



2026

The Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, Baltimore County Office of Immigrant Affairs, and Towson University present the 13th Annual

BALTIMORE IMMIGRATION SUMMIT

*Harbors & Bridges: Holding Ground
& Uniting Communities*



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Welcome to the 2026 Baltimore Immigration Summit, taking place on June 5, 2026, at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Registration & Continental Breakfast 8:00 AM–8:30 AM

Welcoming Remarks 8:30 AM–8:45 AM

Morning Plenary 8:45 AM–9:45 AM

Breakout Session 1 10:00 AM–10:45 AM

Breakout Session 2 11:00 AM–11:45 AM

Lunch 11:45 AM–12:45 PM

Afternoon Plenary 12:45 PM–1:45 PM

Breakout Session 3 2:00 PM–2:45 PM

Poster & Networking Session 3:00 PM–3:45 PM

Performance & Door Prizes 3:45 PM–4:00 PM

ABOUT THE SUMMIT

THE SUMMIT'S HISTORY

The first Baltimore Immigration Summit took place with approximately one hundred people in attendance at Towson's Student Union in November of 2004. From its inception, the event has been a collaboration between Towson University, Baltimore City—and later, Baltimore County—and area non-profit organizations. Alternating between Towson University in Baltimore County and locations in Baltimore City, the Summit has grown beyond those humble beginnings. This year, more than three hundred people will come together at Morgan State University for the 13th iteration of the Baltimore Immigration Summit.

DID YOU KNOW?

Each year, the Baltimore Immigration Summit is planned by a committee of volunteers 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.

Coordinators

Elizabeth Clifford | Professor, Towson University
 Masuma Islam 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, Baltimore County's Office of Immigrant Affairs

Committee Members

Garry Aime | Executive Director, Komité Ayiti, Inc.
 Alejandra Balcazar | Assistant Director of Student Success, University of Maryland, Baltimore
 Gonzalo Baptista | Associate Professor of Spanish World Languages & International Studies, Morgan State University
 Caitlin Cumerma | BNAAC Program Manager, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
 Gail Gibbs | Director of the International Student and Scholar Office, Towson University
 Jumel Howard | Chief of External Affairs, Baltimore City Office of Equity & Civil Rights
 Miho Iwata | Associate Professor, Towson University
 Mayra Loera | Program Manager-County Liaison, Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
 Harold Morales | Associate Professor and Executive Director Center for Religion and Cities, Morgan State University
 Jill Muth | Chief of the Women's Commission and Veterans' Commission, Baltimore City Office of Equity & Civil Rights
 Angela Ra | Communications and Strategic Policy Manager, Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
 Adonia Simpson | Deputy Director for Policy and Pro Bono, American Bar Association Commission on Immigration
 Luwam Weldeberuk | Towson University Intern, Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

LETTER FROM THE COMMITTEE



Dear Attendees, Presenters, and Supporters,

Welcome to the 2026 Baltimore Immigrant Summit.

This year, we gather under the theme “Harbors and Bridges: Holding Ground and Uniting Communities.” At a time when uncertainty continues to shape the lived realities of immigrant communities, this summit is both a place for staying grounded and a platform for moving forward. We are honored to share this space with you and deeply grateful for your commitment to this work.

Baltimore has long been a harbor: a place where individuals and families arrive carrying stories from the past and aspirations for the future. It is also a region of bridges, where connections across cultures and lived experiences have the power to transform systems. This year’s summit is intentionally designed to strengthen both. Our goal is to deepen collaboration across organizations to create an infrastructure of support that can withstand challenges.

Immigrant communities remain foundational to the fabric of the greater Baltimore area. Yet, we cannot ignore the challenges that persist in today’s climate. Amidst an ever-shifting federal landscape, persisting language barriers, and

continued challenges to due process, members of our communities are forced to navigate systems that are not designed to meet their needs. These realities demand larger awareness and our coordinated and strategic action.

The Baltimore Immigration Summit is that space. The Summit serves as an opportunity to come together with purpose and deepen the connections that support our communities. It is a space to move beyond siloed efforts and toward collective impact. We invite you to engage fully, build relationships, and think boldly about what is possible when we align our efforts.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to ensuring that the Baltimore Immigrant Summit continues to serve both as a harbor for reflection and as a bridge toward action. If you are interested in deepening your involvement, we encourage you to connect with us at bis@baltimorecity.gov.

