

# 2024 Baltimore Immigration Summit

**Empowered Immigrant Communities:**  
*Engaging, Sharing, and Growing Together*



**May 31, 2024**

*Hosted by Towson University, Baltimore County Office of Community Affairs & Engagement, Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs at Morgan State University*



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*We would like to dedicate this year's Baltimore Immigration Summit to the heroes who were lost when the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapsed in March of this year. We hope that this Summit provides our communities with places where we can come together, learn from each other, and continue to serve.*



# PROGRAM FLOW

## 2024 BALTIMORE IMMIGRATION SUMMIT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<b>REGISTRATION &amp; COFFEE</b>	8:00 am - 8:30 am
<b>WELCOME</b>	8:30 am - 9:00 am
<b>BREAKOUT SESSION 1</b>	9:10 am - 10:10 am
<b>BREAKOUT SESSION 2</b>	10:20 am - 11:20 am
<b>BREAKOUT SESSION 3</b>	11:30 am - 12:30 pm
<b>LUNCH &amp; KEYNOTE</b>	12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
<b>BREAKOUT SESSION 4</b>	1:40 pm - 2:40 pm
<b>BREAKOUT SESSION 5</b>	2:45 pm - 3:45 pm
<b>FINAL PANEL</b>	3:50 pm - 4:30 pm





# Meet the Committee



*Members of the 2023 Baltimore Immigration Summit Committee with Baltimore City and County officials and Towson University leadership.*

Each year, the Baltimore Immigration Summit is planned by a committee of professionals in and around the Baltimore area. They represent a diverse array of academic, governmental, nonprofit, and other organizations that seek to ensure that Baltimore's New American continue to be considered in the region. We want to recognize our wonderful co-coordinators and committee:

## Co-Coordinators

- **Giuliana Valencia-Banks**, Chief of Immigrant Affairs , Baltimore County Government
- **Elizabeth Clifford**, Professor, Towson University
- **Catalina Rodriguez Lima**, Director, Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
- **Masuma Lonczak**, Deputy Director, Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
- **Victoria Minka**, Communications & Engagement Specialist, Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

## Committee Members

- **Gail Gibbs**, Director, International Student and Scholar Office, Towson University
- **Adonia Simpson**, Deputy Director, American Bar Association Commission on Immigration
- **Felipe Filomeno**, Associate Professor (UMBC); President (LRJC), University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) and Latino Racial Justice Circle (LRJC)
- **Miho Iwata**, Associate Professor, Towson University
- **Mamadou Sy**, Chief Operating Officer, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area
- **Garry Aime**, President of Komite Aite, Komite Aite
- **Alejandra Balcazar**, Latinx and Undocumented Students Coordinator, Towson University



# Letter from the Committee

*Dear Participants, Presenters, and Supporters,*

Welcome to the 2024 Baltimore Immigrant Summit!

We are thrilled to have you join us for this year's summit, themed "Empowered Immigrant Communities: Engaging, Sharing, and Growing Together". We want to express our deepest gratitude to all who participated. Your presence, contributions, and active engagement make this event a tremendous success.

This year's summit is not just a conference; it is a movement. It is a coalition of individuals and organizations dedicated to uplifting immigrant communities and building a more inclusive Baltimore.

We will discuss the vital role of immigrant communities in the foundation of Baltimore and how, now more than ever, it is essential for immigrant communities to come together, build networks of support, find advocates, and work collaboratively towards collective growth.

The overwhelming interest and enthusiasm shown by participants, presenters, and attendees alike were truly inspiring. Your eagerness to engage, share insights, and support one another embodies the spirit of community and collaboration that we aim to foster through this summit.

However, our work does not end here. We must turn our discussions into actions. We must stand together to protect, support, and empower immigrant communities that enrich our region. We call on all participants to join us in this mission. Whether you are an individual, an organization, or a business, there are many ways you can get involved.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the future of the Baltimore Immigrant Summit and the opportunity to further our mission of empowering immigrant communities. We invite anyone who is interested in becoming more involved to join our movement. If you are passionate about protecting, supporting, and empowering immigrant communities, please reach out to us at [bis@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:bis@baltimorecity.gov).

Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive Baltimore for all.

*Warm regards,*

2024 Baltimore Immigration Summit Committee



# About our Lunch Speakers

During our lunch session, we will hear remarks from **Maryland State Comptroller, Brooke Lierman**. Brooke Lierman is a mom, civil rights attorney, and the first woman Comptroller of the State of Maryland. After serving for eight years as a State Delegate representing part of Baltimore City, she ran for Maryland State Comptroller.

In April 2024, the Maryland State Comptroller's Office release an in-depth report on the role of immigrant's in Maryland's economy. This report, along with others, are offered to provide policymakers, business leaders, and all Marylanders with more information about issues are impacted by the Comptroller's Office.



