

Crystal Garcia was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York where she still resides and is of Puerto Rican and Dominican descent.

In 2007, Crystal was hired by District Council 9 as a bookkeeper. A year later she decided to go back to school and pursue a degree in early childhood education, attending The City College of New York part time during the evenings. However, the more she learned about the union during her work with D.C. 9, she decided to switch her major to labor studies. As a single mother, working full time and going to school proved to be quite a challenge, but she persisted.

Crystal made it her mission to learn as much as she could in the workplace, mastering various administrative roles within DC 9 and was promoted to Executive Assistant to the Business Manager/ Secretary Treasurer in 2014. Two years later, Crystal graduated magna cum laude from The City College of New York, Class of 2016. By 2017, Crystal had applied and was accepted into The Murphy Institute at the CUNY School of Professional Studies, now The CUNY School of Labor & Urban Studies where she began to pursue her master's degree in Labor Studies.

The General Vice President of the Eastern Region at the time had the opportunity to work with Crystal

throughout the years and saw her potential. When he learned she was pursuing her Masters degree, he encouraged the BM/ST to consider giving her an opportunity to do more at District Council 9. In September of 2019, Crystal was appointed to her current role as Director of Community Affairs, becoming the first woman director at District Council 9. In June of 2020 amidst the global Covid 19 crisis, Crystal completed her masters' degree in Labor Studies, making her a part of the 4.6% of Latinas with Masters.

As a Community Director she is able to go out into communities like her own to educate people of all ages and backgrounds on the opportunities a union apprenticeship offers, a pathway to long term careers with family sustaining wages and benefits. She also works to coordinate charity and volunteer events, letting people know that unions are a reflection of our communities. In her day to day work, Crystal coordinates and facilitates training for D.C. 9 members, helping them become more involved in politics at the local level. She chairs D.C. 9 Womens' Committee meetings, ensuring women members have the safe space and support they need to voice concerns and celebrate victories. In October of 2022, Crystal was part of the first cohort of the IUPAT Women's Leadership Course, the first of its kind in the industry, designed and

taught by WOMEN. She was invited back to be one of the instructors for the second cohort in October 2023.

Crystal's work ethic and passion for workers and women's rights is what drives her to continue breaking barriers and opening doors for more women and people of color.