

# **COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS**

*Join us on Zoom to engage in a conversation about immigration.*

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023 AT NOON**



*Our immigration conversation is broken  
-- here's how to have a better one*

by Paul A. Kramer



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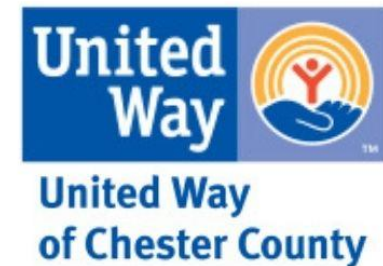
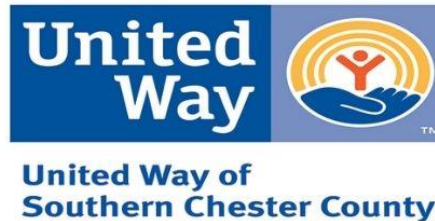
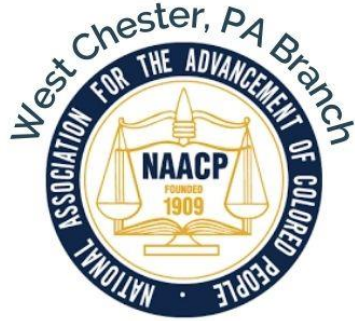


**Nancy Ayllon-Ramirez, Esq.** (she/her)  
Immigration Attorney  
Ayllon-Ramirez Law Firm

## SCHEDULE

**12 | Welcome & Overview**  
**12:05 | Topic Overview**  
**12:30 | TED Talk**  
**12:50 | Breakout Rooms**

# THANKS TO OUR PROMO PARTNERS









**Xenophobia** – Dislike of or prejudice against people from other countries

**Nativist** – The policy of protecting the interests of native-born or established inhabitants against those of immigrants

**Immigrant** – An individual seeking lawful permanent residence in a particular country

**Global Inequality** – The unequal distribution of material resources and income across countries

**Naturalization** – The legal act or process by which a non-citizen of a country may acquire citizenship or nationality of that country

**United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)** – Federal law enforcement agency under the Department of Homeland Security





## What is an immigrant?

*“Migrants choose to move in order to improve future prospects for themselves and their families.”*

- Someone who chooses to resettle to another country
- Immigrants can seek legal residency and eventually citizenship, but that process is long and costly
- Many immigrants don't have such legal status and are subject to “removal” or deportation