We will also hear remarks from **Baltimore City Mayor, Brandon M. Scott**. Brandon M. Scott is the 52nd Mayor of Baltimore, working to end gun violence, restore the public's trust in government and change Baltimore for the better. He has continued to support Baltimore City's immigrant communities and their advocates.

There will be recorded welcoming remarks from **Baltimore County Executive, John "Johnny O" Olszewski, Jr.**



# Our Final Panel

*Where do we go from here?*

## ***New and Emerging Issues Impacting Immigrant Communities and How to Prepare to Meet their Needs***

This year, our committee decided to host a final panel rather than a traditional keynote. This will allow some of community's leaders and advocates to sit on a panel together to discuss where they see the future of immigration policy, immigrant serving organizations, and much more. Our panelists include:

- **Carlos A. Guevara**, Director of Policy, Immigration Hub
- **Naomi Steinberg**, Vice President, US Policy & Advocacy, HIAS
- **Catalina Rodriguez Lima**, Founding Director, Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MIMA)
- **Felipe Filomeno**, PhD, Associate Professor (UMBC); President (LRJC), University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) and Latino Racial Justice Circle (LRJC)





# Breakout Session 1

**9:10 am - 10:10 am**

Conference  
Room 210A

Education &  
Family Support

*Creating Pathways to Higher Education for Immigrants & Refugees*

**Daniel Jacoby (ERICA - Episcopal Refugee & Immigrant Center Alliance), Dinorah Olmos (Latino Education Advancement Fund), Laura Wagner (Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration)**

Conference  
Room 210B

Organizational  
Development &  
Dialogue

*Immigrant Organizations, Audiences, and the Humanities: Where's the Overlap?*

**Emily Ross (Maryland Humanities), Subodha Panta (Baltimore Association of Nepalese in America), Garry Bien Aime (Komite Ayiti), Young Smith (Greenmount Senior Center)**

Conference  
Room 212A

Government,  
Law, & Policy

*The Journey to Belonging: Baltimore County's Immigrant & Integration Welcome Plan*

**Giuliana Valencia-Banks (Immigrant Affairs, Office of the County Executive), Alejandra Balcazar (Latine/x & Undocumented Student Development, Towson University), Nidia Gentry (Partners for Health Improvement Program, BCHD), Helany J. Sinkler (T. Rowe Price)**

Conference  
Room 212B

Business &  
Employment

*Economic Empowerment – Supporting Growth from Income to Assets*

**Abigail Wahl (International Rescue Committee), Jack White (International Rescue Committee), Rudik Martinez (CASA)**

Conference  
Room 315

Health &  
Wellbeing

*Voices of Resilience: Medical Student Advocacy for Immigrant Survivors through Service and Research*

**Olivia Febles Simeon (JHU), Leila Habib, MPH (JHU), Rasha Elmahdi, M.Sc., M.A. (Asylee Women Enterprise), C. Nicholas Cuneo, MD, MPH (HEAL Refugee Health & Asylum Collaborative, JHU)**

Conference  
Room 316

Business &  
Employment

*Get It RIGHT! (Refugees and Immigrants Get Help with Taxes)*

**Elissa Mittman (TAPIR, Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) University of Baltimore School of Law), Janice Shih (Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC), University of Baltimore School of Law, TAPIR), Megan G. Bautista (CASH Campaign of Maryland), LeAnna Harrison (CASA)**

## ***New this year! Session themes!***

This year we are trying something new! We've introduced session themes to help folks identify the main topic areas of each presentation. Our Committee tried to create these themes so that attendees can follow a specific track if they so choose.

Session  
Theme





# Breakout Session 2

## 10:20 am - 11:20 am

Conference  
Room 210A

Education &  
Family Support

*From Welcoming to Practice: Baltimore City Schools Embraces Our Growing Diversity*

**Erin Pierce-Inouye (Baltimore City Schools), Eric Haber (Baltimore City Schools), Dr. Sedrick Smith (Fallstaff Elementary/ Middle), Andrea Rodriguez (Fallstaff Elementary/Middle)**

Conference  
Room 210B

Organizational  
Development &  
Dialogue

*Powerful Multicultural Connections Through Film, Musical Theater & Mural Arts*

**Sebastian Ochoa Arguijo (Baltimore Rock Opera Society), I Wu (Networking Immigrant Generations via Asia + American Film), Wilfredo Cesar Casco González (Art of Solidarity), Maria Gabriela Aldana Enriquez (Art of Solidarity)**

Conference  
Room 212A

Government,  
Law, & Policy

*Facilitating Fundamental Fairness in Immigration Proceedings via Access to Counsel, Trauma-Informed Representation, and Harnessing Referral Networks*

