

Streets of gold? Debunking American immigration myths



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CHARLOTTE | URBAN INSTITUTE



Charlotte is growing more diverse. We should debunk myths about immigration.

By Aaron Houck

In *Streets of Gold*, Ran Abramitzky and Leah Boustan, professors of economics at Stanford and Princeton, respectively, expose and debunk many common misperceptions about immigration. They have discovered that some of our most common beliefs about the nature of American immigration—especially beliefs about how immigration today differs from immigration one hundred years ago—are myths, unsupported by the best available evidence.

Abramitzky and Boustan's work is relevant to our community, which is growing more international and multicultural than the Black-White racial dynamic many people reflexively associate with the South. Some 17% of Charlotte residents — 1 in 6 — were born in another country. For the broader region, it's about 1 in 10.



[Do you have a question for our panel on gentrification and displacement?](#)

By Ely Portillo

Join our free, virtual panel at noon on Sept. 22 to hear local and national experts discuss the nuances of gentrification and displacement in Charlotte. You can sign up online for the Zoom link. Let us know what questions you have for the panel: There's a spot for your questions on the sign-up form, and we'll be posing questions from the audience as well.



[Podcast: Charlotte's changing climate, with meteorologist Brad Panovich](#)

Future Charlotte

From seemingly endless heat waves in the west to catastrophic floods from Kentucky to Pakistan, a drumbeat of extreme weather has dominated the news this summer. In Charlotte, we're seeing the effects too: Hotter, muggier summers, heavier downpours, stronger storms.

There are few people watching our weather as closely as Brad Panovich, chief meteorologist for WCNC, and few people who provide as much information about our climate and post as prolifically, and on as many platforms. He joined the Future Charlotte podcast to discuss everything from why it feels like our summers are muggier and grosser-feeling than they used to be (hint: dewpoints), what Charlotte's climate will look like in the future and what we can do locally to address impacts such as more rainfall, flash floods and the biggest weather-related killer — heat.



[Shrinking Charlotte's transit ambitions to get something built](#)

By Ely Portillo and Steve Harrison

Almost two years after Charlotte's ambitious transit expansion plan was unveiled, local officials are admitting something that's become increasingly apparent: It might not come to fruition, at least not as originally proposed.





Unruly plants and passionate attraction in a Charlotte garden

By Ruth Ann Grissom

I love playing matchmaker in my garden. I introduce plants that will be compatible in terms of color, texture and form. As with humans, the best relationships achieve a balance of contrast and harmony. For example, I paired little bluestem and rattlesnake master because they share the same blue foliage, but one is coarse and strappy while the other is refined and upright. These arranged marriages are deeply satisfying.

But sometimes things happen in the garden without my consent.

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