



Brandon M. Scott  
Mayor

# MIMA



## Monthly Newsletter



February 2024

Bulletin #62

Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MIMA)

### Happy Lunar New Year!

The Lunar New Year, which is a public seven day celebration begins this year on February 10th. Based on the Chinese lunar calendar, this year is the year of the Dragon. This symbolizes and it is said to usher in power, strength, and luck. Many Asian countries, including China, Vietnam, Korea, Japan, Mongolia, and Indonesia celebrate the Lunar New Year. Additionally, it is widely observed in ethnic communities around the world, making it a global cultural celebration. Happy Lunar New Year to all those who celebrate!

To learn more about the Lunar New Year the [Walters Art Museum](#) welcomes you and your family to join the fun on **Saturday, February 10th** for cultural dances, story time sessions, and a day of art. The event is from **11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.**



### National Black History Month

February is National Black History Month, an annual observance that shines a light on the contributions of African Americans that have shaped our nation today. This month is dedicated to honoring and learning about the rich culture of African Americans. In 1926, Carter G. Woodson, an African American historian, created this month to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, both of whom were influential leaders in the fight for freedom and liberty, and the emancipation of slaves. Known as the "father of Black History," Woodson sought to designate and promote a time to learn about Black History. Therefore, this month we celebrate the inventors, leaders, and influencers who have made and continue to make a legacy in history. Stay tuned for more information about upcoming heritage events for Black History Month by following [Recent News | Mayor Brandon M. Scott \(baltimorecity.gov\)](#).

#### Community Event:

Enoch Pratt wants you to test your knowledge of Black History in a fun filled sleuth skills game to find facts of Black History Month:

- **Date:** Saturday, February 10th
- **Time:** 3:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Enoch Pratt Southeast Anchor, Children's Department



## Updates from our Office

### Ready. Set. Submit Your Proposals- 11th Baltimore Immigration Summit

The Baltimore Immigration Summit is a free one-day event which brings together academics, policy makers, service providers, activists, community leaders, and others working with and for immigrants and refugees in our region. Baltimore and its surrounding suburbs represent an area with a growing and diverse immigrant population, and local governments view immigrants as essential to the region's ongoing resurgence.

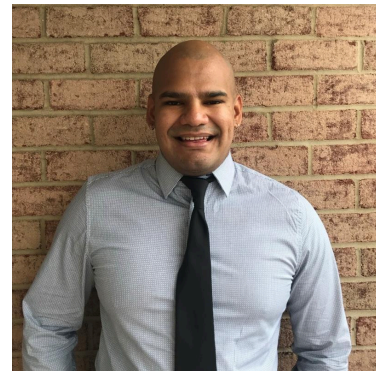
The theme of this year's summit is **Empowered Immigrant Communities: Engaging, Sharing, and Growing Together**. This year's theme positions the Summit as an opportunity to learn about and celebrate empowered immigrant communities in our region. To submit a proposal, please complete this online form: [bit.ly/BIS2024Present](https://bit.ly/BIS2024Present)

#### Submission Timeline:

- February 16, 5pm (EST): Deadline for proposal submission
- March 1: Notification of acceptances. To confirm participation, presenters will need to register before general registration opens on March 22nd.
- March 22: General registration opens
- May 31: 11th Baltimore Immigration Summit

### MIMA's welcomes our new Community Engagement Coordinator - Luis Calderon

Luis Calderon is the Community Engagement Coordinator whose main responsibility is to enhance community engagement efforts to reach all immigrant communities in Baltimore City. He collaborates with trusted community stakeholders, including non-profit organizations, faith-based institutions, civic groups, educational institutions, and city agencies to assist with information sharing, coordinating, and engaging community stakeholders to increase awareness of MIMA's initiatives and city services. Before joining MIMA, Luis worked as an Outreach Coordinator for an interfaith environmental nonprofit organization serving communities in Baltimore City and County. He has also previously held the position of Operations Manager at an immigration law firm. Luis holds a bachelor's degree in business administration, is fluent in Spanish, and is also a classically trained chef.



### Welcome our new staff member - Sybil Hua

Sybil is the newest addition to the MIMA team. She is passionate about empowering immigrant communities, having conducted qualitative and quantitative research in policymaker and community workshops in the past. She hopes to use her skills to contribute to MIMA's mission of helping new immigrants and refugees from diverse cultural backgrounds feel welcome in Baltimore City. Sybil aspires to work at the policymaker level to enact meaningful health policy changes. In addition to her career goals, she practices yoga and Pilates as a holistic approach to focus on her health and wellness. She is a native Mandarin speaker and has received a Bachelor of Engineering in Food Science + Engineering from China. Currently, she is pursuing a Master of Science in Public Health in Human Nutrition from Johns Hopkins, which she hopes to complete by May 2024.