**Elena Martinez Fernandez (MEDOVI), Monica Manazan (CAIR Coalition), Suzanne Bailey (Women's Law Center of Maryland's MEDOVI), Cate Scenna (PBRC Maryland), Paul Chandler (Catholic Charities of Baltimore)**

Conference  
Room 212B

Business &  
Employment

*Maryland's Skilled Immigrant Task Force: Supporting Skilled Immigrant in their Workforce Integration*

**Joana Winningham (New Americans Initiative), Ahu Moser (Maryland Department of Labor - Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning), Margaret Shrager (Prince George's Community College)**

Conference  
Room 315

Health &  
Wellbeing

*Immigrant Health and Mental Health Workforce Development*

**Earvin Gonzalez (CASA), Noah Grant (BCCC), Sandra Barrueco (UMBC) Melissa Smith (University of Maryland School of Social Work)**



# Breakout Session 3

**11:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Conference  
Room 210A**

Education &  
Family Support

*Setting the Stage for Immigrant Student Success in the Adult Classroom*

**Sherry DeFrancisci (Excel Center), Uriel Orellana (Excel Center), Ashley Gaines (Excel Center), Edgar Alvarez (Excel Center Student )**

**Conference  
Room 210B**

Organizational  
Development &  
Dialogue

*Walking the Extra Mile With Clients through the IRC Extended Services Program*

**Muhsinat Kamar El Deen (IRC), Alima Malungila (IRC), Jenet Oscar Njang Wirba (IRC)**

**Conference  
Room 212A**

Government,  
Law, & Policy

*Working Together to Serve Unrepresented Immigrants Facing Deportation in Maryland*

**Tomas Reyna (MIRC), Alicia de la O (ABA COI), Cate Scenna (Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland), Daniella Prieshoff (Tahirih Justice Center)**

**Conference  
Room 212B**

Business &  
Employment

*Unlocking Potential: Cultivating Latino Leadership Development Programs in Baltimore and Beyond*

**Almarie E. Donaldson, Ph.D. (Maryland Latinos Unidos), Oswaldo Montoya (Social Change Work), Alejandra Balcazar (Towson University), April Lugo (ALPFA Baltimore)**

**Conference  
Room 315**

Health &  
Wellbeing

*Partnering to Bridge the Gap: Health Care for the Immigrant Community*

**Elana Liebow-Feeser (HEAL Refugee Health Program), Yaneldis Boullon (Esperanza Center, Catholic Charities), Richard Amador (HealthCare Access Maryland), Jenny Garrison (Maryland Health Connection)**



# Breakout Session 4

**1:40 pm - 2:40 pm**

**Conference  
Room 210A**

Education &  
Family Support

*Steps to Success: Low Barrier Programming for Immigrant Youth Trafficking Survivors*

**Caryn Dayhoff (AWE), Maisoon Ateem (HEAL), Edwin Girón (HEAL), Anthony Munguia (Youth Advisory Board Member)**

**Conference  
Room 210B**

Organizational  
Development &  
Dialogue

*Unleashing the Potential of Collaboration: Exchanging Best Practices and Demonstrating Impact in Immigrant Community Organizations in Baltimore*

**Bhim B K (PDRC International), Lucia Islas (Comite Latino de Baltimore), Dr. Augusto Friascho (BCHD), Bishop Bruce Lewandowski (Archdiocese of Baltimore)**

**Conference  
Room 212A**

Government,  
Law, & Policy

*Fostering Resiliency Amidst Shifts in Immigration Policy*

**Monica Manazan (CAIR Coalition, Detained Adult Program), Angela Edman (Immigration Legal Services), Julia Birk (Just Neighbors)**

**Conference  
Room 212B**

Business &  
Employment

*Thriving Main Streets: Building Neighborhood Economies from the Ground Up*

**Charlyn Nater (Mayor's Office of Small and Minority Business Advocacy & Development, Director Main Streets), Amanda Smit-Peters (Southeast CDC, Highlandtown Main Streets), Rosalyn Vera (Cocina Luchadoras, Fells Point Small Business Owner), Cindy Alvarez (Gigi's Nails, Highlandtown Small Business Owner)**

**Conference  
Room 315**

Health &  
Wellbeing

*Community Centered Models to Improve Healthcare Integration for Immigrant Empowerment*

**Kelly Velazquez-Umaña (Maryland Latinos Unidos), Dr. Gabriela Lemus (Maryland Latinos Unidos), Vicki Kline (Johns Hopkins Community Physicians/Baltimore Medical System/East Baltimore Medical Center), Kristin Topel (Hopkins Community Connection)**



