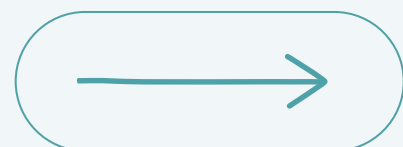




*Meeting the Moment*

**HOW TO  
ADVANCE A  
WELCOMING  
NARRATIVE IN  
CHALLENGING  
TIMES**



# RESPOND TO SCAPEGOATING



"One of the intended goals of [political violence and identity-based violence] is to make us feel like we don't have **agency** and don't have the ability to shape the world around us. We know that we have the power to help our communities **resist and rise above** political violence."

— *Rachel Brown, Over Zero*

# RESPOND TO SCAPEGOATING

Center and  
support targeted  
communities

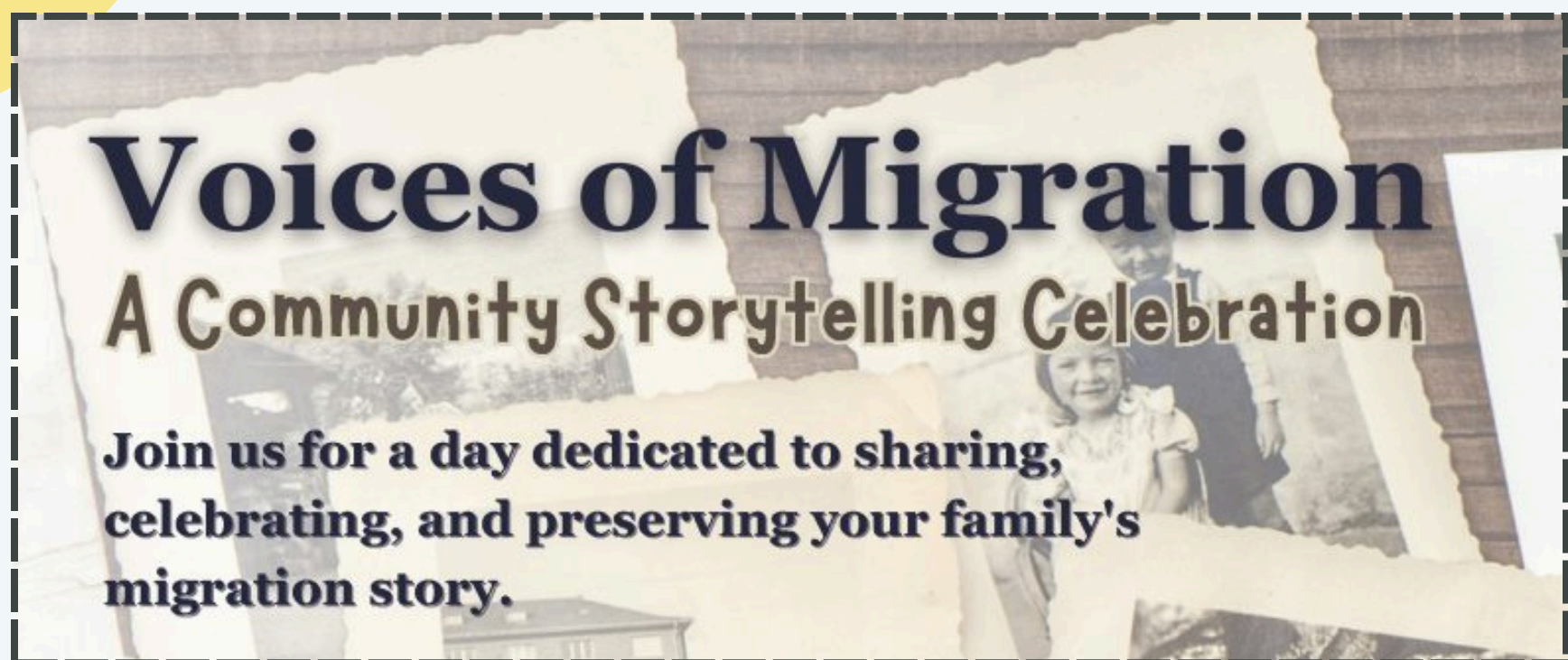
Build a sense of  
agency and reassert  
positive norms

Highlight the  
political goal and  
connect incidents to  
broader trends

Activate shared  
identities

# CHANGE THE NARRATIVE

Tell the stories of immigrants in your community



*Welcoming Week 2024 event hosted by Utah Historical Society, The Center for Economic Opportunity & Belonging, and Voices for Utah Children*

