



City of Houston Celebrates Immigrant Heritage Month! June 2016



Immigrant Heritage Month is a nationwide effort to gather and share American stories of immigration.

Call to Action: The Office of International Communities encourages you to participate in Immigrant Heritage Month during the month of June by engaging community members, faith-based leaders, civic organizers, and business representatives to share their story and contribute to Immigrant Heritage Month. Your support will help spread the word about the importance of celebrating American stories of immigration across generations.

About Immigrant Heritage Month

Immigrant Heritage Month celebrates the stories of immigration shared by individuals, families, and communities who have contributed to the unique social fabric of America, a country whose strength is based on its diversity. June 2016 marks Immigrant Heritage Month's third year. Since its beginning, Immigrant Heritage Month has celebrated throughout the month of June the millions of stories that make up our nation's interwoven narrative.

Last year, over one hundred celebrities and a national network of 238 partners joined the White House and the Obama Administration in celebrating Immigrant Heritage Month. President Obama related his unique story of immigration heritage during a weekly address, and 18 members of his staff blogged about their own stories. Members of Congress and other elected officials also shared their personal stories, and the U.S. House and Senate both introduced resolutions that officially recognized June as Immigrant Heritage Month.

Immigrant Heritage Month 2016 will build on the success of the past two years through partnerships with community organizations, elected officials, corporations, media outlets, athletes, artists and thought leaders. Together, their voices will amplify our message and encourage everyone to see immigrant heritage as a source of pride.

“Immigrant Heritage Month is a chance to share our American stories.”

President Barack Obama, June 6th, 2015

Timeline

- **June 2016:** Mayor Sylvester Turner will issue a proclamation declaring June 2016 to be Immigrant Heritage Month. See the official proclamation on the [International Communities and Refugee Affairs website](#).
- **June 2016:** The City of Houston will present Certificates of Recognition to refugees and immigrants who have inspiring personal stories. View their biographies by visiting www.houstontx.gov/oic/.
- **June 1st:** First meeting of the Advisory Council of International Communities. (*Open only to Council Members*).
- **June 2nd:** First meeting of the Citizenship Month Steering Committee. (*Open only to Committee Members*).
- **June 22** The United States Citizenship & Immigration Services will hold its monthly Citizenship Swearing Ceremony (Not open to the public)

How You Can Participate

Get Involved by Sharing Your Story!

- Use social media to tell others of your involvement by using the hashtags **#ImmigrantHeritageMonth** and **#IHM2016**.
- Get a head start by gathering stories now from coworkers and people you serve to share on social media in June.
- Link to, repost, and share on social media official Immigrant Heritage Month content (accessible through IHM's website: <http://welcome.us/>.)
- Post an old photo on **Thursdays** using the hashtag **#tbt** that tells a story of immigrant heritage in your neighborhood or in the lives of people you know.
- Feature information about Immigrant Heritage Month on your website or in your newsletters that showcases your work with immigrants and celebrates immigrant contributions to your community over the generations

Attend City of Houston Events throughout June!

All Events Open to the Public

- I. **June 22 2016:** United States Citizenship and Immigration Services will hold a naturalization ceremony. (*not open to the public*)
- II. **Citizenship & Immigration Forum**
Hosted by the Office of International Communities, NALEO Educational Fund, and Neighborhood Centers Inc.

Date: Saturday, June 11th, 2016
Time: 10 am - 2 pm
Location: Baker Ripley Neighborhood Center
6500 Rookin St., Houston, TX 77074

Description: First 75 participants will receive free, one-on-one citizenship application assistance & legal consultations with immigration attorneys.

More Information: (832) 395-9913

III. Houston's Refugee Voices - Photography Exhibit

Date: Tuesday, June 14th, 2016

Time: 10 am - 2 pm

Location: Houston Community College - Central Campus Learning Hub (LHSC), Room 100
1300 Holman St., Houston, TX 77004

Description: Photography exhibit and accompanying press conference will highlight the diversity of refugees who have resettled in Houston and share their individual stories. Featured photographs will depict refugees in their own unique settings.

IV. Houston's Refugee Voices: A Story Telling Event

Part of world-wide celebrations for World Refugee Day.

Hosted by Houston Community College and made possible through a partnership between the Houston Refugee Consortium and the Office of International Communities.

Date: Saturday, June 18th, 2016

Time: 2 pm - 6 pm

Location: Houston Community College - Central Campus Learning Hub (LHSC), Room 100
1300 Holman St., Houston, TX 77004

Description: Hear the personal stories of six individuals who resettled as refugees in Houston. Learn first-hand their successes and challenges as they learned English, forged friendships, found jobs, pursued their educational goals, and, ultimately, gave back to the community. Select refugees will be honored with annual awards presented by the Houston Refugee Consortium.

For more information about the City of Houston's celebration of Immigrant Heritage Month, please go to: www.houstontx.gov/oic