



# Maya Castillo

Maya speaks at SEIU Convention 2012

Maya Castillo was elected President of SEIU AZ Local 48 on September 27, 2012. Maya works for the Pima County Public Library system where she concentrates on providing and expanding library and information services to all communities. She focuses on programming for children and teens and services to the Spanish speaking and refugee community.

Maya was one of the first hundred members of SEIU to join in Pima County and advised organizers on how to reach library employees. She was appointed to the vacant seat of President of the Pima Chapter in the spring of 2010 and won an election for the office later that year. She has served on Pima County's Meet and Confer committee for two years, most recently serving as SEIU's chief spokesperson and Co-Chair of the committee. She is currently working to obtain a \$1.5 million grant for employee wellness in Pima County and serves on the Pima County Health Insurance Benefits & Wellness Advisory Committee. Maya led her chapter to wins in health insurance and, most recently, a 1% pay increase to cover the cost of the increased retirement contribution that was later struck down by the courts. She is also very proud of the work she did in advocating for the employees of SEIU AZ's newest chapter, PCOA For All, as they negotiated their first contract, speaking in front of the Pima County Board of Supervisors, community allies and the Pima Board of Health about home care workers getting a fair contract.

Additionally, Maya served on the transitional Leadership Board of our Local and was instrumental in the creation of a Strategic Planning Team for the Pima Chapter. Maya proudly represented Local 48 when asked to speak at the 25<sup>th</sup> SEIU International Convention in Denver in May 2012.

She has been acknowledged for her community influence and work with SEIU by the Pima County/Tucson Women's Commission and by the Arizona Daily Star's [40 Under 40 Class of 2011](http://arizonadailystar.az.newsmemory.com/special.php?date=20111009) (<http://arizonadailystar.az.newsmemory.com/special.php?date=20111009> , see page 6). She is also being honored with a Pima County Community Service award for her positive efforts in making "the entire region a better place to live and raise a family."

She is an open and honest advocate for employee rights and working families and believes that in order to thrive we must engage our members through both worksite organizing and community service and be a reliable partner for our allies throughout Arizona. Maya would improve on our communications structure, our outreach to members, staff training and our union's political program statewide. She would also ensure that there is always a plan in place for all member groups, whether they are employed by a county, municipality, the State of Arizona or a private company.

Maya is public about her struggles with lupus and created a digital story, "What the water gave me," to share her story and help others give voice to their stories. "[What the water gave me](#)" has been shown in various venues including the BHLife Film Festival in Los Angeles, CA and the Arizona International Film Festival in Tucson. She is excited to use her skills in this arena to show Arizonans the truth about the people who serve them.

A native Arizonan, Maya is a proud mother to two young girls and will continue her advocacy to ensure safety, good health and excellent educational opportunities for them and for all children in Arizona.