

**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**



# **Immigrant Integration & Inclusion Strategic Plan Steering Committee**

**Meeting #3  
May 5, 2021**



# Agenda

- Welcome
- Community Engagement Info Sessions
- Community Engagement Teams
- Youth Community Engagement Team
- G4G Research Report
- Belonging Begins with Us Campaign
- Next Steps

# Community Engagement Info Sessions

- Reached out to more than 200 individuals
- Hosted 4 info sessions
- 69 registered
- Info Session available on G4G website!



# Community Engagement Info Sessions

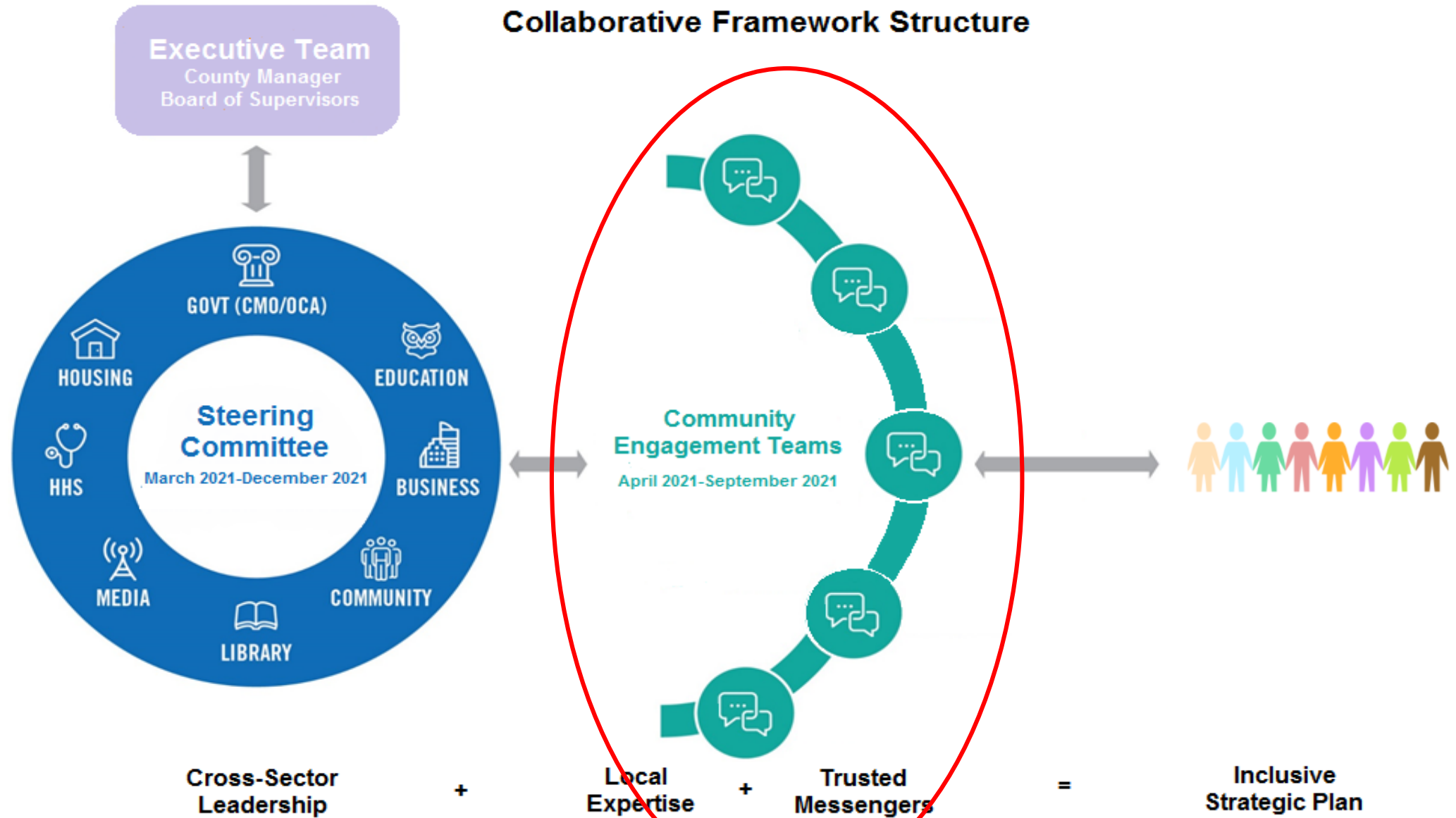
## Calling Community Partners!!