**BIS 2024 Call for Presenters**

Interested in proposing a presentation or workshop for the Baltimore Immigration Summit?  
**Call for presenters is now OPEN!**

Proposals are due  
February 16 at 5:00 PM.  
Please submit at the link:  
[bit.ly/BIS2024Present](https://bit.ly/BIS2024Present)

**BIS 2024** TOWSON UNIVERSITY



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### Academic Internship Program- Summer Internship

The Academic Internship Program offers a unique opportunity for participants to gain professional experience, build skills through practical application, and obtain educational credits to be applied to their major/minor at their academic institution. This is a **12-week**, unpaid internship that provides current students and recent graduates with an opportunity to work directly with MIMA and receive academic credits for their academic institution. [Apply on MIMA's website by April 10th!!](#)

### Broadband & Digital Equity Newsletter

The Office of Broadband and Digital Equity (BDE) provides monthly updates related to digital equity and inclusion. [To sign up for the updates use this form .](#) To view more information about digital equity in Baltimore visit: [Digital Equity Updates and News \(baltimorecity.gov\)](#).

### Covid 19-UPDATES

#### COVID-19 Activity Increases as Prevalence of JN.1 Variant Continues to Rise

As we enter the new year, there is a new variant of [SARS-CoV-2 called JN.1](#) that is being tracked by the CDC across the United States. JN.1 is the offspring of BA.2.86, and it's not only circulating in the US but also globally. The CDC is closely monitoring the increase in JN.1 in both international travelers and wastewater viral levels. The CDC provides weekly updates on respiratory viruses, and if you want to stay up to date with the latest information, visit the [CDC Respiratory Virus Updates](#). [Anyone ages 6 months and up can get an updated vaccine](#), regardless of previous vaccination status. Most people only need a single dose of the updated 2023-24 vaccine. [Stay up to date with Covid-19 vaccination updates:](#)

#### What Parents Should Know about Vaccinations:

- Everyone aged **5 years and older** should get 1 dose of an updated COVID-19 vaccine to protect against serious illness from COVID-19.
- Children aged **6 months-4 years old** need multiple doses of [COVID-19 vaccines](#) need to be up to date, including at least 1 dose of updated COVID -19 vaccine.

#### Do you need a vaccination at home?

You can [register for an appointment online](#) or call 443-984-8650 to schedule an individual who needs to receive the vaccine at home.

### CITY SERVICES

#### 3-1-1

Did you know 3-1-1 connects the citizens of Baltimore with the latest city services, programs, and information? 3-1-1 allows city residents to report a concern or request a city service. Either by a live agent-assisted phone call or through the self-service web or mobile portal, 311 allows customers to report a problem, request a service, check the status of a previously submitted service request, and [obtain information regarding City programs or events](#).



### **The Mayor's Office of Homeless Services**

The Mayor's Office of Homeless Services (MOHS) is dedicated to reducing homelessness in Baltimore City by making it rare, brief, and non-recurring. They aim to provide safe and sustainable housing for all residents of Baltimore. MOHS offers programs that help people experiencing or at risk of homelessness navigate the housing process and access essential resources. One of these resources is an [interactive tool that provides the locations of homeless services within Baltimore City](#).

### **The Baltimore New American Access Coalition-Advancing with Resources**

The Baltimore New American Access Coalition (BNAAC) is a group of community organizations [CASA, Esperanza Center, Southeast CDC, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS)], led by MIMA, who are offering public benefit navigation to New American families. Eligible clients can receive help with applying for public benefits, including, health care coverage, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), WIC, cash assistance (TCA), childcare, home energy assistance, Affordable Connectivity Program/internet resources, and more. In 2023 the BNAAC program enrolled 447 clients from 23 different Baltimore City zip codes. Benefit Navigators aided in filling out 1000 public benefit applications. The program is currently providing benefit navigation support in over 10 languages.

- Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service (LIRS) is now taking clients!
  - Interested clients can call, text, or WhatsApp message 443-365-0472
- For more information about the program, and eligibility, and to see our translated flyers visit our [website](#).
- To refer a client to the program, use the following [form](#).

**Office of Emergency Management-** Subscribe to [BMore alert](#) to receive mass notifications of emergency alerts in Baltimore.

## **What's New This Month?**

### **Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development**

MDHCD promotes and preserves homeownership through community development initiatives to meet the challenges of a growing Maryland. Through the Maryland Mortgage Program, the department has empowered thousands of Maryland families to realize the American dream of homeownership. [To find out more information about the program and financing solutions that help families, communities, and businesses.](#)

### **Cash Campaign Free Tax Preparation- Enoch Pratt Central Library**

[CASH Campaign of Maryland](#) tax assistance is available at Central Library [by appointment only](#). Individuals or families who made less than \$64,000 may qualify for free tax preparation.

**Date:** February 7th

**Location:** Central Pratt Library

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.



