

SYMPOSIUM 2026 | DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

Broken by Design:

REFUGE AND RESPONSIBILITY

MAY 1, 2026
SYMPOSIUM REPORT

DePaul
Migration
Collaborative



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DePaul Migration Collaborative

Advocating for Justice, Educating for the Future

The DePaul Migration Collaborative engages scholars, practitioners, students and alumni to find solutions to society's most pressing problems in the areas of migration, mobility and human rights. The Collaborative leverages the power of interdisciplinary scholarly collaboration to pursue dynamic, community-engaged projects, advocacy and research, while establishing innovative learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students who will become the field's next generation of leaders and problem-solvers.

Our Programs

Solutions Lab: The Solutions Lab fosters interdisciplinary, community-engaged research projects. The unique partnership between academia and community organizations ensures that the solutions developed are not only theoretically sound but practically impactful. Each Solutions Lab project receives funding for six to twelve months of dedicated work. The grant funding is thoughtfully distributed between the academic team and the community partner organization, reflecting the value and importance of both in the project's success. Faculty can also develop cross-disciplinary experiential learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students through their Solutions Lab project.

Practitioner in Residence: The Practitioner in Residence (PIR) invites experts on migration and human rights to collaborate, address challenges, and inform policies. The residency is 4-6 months and promotes practical action. Practitioners address contemporary challenges that migrants and those supporting them face with sustainable action and research.

Alumni Field Notes: Through the voices and work of our alumni, students help tell DePaul's story as a migrant serving institution. This project features interviews highlighting alumni impact, reflections, and insights to current challenges.

Overview

The DePaul Migration Collaborative's 2026 symposium, *Broken by Design: Refuge and Responsibility*, convened scholars, legal practitioners, judges, advocates, artists, community leaders, students, and nonprofit professionals for a day of interdisciplinary dialogue on migration, displacement, and the responsibilities of institutions in a rapidly changing policy environment.

Held on May 1, 2026, the symposium examined how legal, political, and social systems shape the experiences of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and the communities that support them. Through plenary addresses, panel discussions, breakout sessions, and an accompanying art exhibition, participants explored the intersections of immigration enforcement, refugee resettlement, labor rights, data privacy, community organizing, higher education, and the rule of law.

A recurring theme throughout the symposium was the relationship between policy design and human impact. Speakers examined how immigration laws, enforcement practices, and institutional structures affect access to protection, due process, opportunity, and belonging. Discussions highlighted the importance of legal advocacy, community-based organizing, interdisciplinary research, and cross-sector collaboration in responding to contemporary migration challenges. The symposium opened with the keynote address "Mass Deportation as Racial Engineering" from UCLA Law Professor Ahilan Arulanantham, who situated current debates over immigration enforcement and temporary protected status within a broader historical and legal frameworks. Informed by his litigation work in opposition to the Trump Administration's notice of termination of Temporary Protective Status (TPS), Professor Arulanatham discussed the history of race discrimination in humanitarian admissions and the legal challenges involved leading to his recent oral argument at the Supreme Court. Throughout concurrent sessions, participants had the opportunity to more fully examine the following: pressures facing immigration courts, community responses to enforcement actions, the role of art and storytelling in fostering belonging, the growing impact of data collection and surveillance on immigrant communities, and emerging approaches to refugee resettlement and community integration. The mid-day plenary "Moving the line while holding the line: Immigrant Workers, Lawyers, Organizing in the Enforcement Era" by Fordham University Law Professor Jennifer Gordon examined the challenges facing immigrant workers and the importance of local organizing efforts including providing examples of recent New York legislation aimed at improving working conditions for delivery workers. The closing address "What Welcome Builds: Migration, Higher Education, and the Communities We Create" delivered by DePaul Associate Provost GianMario Besana reflected on the role of higher education institutions in building welcoming communities and expanding opportunities for displaced populations. To end the day, the symposium emphasized the value of creative expression and public engagement through an art exhibition featuring the work of Guggenheim Fellow Jonathan Michael Castillo and Centro Romero's Pueblo Unido Gallery.