# Breakout Session 5

## 2:45 pm - 3:45 pm

Conference  
Room 210A

Business &  
Employment

*Multiple Dimensions of Employment for Baltimore's Immigrant Community*

**Krishna Bista (Morgan State University), Rajendra Bista (Morgan State University), Kerri Evans (UMBC), Matthew Dolomore (Esperanza Center)**

Conference  
Room 210B

Organizational  
Development &  
Dialogue

*Community Support: Ways BANA and Barangay+Malaya Baltimore Support Baltimore*

**Mona Poblete (Barangay Baltimore), Christina Pasion (Malaya Baltimore), Lakshmi Bharati (Baltimore Association of Nepalese in America (BANA))**

Conference  
Room 212A

Government,  
Law, & Policy

*Language and Beyond: Inclusion Through Access*

**Joy Scalabrin (Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MIMA)), Gavi Franco (Community Legal Services of Prince George's County), Mireya Parada Madrid (Enoch Pratt Free Library), Carly Reighard (Enoch Pratt Free Library)**

Conference  
Room 212B

Business &  
Employment

*Sin Miedo Al Éxito: Celebrating Financial Savviness of Latines and Bridging the Racial Wealth Gap*

**Walter Lara (Baltimore Community Lending), Julia Sarmiento (Latino Economic Development Center), Antonio Crespo Fajardo (Latino Economic Development Center), Whitney Visker (AFC®)**

Conference  
Room 315

Health &  
Wellbeing

*Cultural Bridges, Immigrant Resilience: Leveraging Community Collaborations Towards Enhanced Immigrant Wellness*

**Cheryl Aguilar LICSW, LCSW (Hope Center for Wellness, LLC, Smith College School for Social Work), Samantha Howard (Prince George's County Office of the County Executive), Sandra Sheppard MSW (City of Hyattsville), Jhoselyn Rodriguez B.S. (Coaching Salud Holistica)**

***Don't forget to return to the Ballroom for the Final Panel at 3:50 pm!***

## Tell us how we did!

*Please fill out the appropriate survey to let us know what you think of this year's Summit!*

### Attendee Survey



[bit.ly/2024BISFeedback](https://bit.ly/2024BISFeedback)

### Presenter Survey



[bit.ly/2024BISFeedbackPresenter](https://bit.ly/2024BISFeedbackPresenter)

Please help us make sure each Baltimore Immigration Summit is better than the last! Your feedback is extremely important to us and we do utilize it in the next year's planning. Some feedback we took this year from last year's Summit include:

- making our panel sessions a little longer
- implementing facilitators for each panel session to improve panel question facilitation
- providing more panel details on the program for ease of attendee follow up

Our Summit is only successful with your continued participation and support, thank you for your ongoing work and attendance!

## Save the Date!

*Excited for the 2025 Baltimore Immigration Summit? Mark your calendar now! The 2025 Baltimore Immigration Summit will return on Friday, May 30th, 2025 and will take place at Towson University's Student Union.*



# Thank you to our Funders

The Baltimore Immigration Summit would not be possible without our tireless organizers and generous funders. We want to thank:

- **Towson University**, for their continuous support in making Baltimore a better home for immigrants in the Baltimore region. We also want to specifically thank:
  - the College of Liberal Arts
  - Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice
    - Thank you to Dianne Franklin and Harjant Gill for their help with logistics and the Towson website.
  - Department of English
  - Department of Languages, Literatures, and Culture
  - Department of Family Studies and Community Development
  - Department of Geography
  - Department of Psychology
  - Department of History
  - Department of Political Science
  - BTU: Partnerships at Work for Greater Baltimore
- the **Baltimore City Mayor's Office** for their funding and organizing work from the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs.
- the **Baltimore County Government** for their funding and planning effort.
- the **Baltimore Jewish Council** for their funding and support.
- the **Herbert H. and Irma B. Risch Memorial Endowment Fund** for their funding and continuous effort to supporting immigrants in Baltimore.
  - The Herbert H. and Irma B. Risch Memorial Endowment Fund was created by Frank and Helen Risch to remember the Baltimore immigration experience of his parents and ensure the community continues to learn about the importance of immigration and the value of immigrants to American society. The endowment fund is held at The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore, and it is administered by the Baltimore Jewish Council in partnership with the Risch family.



**Brandon M. Scott**  
Mayor



**TOWSON**  
UNIVERSITY



**Baltimore Jewish Council**  
*An agency of The Associated*



**MIMA**  
BALTIMORE CITY  
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF  
IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

Finally, we want to say a warm thank you to our student volunteers, particularly **Natalie Willard**, and all the panelists for their effort in making today happen. Without their perseverance, we would not have this Summit.