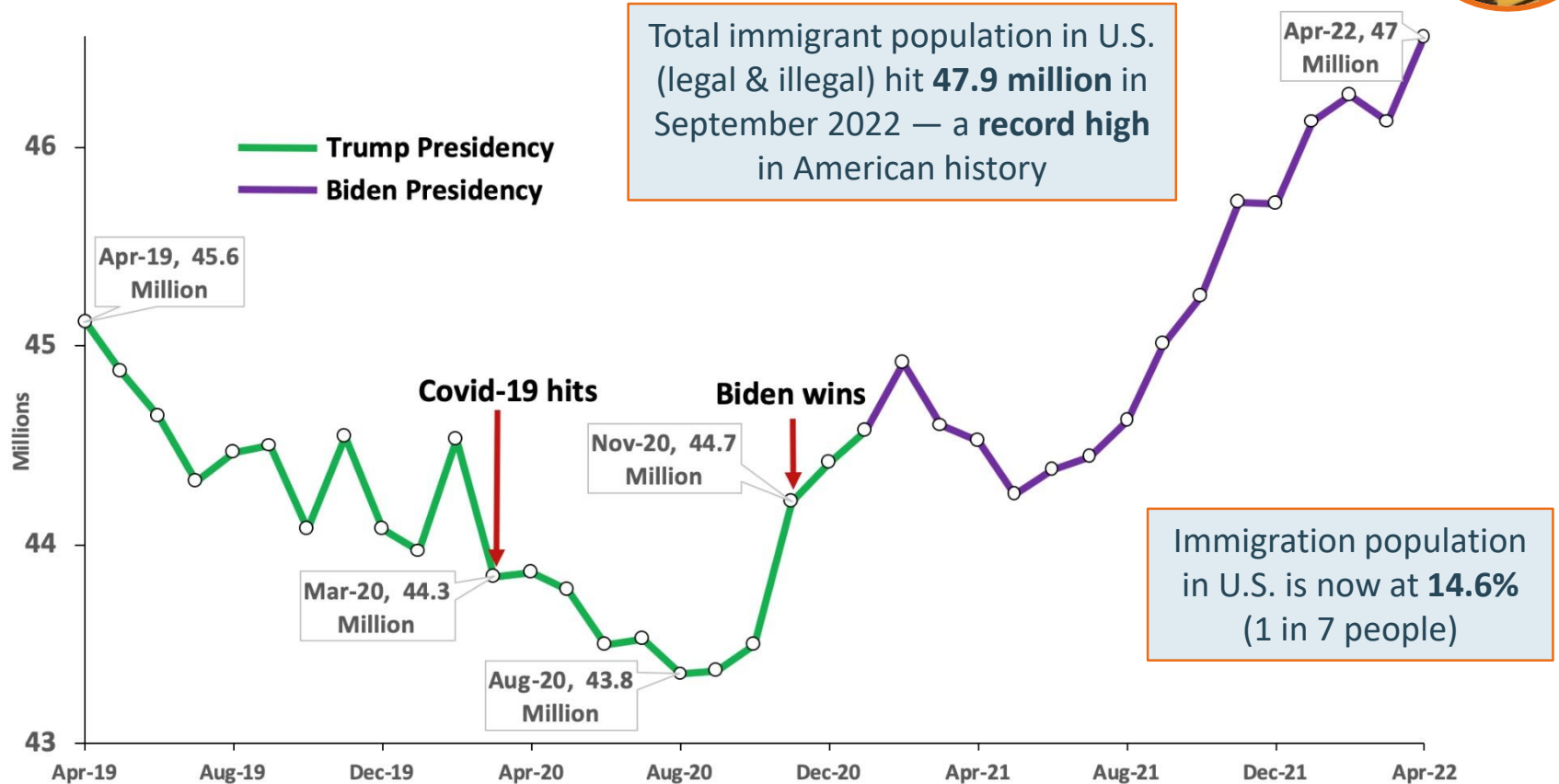
## What is a refugee?

*“Refugees have to move if they are to save their lives or preserve their freedom.”*

- Someone who has been forced to flee their home country
- Refugees can apply for asylum in the US, a process that can take years
- Applicants have to prove that if they return to their home country, they'll be injured because of their race, religion, nationality, political affiliation, etc.

