

SEPTEMBER 2026



Celebrating African Immigrant and Hispanic Heritage Months!

African Immigrant Heritage Month is celebrated **September 1** to **September 30**, both nationally and in the State of Maryland, to recognize the significant contributions of African immigrants to our cultural, social, and economic landscape. In Baltimore, we are home to African immigrants from Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, and Togo, just to name a few countries!

And Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated **September 15** to **October 15** every year, giving us the opportunity to uplift the incredible impact of Latine communities on the U.S. Many Latin American countries, such as Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua, celebrate their independence from Spain's colonization during this 30-day period.

Join the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MIMA) in honoring the many immigrant communities that make the month of September—and our city—so special!

Updates from Our Office



MIMA is Hiring!

MIMA is hiring a **Project Coordinator for Safe City Baltimore**. This position's primary responsibility is to support the Safe City Baltimore project by coordinating Safe City Baltimore Tier 1 Know Your Rights and Family Preparedness workshops with community partners.

We are also hiring a **Communications Fellow**. This is a nine-month, part-time role supporting the Communications and Strategic Policy Manager in advancing MIMA's mission through the strategic use of messaging, media, and public engagement.

Consult the full job descriptions for more information. Applications for both openings will be reviewed on a rolling basis, with priority given to applications received by **September 25**.

Apply to work with us

Introducing Our New Shriver Peaceworker Fellow!



Josue Antonio joins MIMA as a Shriver Peaceworker Fellow while pursuing a Master of Public Policy at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Originally from Southern California and the child of Mexican immigrants, he served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Paraguay, where he worked in community health and disability inclusion. At MIMA, Josue will support Safe City Baltimore and the Baltimore City Hispanic Commission. He is particularly interested in local government, immigration policy, and community-centered approaches to public service. Outside of work, he enjoys exploring Baltimore and encountering new neighborhoods, local characters, and hidden spots.

AAPI Advisory Group Recruiting New Members

MIMA is recruiting new members for its Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Advisory Group. The mission of the AAPI Advisory Group is to advise and advocate for policies and services that respond to issues affecting AAPI individuals living and working in Baltimore City.

The group meets on a quarterly basis, and members serve a term of at least 2 years. MIMA is seeking potential members with a diverse range of AAPI perspectives through their relationships with ethnic communities, work experiences, and lived experiences. Applications are due by **September 25**.

Apply to serve on the AAPI Advisory Group

City Services

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 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 three sessions on Dr. Dawson's listening tour are:

- **September 9** from 5 to 7:30 PM at Wildwood Elementary/Middle School, 621 Wildwood Parkway
- **September 10** from 5 to 7:30 PM at John Ruhrah Elementary/Middle School, 701 Rappolla St
- **October 1** from 5 to 7:30 PM at Carver Vocational Technical High School, 2201 Presstman St

Register for a session through this form. Interpretation services and free food will be provided.



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.

Live Baltimore: Buy Back the Block Grants Available



The Buy Back the Block program provides grants to Baltimore City residents living in and then purchasing within a grant-eligible area. These grants do not have to be repaid.

- The $15,000 home purchase grant reduces the amount of money you will need up front to buy a home.
- The $20,000 home purchase & renovation grant reduces the amount of money you will need up front to buy and renovate a home.

To obtain Buy Back the Block funds, you must complete an eligibility quiz, have your eligibility verified, and receive an approved grant application. Additional terms and conditions apply. Visit Live Baltimore's website for more information!

Mayor's Office of Small and Minority Business Advocacy and Development: Online Workshops

The Mayor's Office of Small and Minority Business Advocacy and Development is hosting online workshops (webinars) for residents to learn more about personal and business finance.

Separating Business and Personal Finances: This webinar is scheduled for **September 23** at 10 AM. You will learn why you should and how you can separate your business and personal finances. Register on Eventbrite.

Business Finance Basics: This webinar is scheduled for **October 7** at 10 AM. You will learn why businesses borrow, where to turn for funding, and how the lending process works. Register on Eventbrite.

Local Events and Resources

Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation: Renters' Tax Credit Program

Are you a renter? Have you heard of the Maryland Renters' Tax Credit? Many renters in Baltimore City meet the requirements for this tax credit but have not applied yet! If you meet certain income requirements, you can save up to $1000 per year on your taxes.

Apply by **October 1**. You can apply online, or you can download, print, and mail your application (also available in Spanish). Email sdat.renters@maryland.gov or call 410-767-5915 with any questions.



Enoch Pratt Free Library: Lawyer in the Library, Immigration Information

Legal practitioners from Just Neighbors and World Relief will be available to speak with individuals seeking information on immigration-related matters at the Enoch Pratt Free Library Southeast Anchor Branch, 3601 Eastern Avenue. Practitioners can provide general information on basic immigration-related inquiries, distribute informational materials, provide referrals, and more. Services are available in Spanish. The next session is scheduled for **September 16** from 11 AM to 2 PM.

Maryland Skilled Immigrant Task Force: Resource Guide for Internationally Born Entrepreneurs

The Maryland Skilled Immigrant Task Force is excited to announce their new free Resource Guide for Internationally Born Entrepreneurs. Available in English and Spanish, this free guide helps entrepreneurs confidently navigate every stage of building a business in Maryland. Download your free guide today, and find resources guides for other topics on the Task Force's website.

Latino Economic Development Center: Childcare Entrepreneur Collective



The Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC) is launching the Childcare Entrepreneur Collective for aspiring childcare entrepreneurs who are ready to turn their passion for caring for children into a licensed, sustainable childcare business. Participants who successfully complete the program will also receive a $1,000 stipend to support their continued journey toward launching and growing their childcare business.

