

The background of the entire page is a warm, golden-orange gradient. Overlaid on this is a photograph of three men. They are all wearing a dark, double-breasted coat. The man in the foreground is looking slightly to his left. Behind him, two other men are visible, their faces partially obscured by the first man's head and shoulders. The lighting is soft and directional, coming from the right, which creates a strong shadow of the man in the foreground onto the background.

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

BORDERLESSMAGAZINE

Front cover: *Palestinian-Jordanian musician Bilal Shouly pictured in Chicago, Ill, March 16, 2023. Samer Almadani for Borderless Magazine.*

***Any inquiries about this report can be directed to
info@borderlessmag.org***

Thanks to Sarah Luyengi, Diane Bou Khalil, Max Herman, Mauricio Peña, and Nissa Rhee for their contributions to this report.

This report was designed by Nissa Rhee and Sarah Luyengi using Canva.

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OUR MISSION

**Borderless Magazine NFP is
reimagining immigration journalism
for a more just and equitable future.**

OUR MOTIVATION

For decades, the media's coverage of immigrants has been racist and harmful. From using dehumanizing labels like "illegal immigrant" to treating extremist anti-immigrant groups as sources of expertise, journalists have frequently amplified hate and endangered the lives of people seeking a new life in this country.

At the same time, newsrooms have failed to reflect the diversity of the communities they cover and have undermined reporting led by immigrant and BIPOC journalists.

OUR WORK

Borderless works to challenge racist and harmful coverage of immigrants by reporting deep and investigative, nonpartisan journalism.

As a nonprofit news outlet, we:

- **Report and publish stories** on immigration and immigrant communities in English, Spanish and Dari
- Mentor and train emerging BIPOC and immigrant journalists in investigations, community reporting and photojournalism in our **Pathways program**
- Give professional journalists the tools they need to report on immigration issues fairly and accurately through our **Immigration Reporting Lab**

Our work is changing lives in Chicago and beyond. We have won numerous national and local awards, and the L.A. Times has called us a "must-read publication."



OUR STORY



OUR VALUES

People Centered: We approach our coworkers and the people we interview, train, and mentor with humility and an appreciation of their innate human dignity. We never deceive each other or the people who entrust us with their stories.

Resilience: We see strength and power in each other and uplift one another in everything we do. We see suffering in the world, but find ways to take care of each other — and ourselves — as we serve our community.

Community First: We are deeply connected to immigrant community members. We prioritize the expertise, desires and needs of immigrants and those who care about them.

Equity: We strive to create spaces and opportunities for people who do not traditionally have power or a platform in the journalism industry, particularly BIPOC and immigrant community members.

Fearless: We bravely report the truth of our communities. We are not beholden to political or financial interests. We hold ourselves and others accountable as we help build a more just future.

FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Dear Borderless Magazine community,

We are writing to you today with full hearts as we look back on all you have helped us accomplish in 2023.

In the last year, we've doubled our audience – helping us expand our impact – and broke an international story with our investigation into the dangerous conditions at a city-funded migrant shelter.

Our small, but mighty, team has worked tirelessly to build a bridge between under-served communities and policymakers and grow community power.

This work has been heartbreaking at times: When a five-year-old boy living at a city-funded migrant shelter died just days after we published a groundbreaking investigation into the dangerous conditions at the shelter, we felt the deep pain of his loss.

But you – our community – is what kept us going. You took our investigation and subsequent stories and used our reporting to rally support for protecting asylum seekers and for holding our city's leaders accountable for how they spend taxpayer money.

As a nonprofit news organization, we rely on donors like you to do our crucial work. In this annual report, you'll learn how we put donor dollars to work in 2023 and hear about some of our biggest wins.

Our immigrant communities in Chicago, and beyond, are relying on Borderless to provide free and accessible news that holds the powerful accountable. Will you help us expand our impact by donating today? You can go to www.borderlessmag.org/donate to give.

