

*Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs,  
Baltimore County, and Towson University present the*

# BALTIMORE IMMIGRATION SUMMIT



# 20

# 25

MAY 30TH  
8AM-4PM

*Baltimore United: Solidarity and Action in Uncertain Times*



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

*Page 2*

## **MEET THE COMMITTEE**

*Pages 3-4*

## **FEATURED SPEAKERS**

*Page 5*

## **PRESENTATIONS**

*Pages 6-12*

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

*Page 13*

## **NEXT YEAR'S SUMMIT**

*Page 14*



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<b>REGISTRATION &amp; BREAKFAST</b>	<i>8:00AM-8:30 AM</i>
<b>WELCOMING REMARKS</b>	<i>8:30 AM-8:45 AM</i>
<b>MORNING PLENARY</b>	<i>8:45 AM-9:45 AM</i>
<b>BREAKOUT SESSION 1</b>	<i>10:00 AM-11:00 AM</i>
<b>BREAKOUT SESSION 2</b>	<i>11:15 AM-12:15 PM</i>
<b>LUNCH</b>	<i>12:15 PM-12:45 PM</i>
<b>AFTERNOON PLENARY</b>	<i>12:45 PM-1:45 PM</i>
<b>BREAKOUT SESSION 3</b>	<i>2:00 PM-3:00 PM</i>
<b>POSTER SESSION &amp; NETWORKING</b>	<i>3:15 PM-3:45 PM</i>
<b>CLOSING PERFORMANCE &amp; PRIZES</b>	<i>3:45 PM-4:00 PM</i>

# MEET THE COMMITTEE



*Pictured: Members of the 2024 Baltimore Immigration Summit Committee, Maryland Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman, Baltimore City Mayor Brandon M. Scott, and staff from the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs and from the Baltimore County Office of Community Engagement, Immigrant Affairs*

Each year, the Baltimore Immigration Summit is planned by a committee of professionals in the Baltimore City and County area. They represent a diverse array of academic, governmental, and nonprofit organizations that work toward the well-being of Baltimore's New American population. Please join us in recognizing the coordinators and committee members that endeavor year-round to make the Summit a rousing success!

## Coordinators

Elizabeth Clifford | Professor, Towson University

Masuma Lonczak | Deputy Director, Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

Catalina Rodriguez Lima | Director, Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

Giuliana Valencia-Banks | Chief of Immigrant Affairs, Baltimore County Government

## Committee Members

Garry Aime | Executive Director, Komité Ayiti, Inc.

Alejandra Balcazar | Assistant Director of Student Success, University of Maryland, Baltimore

Krishna Bista | Professor, Morgan State University

Caitlin Cumerma | BNAAC Program Engagement Coordinator, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

Gail Gibbs | Director of the International Student and Scholar Office, Towson University

Miho Iwata | Associate Professor, Towson University

Ayodele La Veau | Assistant Lifeways Director of the Center for Religion and Cities, Morgan State University

Mayra Loera | Program Manager, Esperanza Center

Harold Morales | Associate Professor and Executive Director Center for Religion and Cities, Morgan State University

Angela Ra | Communications Specialist, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

Adonia Simpson | Deputy Director for Policy and Pro Bono, American Bar Association Commission on Immigration

Mamadou Sy | Chief Operating Officer, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area

Dear Participants, Presenters, and Supporters,

Welcome to the **2025 Baltimore Immigrant Summit!** We are honored to have you join us for this year's summit, themed "**Baltimore United: Solidarity and Action in Uncertain Times.**" We want to express our deepest gratitude to all who are participating. Your presence and passion are what make this summit a beacon of hope and action for our community.

This year's gathering is more than an event—it is a testament to the power of collective action. At a time when immigrant communities across the country are facing renewed challenges, from evolving enforcement policies to the uncertain future of protections like humanitarian parole and Temporary Protected Status, the need for solidarity and action has never been greater.

We will reflect on the foundational role of immigrant communities in shaping Baltimore's history and its future. Now more than ever, it is essential that we come together, build strong networks of support, and create lasting partnerships that advance collective resilience.

The overwhelming enthusiasm and energy from our participants, presenters, and supporters inspire us deeply. Your eagerness to share knowledge, exchange ideas, and build community exemplifies the spirit of unity and action that is the heart of the Baltimore Immigrant Summit.

But our work cannot stop at conversation. We must turn these ideas into sustained, strategic action. In a landscape where due process for immigrants is under attack, access to asylum remains precarious, and local policies must adapt to protect vulnerable communities, we must organize, advocate, and lead.

We invite you—as individuals, community organizations, and businesses—to join us in this mission. Whether through advocacy, service, education, or support, your involvement is crucial to building a Baltimore where all immigrants are welcomed, protected, and empowered. Looking ahead, we are excited for the future of the Baltimore Immigrant Summit and our growing movement. If you are interested in becoming more involved, please reach out to us at [bis@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:bis@baltimorecity.gov). Together, we will continue to stand in solidarity and work toward a more inclusive, resilient Baltimore for all.