The County is looking for Community Engagement Partners in their Strategic Planning Process. Click the video below to learn more about the Community Engagement Teams and how to participate! PowerPoint [here](#).



Ready to sign up? <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G4GTeams>

# Collaborative Framework Structure



# Community Engagement Teams- Confirmed Partners

## Community Connectedness & Engagement

Co-Chairs: Nuestra Casa & Coastside Hope

- SAMCEDA
- The Big Lift/SMC District 2
- League of Women Voters
- The Grove Foundation
- SMC District 1
- SMC District 3
- Human Services Agency
- The Primary School
- JobTrain
- Redwood City Public Library
- North East Medical Services
- Fair Oaks Community Center

# Community Engagement Teams- Confirmed Partners

## Economic Development

Co-Chairs: SAMCEDA & The Grove Foundation

- SMC Housing Department
- Self-Help for the Elderly
- ACCEL
- Upwardly Global
- The Primary School
- Upward Scholars

# Community Engagement Teams- Confirmed Partners

## Educational Opportunities & Outcomes

- Co-Chairs: Office of Education & SMC Health
  - Legal Aid Society
  - SAMCEDA
  - Coastside Hope
  - The Big Lift
  - Self-Help for the Elderly
  - JobTrain
  - SMC District 1
  - ACCEL
  - The Primary School
  - JobTrain
  - Upward Scholars
  - Redwood City Public Library
  - One Life
  - SMC District 4



# Community Engagement Teams- Confirmed Partners

## Equitable Access to Services

- Chairs: Legal Aid Society, Samaritan House, Self-Help for the Elderly
  - Office of Education
  - SAMCEDA
  - Grove Foundation
  - Coastside Hope
  - SMC District 1
  - SMC District 3
  - Nuestra Casa
  - Human Services Agency
  - The Primary School
  - JobTrain
  - SMC Aging & Adult Services
  - Redwood City Public Library
  - North East Medical Services
  - Fair Oaks Community Center
  - Hip Housing
  - One Life

# Community Engagement Teams- Confirmed Partners

## Safe Communities

- Chair: Sheriff's Office

- Coastside Hope
- Department of Housing
- Catholic Charities

- The Primary School
- SMC Aging & Adult Services
- One Life

# Community Engagement Teams- Missing Partners

- ALAS (Brae)
- AbilityPath (Christina)
- Bair Islands (Bart)
- Bellehaven Action (Shireen)
- Boys and Girls Club (Linda)
- Canada College Dream Center (Carlos)
- CCCE (Larisa)
- City Chambers of Commerce (Larisa)
- CLSEPA (Ruben)
- College Track (Ruben)
- CORA (Christina)
- DC Partnership
- East Palo Alto Academy Foundation (Judith)
- National Domestic Workers Alliance
- Faith in Action (Shireen)
- Family Connections (Miriam)
- Fresh Lifelines for Youth (Tania)
- Housing Industry Foundation (Bart)
- Jewish and Lutheran Social Services
- Mental Health Association (Bart)
- Pacific Islands Together
- Pacifica Resource Center (Brae)
- PBRC (Tania)
- PCRC (Miriam)
- Peninsula Clergy Network
- Peninsula Family Service (Linda)
- Project Sentinel (Stacey)
- Project WeHope (Ruben)
- Puente (Brae)
- Redwood City PAL (Miriam)
- Ren Center (Larisa)
- SAL (Maggie)
- Siena Youth Center (Maggie)
- SMC Pride Center (Linda)
- Support Lives Foundation (Linda)
- Tahirih (Stacey)
- Youth Leadership Institute (?)
- Youth United Community Action (?)

