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**Up Next Chicago brings together emerging leaders from across the country**

**CHICAGO-** City Clerk Anna Valencia and a host committee of diverse women were joined by emerging government, business and community leaders from across the country to exchange ideas for facing our country's biggest challenges. Those hosts included Chicago Urban League President and CEO Karen Freeman-Wilson, U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth, Latino Policy Forum President and CEO Sylvia Puente, Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement CEO Patricia Mota, Business Leadership Council CEO Arielle Johnson, Managing Director at Ariel Alternatives Aarti Kotak and Brave Space Alliance CEO Channyn Lynne Parker.

"As leaders from across the country gathered in Chicago, we felt it was the perfect time to talk about our collective vision for the future and empower emerging leaders to share their thoughts," Valencia said. "It's important that we take advantage of opportunities to learn from one another and share perspectives, challenges and goals for moving our respective communities forward together."

The event was held at Chicago's Taste 222 and featured speakers like National Urban League President and CEO Marc Morial, Founder and CEO of KAIROS Democracy Project Michael Blake, Mayor of Cincinnati Aftab Pureval and San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg.

The event was ran in a soapbox structure where each speaker got up to three minutes to speak on a topic of their choosing. Attendees heard about issues from the Latino wage gap to housing to fair wages.

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