With solidarity and hope,

The 2025 Baltimore Immigration Summit Committee



## **DR. MARK GINSBERG PRESIDENT, TOWSON UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Mark Ginsberg has enjoyed a remarkable 40-year career as a psychologist, educator and senior administrator, most recently serving as provost of George Mason University, the largest and youngest R1 research institution in Virginia.

Beyond his duties in academic administration, Dr. Ginsberg is a volunteer board member with several non-profit organizations, a dedicated professor, and a practicing clinician in Maryland.

He is committed to collaborative and compassionate leadership and is a tireless advocate for diversity and inclusion initiatives. He was drawn to TU because of these same values, and TU is certainly proud to have him as their President.

# **WELCOMING REMARKS**

# **LUNCH REMARKS (RECORDED)**

## **BRANDON M. SCOTT 52ND MAYOR, BALTIMORE CITY**

Brandon M. Scott serves as the 52nd Mayor of Baltimore and is the youngest person to hold the position in over a century. Mayor Scott is committed to ending gun violence, investing in our youth, restoring the public's trust in government, and creating a better and more equitable Baltimore for all.

Mayor Scott is a community leader, public servant, and son of Baltimore City. A proud Baltimorean and lifelong resident, Scott is a graduate of MERVO High School and St. Mary's College of Maryland. He resides in the Westfield neighborhood of Northeast Baltimore with his wife Hana, and their children Ceron, Charm, and Camden.



## MORNING PLENARY

8:45 AM–9:45 AM

Hot Topics in Immigration Law & Policy: Local Impact of National Actions

*Ballroom*



Elizabeth Keyes  
University of Baltimore  
School of Law



Rose Richardson  
Amica Center for  
Immigrant Rights



Maureen Sweeney  
University of Maryland  
Carey School of Law



*Moderated by*  
Adonia Simpson  
American Bar Association

## BREAKOUT SESSION 1

10:00 AM–11:00 AM



Beyond Detention: Expanding Access to Justice for Immigrants in Baltimore

*Conference Room 322*

Emily Cornett, Amica Center • Ama Frimpong, CASA • Katharine Gordon, Amica Center • Daniella Prieshoff, Tahirih Justice Center • Beth Watkins, Asylee Women Enterprise

### PANEL THEMES



*Public Policy*



*Health & Wellness*



*Education*



*Community  
Engagement*



## Co-Creating an Action Plan for Better Care: Social Service Providers and Latino Immigrant Men in Solidarity

*Ballroom*

Donna Marie Fallon Batkis, University of Maryland, Baltimore • Jessica Contreras, Howard County Schools • Nalini Negi, University of Maryland, Baltimore • Alfredo Santiago, Chase Brexton • Yancy Padilla, University of Maryland, Baltimore



## Empowering Immigrant Success: The Role of Credential Evaluations in Building Pathways to Opportunity

*Conference Room 323AB*

Joana R. Costa Winningham, Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning Maryland Department of Labor • Aya Harb, World Education Services • Debrah Means-West, World Education Services



## Empowering Voices: Community Engagement for Immigrant Survivors of Abuse

*Conference Room 329*

Gabriela Asuad, TurnAround, Inc. • Vania Christian Dos Passos, TurnAround, Inc. • Roxanne Melgar, Pro Bono Counseling • Anna Margrét Sverrisdóttir, Asylee Women Enterprise



## The Public-Private Partnership: Community's Impact in Refugee Resettlement

*Theater Room 324*

Christine Dunn, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA) • Susan Lyke, Interfaith Refugee Ministry • Emily Orner, LSSNCA • Ruth Ortiz Valladares, LSSNCA • Ijazulhaq Qazizada, LSSNCA



## Understanding Baltimore City Immigrants Through Data

*Conference Room 325AB*

Sumaiya Binta Islam, Baltimore City Bureau of the Budget and Management Research (BBMR) • Joy Scalabrin, Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs • Evelyn Yuen, [formerly] Baltimore City BBMR

## BREAKOUT SESSION 2

11:15 AM–12:15 PM



### Muslim Immigrants and Refugees in Baltimore: An Assessment of Needs, Challenges, and Contributions

*Conference Room 323AB*

Mehmet Salih Sayilgan, Georgetown University • Zeyneb Sayilgan, Institute for Islamic, Christian and Jewish Studies



### Partnering to Improve Immigrant Community Health in Baltimore County through Language Access Planning

*Conference Room 322*

Julia Coburn, Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc. • Nidia Genrty, Baltimore County Health Department • Ricardo Ortiz, Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc. • Esther Pizza, Migrant Clinicians Network