Together, we are holding ground and building the bridges that will carry our communities forward.

In solidarity,
***The 2026 Baltimore Immigration
Summit Committee***

MORNING SPEAKERS



Dr. David Kwabena Wilson
President, Morgan State University

David Kwabena Wilson, Ed.D., is the 10th inaugurated president of Morgan State University, Maryland's Preeminent Public Urban Research University. For more than a decade, Dr. Wilson has not only been a transformative president at Morgan but has emerged as a leader among university presidents nationwide, as well as an effective advocate for HBCUs and the role they play in developing leaders and serving the needs of their community, state, and nation.



Dr. Melanie Perreault
Provost, Towson University

Melanie Perreault, Ph.D., is the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at Towson University. As the university's chief academic officer, she is responsible for the creation and implementation of the academic priorities for the university. Dr. Perreault served as TU's interim president from February 2023 through October 2023, when President Mark R. Ginsberg began his tenure.

Special appearance by Frank Risch, Founder of the Herbert H. and Irma B. Risch Memorial Endowment Fund



LUNCHTIME SPEAKERS



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor, Baltimore City

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

Mayor Scott has emerged as a political leader known for his authentic, straightforward approach. He serves as Co-Chair of Mayors Against Illegal Guns and as President of the African American Mayors Association.



Aruna K. Miller
Lieutenant Governor, Maryland

Aruna K. Miller is the 10th Lieutenant Governor of the state of Maryland. She is the second woman to serve as Lieutenant Governor and the first woman of color and immigrant elected to statewide office in Maryland.

Born in Andhra Pradesh, India, Miller and her family immigrated to the United States when she was 7 years old. As Lieutenant Governor, her policy profile includes matters relating to transportation, mental health, and STEM equity. She chairs the Governor's Work Zone Safety Work Group as well as Maryland's first Council on Interfaith Outreach.



Katherine A. Klausmeier
(recorded remarks)
County Executive, Baltimore County

Katherine A. Klausmeier was sworn in as Baltimore County's 15th—and first female—County Executive on January 7, 2025.

Prior to her appointment as Baltimore County Executive, Klausmeier served as a member of the Maryland State Senate since 2003, representing District 8. In addition to her more-than 20 years of experience in the State Senate, Klausmeier also represented District 8 as a member of the House of Delegates from 1995-2003.

*Special appearance by Rachel Perić,
Executive Director of Welcoming America*

MORNING PLENARY

A Whole-of-Government Response: The Role of Cities, Counties, and States in Supporting Immigrant Residents

Mari Dorn-Lopez, Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Immigrant Affairs | Catalina Rodriguez Lima, Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs | Giuliana Valencia-Banks, Baltimore County Office of Immigrant Affairs | *Moderator:* Madelin Martinez, Catholic Charities of Baltimore

8:45 AM–9:45 AM

10:00 AM–10:45 AM

BREAKOUT SESSION 1



AI and Migrant Communities: Understanding Artificial Intelligence and Surveillance in Everyday Life

Theater

Amanda Pinheiro, Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University | Marianna Poyares, Center on Privacy and Technology, Georgetown University | Lutiana Valadares Fernandes Barbosa, Center for Latin American Studies, Georgetown University



Building Pathways to Economic Empowerment for Immigrant Communities

Room 210

John Godwin, New American Lending | Kendra Hernandez, Global Refugee | Keenan Hickman, Baltimore Welcome Center | Rohaizad Suaidi, The Excel Center | Dionne Waldron McNeal, Fulton Bank



Maryland Speaks: Building Language Access Across the State
Room 212

Yan Ma, Baltimore County’s Office of Immigrant Affairs | Pratikshya Mudvari, State of Maryland Governor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs | Joy Scalabrin, Baltimore City Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs



The Fabric of Healing
Room 315

Anne Eckman, Common Threads Project | Yvonne Mutshipayi, Common Threads Baltimore Circles | Sarah Poole, Intercultural Counseling Connection | Andrea Rackowski, Intercultural Counseling Connection



Critical Updates in Immigration Law
Room 316

Angela Edman, Esperanza Center, Catholic Charities of Baltimore, | Sarah Selim Milad, Just Neighbors Ministry, Inc. | Daniella Prieshoff, Tahirih Justice Center



Icons correspond to panel tracks: follow an icon to stick to that panel track, or mix it up to learn and network across different tracks!