# Community Engagement Team Meetings: Dates/Times?

- Community Connectedness & Engagement:
- Economic Development:
- Education Opportunities & Outcomes:
- Equitable Access to Services:
- Safe Communities:

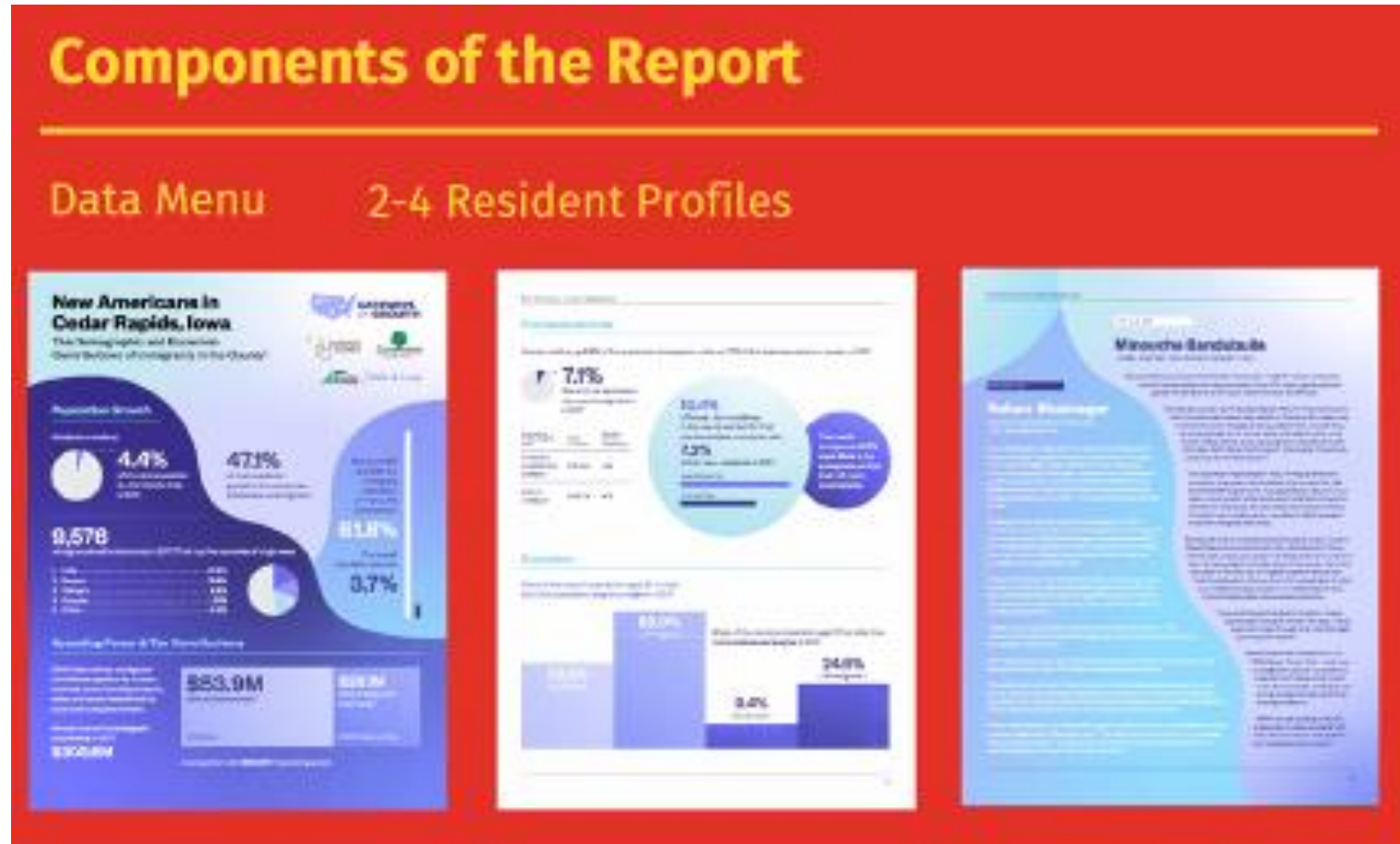
# Community Engagement Teams

## Youth Team

- Chair Volunteer ?
  - Sequoia Dream Club
  - Youth Commission

# Gateways for Growth Research Report

- NAE will provide customized quantitative research specific to SMC
- Data points will include demographics of immigrant population, economic indicators, labor market, education, entrepreneurship, housing, naturalization, refugees, and more
- We plan to launch our report during Welcoming Week 2021, in September