*Creating Assets, Savings and Hope*

## **GRANT/SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Maryland Higher Education Commission-Howard P. Rawlings Guaranteed Access Grant**

The Office of Student Financial Assistance at the Maryland Higher Education Commission provides a number of state grants, scholarship, and loan assistance repayment programs for eligible Maryland



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residents. [The Howard P. Rawlings GA grant](#) is a need based that provides financial assistance to eligible applicants enrolled at post secondary institutions. The amount of the GA grant equals 100 percent of the student's financial need and may receive an award for up to \$20,700. Submit the MHEC One App by **March 1, 2024** for priority consideration or by **June 1, 2024**.

### Microsoft-Black at Microsoft Scholarship Program (BAM)

The BAM Scholarship was created to enable Black and African American students to attend college and pursue a career in technology. The goal is to empower future generations to do and be more. Our next scholarship cycle will open on **January 22, 2024**, and applications will be accepted until **March 13, 2024**. Applications will be submitted via the [Scholarship America Hub](#).

### The University of Maryland-AAST Scholarship Program

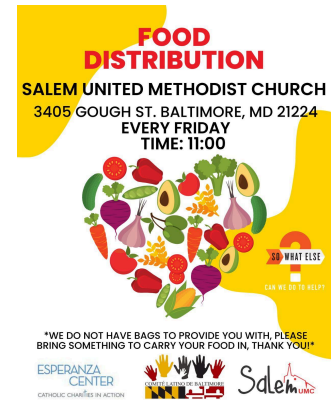
The Asian American Studies Program offers three undergraduate scholarships established in honor of Asian Americans who exemplify the spirit of service.

Please see the [2024–2025 scholarship application](#) timeline and eligibility requirements.

## EVENTS

### Food Distribution-Salem United Methodist Church

Spread the word that on every **Friday at 11:00** Salem United Methodist Church with the help of Esperanza Center and Comite Latino de Baltimore have teamed up for a food distribution for the community. Don't forget to bring a bag!



**Coaching Salud Holistica-Learn about Prenatal Care in Maryland- On Tuesday, February 27th from 12 pm to 1:30 pm.** Spanish sessions will be offered to learn how to apply for Medicare and to receive health resources and information about local support groups. To register visit: [Acceso a la atención prenatal en Maryland \(google.com\)](#).

### Creative Alliance-Black History Month Student Competition and Art Exhibition

**Location:** 3134 Eastern Ave.

**Dates/Time:** Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

**Admission:** Free **Contact Information:** 410-276-1651.

The Amalie Rothschild Gallery features accomplished artworks by East Baltimore public school students that depict the history of African Americans in Baltimore City from **Feb.27-Mar. 5th**.

### A Path to a Brighter Future-West Baltimore United Community Workshop

The City of Baltimore, Baltimore City Department of Transportation, in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration, is coordinating the West Baltimore United Planning project that will set the communities of West Baltimore on a path to a brighter future. This is an opportunity to come together and dialogue about what you want the future to look like. [RSVP](#) to be apart of shaping the future of West Baltimore through this community interaction workshop on **February 10th**.

## NATIONAL HAPPENINGS

### DHS Helps to Hold Exploitative Employers Accountable

The [Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\)](#) has issued new guidelines for noncitizen workers to never be afraid to report employer exploitation through the appropriate channels. This will safeguard the workers' interests when there is a labor agency investigation or enforcement action that is ongoing. Noncitizens can submit such requests to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) through a dedicated central intake point designed to facilitate labor agency investigative and enforcement efforts. Learn about the [process for workers and labor agencies](#).



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

[Policy Analyst Operations Officer II](#), Office of Equity and Civil Rights

[Event Staff Community Aide](#), Baltimore City Recreation and Parks

[Liason Officer II](#), Department of Public Works

[Various Openings](#), Johns Hopkins Medicine

[Social Program Administrator I](#), Health Department

[Museum Curator](#), City Hall

[Meaningful Day Community Coordinator](#), Esperanza Center

[Direct Support Professional Residential \(Evening\)](#), Esperanza Center

[Supervisor Case Management \(Bilingual English and Spanish\)](#), Esperanza Center

[Communications Specialist](#), Islamic Relief USA



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[Social Media Specialist](#), Islamic Relief USA

[Basketball Coach](#), Islamic Leadership Institute

[Executive Director of the Office of Personnel Services & Benefits](#), State of Maryland

[Teacher \(Eastern Region\)](#), State of Maryland

[Community School Coordinator-Vivian T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy](#), United Way of Central Maryland

[Multiple Career Opportunities](#), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

[Remote Career Opportunities](#), Welcoming America

[Housing Counselor](#), Southeast Community Development Corporation

**Want to stay updated with the latest information and resources for our immigrant and refugee communities?**

Follow MIMA on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)!

To sign up to receive our monthly update via email or suggest announcements to include, [please submit this form](#).