BREAKOUT SESSION 2



The High Cost of False Hope: Combatting Immigration Fraud *Theater*

Jill Marie Bussey, Global Refuge | Whitney Moret, Baltimore City Office of Information and Technology | Adonia Simpson, ABA Commission on Immigration | Karen Straughn, Maryland Office of the Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division



From Workforce to Entrepreneurship: Creating Economic Pathways for Immigrant Communities *Room 210*

Melanie Cardenas | Liberty's Promise | Bria Hodge, Latino Economic Development Center | Omari Jeremiah, Next Generation Language Access | Abigail Wahl, International Rescue Committee | Daniel Wilkinson, World Relief Baltimore



Responding to the Moment: Community Protection in Action *Room 212*

Claire Nutt, Baltimore City College | Kelly Pacheco, Baltimore City College | Zion Parran, Baltimore City College | Armeen Sheraz, Baltimore City College | Samantha Williams, Sanctuary Streets Baltimore

11:00 AM–11:45 AM





Schools as Harbors: A Cross-Sector Approach to Suicide Prevention for New American Youth

Room 315

Kate Connor, Rales Center for the Integration of Health and Education, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine | Juan Cortez, Baltimore City Public Schools, Patterson High School | Monica Guerrero Vazquez, Centro SOL



Creating Safe Legal Access for Immigrant Survivors

Room 316

Sophia Barilone, Maryland Legal Aid | Jill Muth, Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights | Daniella Prieshoff, Tahirih Justice Center | Aracely Stafford, Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights

AFTERNOON PLENARY

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

Ana Dionne-Lanier, Amica Center for Immigrant Rights | Ama Frimpong-Houser, We Are CASA | Valeria Gomez, University of Baltimore School of Law | Beth Oppenheim, HIAS | *Moderator:* Adonia Simpson, ABA Commission on Immigration

12:45 PM–1:45 PM

BREAKOUT SESSION 3

2:00 PM–2:45 PM



Building an Integrated Response: Health, Legal Protection, and Migrant Wellbeing

Theater

Rebecca Bainum, Asylee Women Enterprise | C. Nicholas Cuneo, HEAL Refugee Health & Asylum Collaborativ | Angela Edman, Esperanza Center. Catholic Charities of Baltimore | Sarah Polk, John Hopkins Centro SOL | Julie Sutton, Asylum Medicine Training Initiative



Becoming American: Your Story, My Story, Our Story

Room 210

Cindy Baez, Refugee & Immigrant Support for Empowerment (RISE) | Nilsa Yurivilca-Zuasnabar, Asylee Women Enterprise



Immigrant Youth, School Transitions, and the Search for Belonging

Room 212

Raika Jones, International Rescue Committee | James Sadler, Baltimore's Promise



Crossing Borders: Health, Resilience, and the Lives of Migrant Women

Room 315

Morgana Falabella, Grupo Mulheres do Brasil Washington DC Chapter | Sara Paiva, Georgetown University | Denise Sarchiapone, Grupo Mulheres do Brasil Washington DC Chapter



Immigrant Youth, School Transitions, and the Search for Belonging

Room 316

Jenny Garrison, Maryland Health Connection | Ruth Getachew, Maryland Insurance Administration | Meredith Lawler, Maryland Department of Health | Brian Widuch, Maryland Department of Human Services

POSTER SESSION

Beware of Immigration Scams! Know the Signs, Protect Your Future

Jill Marie Bussey, Global Refuge

Building Bridges Through Collective Healing: Black–Migrant Community Learning in Baltimore

Soo Bin Jang, University of Delaware

Caring for Women Affected by Female Genital Cutting: Heal Refugee Health & Asylum Collaborative’s Women’s Health Clinic

Nicole Warren, HEAL Refugee Health & Asylum Collaborative

Created With, Not For: Co-creating a Peer Coaching Model with Immigrant Latina Survivors of Partner Violence

Iris Cardenas, University Of Maryland, Baltimore

Expressive Arts Therapy and Creative Approaches to Counseling for Immigrant Patients