By bringing together diverse voices from academia, law, nonprofit organizations, community institutions, and the arts, *Broken by Design: Refuge and Responsibility* advanced the DePaul Migration Collaborative's mission to foster informed dialogue, community-engaged scholarship, and meaningful collaboration around migration-related issues. The symposium created space for critical reflection on contemporary challenges while reaffirming the importance of justice, dignity, responsibility, and collective action in responding to migration and displacement.

Agenda

8:50 AM

Welcome and Introductions

Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences,
Dr. Guillermo Vásquez de Velasco and Co-Directors of
the DePaul Migration Collaborative, Dr. Shailja Sharma
and Prof. Sioban Albiol

9:00 AM

Opening Plenary: Ahilan T. Arulanantham, Professor from Practice and Faculty Co-Director of the Miñana Family Center for Immigration Law and Policy at the UCLA School of Law

Mass Deportation as Racial Engineering
Introduction by Dean of the College of Law, Prof. Geoffrey Rapp

10:15 AM

Morning Breakouts

- *From Courtrooms to Streetcorners: Reimagining Protection in a New Enforcement Era*
- *Undermining Justice: Attacks on the Rule of Law*
- *Collective Creation: Art, Memory, and Belonging*

11:45 AM

Lunch & Mid-Day Plenary: Jennifer Gordon, John D. Feerick Chair, Professor of Law, Fordham University School of Law

*Moving the Line While Holding the Line: Immigrant Workers, Lawyers,
Organizing in the Enforcement Era*
Introduction by the Director of the DePaul Center for Latino
Research, Prof. Bill Johnson González

1:30 PM

Afternoon Breakouts

- *Resettlement Under Pressure: Defending Expertise, Expanding Pathways, and Sustaining Welcome*
- *Data, Trust, and Protection Against Discrimination*
- *Ripple Effects: Community Realities and Everyday Acts of Solidarity*

3:10 PM

Closing Remarks: Dr. GianMario Besana, Associate Provost for Global Engagement and Online Learning

*What Welcome Builds: Migration, Higher Education, and the
Communities We Create*

3:50 PM

Reception and Art Exhibition

Feat. Jonathan Michael Castillo and Pueblo Unido Gallery represented by
Susana Salgado

Statement of Welcome

Dear Conference Participants,

Welcome to the DePaul Migration Collaborative's (DMC) third annual convening *Broken by Design: Refuge and Responsibility!* Since our last convening in 2024, we have seen seismic changes in immigration and refugee policies in the United States, changes which have impacted the very idea of refuge. The US government has mobilized a quasi-militia to abduct, imprison and deport migrants and refugees, even US citizens at times, turning the very idea of international law, humanitarianism, and refuge into a battlefield. Cities like Los Angeles, Chicago, Minneapolis, New York, have seen ICE on their streets and in court rooms. Classmates, teachers and coworkers have watched as students and workers have stayed at home out of fear. Entire industries such as agriculture, meatpacking, industrial labor have seen their ranks depleted. Established norms have been ignored by the very authorities previously entrusted with the responsibilities of carrying out these laws. As a Collaborative working in an urban university, the DMC has felt the impact of these changes directly. Today, we ask collectively what is our responsibility at such a time? First, we need to identify what we can do in the classroom and as citizens, and, second, join forces with other organizations who are working against the shredding of laws and processes in order to provide a united front. We hope that this conference encourages both. While Illinois has historically drawn many migrants, one distinction Illinois and Chicago hold are their welcoming policies which inform our situation and response and can serve as a model to others. Worldwide, the number of internally displaced persons is at an all-time high of 71 million. Most of the world's displaced persons live in a small number of countries with far fewer resources. On this May Day, we are invited to examine in-depth the issues migrants and laborers experience worldwide. On this May Day in Chicago, we hope that this dialogue contributes to the many voices raised in solidarity across the city.

This symposium provides us with an opportunity to take stock of current domestic challenges in responding to migrants, highlight strategy and action examples in an effort to meet the moment and look ahead to future challenges and opportunities. We hope that the symposium will encourage an exchange of ideas that addresses both the challenges and complexity of the growing phenomena of migration.

Once again, we welcome you to the 2026 DMC symposium. We hope you walk away with new insights and opportunities for future collaboration.