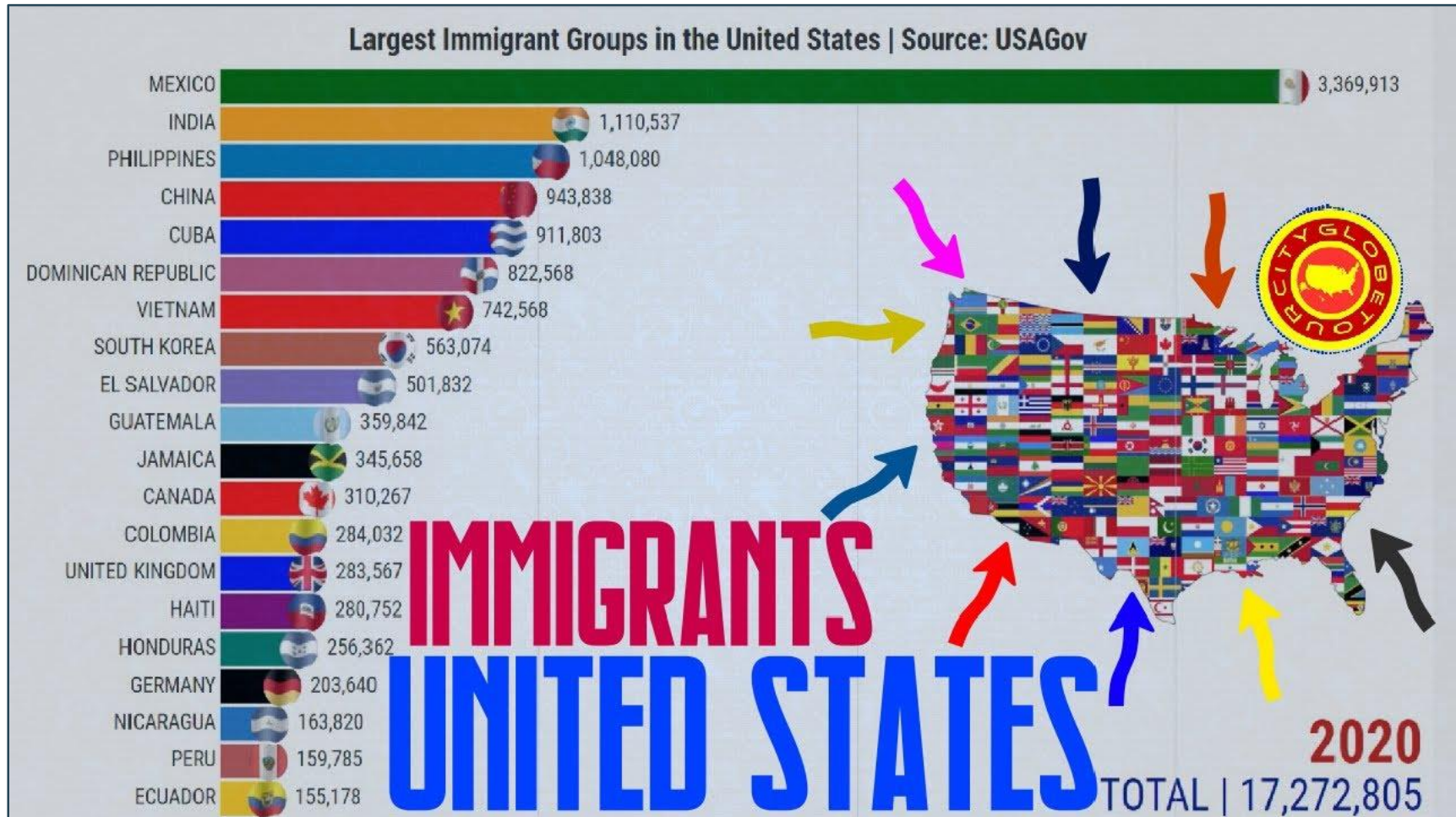
[What's the difference between immigrant and refugee? | CNN](#)





Immigrants from **Latin American countries** other than Mexico account for **60%** of the increase in the foreign-born population since January 2021

<https://cis.org/Report/ForeignBorn-Population-Hits-Nearly-48-Million-September-2022>

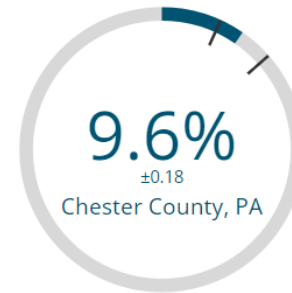






## How many people in Chester County were born in another country?

The *foreign-born population* includes both non-citizens and naturalized citizens living in Chester County, Pennsylvania. It may include some Chester County residents who do not consider themselves true immigrants, such as students and expatriates from other countries. It does *not* include children with immigrant parents—many of whom were born on U.S. soil. The tiles below show a few basic statistics about Chester County that put the foreign-born population in context.