Nouf Bazaz, HEAL Refugee Health & Asylum Collaborative | Grace Goldman, HEAL Refugee Health and Asylum Collaborative | Jason Nunez Villar, Asylee Women Enterprise | Guilkin Reyes, Asylee Women Enterprise | Daisy Zapata, HEAL Refugee Health and Asylum

3:00 PM–3:45 PM

From Harbors to Campuses: African Immigrant Students, Belonging, and Community Resilience

Martha Kakooza, Morgan State University

From Isolation to Belonging: Centering Latinx & Immigrant Lived Experiences to Improve Perinatal Health Outcomes

Mariela Rodriguez, Family League of Baltimore

Harbors & Bridges for Immigrant Mental Health in Baltimore: A Trust-Centered Navigation and Wellness Coaching Model

Orlando Lopez, Mendera Collaborative

Invisible at Home: Informal Housing, Tenant Rights, and Immigrant Vulnerability in Baltimore

Irmani-Maureen Beauvais, Morgan State University

Mindful Superheroes: Building Emotional Safety, Belonging, and Resilience for Newcomers

Shaza Ibrahim, Baltimore City Community College

Miso Project: Where Immigrant Communities Find Care, Trust, and Connection

Jooyoung Ryu, Miso Project

Neighbors Supporting Neighbors: Adapting Food Distribution Procedures for Immigrant Client Safety

Mary Elliot, Refugee & Immigrant Support for Empowerment (RISE)

Preserving Baltimore’s “Unofficial” Koreatown

Phaan Howng, Preserving Baltimore’s Koreatown

Proyecto Hombres Saludables: The Lived Experiences of Latino Immigrant Men

Lucero Huayhua, University of Maryland, Baltimore | Nalini Negi, University of Maryland, Baltimore

Reaching Hispanic Youth: Human Trafficking Prevention

Gabriela Asuad, TurnAround, Inc. | Alejandra Lema, TurnAround, Inc.

Revealing Hidden Barriers and Building Trust: The Role of Immigrant Stories and Voices

Susana Barrios, Comité Latino de Baltimore, Latinos United Network for Advocacy | Lucía Islas, Comité Latino de Baltimore, Latinos United Network for Advocacy

Safe City Baltimore Legal Screening Hotline

Stacy Kim, ABA Commission on Immigration

Telling Our Own Stories: First-Generation Youth and Community Belonging

Jasmine Ilyas-Grande, Johns Hopkins University

Unprecedented But Not Unprepared: Reinforcing Programmatic Stability in a Changing Immigration Landscape

Daniel Adegbesan, International Rescue Committee

“We Are Equal Here. No One Is Worth More Than Another.” Building Care Together, Latino Family Advisory Board in Pediatrics

Marzena Maksym, Centro SOL

PERFORMANCE



Morelys Urbano

Morelys Urbano is a Dominican-born poet and multidisciplinary storyteller whose work lives at the intersection of art, identity, and resistance. Rooted in her experiences as an Afro-Latina immigrant, her poetry explores themes of memory, displacement, Blackness, womanhood, and belonging while weaving together Spanish and English, as seen in her bilingual poetry collection, *A Sangre Fría*. She is an alum of Morgan State University and is currently pursuing graduate studies at Columbia University.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tell Us How We Did

Attendees and presenters are invited to fill out our feedback survey. Let us know what you think of this year's Summit so we can implement your feedback next year!



bit.ly/bis26-survey

Donate to the Summit

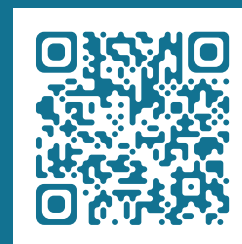
Towson University invites you to donate to the Baltimore Immigration Summit. Your contribution goes directly toward the 2027 Summit!



bit.ly/bis-donate

Save the Date for the Next Summit

Join us next year on Friday, June 4, 2027, at Towson University for the 14th iteration of the Baltimore Immigration Summit. Subscribe to the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MIMA) newsletter to make sure you're first in line for details for both presenting and attending!



bit.ly/mima-updates

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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.

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BTU—Partnerships for Greater Baltimore
 Career Center
 College of Liberal Arts
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Visit www.baltimorecity.gov/mima/summit or scan the QR code to access detailed presentation descriptions.

