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**First Place® AZ Elects Community Development and Public Financing Expert
Juan Salgado to Board of Directors**

PHOENIX (December 16, 2021) — [First Place® AZ](#), an Arizona nonprofit with the vision of ensuring housing and community options are as bountiful for people with autism and other neurodiversities as they are for everyone else, has elected Juan Salgado to its board of directors.

Salgado, who has more than three decades of experience in community development, public financing and affordable housing, is the chief executive officer of the Phoenix IDA and the Phoenix Community Development & Investment Corporation.

The Phoenix IDA has become a national leader in issuing private activity bonds through Salgado's leadership. The Phoenix IDA has issued more than \$2 billion in bonds for a broad range of projects, including schools, healthcare facilities, multifamily housing and nonprofit organizations since Salgado took the helm in 2008. The Phoenix IDA has granted and loaned millions to local community organizations, specifically those serving vulnerable populations. Prior to leading the Phoenix IDA, Salgado served as a deputy finance director for the City of Phoenix.

"Juan's tremendous expertise in community development, public financing and affordable housing will be an incredible asset for First Place as we move toward our global vision of ensuring more accessible housing for individuals with autism," says Howard Sobelman, First Place AZ board chair. "He has a well-deserved reputation for developing creative financing structures that result in job creation, housing opportunities and community development. We're honored to have him serving with us on the First Place board."

First Place–Phoenix, First Place AZ's \$15.4 million, 81,000-square-foot, 55-apartment property, is a residential community with a suite of supports and amenities for individuals with autism, Down syndrome, traumatic brain injury and other neurodiversities. Ushering in a new era of housing and community options for special populations, First Place combines apartments, the Transition Academy residential life

skills program and the Global Leadership Institute to expand more independent, community-integrated living options.

For more information or to get involved, email info@firstplaceaz.org or visit firstplaceaz.org.

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About First Place® AZ

First Place AZ, a charitable 501(c)(3), is advancing innovative residential and community options for adults with autism and other neurodiversities through its vision for fueling a new wave of real estate and community development. First Place–Phoenix, the nonprofit’s flagship property, is an 81,000-square-foot apartment community set in the heart of the urban area and recognized by PBS NewsHour as “[the most autism-friendly city in the world](#).” The First Place Global Leadership Institute leverages this award-winning property to serve as an R&D site, support the replication of residential and post-secondary education models and foster collaboration among the public, private, philanthropic and nonprofit sectors. Read First Place’s groundbreaking 2020 report, [A Place in the World: Fueling Housing and Community Options for Adults with Autism and Other Neurodiversities](#).