

KEY PLAYERS



Met the people who are shaping the future of the communities they live in while inspiring everyone they meet along the way. Though their stories are all different and their backgrounds, histories, hopes and dreams vary, the one thing each has in common is a passion for what they do and their ability to see past themselves for the benefit of others. In the following pages, you'll meet this issue's Key Players and get a brief glimpse into their lives. If you happen to run into one of them during your daily routine, take a moment to salute them. They've earned it.

Forever Learning

“We believe education evolves over a lifetime, and we make a huge investment in ongoing development.”

This year will mark the 5th Anniversary of KLA Schools, a chain of preschools serving children from 3 months through kindergarten to 6 years old. Pedagogical Director Candelaria Arocena knows, however, that those 5 years will make a huge impression on students who’ve been a part of the learning center during that time. Arocena always knew she wanted to make a significant difference in society, and found her opportunity when she, her husband and a group of investors committed to creating a center for children rooted in early childhood education. During the process of making the dream a reality, she says she was very fortunate to learn about the Reggio Emilia Approach to early childhood education, which came into being in post-WWII Italy. It encourages the core learnings of respect, responsibility and community at early ages, a method that inspired the programs at KLA.

Quick Facts

What you wouldn’t know at first glance: She has a blackbelt in Tae Kwon Do.

Languages rule: “I love to practice speaking languages whenever I can!”

Bad habit: “I’m a total perfectionist — it can be a double-edged sword!”

Text: Cristina Zuazua; Photo: Antonio Eli

Candelaria Arocena is the Pedagogical Director of KLA Schools; 600 SW 1st Ave.; 305.377.0391; KLASchools.com.