Sincerely,



LEKISHA GUNN
BOARD PRESIDENT



NISSA RHEE
COFOUNDER &
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



MAURICIO PEÑA
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

2023 RECOGNITION FOR OUR WORK

GATHER AWARD IN COMMUNITY-CENTERED JOURNALISM

Winner
In the national Online News
Association awards for our
work with field canvassers

BEST SHORT STORY/ ESSAY OF 2023

Winner
In the Chicago Review of
Books Awards for our “After
the Buses” series on migrants
coming to Chicago

COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD

Finalist
In the national Institute for
Nonprofit News’ awards for
our work with field
canvassers

BEST COLLABORATION AWARD

Finalist
In the Chicago Journalists
Association’s Sarah Brown
Boyden Awards for our
collaboration with Block Club
Chicago for the “After the
Buses” series

BREAKING BARRIERS AWARD

Finalist
In the national Institute for
Nonprofit News’ awards for
our investigation into the
cleanup of radioactive waste
in West Chicago

BEST MULTIMEDIA COLLABORATION

Finalist
In the Chicago Headline
Club’s Lisagor Awards for our
collaboration with Block Club
Chicago for the “After the
Buses” series

WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP ACCELERATOR

Fellowship Winner
From the Online News
Association for our Cofounder
Michelle Kanaar

EARLY CAREER LEADERSHIP

Fellowship Winner
From the Emma Bowen
Foundation for our
Engagement Reporter
Diane Bou Khalil

REPORTING IMPACT



Immigrant communities deserve investigative journalism that holds the government and corporations accountable for how they interact with — and sometimes abuse — some of Chicago's most vulnerable residents. **They deserve investigative journalism and stories that not only center their experiences, but is accessible in the languages they speak.**

From inhumane conditions at migrant shelters to the growing Black immigrant community in Chicago, Borderless served our diverse immigrant community in 2023.

ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

WE SHINED A LIGHT ON THE IMPACT TOXIC INDUSTRY AND CLIMATE CHANGE HAS ON IMMIGRANTS.



Communities of color are disproportionately impacted by climate change and environmental pollution. For decades, West Chicago residents raised health concerns about the former Kerr-McGee factory releasing toxic material. But their worries were dismissed until the early 1970s. It has taken the former factory owner and the government over three decades to clean up the radioactive waste, while many residents have felt left in the dark.

We took a deep dive into the environmental cleanup and how the suburb's majority Latino residents were left out of many of the

conversations about the dangers of the pollution.

Now that the final cleanup process is underway in West Chicago, Reporter Liuan Huska brought us an update on her investigation. She talked to residents about the polluted site's future and explained how this former "radioactive capital of the Midwest" is addressing its toxic legacy.

Refugio Arias, pictured above, has been watching the progress at the former factory ever since her family moved into the neighborhood 20 years ago.

Above: Refugio Arias, 55, works at a factory packing food and has been living next to the former Kerr-McGee site for 20 years. Efrain Soriano for Borderless Magazine

INVESTIGATION IMPACT



In response to our reporting, the city and state have become more transparent about the environmental challenges and outlined final remediation efforts and plans for a park at the site. Reporting also energized local activists who had been opposing a new waste transfer station, resulting in the state denying the waste transfer station application in January 2024.

Under pressure from our reporting, the city sought input from residents on the park plans and communicated more than they had previously on the thorium remediation as well as the planned waste transfer station. Borderless' reporting on West Chicago also led to more widespread coverage from other news outlets, including the Chicago Sun-Times.

MEET THE PHOTOJOURNALIST



Efrain Soriano is a photojournalist and community reporter based in Cicero, IL. Raised by Mexican immigrants, Efrain proudly identifies as Chicana and speaks Spanish and English.

“As a mostly self-taught photojournalist, coming from an immigrant and low-income household, my access to internships and other educational opportunities were incredibly limited,” says Soriano. “But thanks to Borderless, I was able to learn so much about the ethics of connecting with and reporting on immigrant communities.”



READER RESPONSE

"Immigration is the root of our country. We should support the immigrant community."

"Amazing stories!"

"This is great! Thank you for the work that you do."

The stormwater storage basin alongside Natalie Creek in Midlothian, Ill., Aug. 5, 2023. During heavy storms, this 1.8-million-gallon detention basin fills up like a pond to mitigate flooding along the creek. Efrain Soriano/Borderless Magazine.

BLACK IMMIGRANTS TODAY

ONE IN 10 BLACK PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES IS AN IMMIGRANT.



Despite Africans making up the fastest-growing immigrant group in the country, Black immigrants are rarely covered by local or national media outlets. Black immigrants are detained, deported and denied their asylum claims at higher rates than non-Black immigrants.

We spoke to Black immigrants around Chicago about their homes, their lives, and the challenges they faced coming to the U.S.

One of those we spoke to was Tsegay Gebreyohanes, a young Eritrean father of three who fled his home country and started a new life in Chicago.

