

emerging leaders program

League
of American
Orchestras



Photo Credit: Ashley Shaw

Leah Wilson-Velasco

CEO
Walla Walla Symphony
Walla Walla, Washington

Originally from New Mexico, Leah Wilson-Velasco holds a BA in music performance (viola) from Whitman College and a Master's in Music Education from the Boston Conservatory. Over the past 15 years, Leah has been committed to impacting people through music, a passion that has led her to hold positions with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras and the Walla Walla Symphony where she has been CEO since 2011.

During her time in Walla Walla, she has brought financial security to the Symphony, stabilized and expanded youth engagement programs, and worked with the Symphony's music director to create seasons of growing popularity and artistic merit. She has also become a community-wide leader, collaborating with other local arts and non-profit organizations to create interdisciplinary experiences for the residents of the Walla Walla Valley. In recognition of her leadership, Leah received the 2018 Washington Governor's Arts and Heritage Award for Young Arts Leader.

Leah lives in Walla Walla (WA) with her husband Michael, who teaches Music Technology at Whitman College, and their two daughters, Evelyn (5) and Alice (2).