



**María A. Fernández, Ed.M.**

Policy and Program Senior Manager

María joined the JGC as co-founder and Director of Kennedy Middle School's Youth Engaged in Leadership and Learning Project (YELL) from 2000-2002. She then moved to support the development of the Academy for Community Schools Development initiative (ACSD) as a liaison to the Redwood City schools. Before arriving at the JGC, she served as a Community Developer with the Redwood City Family Centers at Hoover School and prior to that, was involved with various Stanford-affiliated youth and education programs. A graduate of Stanford and Harvard Universities, María has been a Redwood City resident for the past 8 years. In her spare time, she provides facilitation, community building, and interpretation services to Bay Area community groups. She serves on the Community Foundation of Silicon Valley's FAITHS initiative advisory board as well as the Board of Directors for Samaritan House, a social service agency for children, families and residents in San Mateo County.