He was among a mass exodus of young people leaving the northeastern African country, fleeing a lack of political, social, and economic freedoms — and military conscription.

Over the past two decades, more than one million Eritreans have escaped what they call one of the world's most repressive and authoritative governments.

"As we build our life here, I want to give my kids things I didn't have," said Gebreyohanes. "They play soccer with an Evanston team. I am investing in better and brighter opportunities for my children."

INTERVIEWEE RESPONSES

"Wow. Amazing. I am thankful for your kindness in telling my story. God bless you!"

— Tsegay Gebreyohannes

"Thank you for sharing this."

— Yolande Sanvi

MEET THE REPORTER



Sayou Cooper is a freelance journalist and mixed media artist. Sayou immigrated to the United States in 2001 from Ghana and her family is of Liberian descent. This identity has shaped her writing and drew her to Borderless' immigrant coverage.

With the Borderless team's thoughtful and factual journalism, she was excited to work on the "Black Immigrants Today" series. For the series, she interviewed Jean Yves Hector and Agnes Kanjinga.

INVESTIGATIONS INTO MIGRANT SHELTERS

“WE NEED HELP GETTING OUT OF HERE,” ONE MIGRANT TOLD US. “THIS SHELTER IS NOT LIVEABLE FOR ANYONE.”



City officials have struggled to house thousands of migrants bused in from Texas and other border states since August 2022. Borderless has been on the ground reporting on the challenges migrants and the city face since day one.

In the Fall of 2023, Borderless received a tip about the dangerous conditions at one of the largest migrant shelters in Chicago. More than a dozen migrants who spoke to Borderless, as well as videos taken inside the shelter that Borderless reviewed, showed that the facility failed to meet the basic

standards for emergency shelter laid out by the U.N. Refugee Agency.

“They treat us terribly – like dogs,” one woman told us.

After our first investigation into the shelter, Borderless kept reporting. We found that the city of Chicago ignored dozens of warnings about the migrant shelter’s inhumane conditions before we released our investigation. We also found that shelter staff threatened migrants who recorded videos of the conditions in the shelter or spoke to the media.

SHELTER INVESTIGATION IMPACT



Just three days after our investigation was published a five-year-old boy from the shelter got sick and died. While he was not the first migrant to die in Chicago's care, our reporting helped make the story of his death and the health of migrants into an international story. Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson was forced to launch an investigation into the safety of the shelters. Under growing pressure from mutual aid workers in the days following our investigation, the city also began allowing volunteer doctors and nurses into the shelters to care for the migrants.

MEET THE REPORTER



Katrina Pham is a multimedia journalist whose focus is on race and social justice reporting. She's reported on solutions for inaccessible mental health care for Southeast Asian American refugees among other topics relating to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Katrina was born in Chicago, where both her parents settled after arriving as refugees from Vietnam following the end of the war.

"The editorial team at Borderless constantly pushed me to grow while also allowing me to follow my passions," Pham said.

IMMIGRATION POLICY

THE U.S. HAS THE LARGEST IMMIGRANT DETENTION SYSTEM IN THE WORLD. OUR WORK HOLDS THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE.



The Chicago ICE Field Office conducted more than 13,000 searches of the LexisNexis database between March and September 2021.

Chicago-area individuals and immigrant rights advocates for immigrant rights sued the research and data brokerage firm LexisNexis over its collection and sale of immigrants' personal data in a \$22.1-million contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Those involved with the lawsuit were concerned that the LexisNexis database removed the typical due process protocols like filing a subpoena or court order to access personal information.

"When you hear about these things, part of you thinks 'does this

particularly impact me or my family?' and you want to think that it doesn't," said Claudia Marchan, who leads the nonprofit Northern Illinois Justice for our Neighbors, an immigration rights advocacy group.

Marchan spent much of her life living in the U.S. without documentation. She was protected under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and obtained lawful permanent residence in 2021, but still felt uneasy about her information being used against those close to her.

As part of our reporting, we published a guide for readers to help them understand what data is being stored by companies and how they can remove their data from databases like LexisNexis.

HEALTH & HOUSING

“THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO NEED BASIC NEEDS TO LIVE A BASIC HUMAN LIFE.” — SANDRA MILENA GALLEG0, NEW VECINOS DRIVER



Many special programs have been set up in Chicago to help immigrant and BIPOC residents close the homeownership gap. Beyond our investigations on Chicago's largest run-migrant shelter, we focused on the challenges of affordable housing for new arrivals and the efforts of community groups filling the gaps.