As of 2020, **9.52%** of Chester County, PA residents were born outside of the country

## By the Numbers:

**519.6k**

People



**Total Population**  
2015-2019  
Chester County, PA

**49.7k**

People



**Foreign-Born Population**  
2014-2018  
Chester County, PA

**22.4k**

People



**Naturalized Citizens**  
2015-2019  
Chester County, PA

**27.3k**

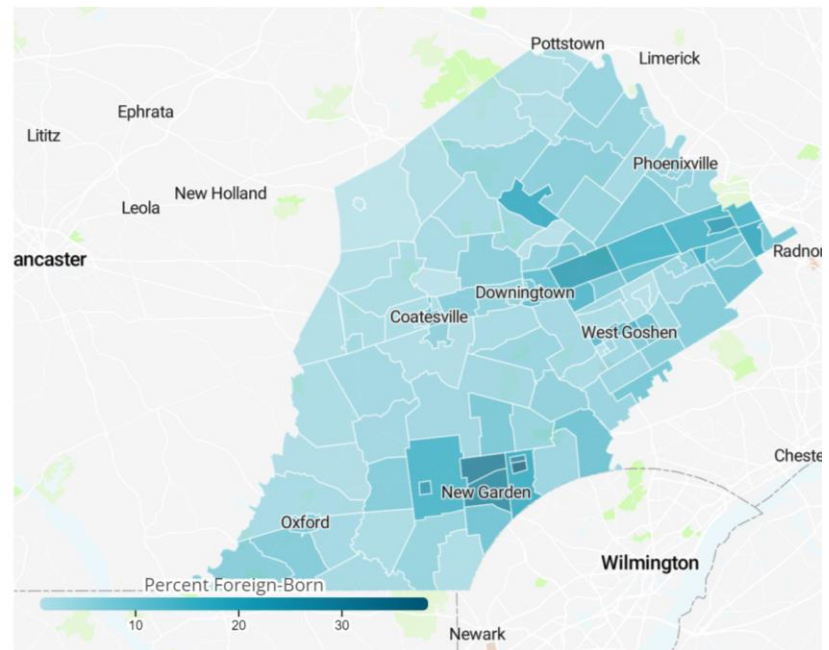
People



**Non-Citizens**  
2015-2019  
Chester County, PA

## Foreign-Born Population: by Census Tract (2014-2018)

Nativity: Foreign-Born





Naturalization is the process through which an immigrant can become a U.S. citizen.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, in **2020** there were over **628,000** naturalizations granted.

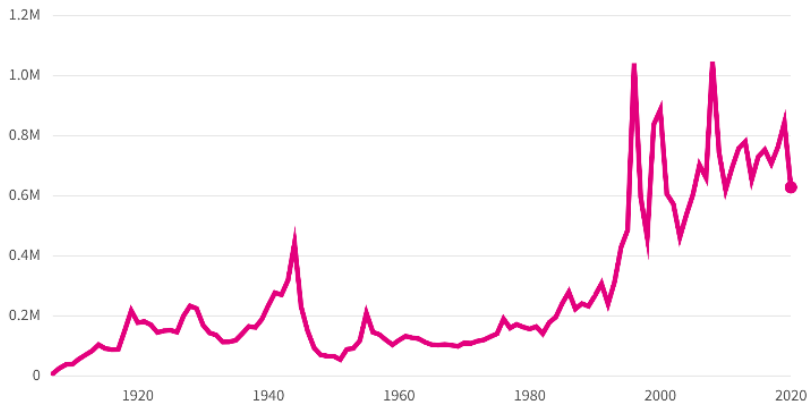
[Click here to learn more](#)

## USA FACTS

OUR NATION, IN NUMBERS

### Naturalizations granted

**628,254** in 2020



Explore the data and source at [usafacts.org](https://usafacts.org) © 2019 USAFacts.org. All rights reserved.

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## HOW TO BECOME A CITIZEN

### Determine if you are eligible

Have or obtain a green card. If you are a permanent resident, make sure you meet other citizenship requirements, such as language and history.