Dr. Shailja Sharma
Prof. Sioban Albiol
DePaul Migration Collaborative Co-Directors



Plenary Addresses and Panel Summaries



Opening Plenary Address

Mass Deportation as Racial Engineering

Ahilan T. Arulanantham is Professor from Practice and Faculty Co-Director of the Miñana Family Center for Immigration Law and Policy at the UCLA School of Law

To kick off *Broken by Design*, Prof. Ahilan T. Arulanantham delivered a moving address focused on the fight to uphold Temporary Protective Status for immigrants. Building on his litigation work and recent oral argument before the Supreme Court in *Mullin v. Dahlia Doe*, Arulanantham began his presentation, *Mass Deportation as Racial Engineering*, by discussing the history of race discrimination in immigration law in the United States citing court cases such as *Yick Wo v Hopkins* (1886), *Chae Chan Ping v U.S.* (1889), and *Korematsu v U.S.* (1944). Arulanantham argued that these cases were influential in developing immigration law in the United States, particularly increasing the absolute power of the federal government and limiting the power of the Supreme Court to make decisions on immigration law or impacting the court's ability to check the power of the federal government.

Professor Arulanantham provided context for the development of immigration detention which was banned in the 1950s but restarted in the 1980s due to an influx of Haitian refugees. Arulanantham addressed the development of the immigration detention doctrine noting the Court's decision in *Jean v. Nelson*, involving Haitian refugees, and the authority to detain and parole. The *Jean v Nelson* decision stated it was not illegal for government to conduct arbitrary detention while also granting Haitian refugees' parole.

Arulanantham also argued the importance of Temporary Protective Status. Through his work with the National TPS Alliance, Arulanantham has fought in the past to protect the rights of TPS holders and help ensure that they can live without fear of deportation or community separation. Arulanantham provided a fresh perspective highlighting his work on *NTPSA v Noem*, a case challenging DHS's decision to revoke an 18-month extension of TPS for Venezuelans though which Arulanantham has debunked racist stereotypes about Venezuelans in court that are used to justify ending TPS.

Through this discussion, Professor Arulanantham illustrated how contemporary debates over immigration enforcement and Temporary Protected Status are deeply rooted in longstanding legal doctrines and racialized policies. His presentation challenged attendees to consider the legal, historical, and human consequences of immigration policy while underscoring the importance of continued advocacy on behalf of immigrant communities.

From Courtrooms to Streetcorners: Reimagining Protection in a New Enforcement Era

Moderated by Rev. Craig Mousin, Adjunct Professor, DePaul College of Law, Grace School for Applied Diplomacy, and Refugee and Forced Migration Studies and former Ombudsperson

Panelists: Judge Samuel B. Cole (ret.), Senior Supervising Attorney and Chief Immigration Litigation Counsel, ACLU IL, Mark Fleming, Associate Director of Litigation, National Immigrant Justice Center and Alonso Zaragoza, Reference Librarian, Chicago Public Library and Founder Belmont-Cragin United Organization

The panel *From Courtrooms to Streetcorners: Reimagining Protection in a New Enforcement Era* focused on organizing across the federal, state, and local level. The panel began with Mark Fleming who reflected on his involvement during Operation Midway Blitz. He developed a network of organizations that provided and coordinated documentation from grassroots groups, evidence for federal court proceedings, and resources for rapid-response teams across the United States. He explained that his work with the NITA network contributed to litigation that resulted in a temporary restraining order affecting operations at the Chicago Broadview Detention Facility and ultimately contributed to the early termination of Midway Blitz. Fleming also described how legal strategies developed through these efforts have since been adapted by organizations nationwide to challenge immigration enforcement actions and coordinate support for detainees. According to Fleming, the network's effectiveness has depended on collaboration among a wide range of organizations working toward shared objectives.

The second panelist, Alonso Zaragoza, discussed his work building community support networks that originated at the local level and later served as models for communities in multiple states. He described a communication system that disseminates information on employment opportunities, missing persons, immigration enforcement activity, legal resources, mental health support, and community events. Zaragoza emphasized the role of these networks in promoting information-sharing, mutual aid, and community resilience.