Applications are open for the pilot program that will begin on **September 26**. This first cohort will be conducted in Spanish and is designed to provide culturally and linguistically accessible support for Spanish-speaking aspiring childcare entrepreneurs.

For additional information about the Childcare Entrepreneur Collective, eligibility requirements, program details, and how to apply, please visit LEDC's website.

Apply to join LEDC's Childcare Entrepreneur Collective

Friends of Patterson Park: Mueveton + BabyFest 5K



The annual Mueveton + BabyFext 5K event returns on **September 12** to the Patterson Park Observatory!
This event includes a free 5K race through Patterson Park, and the first one-hundred people to register will receive a free T-shirt.
The 5K race is open to all ages (including babies in strollers and dogs)! Additionally, there will be a Kids Dash, Zumba classes, clothing swap, smoothie bikes, food, music, health screenings, baby/toddler zone and many activities for the whole family.

Register for the 5K through this form, and find more information on the Friends of Patterson Park website. Everything at the event, including the 5K, is free!

Comité Latino de Baltimore: International Festival 2026

Comité Latino de Baltimore invites you to their International Festival 2026 on **September 13** from 12 to 8 PM at Patterson Park by the Pulaski Monument. Experience the world without leaving Baltimore, and enjoy a free, family-friendly celebration.

This year's International Festival will include cultural exhibits from many countries, live dance performances (including Huapango and Chinelos), a puppy parade and costume contest, inflatables for children, face painting and crafts, free food distribution (while supplies last), and community resources! For more information, contact comitelatinodebaltimore@gmail.com.

Maryland Zoo: ¡Celebramos! Hispanic Heritage Month

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with the Zoo on **September 19** from 10 AM to 4 PM! Come for fun entertainment, community vendors and resources, Latin American folkloric dance performances, and zoo animals. This event is rain or shine, included with Zoo admission or Membership. Find the schedule of events and more information on the Maryland Zoo's website.



Waverly Main Street: Baltimore Book Festival



Celebrate literature and storytelling at the annual Baltimore Book Festival, **September 19** to **September 20** in Waverly! This festival brings together nationally recognized authors, acclaimed local writers, publishers, and literary organizations. With author talks, panel discussions, book signings, youth programming, and community activations, the festival has something for readers of all ages. Find the schedule of events and more information on the festival's website.

Johns Hopkins Medicine and ALPFA Baltimore: Mental Health in Our Communities

Johns Hopkins Medicine and the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting (ALPFA) Baltimore Chapter are hosting *Hablemos Sin Miedo* (Let's Talk Without Fear), a panel discussion on Mental Health in Our Communities, on **September 29** from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. This event will highlight culturally responsive care, family dynamics, and access to mental health resources.

Light fare of Latin cuisine and refreshments will be provided. This is a free event! RSVP on Eventbrite.

Beracah Youth Orchestra: Recruiting New Student Musicians

The Beracah Youth Orchestra, the Korean American Youth Orchestra of Maryland, is now recruiting new student musicians for the 2026–2027 season! We welcome young instrumentalists who want to develop their musical talents, build teamwork, and perform for the local community. Mark your calendars for the orientation and audition on **September 19** at 10:30 AM. Apply through this form, and for more information, visit the Youth Orchestra's website or email beracahyouthorchestra@gmail.com.

National Developments

Judicial Immigration Updates

Federal court ruling vacates State Department's 75-country visa ban: On **August 22**, 2026, a federal court ruled in *CLINIC v. Rubio* found that the State Department's broad ban on issuing immigrant visa to nationals of 75 countries from January 2026 was illegal. The court vacated the ban, opening a path for applicants who were rejected under the nationality-based ban to re-submit their applications.

Executive Immigration Updates



Guidance issued in change to public charge rule: On **August 18**, 2026, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) published additional information that explains how the use of public benefits might affect someone's immigration case. The earliest they can take effect is **September 18**, 2026, but that date could change if courts delay or block the rule changes.

USCIS clarified that the new policy manual guidance applies only to those applying for Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status (Form I-485). The new guidance builds on Biden-era guidance and allows officers to consider a broader variety of factors.

If you are using public benefits and are in the process of or planning to apply for adjustment of status or an immigrant visa, consult a trusted legal provider before you stop using those benefits. If you are an immigrant living in Baltimore City, call our Safe City legal screening hotline at 202-662-8635 to find out if you qualify for *free* legal help with your immigration case.

Board of Immigration Appeals overturns precedent relating to advance parole: On **August 17**, 2026, the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) overturned a case that had provided protection to those who had accrued "unlawful presence" and traveled outside of the U.S. on advance parole. While noncitizens may still travel on advance parole and, upon their return, be considered "inspected and admitted or paroled" for adjustment of status eligibility under INA § 245(a), their departure may trigger the unlawful presence bars. In addition, they may be refused entry to the United States by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) if they are found inadmissible under INA § 212(a)(9)(B).

If you have plans on traveling outside of the U.S. on advance parole, consult a trusted legal provider as soon as possible. If you are an immigrant living in Baltimore City, call our Safe City legal screening hotline at 202-662-8635 to find out if you qualify for *free* legal help with your immigration case.

Employment Opportunities

- Call Center Supervisor | Baltimore City Department of Information Technology
- Family Support Specialist | Urban Strategies, Inc. | Bilingual in Spanish and English
- Community School Coordinator | Southeast Community Development Corporation | Bilingual in Spanish and English

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