New Life Centers and the Chicago Furniture Bank filled about 1,400 apartments with furniture since it began these efforts in the spring 2023. New Life Centers' New Vecinos program has worked to provide furniture to migrants after they are approved by the state's Asylum Seeker Emergency Rental Assistance Program, which offered a three-month rental assistance for migrants.

The Perez family has been in the rental home since September. After so much uncertainty, Marianny Yamileth Perez Perez said the furnished home offers hope and security. She is gratified to see her oldest daughter come home from school to do her homework every day. “She tells me: ‘Mom, I don’t want to move anymore.’”



MEET THE REPORTER & PHOTOJOURNALIST

Sebastián Hidalgo is a photojournalist and reporter whose work has appeared in mission-based newsrooms like ProPublica and City Bureau. His work was part of an investigation that won the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for Local Reporting.

Top: Kathaleya Stefania Guaira Perez, 2, opens the door to her apartment for New Life Centers movers. Stefania, her parents, and her older sister live in the basement. Sebastián Hidalgo for Borderless Magazine.



READER RESPONSE

"You do great work!"

"Love your excellent reporting."

"Nobody should be invisible."

"Borderless helps immigrants in many ways."

ARTS & CULTURE

WE CENTER THE RESILIENCE OF OUR COMMUNITIES IN OUR REPORTING AND EFFORTS BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO OVERCOME SEEMINGLY-IMPOSSIBLE CHALLENGES.



We know that there is more to the immigrant story than tragedy. That's why we interview immigrant artists, storytellers, and musicians and uplift their creative work.

In 2023, we interviewed Palestinian-Jordanian musician Bilal Shouly, who is known for his socio-political Arabic rap. He shared his insights into how his multifaceted identity shapes his music, and he tackled issues like Arab stereotypes in the media.

"You should be able to just exist and receive basic human rights ...

without having to struggle, lie, or pretend to be someone else," Shouly told us.

Shouly's passion for blending traditional melodies with modern beats to raise political awareness and call for peace has resonated with a global audience.

Since his beginnings in Amman and subsequent move to Chicago, Shouly's music has garnered over 10 million views across major streaming platforms, reflecting a growing appreciation for his unique voice and message.

MEETING OUR COMMUNITY'S NEEDS

“BORDERLESS’ FIELD CANVASSERS REPRESENT A DEEP INVESTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY’S NEEDS THAT FUNDAMENTALLY SHAPED COVERAGE.”
– GATHER AWARD JUDGES



What happens when you merge grassroots organizing techniques with journalism? You get Borderless’ award-winning field canvassers!

Our field canvasser program has been a cornerstone of our outreach strategy, enabling us to bridge the gap between our stories and the immigrant communities across the city. Through this initiative, our dedicated canvassers distribute our content to help residents access crucial resources and news in multiple languages. This effort not only ensures that essential information reaches those who need it most but also helps us better understand the needs of these communities.

We tailor our reporting to address the issues that matter most to our communities by listening to their voices and concerns. By bringing Borderless Magazine's multilingual news directly to communities that might otherwise be overlooked, we extend our reach and foster a deeper connection with our audience. This grassroots approach combines the principles of organizing with the rigor of journalism, creating a model that is both impactful and sustainable.

LANGUAGE EQUITY

ONE-THIRD OF CHICAGOANS SPEAK SPANISH AT HOME. BUT ONLY ONE NEWS OUTLET IN THE CITY PUBLISHES EVERY STORY THEY REPORT IN BOTH ENGLISH AND SPANISH. THAT'S BORDERLESS.



We want to continue to help close longstanding inequities in news access through our multilingual reporting and outreach. News and critical information serving immigrant communities – who represent 20% of our population – is scarce in Chicago, despite the large number of news outlets.

Chicago has lost many crucial Spanish-language and ethnic news outlets. At the same time, the city lacks a central information hub for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, which explains where they can access critical help in finding food, health care and legal assistance. Borderless has prioritized serving diverse communities, which other news outlets have failed to reach. We are the only local news outlet in the country offering stories in Dari for our Afghan community.

MEET THE TRANSLATOR



Claudia Hernández first joined Borderless as a Pathways intern in 2020 and continued on with Borderless as a contributing reporter and our main Spanish translator. Born in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, Claudia is a dual citizen and speaks both Spanish and English.