The third panelist, Judge Samuel B. Cole (ret.), discussed his work with the ACLU during Operation Midway Blitz. He described the legal challenges associated with responding to rapidly changing immigration policies and legal interpretations. His remarks focused on litigation related to the Broadview Detention Facility and efforts to provide legal assistance to individuals in the face of immigration proceedings. Judge Cole (ret.) also highlighted the ACLU's Habeas Project, which seeks to address issues related to immigration detention and ensure access to meaningful legal remedies for those in custody. Together, the panelists highlighted how legal advocacy, community-based organizing, and cross-sector collaboration have become essential tools for responding to immigration enforcement actions, protecting affected communities, and advancing access to justice.



Undermining Justice: Attacks on the Rule of Law

Moderated by Judge James R. Fujimoto (ret.), Adjunct Professor and Senior Practitioner in Residence with the Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic, DePaul College of Law

Panelists: Former Immigration Judges Carla I. Espinoza, Managing Attorney, EZG Immigration Law, Sheila McNulty, Partner with Kriezelman Burton & Associate, and Jennifer I. Peyton, Partner with Kriezelman Burton & Associates



Photo by Jonathan Michael Castillo

Undermining Justice: Attacks on the Rule of Law featured a panel of former Immigration Judges forced out of their positions during the current Trump Administration. Altogether, the panelists represented more than 26 years of experience on the bench. Since 2025, approximately 200 Immigration Judges either resigned or were removed from their positions within the Department of Justice. The panelists discussed the structure of the U.S. immigration court system, noting that Immigration Courts operate within the Executive branch and are therefore more directly influenced by executive policy than Article III courts. They argued that following Donald Trump's return to office in January 2025, the administration implemented personnel and policy changes intended to align immigration adjudication more closely with its enforcement priorities. In coordination with the removal of Immigration Judges, the Trump Administration issued announcements on the hiring of new "deportation" judges as well as the hiring of temporary judges, emphasizing the institutional stance which further impacts immigrant access to a fair process.

The panelists also highlighted several recent policy developments, including new fees for asylum applications, stricter procedural requirements, expanded detention policies, and immigration enforcement actions occurring in or around court proceedings. They cited *Matter of Yajure Hurtado* as an example of the expansion of misinterpretation of the law from which resulted in expanding the use of detention without bond. The panelists characterized these developments as part of a broader transformation of immigration adjudication and enforcement.



Photo by Sebastian Alcaron



Collective Creation: Art, Memory, and Belonging

Moderated by Dr. Maria Ferrera, Associate Professor of Social Work and Critical Ethnic Studies, DePaul University College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Panelists: Shawn Lent, Executive Director, Dance Peace, Alejandra Oliva, Author, Co-VP of Midwest Immigration Bond Fund, Susana Salgado, Youth Program Director, Centro Romero

The panel *Collective Creation: Art, Memory and Belonging* discussed how art, community engagement, and cultural expression can serve as powerful tools for healing, advocacy, and immigrant support. Panelists discussed how their organizations empower immigrant and refugee communities through creative initiatives and community-centered programs.

Alejandra Oliva highlighted the work of Midwest Immigration Bond Fund, which provides bond assistance to immigrants detained across several Midwestern states. She explained how detention often causes families to lose jobs, custody of children, and emotional stability. Through community fundraising efforts, largely supported by artists and cultural events, the organization has raised millions of dollars to pay immigration bonds and help families regain stability.

Shawn Lent spoke about the therapeutic role of dance in supporting refugee and immigrant youth. Through Dance Peace, participants receive scholarships, educational support, and opportunities to build belonging through dance and community events. Similarly, Susana Salgado shared about Centro Romero's youth-led art and photography programs, which provide safe spaces for young people to express their identities and share personal migration stories through visual art. A major theme throughout the session was the idea that art can function as both healing and resistance. The speakers talked about how creative expression allows individuals to process trauma, strengthen community ties, and advocate for social change. They also discussed the importance of community events, cultural inclusion, and storytelling in building solidarity and supporting immigrant communities facing legal and social challenges.



