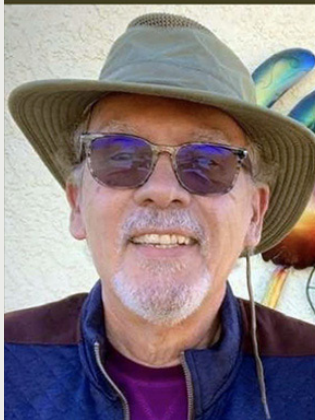


# THE PEOPLE OF BCA



## PROFILE:

### JOSE A. LOPEZ, BCA BOARD MEMBER

Interview by Dar Goatley

#### **How did you come to be on the Board of BCA?**

I sought out the opportunity. I moved to Tubac in 2019 and had attended a BCA Mexican History Class and was impressed with the perspective that Alex La Pierre, BCA Program Director, presented in the class. I had also attended the BCA Interns presentation.

#### **What was it about the mission of BCA inspired your interest?**

I appreciate that the BCA philosophy is to ease people into the Mexican culture. They learn about the culture via experiencing the food and music and history of Mexico. I think it is also important to help Americans understand the issues that Mexican citizens face.

#### **What life experiences do you bring to BCA?**

I have had a career teaching educational leadership at California State University. Prior to that I was a public school teacher, a principal and a superintendent. I also have experience being on other boards and reporting to boards. I was raised and lived for many years in Laredo, Texas, a border town. I have a Mexican heritage and a personal interest in advancing knowledge of the Mexican culture.

#### **How do you think that BCA contributes to advancing humanitarian efforts in Mexico?**

BCA promotes social investment in Mexico, by sharing knowledge and helping people in Mexico help themselves. There is a huge discrepancy in the poverty and health care from Nogales, Mexico to just over the border in Nogales, Arizona and beyond. I think that helping people help themselves is a valuable pursuit.

#### **How would you like to see BCA move into the future?**

I think that it is very important for BCA to explicitly acknowledge that racism is an integral part of US - Mexican history and that racism and oppression of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans persists. While it is wonderful that the communities of Tubac and Green Valley enjoy the culture of Mexico, many have limited understanding as to the life of those in Mexico or even of Mexican-Americans. I hope that BCA can help to advance an understanding of racism as it relates to those with a Mexican heritage.