MIMA Monthly Update

August 2026



Summer is Peak Outreach Season for Team MIMA!

As we move into August, the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MIMA) is grateful for our many opportunities to be out in the community. Every calendar year, our team spends over 300 hours sharing our own programs and other multilingual resources with community members. And over 60 percent of those hours take place during the summer!

We want to meet our community where they are. Find our table at event near you (like one of the events featured below in this newsletter)!

Updates from Our Office

2026 Hispanic Heritage Award Nominations Open

Mayor Brandon M. Scott and the Baltimore City Hispanic Commission have opened nominations for the 2026 Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Awards. Do you know someone whose work has made a positive impact

Baltimore's Hispanic and Latine communities during the past year? Nominate them for an award by **August 21** at 5 PM.

Five individuals will be recognized for their outstanding contributions as an emerging leader, an educator, a service provider, a volunteer, or a bridge-builder (the Delfina Haydee Pereda Echeverria Award), respectively, at our annual reception, held at City Hall during Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15).



Submit a nomination by August 21

New American Leadership Institute Accepting Applications



The New American Leadership Academy (NALI) is a *free* four-session civics academy for emerging leaders from immigrant and refugee communities. Participants leave the program equipped to serve as ambassadors for their communities, having had the opportunity to learn about local governance, hone leadership skills, network with peers, and engage in civic participation. Participants must live or work within Baltimore City.

Apply to NALI by September 4

City Services



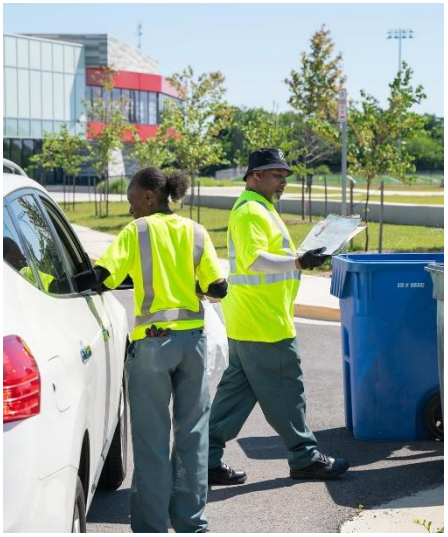
Mayor Brandon M. Scott: Back to School Kick-Off

Mark your calendars for the Mayor's Back to School Kick-Off, **August 22** from 11 AM to 4 PM at War Memorial Plaza! Join us for a day of back-to-school fun featuring FREE school supplies, family-friendly activities, entertainment, and resources to help students start the school year strong. Students receive free school supplies and backpacks, and families can also receive utility, rental, case management assistance, and more. MIMA will be at the Kick-Off to provide language support for our multilingual learner families!

Department of Recreation and Parks: Charm City Wellness Expo

Join Baltimore City Recreation and Parks (BCRP) for their Charm City Wellness Expo on Saturday, **August 15**, from 12 to 4 PM! BCRP is turning Middle Branch Fitness Center into a wellness wonderland with live workouts, goat yoga, cooking demos, health vendors, and more. Whether you are a fitness junkie or just curious about living your best life, this event has something for everybody. Sweat it out in a group class, chill in a yoga flow, or sample healthy and delicious food from local vendors. Find more information and register on the event page.

Department of Public Works: Shred Event



The Department of Public Works (DPW) will host its next Shred Event on Saturday, **August 22**, from 8 AM to 12 PM at Coppin State University, General Parking Lot C (1718 Thomas Ave, Baltimore, MD 21216).

This is a drive-through event for Baltimore City residents. Participants may bring up to two 32-gallon bags of paper documents for secure shredding. In addition to paper shredding, DPW will be offering electronics recycling, textile recycling, and a GROW Center Pop-Up! Find more information on the event page.

City Schools: Community Listening Sessions

Meet City Schools' new CEO and learn his vision for our students and schools! The CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, Dr. Jermaine Dawson, will host a six-stop community listening tour across Baltimore, providing students, families, employees, and community members with opportunities to share their perspectives. Learn more about his 100-Day Plan.

The next two sessions on Dr. Dawson's listening tour are **August 20** from 5 to 7:30 PM at Furley Elementary School and **August 27** from 5 to 7:30 PM at Bay Brook Elementary School. Register for a session through this form. Interpretation services and free food will be provided.

Health Department: Oasis Family Caregivers Support Group



Oasis is a monthly family caregivers support group designed to help caregivers connect, share, and thrive. If you are caring for an older adult or relative, join the Baltimore City Health Department on **September 1** from 11:30 AM to 1 PM for guided conversations and resources within a nurturing community of caregivers and experts. You will gain practical tools, emotional support, and moments of peace to carry back into your caregiving journey. Find more information on the event page.

Department of Housing and Community Development: Summer Food Service Program



The Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development runs a Summer Food Service Program to provide free, healthy meals to kids and teens in neighborhoods where families may need extra help. The 2026 program will run Monday through Friday, from **June 22** to **August 21**, depending on the school calendar.

To locate a meal serving site, call 410-396-0773 or search your zip code to find a meal serving site.



Department of Transportation: Traffic Modifications for Charm City Live

The Baltimore City Department of Transportation (DOT) would like to advise motorists of traffic modifications for Charm City Live which will be held at War Memorial Plaza in downtown Baltimore on Saturday, **September 5**.