### Rising Together: State and Local Advocacy for Immigrant Communities in the Baltimore Region

*Theater Room 324*

Sara Ibrahim, Global Refuge • Madelin Martinez, Catholic Charities of Baltimore • Valerie Twanmoh, Catholic Charities of Baltimore • Giuliana Valencia-Banks, Baltimore County Government



### Solidarity and Action in Uncertain Times: Language Access as a Tool for Inclusion and Connection

*Conference Room 329*

Michele Bistoung Angome, Intercultural Counseling Connection • Sean Heyneman, Ayuda • Caitlin Tromiczak, Intercultural Counseling Connection



## Unidos Se Hace La Fuerza (United We Are Stronger)

*Conference Room 325AB*

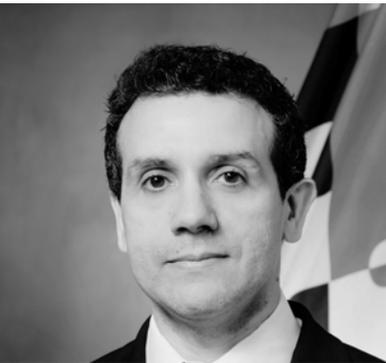
Susana Barrios, CAPSI • Lucía Islas, Comité Latino de Baltimore • Rocío Masset, Centro de Apoyo Para La Superación del Inmigrante (CAPSI)

## AFTERNOON PLENARY

*12:45 PM-1:45 PM*

### A Whole of Government Response: The Key Role of Cities, Counties and States in Protecting Immigrant Residents

*Ballroom*



**Kamal Essaheb**  
Governor's Office of  
Immigrant Affairs



**Catalina Rodriguez Lima**  
Baltimore City Mayor's  
Office of Immigrant Affairs



**Giuliana Valencia-Banks**  
Baltimore County  
Government



*Moderated by*  
**Micaela McConnell**  
American Immigration Council

## BREAKOUT SESSION 3

*2:00 PM-3:00 PM*



### Art: Resist! Respond! Remember!

*Conference Room 325AB*

Abdulrasheed Adaranijo, VILLAGER • Patrick Vaughn, Photogenisist



## Building Bridges: Connecting and Supporting Multilingual Families, Students, and Educators

*Theater Room 324*

Stephanie Bohada Polania, Towson University • Gevene Alarcón de Harden, Baltimore County Public Schools • Clare Kruff, Towson University • Connie Phelps, Baltimore County Public Schools



## Empowering Immigrant Communities and Allies in 2025

*Conference Room 322*

Kiara Álvarez, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health • Angela Edman, Catholic Charities of Baltimore, Esperanza Center • Sarah Milad, Just Neighbors • Feamma Stephens, Tahirih Justice Center



## Pathways to Housing Stability with LEDC and NHS: Empowering Baltimore's Immigrant Community

*Conference Room 323AB*

Leopoldo Elias, Latino Economic Development Corporation • Aura Martinez, Latino Economic Development Center • Veronica Tobin, NHS Baltimore



## The Impact of Current Refugee Policy

*Ballroom*

Mark Hetfield, HIAS • Preethi Nampoothiri, International Rescue Committee • Mamadou Sy, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area



## The MOED Community Job Hub and Economic Empowerment at the IRC: Supporting Growth

*Conference Room 329*

Timothy Behnam, Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Employment Development • Abigail Wahl, International Rescue Committee • Maurcen Wambui, International Rescue Committee

**POSTER SESSION***3:15 PM–3:45 PM**2nd Floor Lobby*

iPa'lante!: Supporting Baltimore Latine Students & Families In Search of Higher Education

Will Salzman, Towson University

A Stepping Stone to Citizenship

Daniel Adegbesan, International Rescue Committee

R. Juanita Galvan-Bossis, International Rescue Committee

Christopher Harnish-Nisly, International Rescue Committee

Academic Preparation for Immigration Professionals: Fostering Solidarity and Leadership in Human Rights Students

Caitlin Cumerma, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

Kimberly Katz, Towson University

Heidi Meyers, Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP

Taryn Painter, University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy & Practice

Beyond Survival: Creating Pathways for Immigrant Families to Thrive in Baltimore

Shaza Ibrahim, Baltimore City Community College

Gina Karlin, Baltimore City Community College

Empowering Baltimore's Communities: Mental Health Coaching for Resilience and Well-being

Orlando Lopez, National Institutes of Health

Empowering Communities Through Language and Education

Lyle Nash, Towson University

Romesa Mustafa, Towson University

Growing Resilience: A Collaborative Native Garden for Climate Action and Community Empowerment in Baltimore

Paola Rodriguez-Ferreira, Defensores de la Cuenca

Im/Migration Timeline: Reframing Movement and Identity

Ivy Suriyopas, Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR)

