



2025

**YEAR IN
REVIEW**

Baltimore City
Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs



Dear MIMA Partners,

As 2025 draws to a close, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to you. Thank you for standing alongside us in the **journey toward immigrant justice and equity** in Baltimore City. Though we have faced formidable and unique struggles this year, we have risen to the challenge together: **our community made stronger** in our commitment to the shared vision of a safer, more welcoming Baltimore for all.

It is with this collective spirit that we present our **2025 Year in Review**, reflecting on the progress we have made together to advance the **rights and dignity of New Americans** in our city. We deeply appreciate your ongoing support and dedication, and we look forward to building on this vital work with you in 2026.

In solidarity,
The Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs



MIMA'S TEAM

As MIMA's activities grew to meet the moment, so did our team. We **welcomed back** a former MIMA staff member and, for the first time in many years, hosted master's students from the University of Maryland School of Social Work as **practicum interns**. We are closing out 2025 with a **small but mighty team** that is the largest it has ever been!



9

undergraduate interns
across spring, summer,
and fall sessions

2

Master of Social Work
interns for the
academic year

8

full-time and part-
time staff members



In 2025, we had Baltimoreans from all over the city apply to volunteer with MIMA. As our immigrant neighbors faced adversity, **allies stepped up to the plate**. From interpreting to canvassing, many have been committed to **volunteering their time** to making sure Baltimore remains a Welcoming City.



133
new volunteers



2 MILLION DOLLARS

added to MIMA's FY2026 budget

FY
20
26



In the spring, community members, City Council, and Mayor Scott's administration came together to ensure that the **city's budget** showed a clear commitment to Baltimore's immigrants. Thanks to the **many voices of dedicated advocates** both within and outside of City government, MIMA's budget was increased to strengthen support for immigrant communities impacted by federal immigration policies.



1

MILLION DOLLARS
raised by individual &
institutional donors

Donate at
bit.ly/BICF



Community members and philanthropic organizations also rallied to send a clear message of support to Baltimore's immigrants. This year, individual donations to the Baltimore Immigrant Community Fund (BICF) as well as grants from the Morton and Jane Blaustein, Open Society, and other foundations will bolster MIMA's ability to provide critical services to immigrant residents. The **BICF is still fundraising**: make your values known and donate to the BICF today!



MIMA'S **FIRST** Directorial Oath of Office

Last year, MIMA was cemented as a permanent office in the Baltimore City government. This change also established the requirement that the director of MIMA be **nominated and confirmed by the Mayor and City Council**, respectively, in accordance with the City Charter. And so, Director Catalina Rodriguez Lima, on November 4th and more than a decade after she founded MIMA, was **officially sworn into office** by Mayor Brandon M. Scott!



Diversity Makes
America Great

SAFE CITY BALTIMORE

18 KYR sessions in **3** different languages for **176** community members

8 partner organizations funded **2** hotlines launched



In response to increasing threats to our immigrant communities, MIMA quickly mobilized to develop and host **Know Your Rights and Family Preparedness workshops**. These workshops empower residents to understand their rights and prepare their families for immigration emergencies.

Additionally, the broader Safe City Baltimore initiative was revitalized, offering **free legal screenings and representation** for low-income immigrants and providing **legal and wraparound services to families facing deportation**. We engaged volunteers to canvass neighborhoods, reaching hundreds of households to ensure immigrants in Baltimore have access to these crucial resources.

A single mother and survivor of abuse, originally from Italy, recently relocated with her young son to Baltimore from Ohio. Upon arriving in Maryland, she tried to apply for services on her own but was wrongfully denied, despite being eligible and providing the correct documents. Through BNAAC, she received support for the appeals process, resulting in the overturning of the denial and giving her and her son some much-needed relief and stability.

BNAAC



The **Baltimore New American Access Coalition** (BNAAC) closed out its first, ARPA-funded stage and, with the support of City funding, launched its second stage. In 2025, MIMA continued connecting **immigrant families** to public programs and essential resources, helping them to **overcome barriers** to accessing health and social services.



387 clients served
by BNAAC from

13 different countries
of origin, living in

18 Baltimore City
zip codes

LANGUAGE ACCESS

44,573 minutes of resident calls to City government interpreted into 39 different languages



786

City employees trained in language access

Following the passage of Baltimore City's first **language access law** at the end of 2024, MIMA hasn't wasted any time on its implementation! This year, we worked closely with agencies and employees to ensure that their services are available to Baltimore residents, **regardless of the language they speak.**

Through MIMA's phone interpretation service, a Mayor's Office of Employment Development employee was able to assist a Spanish-speaking constituent with filing a court case after being unfairly terminated. "It is always a pleasure to see customers feel welcome when speaking with them through a phone interpreter."





288%

increase in views of our
content on social media

11,514

interactions with our
content on social media

26,614

readers of our
monthly newsletter

We also **kept our community informed** with the latest immigration-related news, resources, and events through multiple channels and in **six different languages**. Some of our most viral posts highlighted statistics about the Hispanic population and language diversity in Baltimore and raised awareness about immigration scams and misinformation.



COMMUNICATIONS

A background photograph showing a group of people, some wearing red shirts, playing large drums in an outdoor setting. In the foreground, there are green plants with small purple flowers. The overall scene is bright and outdoorsy.

MIMA participated in back-to-school events, health and wellness fairs, cultural celebrations, art exhibits, job fairs, and many other events in 2025! Our team racked up many miles on the road and hours out in the community, connecting with immigrants in every corner of the City from Highlandtown to Fallstaff to Brooklyn.



OUTREACH



308 hours of outreach
over the course of

138 community events

22 community
stakeholder
calls





welcome
WORKS

Immigrant & Refugee
HIRING EVENT

The **New American Leadership Institute (NALI)** is a rigorous civic education program that equips emerging immigrant leaders with knowledge of **local government and core leadership skills**, while also providing a forum for networking. This year, we received a **record number of applications** and graduated our most diverse class to date!

NALI



 **21** NALI graduates representing
14 different countries 



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

MIMA also convened meetings for our **Asian American and Pacific Islander Advisory Group, Community Advisory Board, Hispanic Commission, and Language Access Oversight Committee**. The feedback that we receive from these **community voices** is crucial for shaping and guiding our office's work.

51 advisory
group members
representing
over **20** different
countries

293

attendees

76

presenters

18

panels

16

posters



On May 30, 2025, we hosted the 12th Baltimore Immigration Summit, **Baltimore United: Solidarity and Action in Uncertain Times**, at Towson University.

This annual event, organized in partnership with Towson University and Baltimore County, **brings together hundreds of voices** from public, private, non-profit, academic, activist, and other backgrounds to consider the needs of and opportunities for immigrant communities.

BALTIMORE IMMIGRATION SUMMIT





Thank you for joining us in our mission and our vision of a more welcoming Baltimore City. We look forward to continuing this work with you in 2026.