Mid-Day Plenary Address

Moving the Line While Holding the Line: Immigrant Workers Organizing Under Pressure

**Professor Jennifer Gordon, John D. Feerick Chair,
Professor of Law, Fordham University School of Law**

This panel was co-sponsored and funded by the DePaul Center for Latino Research

Amid May Day, Fordham Law Professor Jennifer Gordon connected the realities of Immigrant Workers with that of advocacy groups fighting for worker's rights during a time of unprecedented immigration enforcement strategies. In her presentation, Professor Gordon shared two models of providing support locally, one being through mutual aid efforts between community members and the other model being through city and state governments working alongside organizers. Gordon explained how mutual aid efforts have increased in response to immigration enforcement. Organizations that have not traditionally conducted immigration work have found themselves participating in whistle campaigns, ICE watch, and helping people perform everyday tasks such as school pick-up and drop off for children. Professor Gordon also provided examples of organizers engaged in employer canvassing, going door-to-door to local businesses to provide employers with information on their 4th amendment rights, refusing ICE entry and identification of private space within the workplace.

As Professor Gordon continued, she highlighted how support for migrant day laborers has expanded in response to their heightened vulnerability to immigration enforcement actions and the limited legal protections available in many workplaces. Community organizations and volunteers have played a critical role in helping workers obtain and maintain Temporary Protected Status (TPS), while also supporting collective organizing efforts and advocacy campaigns. Gordon's presentation emphasized that meaningful organizing often begins at the local level, where small-scale community action can gradually build collective power and strengthen the economic and bargaining position of some of the most vulnerable immigrant workers.



Photo by Sebastian Alarcon

Resettlement Under Pressure: Defending Expertise, Expanding Pathways, and Sustaining Welcome

Moderated by Dr. Dina Birman, Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology at DePaul University
Panelists: Betsy Fisher, Chief Strategy Officer of Talent Beyond Boundaries, Emma Yaaka, IL Delegate with the Refugee Congress, Member of the U.S. Refugee Advisory Board, and Partnership Developer at Heartland Human Care Services, and Rachel Perić, Executive Director of WelcomingAmerica

Resettlement under Pressure: Defending Expertise, Expanding Pathways and Sustaining Welcome focused on the challenges currently facing refugee resettlement infrastructures and the necessity of creating welcoming communities for immigrants and refugees. Panelists discussed the effects of policy restrictions, misinformation, and funding cuts on refugee support systems while also proposing new approaches for long-term inclusion and community participation. Rachel Perić talked about how a welcoming community is one where people feel they truly belong and where their voices can influence local decision-making. She argued that communities must intentionally create policies and practices that reduce barriers to participation, improve access to legal and social services, and foster trust among neighbors. Emma Yaaka went over the practical challenges refugees face, including securing housing, employment, healthcare, and legal support. He explained that many immigrants live in fear due to misinformation surrounding deportation and public benefits, making community partnerships and local support organisations increasingly important. Betsy Fisher addressed the structural weaknesses of the United States immigration and refugee resettlement system, particularly following the closure of many federal programs after 2025. She discussed international efforts to create alternative migration pathways through employment opportunities and partnerships with governments and employers in countries such as Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom. Throughout the session, the speakers stressed that immigrant support systems must move beyond simply rebuilding previous models and instead focus on designing more inclusive, flexible, and community-driven approaches. The session highlighted the importance of collaboration, innovation, and meaningful participation in creating stronger and more equitable communities for newcomers.



Ripple Effects: Community Realities and Everyday Acts of Solidarity

Moderated by Charlotte Long, Associate Researcher, Future of Faith

Panelists: Alice Woo, Funder and Donor Relations Manager, CommunityHealth, Jennifer Aguilar, Executive Director, Little Village Chamber of Commerce and Juan Carlos Ocón, Principal, Benito Juárez Community Academy



The panel *Ripple Effects: Community Realities and Everyday Acts of Solidarity* examined the ripple effects of immigration enforcement policies on majority-immigrant communities, highlighting the ways fear and uncertainty extend beyond individual encounters with enforcement agencies and affect schools, healthcare access, local businesses, and community wellbeing. Panelists from education, healthcare, and community organizations discussed how their work has shifted in response to increased anxiety and disruption among residents.