In preparation for this event, the road closures will be implemented from approximately 3 PM on Friday, **September 4** through 2 AM on Sunday, **September 6**, with detours and parking restrictions in effect.

Motorists traveling in the vicinity of downtown Baltimore should be on the watch for changing traffic patterns and are encouraged to use alternate routes to avoid possible delays. Due to the road closures for this event, temporary bus diversions will also be in effect.

Visit the DOT website for detailed information on traffic modifications.

Department of Public Works: Trash and Recycling Collection Returning to Standard Time



On **September 30**, the Department of Public Works (DPW) will return to the standard schedule for trash and recycling collection, from the earlier start time for summer months. Trash and recycling will begin at 6 AM on this date.

What residents need to know:

- Collection days will stay the same.
- Only the start time is changing, from 5 AM back to 6 AM.
- Set out trash and recycling by 6 AM, or preferably the evening before, starting at 6 PM.
- Expect early morning noise from collection trucks during this period.

Local Events and Resources

We Are CASA: Community Job and Resource Fair

We Are CASA is holding a Community Job and Resource Fair on Friday, **August 14**, from 4 to 7 PM at their Baltimore Welcome Center (2706 Pulaski Hwy). Connect with more than thirty employers, workforce programs, unions, government agencies, healthcare providers, and community organizations offering job opportunities, career pathways, and valuable resources. Families can also receive free diapers while supplies last. This event is free and open to the community!

Lawyer in the Library: Immigration Information Now Available at the Brooklyn Branch Enoch Pratt



Lawyer in the Library, previously only available at the Southeast Anchor Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, has expanded to the Brooklyn Branch this summer!

Legal practitioners from Just Neighbors and World Relief will be available to speak with individuals seeking information on immigration-related matters. Practitioners can provide general information on basic immigration-related inquiries, distribute informational materials, provide referrals, and more. Services are available in Spanish.

Southeast Anchor Branch (3601 Eastern Avenue)

- The first and third **Wednesday** of the month from 11 AM to 2 PM
- Upcoming sessions on **August 19** and **September 2**

Brooklyn Branch (300 E Patapsco Ave)

- The first and third **Thursday** of the month from 11 AM to 2 PM
- Upcoming sessions on **August 13** and **August 27**



Learning Works: South Baltimore Annual Book Lovers Community Cookout

Learning Works at the South Baltimore Learning Center invites the South Baltimore community to join them for a free community cookout to celebrate National Book Lovers Day. Come enjoy free cookout food, ice cream, book readings, and more, and get a free t-shirt to commemorate the event! Choose your t-shirt size when you register on Eventbrite.

Baltimore CONNECT: Family Day at the Market



Baltimore CONNECT is hosting a community resource fair on **August 29** from 12 to 4 PM at Lexington Market to connect residents with helpful services, local organizations, and support programs in one place. Stop by for free health screenings, free food and drink, community resources, support services, raffles, giveaways, and fun entertainment!

St. Veronica's Catholic Church: 3rd Annual Community Resource Fair

St. Veronica's Catholic Church presents its third annual Community Resource Fair on Saturday, **September 5**, from 10 AM to 4 PM at 806 Cherry Hil Road. Come for family resources, health resources, community partner connections, arts and crafts, fun games, and more!



Maryland SUN Bucks: Help Buying Groceries This Summer

Maryland SUN Bucks helps families with school-aged children who receive free or reduced-price meals buy groceries during the summer break when school meals are unavailable. Families who qualify for the Maryland SUN Bucks program will receive $40 for June, July, and August (a total of $120) for each eligible student. Enroll by **August 31** to receive benefits for the summer of 2026.

Find information in English and Spanish on the Maryland Department of Human Services website. If you have any questions, call 1-800-332-6347 and select the Maryland SUN Bucks option.

Baltimore Museum of Industry: Welcome to the Museum!



The Baltimore Museum of Industry (BMI) presents its new Community Days program, Welcome to the Museum! The next day of this program is **August 29**. Visitors receive free admission, guided tours with Spanish interpretation, audio guides available in Spanish, and opportunities to connect and participate alongside Latino community organizations and leaders. Find more information and register on BMI's website.

National Developments

Executive Immigration Updates



ICE Arrests Surge at Airports: In late July, *The New York Times* reported that the Trump administration has begun arresting noncitizens with expired U.S. visas as they travel through airports. *The Times* reports that "the recent arrests appear to be an expansion of an arrangement between the Transportation Security Administration and Immigration and Customs Enforcement." Please assess your personal risk before flying and refer to resources like this guide from the National Immigration Law Center before traveling by air.

National Resources

El Paso Sector Detained Hotline: National non-profit organization Together and Free is partnering with a coalition of El Paso, Texas-based attorneys, legal services providers, and humanitarian aid workers dedicated to assisting individuals with their loved ones who may be in detention in the El Paso region. This collective is **not** affiliated with the federal government.

If you have a relative or loved one who you believe is being held at a detention center in the El Paso region and seek assistance in locating them, you can contact the El Paso Sector Detained Hotline by sending a message via WhatsApp to **214-817-0405**.

Employment Opportunities

- Family Support Specialist | Urban Strategies, Inc. | Bilingual in Spanish and English
- Legal Assistant | Just Neighbors | Bilingual in Spanish and English
- Community School Coordinator | Southeast Community Development Corporation | Bilingual in Spanish and English

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