

Mark A. Puente is associate professor and associate dean for Organizational Development, Diversity, and Inclusion at the Purdue University Libraries and School of Information Studies. He began this role in August of 2020 after having served for over 11 years as the director of Diversity and Leadership Programs at the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). At Purdue, Puente is leading the formation and implementation of an organization development strategy designed through an equity lens. He has a broad range and depth of experience designing and managing programs focused on diversity recruitment and retention within libraries and archives, assessing and improving organizational climate, leadership development, racial equity, and numerous other topics. He has served on the faculty or on advisory groups to numerous leadership development programs such as the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries' Leadership Fellows Program, the Leading Change Institute, ARL's Leadership and Career Development Program (LCDP), and the ARL Leadership Fellows Program. A frequent clinician, speaker, facilitator, and writer, Puente has worked extensively with organizations and institutions across the United States and Canada and has presented internationally.

He transitioned into a career in librarianship after teaching private voice lessons on a secondary level for 13 years in his home town of San Antonio, Texas. Music remains his avocation and passion.

Puente is a graduate of the Knowledge River Program at the University of Arizona's iSchool and a former American Library Association (ALA) Spectrum Scholar. He has worked at a number of academic libraries including the University of Arizona; the University of North Texas; the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.