Principal Ocón shared virtually how immigration enforcement concerns have entered the classroom, impacting students' attendance, academic performance, and emotional wellbeing. He emphasized the importance of understanding students' experiences within broader social and political contexts, recognizing that enforcement actions and community instability can have lasting effects on young people and families. He also offered guidance and strategies for maintaining an inclusive academic environment despite challenges. Alice Woo described similar challenges, including patients delaying care, missing appointments, and struggling to maintain consistent treatment due to fear of seeking services. Community clinics have responded by strengthening safety measures, expanding communication strategies, and creating accessible resources to ensure that residents can continue accessing essential care. Jennifer Aguilar explored the economic impact of enforcement practices on immigrant neighborhoods, where fear can affect local businesses, consumer activity, and community stability. Representatives from local business organizations discussed efforts to support residents and business owners through safety planning, Know-Your-Rights education, and community-based responses. Across sectors, panelists emphasized the importance of collaboration and trust-building to support communities navigating the effects of immigration enforcement.



Data, Trust and Protection Against Discrimination

Moderated by Dr. Roselyne Tchoua Associate Professor, School of Computing, DePaul University

Panelists: Sarah Lamdan, Executive Director, American Library Association, Kevin Herrera, Legal Director, Raise the Floor Chicago

Data, Trust and Protection Against Discrimination involved a lively discussion between Sarah Lamdan and Kevin Herrera, who discussed the growing role of data collection and surveillance in immigration enforcement. Sarah Lamdan began by sharing how her research led her to investigate the data broker industry, describing how private companies collect, aggregate, and sell personal information to government agencies with limited regulatory oversight. Drawing on themes from her book, *Data Cartels*, she also highlighted concerns about the lack of privacy protections governing these practices.

Kevin Herrera focused on the impact of data-driven surveillance on immigrant communities, explaining how information collected through a variety of channels is increasingly used to identify, monitor, and detain individuals. He also raised concerns about emerging forms of surveillance, including the collection of DNA samples from people held in detention facilities.

During an active Q&A discussion, the speakers spoke about the limited public awareness surrounding these issues, the importance of grassroots education, and the risks posed by inaccurate data. They noted that errors in large data systems can be difficult to correct and may result in serious consequences for affected individuals.

Together, the discussion highlighted the close relationship between immigration enforcement and commercial data markets, emphasizing the need for greater transparency, accountability, and public understanding of data privacy issues.





Closing Address

What Welcome Builds: Migration, Higher Education, and the Communities We Create

Dr. GianMario Besana Associate Provost of Global Engagement and Online Learning

To close out the day, DePaul's Associate Provost for Global Engagement and Online Learning Dr. GianMario Besana reflected on the role of higher education as community partners in responding to displacement and vulnerability. He addressed the question of "What's next?" and the Vincentian Question of "What Must Be Done" for refugee resettlement within a system facing significant challenges. Drawing from DePaul University's Vincentian mission, Dr. Besana highlighted the responsibility of institutions to build systems of care grounded in collaboration, accountability, and service. Referencing the words of Saint Vincent, "There is no act of charity that is not accompanied by justice," Dr. Besana emphasized that meaningful support for refugees and migrants requires both compassion and structural commitment. Dr. Besana also discussed DePaul's participation as one of the first universities involved in the federal Welcome Corps program, which expanded the traditional role of higher education institutions by positioning campuses as spaces of resettlement, connection, and support. He noted that higher education can serve as a critical pathway for long-term stability, social mobility, and economic opportunity for refugees and immigrants. In closing, he encouraged institutions to strengthen their engagement with displaced communities by expanding access to educational support programs that provide tutoring, counseling, and immigration-related resources. He emphasized that universities have an important role in creating sustainable networks of support and advancing a more inclusive approach to refugee resettlement.

Art Exhibition

*feat. Visual Artist and Photographer,
Jonathan Michael Castillo
and Pueblo Unido Gallery*

A decorative border of blue teardrop shapes surrounds the text. The shapes are of various sizes and are arranged in a somewhat irregular pattern, with some shapes pointing upwards and others downwards. They are located along the top, bottom, left, and right edges of the page.

A significant feature of the *Broken by Design: Refuge and Responsibility* Symposium was the art exhibition presented in collaboration with the DePaul Sparks Center. The exhibition expanded the symposium's exploration of migration, refuge, and responsibility beyond policy and academic discourse, offering attendees an opportunity to engage with these themes through visual art and community storytelling.