"I am confident that Borderless' coverage has helped migrants feel seen, heard and find community amid uncertainty," says Hernández.

Top: Frank Sandoval hugs his daughter, Massiel Sandoval, 21, as they are reunited at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Ill., May 26, 2023. Massiel hadn't seen her father in more than five years. Anthony Jackson for Borderless Magazine.



READER RESPONSE

“Borderless Magazine is such an important publication for our community. They fearlessly demand space for refugee and immigrant stories to be told and celebrated.”

REPORTING REACH

WE PUBLISHED

82

STORIES &
INVESTIGATIONS

133K

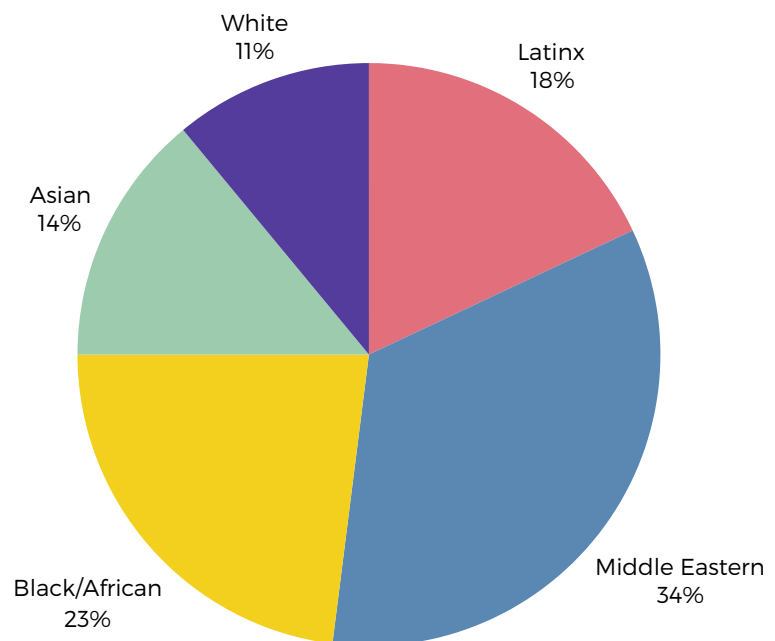
PEOPLE VISITED
BORDERLESSMAG.ORG

WE PUBLISHED IN

3

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH,
SPANISH & DARI/PERSIAN

REPORTERS' RACE & ETHNICITY



97%

OF OUR STORIES WERE
REPORTED OR
PHOTOGRAPHED BY A
MEMBER OF AN
IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY

Above: Veteran reporter Deb Douglas and Pathways Fellow Katrina Pham at a Borderless journalism training. Michelle Kanaar/Borderless Magazine

PATHWAYS



“Borderless' newsroom has an **unparalleled commitment to equity and inclusion**, both in its reporting and editorial work, but also in the way staff and interns are treated within the newsroom.”

- Pathways Fellow Katrina Pham

PATHWAYS

WE HAVE DEEP CONNECTIONS TO THE DIVERSE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.



MAIA MCDONALD
REPORTING INTERN



KATRINA PHAM
REPORTING FELLOW



EFRAIN SORIANO
PHOTOJOURNALISM INTERN

Just 8% of reporting journalists are Hispanic/Latinx, compared to 19.5% of the U.S. population. Similarly, just 6% of reporters are Black, compared to 12.5% of the population. About 3% are Asian, compared to 6% of the U.S. population.

Borderless provides pathways for emerging journalists from immigrant and other marginalized communities to report on immigration and learn from professional journalists in the Borderless newsroom.

We mentor emerging journalists through paid internships, fellowships, and one-off projects.

By reporting on and WITH immigrant communities in Chicago, Borderless is building a bridge between under-served communities and policymakers.

In 2023, the University of Oregon's Gather program wrote a case study about our work entitled "How Borderless Magazine's Pathways Program is Changing the Media Ecosystem One Journalist At a Time."

"Borderless Magazine's Pathways program addresses racial and ethnic gaps in the journalism industry," wrote the study's authors.

PATHWAYS IMPACT

WE PAID

3

INTERNS & FELLOWS TO
WORK WITH US

WE SPOKE ABOUT
JOURNALISM TO

150+

ELEMENTARY THROUGH
GRAD SCHOOL STUDENTS

ALUM WENT ON TO
WORK AT:

- NBC
- Cicero Independiente
- NPR
- The Washington Post
- San Francisco Chronicle



PATHWAYS ALUM PERSPECTIVE

"I'm so grateful for the time I spent at Borderless as a Pathways intern because it really allowed me to grow and develop my skills as a journalist.

