

Annual Work Plan

Hispanic and Immigrant Affairs Board

FY 2025

Introduction

The Raleigh City Council created the Hispanic and Immigrant Affairs Board (HIAB) as an advisory body in February 2020.

The Hispanic and Immigrant Affairs Board advises City Council on barriers that impact the Hispanic and immigrant community in social, economic, and vocational pursuits. The creation of the Board is to make Raleigh a more welcoming city, addressing the following:

- The need to be inclusive of Hispanic and immigrant residents in civic matters
- Recognizing that there is a language barrier
- Creating an opportunity for collaboration
- Building stronger community engagement with immigrant communities

The Hispanic and Immigration Affairs Board meets the second Wednesday of every month.

Mission Statement

Advising, and advocating to the Raleigh City Council and Stakeholders on the issues that affect our immigrant communities in social, economic, and vocational pursuits; while also celebrating and connecting our immigrant communities.

Goals for Fiscal Year 2025

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1. Increase access to economic mobility for Raleigh immigrants by providing a hub for online resources.
2. Educate the City Council on social justice issues affecting immigrant communities and advocate for reducing or eliminating these barriers.

3. Enhance community awareness of our Board to increase public participation and interest through all forms of advertising and marketing.
4. Collaborate with other City of Raleigh Boards and existing groups on shared goals and events to build community trust in our mission and expand the reach of resources.
5. Expand resources in our database for language access outside of the current ones.
6. Provide resources to business owners and potential entrepreneurs to advance business growth and job creation through events and online resources.
7. Educate and foster dialogue on the immigrant experience in Raleigh through events and community engagement.
8. Draft a resolution on immigration for City Council consideration.
9. Define website content and establish a management rotation calendar.
10. Engage subcommittees in creating content and continue developing slides, invitations, announcements, and news.

Events and Goals

1. Economic Development Panel Discussions

Purpose and Goal: Empower citizens by providing them with the tools and information to successfully establish and manage their new businesses.

Location: (most likely) at Shahrazad Coffee and Tea, 3823 Hillsborough, Raleigh, NC 27607

Timeline: 3 events – one every four months

2. International Unity Flag Day

Purpose and Goal: Celebrate diverse countries and communicate presence to wider Raleigh

Location: Raleigh location central to immigrant communities

Timeline: Spring 2025

3. Immigrant Impact Award Dinner

Purpose and Goal: Recognize impact of organizations and individuals in our Raleigh immigrant communities

Location: A Raleigh local business or central Raleigh Location

Timeline: November 2024

4. Raleigh Immigrant Experience Photo Contest and Exhibition

Purpose and Goal: Educate the public and City Council on the experience of immigrants in our community

Location: Award for best photos to be given at annual Immigrant Impact Award Dinner, photo display at the COR museum or other central location

Timeline: Fall 2024

Education and Community Outreach

Education Programs

- **Economic Development:** Collect digital tools, identify gaps, and develop necessary tools focusing on starting a business, running a business, and addressing challenges.
- **Multilingual Education on Emergency Readiness:** Explore existing programs and expand them to more languages and vulnerable populations.

Community Outreach

- **Economic Development:** Partner with organizations providing business tools in different languages to support business owners and entrepreneurs.
- **Resource Fairs:** Collaborate with existing fairs and create our own to distribute information benefiting immigrant communities.
- **Event Participation:** Attend established community events to provide information on HIAB, including the International Festival in Raleigh, the African Liberation Cookout, and resource drives.

Strategies and Evaluation in Community Engagement

- The Economic Development subcommittee will track attendance at the panel discussions and seek feedback from the community and event attendees regarding the panel discussions, speakers, and usefulness and accessibility of the tools.
- How to work with start-up non-profits that focus on immigrant communities that have limited funds to enhance their missions and growth so they can put on community events with our support

Proposed Budget

Economic Development	\$5,000.00
Events & Awards	\$9,500.00
Communications	\$2,350.00
Misc	\$1000.00
Total	\$17,850.00

Board Members

Matthew Potts, Co-Chair, Community Member
Saleisha Averhart, Community Member
Karol I Bruno-Montañez, Professional Member
Dr. Khodr M Zaarour, Co-Chair, Professional Member
Ann Robertson, Professional Member
Elke Weil, Community Member
Abigail L Mulry, Community Member
Tulia Finucci, Community Member
Brendie M Vega, Secretary, Professional Member
Catherine Rivera, Professional Member
Marie Principe, Professional Member
Carlos Liriano, Professional Member
Anne Sophie Mukua Kioko, Community Member
Kathy G Monteiro, Professional Member
Tammy Loza, Professional Member

Department of Equity and Inclusion Staff

Aracelys Torrez, Community Relations Analyst

Council Liaison

Megan Patton