The exhibition highlighted the work of Jonathan Michael Castillo, an acclaimed Chicago-based visual artist, photographer, 2026 Guggenheim Fellow and educator whose practice examines migration, community, identity, and social justice. Castillo's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and has been featured by major publications and cultural institutions. During the symposium, he presented selections from two long-term projects, *Unaccompanied* (2019–2021) and *Immigrant Owned* (2017–Present). *Unaccompanied* documents the experiences of children who arrived in the United States without a parent or legal guardian, using photography and video to explore migration while protecting their privacy and dignity. In contrast, *Immigrant Owned* highlights immigrant entrepreneurs and their contributions to local economies and communities through documentary portraits. Castillo reflected on how his personal connection to migration informs his artistic practice and commitment to more humane immigration systems. His presentation complemented the symposium's legal and policy discussions by offering a powerful visual perspective on migration through lived experience.

The exhibition was further enriched by the participation of Susana Salgado, Youth Program Director and Community Education and Outreach leader at Centro Romero. As a first-generation immigrant, DACA recipient, educator, and longtime community advocate, Susana Salgado has dedicated her career to advancing educational access, youth development, immigrant rights, and community empowerment in Chicago. Salgado represented the work of Pueblo Unido Gallery, a space operated by Centro Romero that reflects the organization's commitment to community-based cultural expression. The gallery serves as a platform for emerging and established artists, providing opportunities for creative engagement while advancing conversations about migration, human rights, and social justice. Through exhibitions, arts education, and community partnerships, the gallery amplifies voices that are often underrepresented in public discourse and demonstrates the power of art as a tool for advocacy and collective understanding.

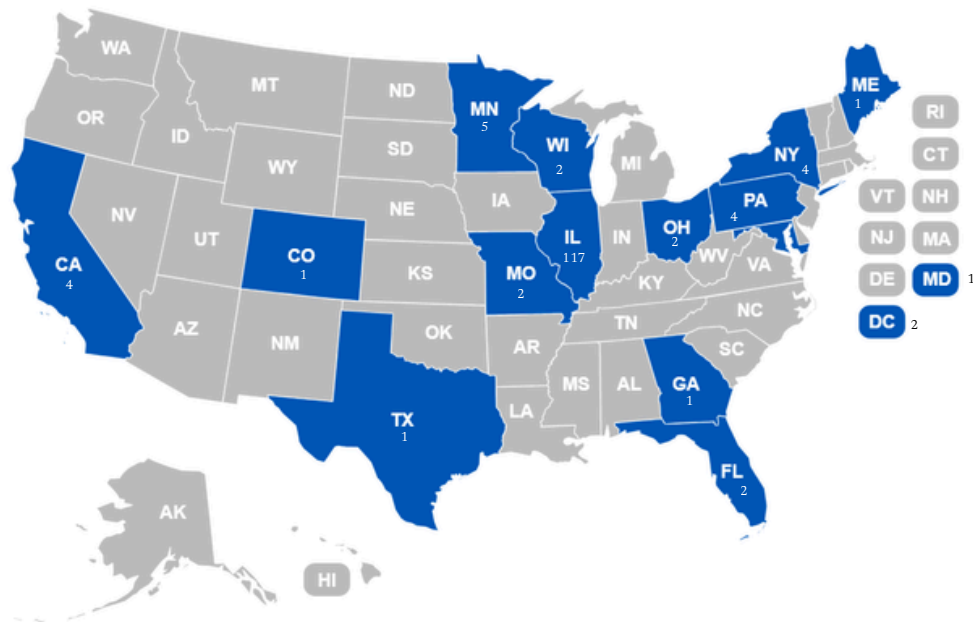


The *Broken By Design: Refuge and Responsibility* Art Exhibition was co-sponsored by the DePaul Sparks Center.