"I was able to look into a potential solution to flooding in Illinois' Calumet Region, talk to activists about a bill that could help bring increased language options to state government agencies, talk to a developer about his app that helps immigrants with limited English-speaking skills communicate in their everyday lives, and even more."

- Maia McDonald, former Pathways intern

IMMIGRATION REPORTING LAB



Our Immigration Reporting Lab (IRL) aims to help journalists and newsrooms who are ready to take on the hard work of making their immigration reporting more responsive to the needs of their communities.

IRL IMPACT

WE TRAINED OVER
700
PROFESSIONAL & STUDENT
JOURNALISTS

AT
25
LOCAL & NATIONAL
WORKSHOPS



PLACES WE TRAINED JOURNALISTS AT INCLUDE:

- FOIA Fest (Chicago)
- Collaborative Journalism Summit (Washington, D.C.)
- Institute for Nonprofit News Days (Washington, D.C.)
- Northeastern Illinois University (Chicago)
- George Washington High School (Chicago)

HOW BORDERLESS IS CHANGING THE NEWS

The impact of our work on the local news ecosystem is clear.

A Sept. 2023 study from the University of Texas on media narratives about migration in Chicago looked at how 23 news outlets covered immigration – including Borderless, the Chicago Tribune and Univision – and found that **Borderless stood out from ALL other local news outlets.**

Researchers found that:

- Borderless had the most coverage featuring “immigrants’ country of origin, immigrants’ culture and assimilation, and immigrants advocating for immigrants.”
- Borderless’ immigrant coverage far outpaced that of Spanish outlets Telemundo and Univision
- Differences between immigration coverage in nonprofit vs for-profit news outlets were largely driven by Borderless’ reporting

OPERATIONAL RESILIENCE



The Borderless team grew with two new staff members: Sarah Luyengi as the new Operations Associate and Mauricio Peña as the new Editorial Director. As our team expanded, we grew our board and got our first office in Chicago's vibrant Uptown neighborhood.

GOVERNANCE & STAFF

2023 Board Members

Lekisha Gunn, President

Shapelle Pisano, Treasurer

Maria Woltjen, Secretary

Sebastian González de Leon (through July 2023)

Sarita Muley

Laura R. Garcia-Ramirez

2023 Staff

Nissa Rhee, Cofounder & Executive Director

Michelle Kanaar, Cofounder & Associate Director

Diane Bou Khalil, Engagement Reporter

Sarah Luyengi, Operations Associate (beginning Sept. 2023)

Jillian Melero, Managing Editor (through July 2023)

Jen Montojo, Development Director (through April 2023)

Mauricio Peña, Editorial Director (beginning Oct. 2023)

2023 Regular Contributors

Claudia Hernández, Translator and Reporter

Chelsea Verstegen, Reporter

LEADERSHIP

Lekisha Gunn, Board President

Lekisha Gunn is the impact manager for Girls on the Run Chicago, a national nonprofit organization that focuses on social-emotional learning and fitness for girls. She previously worked in the Illinois Supreme Court promoting legal access to self-represented litigants after the 2020 racial uprising. She also worked at the U.S. Department of State as a foreign service officer in both Mexico and Austria under the Obama administration. Lekisha holds a master's degree of public policy from Duke University and B.S. in business administration at the University of Alabama.

Nissa Rhee, Cofounder & Executive Director

Nissa Rhee is a visionary newsroom leader and a Peabody-award nominated journalist. She cofounded Borderless Magazine's predecessor in February 2017 to combat misinformation about immigration and immigrants and to serve multiracial families like her own. After bootstrapping Borderless' predecessor, Nissa has helped raise over \$2 million dollars in funding for Borderless. In her 18-year career, she has covered global issues as a producer at Chicago Public Radio, served as a foreign correspondent in South Korea and Vietnam for The Christian Science Monitor, and investigated criminal justice reform in Chicago for City Bureau. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago and a master's degree in international studies from the University of Queensland.