# CHANGE THE NARRATIVE

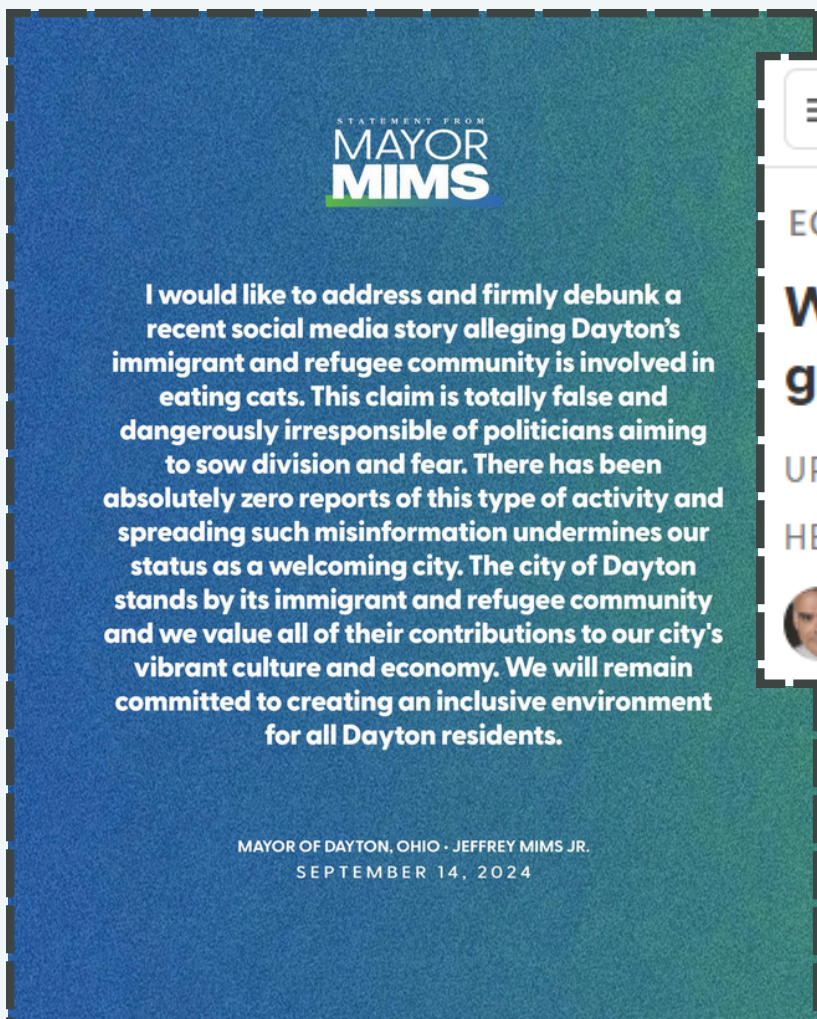


"Who is telling the narrative, what narrative is missing, and how do we **overcome this fear mentality** that conflict entrepreneurs are introducing to the community right now?"

– Ze Min Xiao, *The Center for Economic Opportunity and Belonging* (Salt Lake City, Utah)

# CHANGE THE NARRATIVE

Share public statements from leaders to reassert positive norms and facts



**STATEMENT FROM  
MAYOR  
MIMS**

I would like to address and firmly debunk a recent social media story alleging Dayton's immigrant and refugee community is involved in eating cats. This claim is totally false and dangerously irresponsible of politicians aiming to sow division and fear. There has been absolutely zero reports of this type of activity and spreading such misinformation undermines our status as a welcoming city. The city of Dayton stands by its immigrant and refugee community and we value all of their contributions to our city's vibrant culture and economy. We will remain committed to creating an inclusive environment for all Dayton residents.

MAYOR OF DAYTON, OHIO · JEFFREY MIMS JR.  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2024



Logos: npr, 88.1 WYBE, 88.1 WYBE Inspire, DONATE

ECONOMY

## Without immigrants, America's job growth would have stalled

UPDATED SEPTEMBER 21, 2024 · 8:36 AM ET

HEARD ON ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

 Scott Horsley

*Leaders in Dayton, Ohio shared statements and spoke with media to refute disinformation and highlight immigrants' contributions*





# CHANGE THE NARRATIVE



"The attacks on immigrants and refugees today are not just an attack on them. **They are an attack on us all.** They test whether we allow fear to break down our neighborhoods and threaten our shared prosperity, or whether we hold firm to the belief that **our strength lies in standing together.**"



– Eric Ward, *Race Forward*

# COMBAT POLARIZATION

1. Build bridges by bringing people who have opposing ideas together to form connections and get to know one another
2. Identify common values



# COMBAT POLARIZATION



"It's really important to **be proactive** and find ways to bring people together, have conversations even if they're challenging, and find ways that people can be welcoming."

—*Jeannette Horwitz, City of Dayton, Ohio*