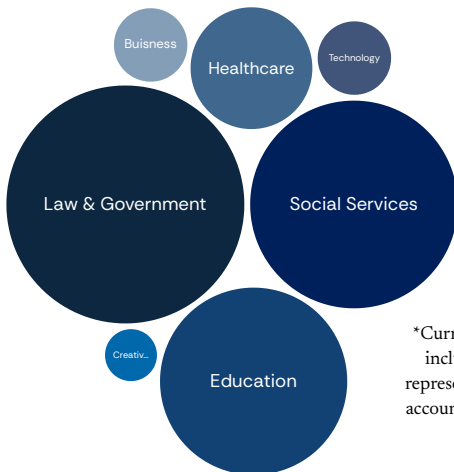
Audience Engagement

The symposium brought together **149** attendees across in-person and virtual formats, creating opportunities for interdisciplinary dialogue among academics, legal professionals, nonprofit leaders, students, and community advocates committed to advancing migrant justice. The symposium attracted participants primarily from Illinois while also engaging attendees from across the United States and Canada. Participants represented at least 12 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Ontario, Canada, demonstrating interest beyond the local region and expanding the symposium's geographic reach. The numbers on the U.S. map identify how many participants attended from these states. DePaul affiliated attendees included alumni, students, faculty and staff.

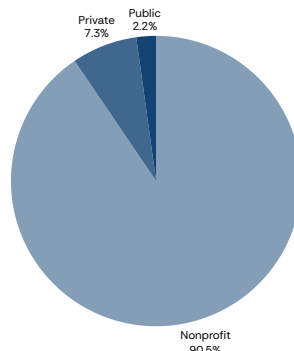
Geographic Reach



Industry Representation

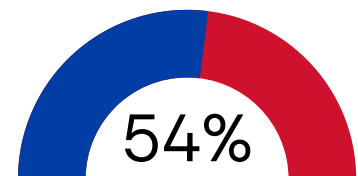


*Current students were not included in the industry representation data. Students accounted for around 10% of the audience.



Nonprofit organizations comprised the largest segment of attendees, representing nearly **four** out of every **five** participants.

Leadership Representation



Leadership Roles

Among participants, 80 individuals (54.0%) hold a formal leadership position within their organization, emphasizing the value of fostering dialogue among leaders and practitioners across levels of decision-making and professional experience.

The professional audience represented a broad cross-section of disciplines. Law and government professionals comprised the largest group, followed by social services and education. Additional representation from healthcare, business, technology, and the creative arts highlights the interdisciplinary nature of the symposium and its relevance across multiple sectors.

Photo Gallery

*Photos taken by Visual Artist and
Photographer Jonathan Michael
Castillo and DePaul Photo Agency
Photographer Sebastian Alarcon*

BROKEN BY DESIGN: PHOTO GALLERY

2026



BROKEN BY DESIGN: PHOTO GALLERY

2026



BROKEN BY DESIGN: PHOTO GALLERY

2026



Acknowledgements

Schreiber Philanthropy and Julian Grace Foundation- Thank you for your generosity and support, without which this Symposium would not be possible.

DePaul Center for Latino Research: Thank you for co-sponsoring the Mid-Day Plenary Address.

Event Organizers: Thank you, Dominique Cressler and Jill Nyhof Rodriguez, for organizing and coordinating such a wonderful event. Your hard work, dedication, and attention to detail made the Symposium a memorable experience.

Planning Committee- Preparation for this Symposium was made possible by Sioban Albiol, Shailja Sharma, Jill Nyhof-Rodriguez, Dominique Cressler, Bill Johnson Gonzalez, Martha Pagliari, Mónica Reyes. Your advice, expertise and time were truly appreciated.

Guests and Speakers- Thank you for taking the time out of your day to be with us at DePaul University. May the conference continue to inspire your work and provide deeper insight on topics and provide new collaboration opportunities.

Art Exhibition: Thank you Susana Salgado and Pueblo Unido Gallery for sharing the art, projects, and work created through Centro Romero's youth program and thank you Jonathan Michael Castillo for sharing *Immigrant Owned* and *Unaccompanied* with our guests and for capturing our event for the third symposium in a row.

DePaul Sparks Center: Thank you for allowing us to use your space for the Art Exhibition and panels. Special thanks to Joel Alvarez for his technical support and guidance.

Student Workers: Thank you to all our wonderful student workers who kept the event running smoothly.

Program Assistant: Genesis Suggs

Student Photographer: Sebastian Alarcon

Check-in: Stella Frolick, Guathami Sirigudi, Seethlaxmi Deivanayagam

Zoom Support: Deepthi Rajesh, Yashawi Sinha, Clinton Dsouza

Cleanup/Set up: Moazam Ali and Mariia Stainova

DMC Newsletter

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insights, and opportunities.



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