Mauricio Peña, Editorial Director

Mauricio Peña has won multiple journalism awards for his investigative series on heat deaths and illnesses among migrant farm workers in California and a botched implosion of a smokestack on Chicago's Southwest Side. He's reported for several Chicago-based nonprofit, start-up newsrooms over the last decade, including Block Club Chicago and Chalkbeat. At Borderless, he serves as our "integrator," managing the day-to-day operations and holding the team accountable for working toward our mission and executing our business plan. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a master's degree from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

MEET OUR OPERATIONS ASSOCIATE



Sarah Luyengi grew up in the Tri-Taylor neighborhood and is a daughter of Congolese immigrants. She first got involved with Borderless as a freelance reporter in 2020, and she has continued to report on the African and Afro-Caribbean communities in Chicago for the magazine.

“Working with the Borderless team has been such a breath of fresh air,” says Luyengi. **“It’s great to see Chicago’s diversity reflected within our staff.** As a second-generation immigrant, I’m grateful that Borderless has given me the chance to engage with the immigrant and refugee communities.”

Before joining Borderless, Luyengi worked in communications at the City Club of Chicago and the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership.

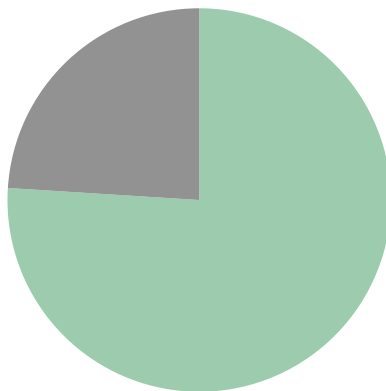
She earned her B.A. in creative writing from the University of Illinois at Chicago and her M.S. in international public service at DePaul University. She is an associate board member of Sarah's Circle and the Stories Matter Foundation. She has written for Common Ground Review, Third Coast Review, and South Side Weekly.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

SALARIES FOR REPORTERS,
EDITORS AND OUR SUPPORT
TEAM MADE UP

76%

OF OUR 2023 EXPENSES



OTHER EXPENSES INCLUDED:

- Freelancer fees for reporters & photographers
- Media liability insurance
- Travel and conference expenses
- Translation
- Website & technology

2023

Total Revenue: \$498,659

Total Expenses: \$473,789

Net Assets: \$224,466

Financial Transparency

Borderless Magazine NFP's has had 501(c)(3) status since 2019 and our EIN is 83-1266434. All of our past 990 forms, which we submitted to the IRS, can be found on our website at borderlessmag.org/990

Our news judgments are made independently and are not based on or influenced by donors.



FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS



MEMBERS

In 2023, 184 individuals donated to Borderless Magazine

- Average donation amount: \$95
- Total amount raised by individual donors: \$27,831

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

\$0 TO \$24,999

Dreihaus Foundation
Google News Initiative
Funds for Investigative Journalism
Miami Foundation
Institute for Nonprofit News
University of Missouri

\$25,000 TO \$74,999

Healthy Communities Foundation
Crossroads Fund
Field Foundation

\$75,000 AND UP

Chicago Community Trust
Kresge Foundation

FAREWELL TO OUR COFOUNDER



The Borderless team wishes a fond farewell to Borderless Cofounder and Associate Director Michelle Kanaar. Michelle stepped down in February 2024 to devote more of her time to visual storytelling.

Michelle first joined Borderless when it was still called 90 Days, 90 Voices, and she was a key team member responsible for transitioning the magazine from an all-volunteer project to a funded nonprofit newsroom. Aside from her work in development and operations for the magazine, Michelle led our visual and photojournalism work and was behind several award-winning projects, including our comic book on the campaign against General Iron.

As a fierce advocate for supporting emerging journalists of color, Michelle mentored countless photojournalists in Borderless' Pathways program and cofounded Prism Photo Workshop, a separate organization dedicated to giving local photojournalists the tools they need to have successful careers. She also helped make Borderless' work more accessible by leading our translation efforts and outreach to Spanish-speaking communities.

We will miss Michelle, but we are excited for her next chapter!

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY.

Become a member with a tax-deductible donation today!

As a nonprofit news outlet, we rely on donations from readers like you to keep our nonpartisan, multilingual reporting on immigrant communities free and accessible to all.

Your donation will go to things like:

- Paying our reporters
- Funding our Pathways program for emerging journalists from immigrant communities
- Helping us train journalists across the world how to better report on immigration

VISIT
[BORDERLESSMAG.ORG/
DONATE](https://borderlessmag.org/donate)
OR SCAN THE QR
CODE TO GIVE!
THANK YOU!