### File your USCIS Form N-400

USCIS is The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. It costs \$640 to file an application and \$85 as a biometrics fee. Attach a copy of your green card



\$640 + \$85 biometrics fee = \$725 total

<https://www.uscis.gov/n-400>

### Get fingerprinted

You will need to go through a background check, so you will receive a date and office to get fingerprinted



### Attend citizenship interview

After getting background check passed, you will receive a date and time to meet with a USCIS officer for your interview



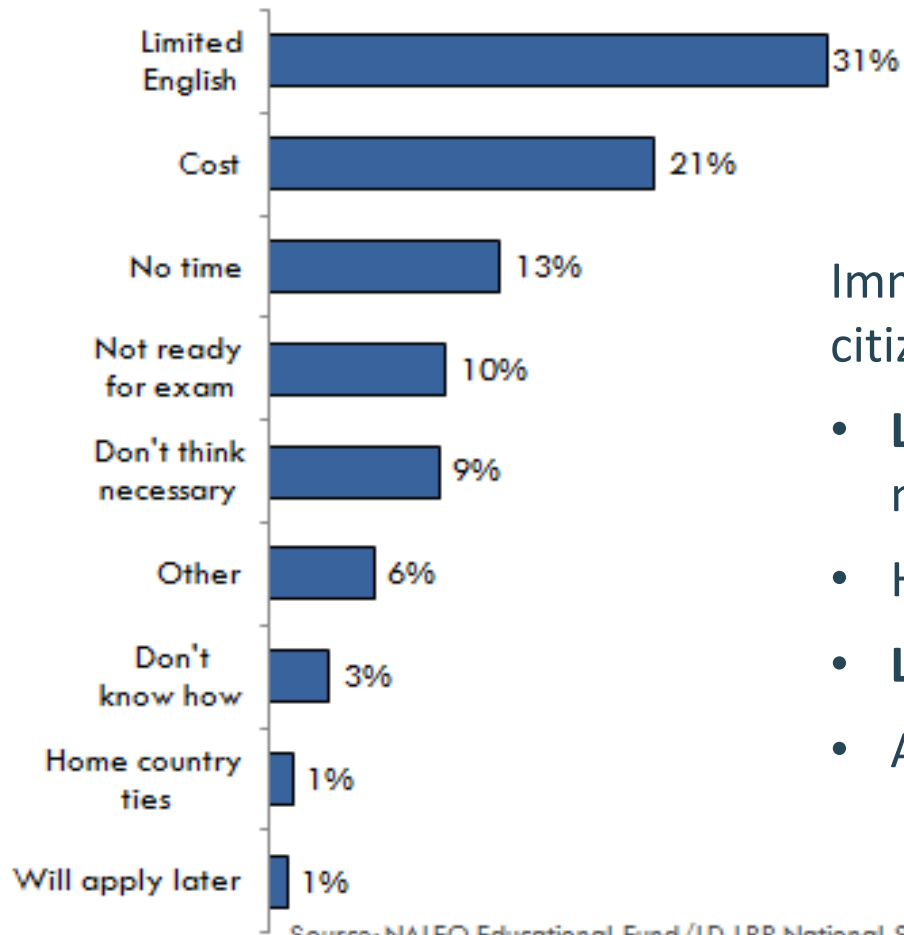
### Attend oath ceremony

If approved for your interview, you will attend an oath ceremony where you will swear loyalty to the U.S.





## Reasons not applied for citizenship



Source: NALEO Educational Fund/LD LPR National Survey, 2013

Immigrants who want to become U.S. citizens face many **barriers**, including:

- **Lack of information** about the naturalization process
- High **cost** of citizenship
- **Language** barriers
- And much, much more



Current U.S. immigration law is incredibly **antiquated**. There is a crucial need for comprehensive immigration reform as the human costs associated with these outdated and poorly considered immigration laws continue to mount.

