

Tonia Chao Hsieh

Tonia Chao Hsieh, Ph.D., has been an advocate for equity and social justice through education and media for nearly 30 years. She is the co-founder of KarMa Pictures, an independent multi-media production company whose mission is to create stereotype-shattering films and to remember lives well-lived. She began working in this area in the early 80's as a Business Consultant with ASIAN Inc, just as the San Francisco Human Rights Commission made it a priority to assist women and minority-owned businesses secure contracts with various public agencies.

Her experience in education includes her role as Undergraduate Dean in the College of Environmental Design at the University of California, as the Facilities Planner and Facilities Manager at Stanford University's School of Medicine, and her board experience at various independent schools around the San Francisco Bay Area. Tonia was the Board Co-Chair for The College Preparatory School in Oakland, where she also served as Chair of the Governance and Trustees' Diversity committees. She served on the Board of the Partners Program, an academic bridge program for Oakland Unified middle schoolers who qualify for free or reduced lunch. She is a founding board member of the Roses in Concrete charter school project. A long-time Oakland resident, she also served as a board member of the Hillcrest Estates Improvement Association.

Tonia holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a Master of Architecture and a Ph.D. in Architecture from the University of California – Berkeley, where she received a Distinguished Teaching Award.