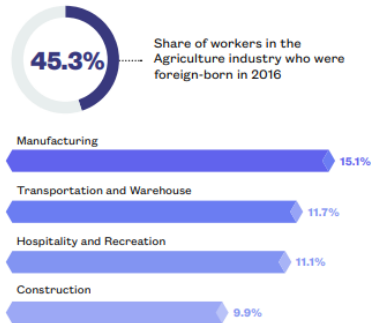
# Gateways for Growth Research Report

## LABOR FORCE GROWTH

Although the foreign-born made up **8.0%** of the county's overall population, they represented **9.9%** of its working-age\* population, **9.4%** of its employed labor force, and **9.9%** of its STEM\*\* workers in 2016.

\* Working-age refers to people ages 16-64 years old  
\*\* Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

Immigrants play a critical role in several **key industries** in the county. This includes:



Because of the role immigrants play in the workforce helping companies keep jobs on U.S. soil, we estimate that, by 2016, immigrants living in the county had helped create or preserve

# 2,308

**local manufacturing jobs** that would have otherwise vanished or moved elsewhere.<sup>6</sup>

## SPOTLIGHT ON

### Sonal & Ramesh Patel

Owners, *India Market*

**W**hen Sonal and Ramesh Patel built a house in Cascade, in southeast Grand Rapids, in 2011, they quickly noticed something missing: an Asian grocer on that side of town.

The couple, from a small town in Gujarat, in western India, had been in West Michigan since 2004, when Ramesh was hired by a rural clinic unable to find a physical therapist applicant in the United States. His wife, Sonal, an electrical engineer, followed a few months later. When her engineering credits didn't transfer, she earned an associate's degree in nuclear medicine technology while raising three young children and managing a hotel.

And although the latter was her only business experience, she couldn't help but to start looking for a retail space after their move to Cascade. "I grew up in a business family," says Sonal. "And somehow my destiny came back to that."

The couple found a space on 28th Street SE, installed new flooring, painted, and built shelves, all themselves, and opened India Market in 2015. Today about 40 percent of customers are non-Asians, and they have a lot of questions. "They want to learn Indian cooking, but they don't know what to buy," she says. "Even though I try to explain, they were looking around going, 'Is there an Indian restaurant around this place?'"

When the business next door closed, Sonal knew immediately what to do: She and Ramesh opened an Indian restaurant. They hired a Nepalese chef who grew up in Bombay, and prepares authentic, mostly northern, Indian dishes. India Masala now has seven employees; India Market has two. After the restaurant opened, in early 2017, sales at the grocery store increased by 25 percent. "Whoever comes for the restaurant, they want to try the food and cook and they go to the store. And whoever comes to the store wants to try the food and so goes to the restaurant," Sonal says.

Sonal enjoys being able to give back to Grand Rapids. "The community, my neighbors, everyone has been super supportive," she says. "I never felt like an outsider. That's what I love about the Grand Rapids community."