- Post-9/11 has seen **increased detainment and deportation** of undocumented immigrants, and increased collaboration between federal, state, and local authorities
- The **DREAM Act**, which provided a path to citizenship for children who arrived in the U.S. as minors, has **failed to be approved** by Congress for almost **20 years**
- Abused immigrant women and children have stopped seeking legal permanent residence status as immigration enforcement activities have intensified – the **reduced applications** for legal permanent status is **driven primarily by fear of deportation or detention**

<https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/outdated-immigration-laws-increase-violence-toward-women/>







- Our immigration laws are exceptionally harsh in ways that frequently defy common sense.
- The notion that there is a “right way” to immigrate is just not true.
- Even if it was, our country has not always honored its own legal processes when immigrants are doing things “the right way.”

For example, U.S. treaty obligations prohibit the government from penalizing asylum seekers who arrive at the border without documents. But under President Trump, when Central American asylum seekers presented themselves to U.S. Border Patrol agents at the southern border in 2018 and 2019, as permitted by law, many were criminally prosecuted and thousands of parents were separated from their children.

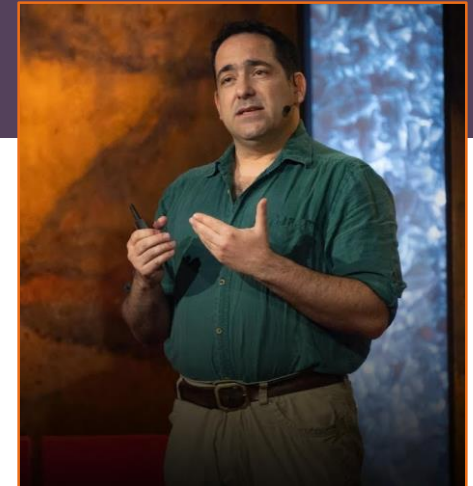
- Long-time lawful permanent residents who have contact with the criminal legal system are often denied the chance to do things “the right way.” Criminal records, no matter how old or how minor are often a barrier to regularizing an immigrant’s status and remaining in the United States.

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/dehumanizing-work-immigration-law>

# VIDEO - OUR IMMIGRATION CONVERSATION IS BROKEN

## Our immigration conversation is broken — here's how to have a better one

By Paul A. Kramer



How did the US immigration debate get to be so divisive?

In this informative talk, historian and writer Paul A. Kramer shows how an "insider vs. outsider" framing has come to dominate the way people in the US talk about immigration -- and suggests a set of new questions that could reshape the conversation around whose life, rights and thriving matters.

*"Nativists commit themselves to making stark distinctions between insiders and outsiders."*

*"We were playing that game in part by envisioning that immigrants were outsiders, rather than people, that are already in important ways, on the inside."*

*"I want to suggest that what we have to do is one of the hardest things that any society can do: to redraw the boundaries of who counts, of whose life, whose rights and whose thriving matters. We need to redraw the boundaries."*

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

*Join us on Zoom to engage in a conversation  
about Rosa Parks and Black history.*

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023 AT NOON**



Register: [ChesCoCF.org/explore/Food-for-Thought](https://ChesCoCF.org/explore/Food-for-Thought)

DATE/TIME	TOPIC
January 17th 12-1pm	Immigration
February 14th 12-1pm	Black History
March 7th 12-1pm	Food Access
April 18th 12-1pm	Healthcare
May 16th 12-1pm	Intersectionality
June 13th 12-1pm	Black Wall Street

## Brief Intros

- Who are you? What brought you to today's Community Conversation?
- What did you want to learn? What have you learned?

## Discussion Questions

- Why are we challenged by the arrival of immigrants in our country?
- How do existing policies make it harder for immigrants to defend themselves and easier for them to be exploited?



Mayra Castillo



Debbie Bookman



Lindsey Sweet, Esq.



Nancy Ayllon-Ramirez, Esq.