



SONOMA CONNECT | SONOMA UNIDOS

Message from our former Director, Adriana Arrizon

Dear Sonoma Connect | Sonoma Unidos Partners,

It's time for me to say good-bye and thank you for the past 15 months of learning and growing together. As I transition into a new chapter of my professional life, I can't say enough about how grateful and inspired I've felt by each community partner that shared their time with me and showed up to meetings to build deeper relationships with me and with each other. Thank you. I also want to give a special thanks to members of the SC|SU [Community Leadership Board](#), for your counsel, endless support, and trust. Thank you. And most importantly, I want to thank the most amazing team of women I have worked with Saskia Garcia, Dana Swilley, Mariana Raschke, and Cathy Passmore. Thank you for creating and holding spaces to be vulnerable and come as our authentic selves into this work. That being said, I also want to acknowledge that change can be hard, for everyone. Leadership transitions are difficult, yet they can also be exciting opportunities to recalibrate work through the lens of the new leader's skills and experience.

My transition creates an exciting opportunity for the new generation of leaders that have tremendous experience supporting a successful start-up and initiative, unsung heroes Saskia, Dana, Mariana, and Cathy who bring competencies that can strengthen SC|SU's organizational systems and programs and lead to new and different areas of innovation. Most importantly, Saskia, as SC|SU's new Interim Director, brings heart, integrity, and commitment into this work. Saskia is a truly visionary and fearless leader that will lead SC|SU into the next level of transformational change. I invite you to take part in this change with me, and elevate the work spearheaded by SC|SU partners and to hold and support SC|SU's new leadership just like you held and supported me.

In the past 15 months, SC|SU accomplished a lot, from courageously leaning into uncomfortable conversations, to aligning goals and elevating the importance of communities reclaiming their power. We have strengthened partnerships to truly build trust. Most importantly, we are also transforming ourselves, which in turn will create ripples that will transform the communities, organizations, and systems we lead. Our work with SC|SU is just the tip of the iceberg. And it is the tip of this iceberg that will continue to guide my work in partnership with the community, with you, in my new role as Executive Director for Health Action Together, because the way to transformation is together.

With gratitude & in partnership,

Adriana