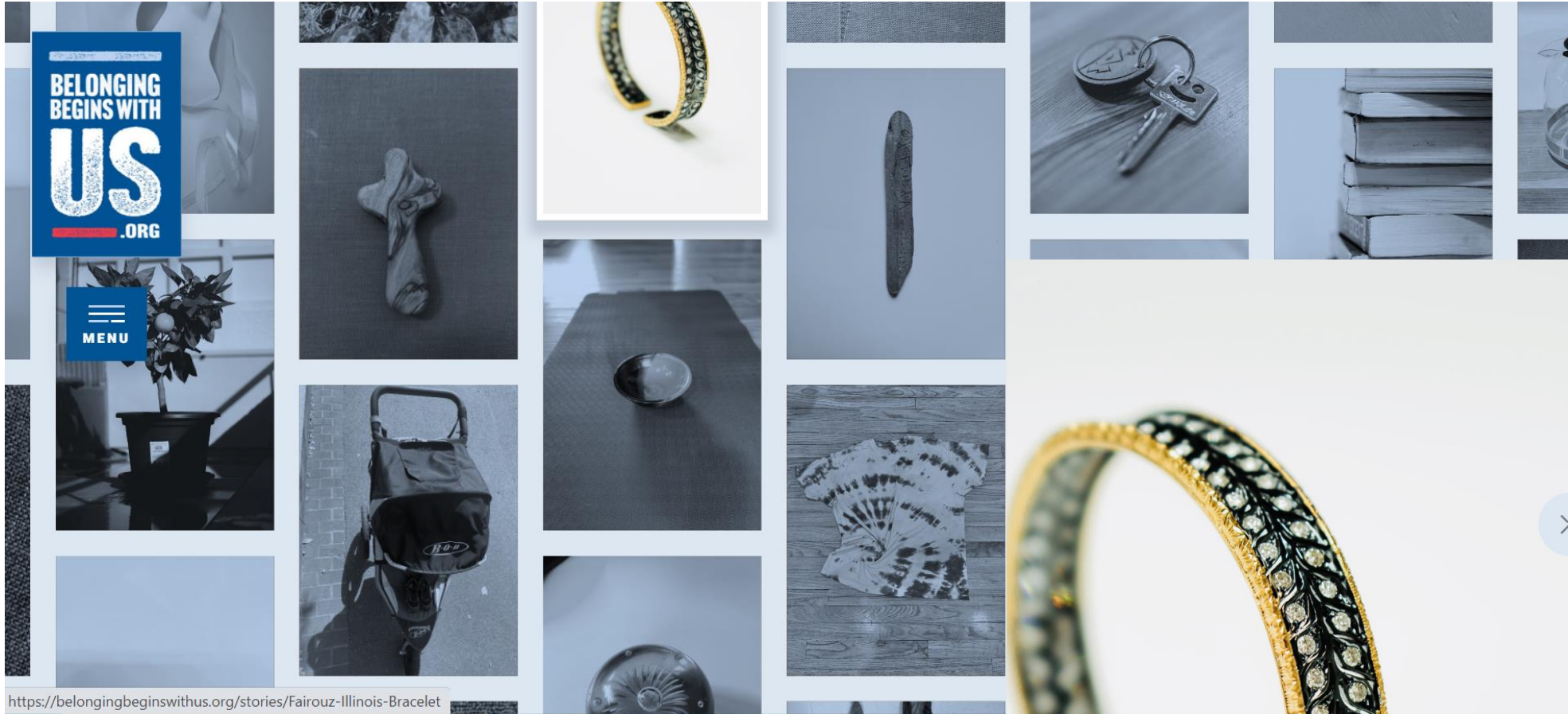
- Can you think of immigrant residents who should be highlighted for our research report?

# Belonging Begins With Us





# Belonging Begins With Us



BE LONGING  
BEGINS WITH  
**US**  
.ORG

MENU

<https://belongingbeginswithus.org/stories/Fairouz-Illinois-Bracelet>



This bracelet is a reminder to be thankful.

As an international student, winter holidays were often challenging. I was far away from friends and family. I often felt homesick and isolated. A friend from college invited me to spend my first Thanksgiving with her family. They opened up their home to me like I was family, even though my own was far away in Jordan.

A year later, they gave me this bracelet as a graduation gift. It will always remind me of their kindness. It's now my responsibility to treat newcomers with the same hospitality. My hope is that people will experience the same kindness that made me feel like I

## Next Steps

- Additional outreach for Community Engagement Team partners
- Attend your chosen community engagement team meetings
- Connect us to residents who should be highlighted for the research report and the Belonging Begins with Us campaign



**Thank You!**