## Maryland Insurance Administration: Educating and Protecting Consumers

Ruth Getachew, Maryland Insurance Administration

Guadalupe Gomez, Maryland Insurance Administration

## Multilingual Enrollment and Support at Baltimore City Schools

Erin Pierce-Inouye, Baltimore City Schools

## Protecting Your Rights in the Community

Jumel Howard, City of Baltimore

## Strengthening and Restoring Community Trust in Baltimore: Immigrant Pathways to Law Enforcement

Fayez Ahmed, Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Performance and Innovation

## Strengthening Protection and Pathways to Safety: U Visa, T Visa, VAWA and SIJS in Maryland

Albert Stancil, Rebuild, Overcome, and Rise (ROAR) Center at the University of Maryland, Baltimore

Victoria Valbuena Siler, ROAR Center

## Supporting the Wellbeing of New Immigrant Youths Through Culture Sharing and Social Emotional Learning

Roselyn Bi, Tulip's Promise

## Youth Voices: Our Dreams and Hopes and Action

Karina Aquiahuatl Villagrán, Centro SOL

Marzena Maksym, Centro SOL

Astrid Matta, Centro SOL

## CLOSING PERFORMANCE

3:45 PM



### *Ballroom*

### Gyzelle Garcia

Born and raised in Maryland, with roots running through Colombia, Honduras, and Hispaniola, Garcia designs soundscapes, blending cultures, musical traditions, and languages. While honoring lineages of resistance and revolutionary culture, she aims to uplift all Baltimoreans on our walk into a collective world.



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

The Baltimore Immigration Summit would not be possible without the support of our many sponsors. We would like to thank the following organizations.

Baltimore City Government

Baltimore County Government\*

Baltimore Jewish Council

Herbert H. and Irma B. Risch Memorial Endowment Fund

Morgan State University Center for Religion and Cities

Towson University

- BTU—Partnerships for Greater Baltimore
- Career Center
- Center for Student Diversity
- College of Liberal Arts, Office of Dean Chris J. Chulos
- Department of Family Science
- Department of Geography
- Department of History
- Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice
- Department of Women's & Gender Studies
- English Language Center
- Office of Inclusion & Institutional Equity
- Sandra R. Berman Center for Humanity, Tolerance & Holocaust Education

*Additionally, the Summit Committee would like to thank Theresa Jenkins, Andrew Rosenblum, Maliheh Varzandeh, the Summit's Towson University student volunteers, and all of our presenters for their time, effort, and support, without which this event would not be possible.*

\* Sponsorship by the Baltimore County Government does not indicate endorsement of views expressed by speakers and participants at the Summit.

# FEEDBACK SURVEY

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## TELL US HOW WE DID!

Both attendees and presenters are invited to fill out this survey to let us know what you think of this year's Summit so we can implement your feedback next year.

# DONATE TO THE IMMIGRATION SUMMIT

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## DID YOU ENJOY YOUR TIME AT THE SUMMIT?

The Summit is made possible through the generosity of many donors. Join them and donate to help us share this free event with even more people next year!

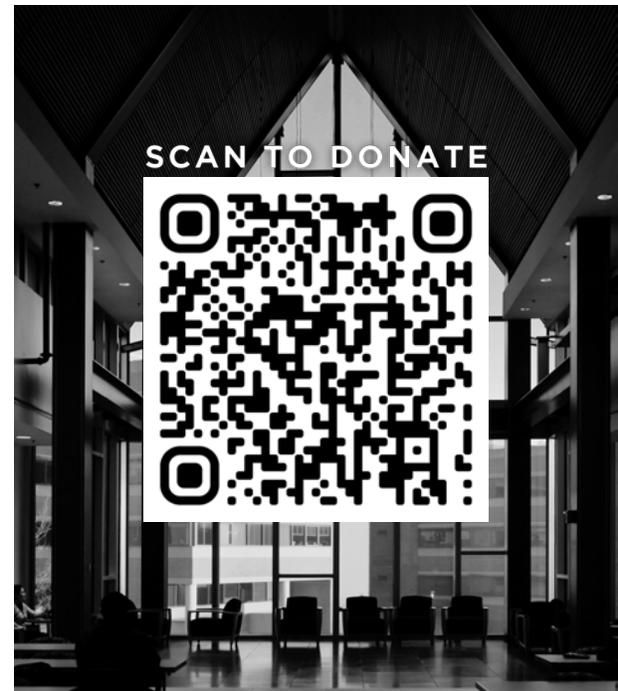
If you or your organization wishes to send a check, please contact us at [bis@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:bis@baltimorecity.gov).

# STAY TUNED

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## ALREADY EXCITED FOR THE NEXT SUMMIT?

The Baltimore Immigration Summit will return in 2026 to Baltimore City. Make sure you're subscribed to MIMA's newsletter to have the details sent straight to your inbox!





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the full version of this program  
with more detailed information  
about the presentations!

