impacted by environmental justice to be heard.

Hispanic Heritage month for Selina is all about giving recognition to leaders, parents, and educators that have impacted the communities today, while also recognizing the generations of people who have shaped the communities into what they are today. This inspired her to create and be a co-owner of Luna y Sol Cafe in South Tucson. The name is inspired by her two daughters, Sofia Luna and Mia Sol, who have motivated her to create a community that is safe, inclusive and provides opportunities for them and many others. Her goal for Luna y Sol Cafe is to bring together the community of South Tucson and create spaces for locals to speak on promoting sustainability and environmental education for the community. For Selina, creating an inviting, safe space for the community of South Tucson is very important for her because, she states, "Seeing neighbors come together to transform an underused space into something meaningful for everyone and reminds me why this work matters".

When asked what advice she would give young Latinx leaders who want to make a difference today she said, "Stay rooted in your story and your community. You don't need permission to lead; start where you are, with what you have. Listen deeply, collaborate generously, and never lose sight of who you're doing it for. Our voices are powerful, and when we come together, we can build the future we deserve".