

FORMER REFUGEES SPEARHEAD ANTI-POVERTY MOVEMENT

LED BY CONGRESSWOMAN CARDENAS, IMMIGRANT SUCCESS NETWORK PUSHES FOR NATIONWIDE CHILD POVERTY RELIEF THROUGH EDUCATION REFORM

Reported from the imagination of Yasira Nun, artist and asylum seeker carseworker.

They met in one of New York's family sanctuaries 20 years ago, at the height of the asylum seeker surge. It wasn't exactly a star-crossed beginning—things were rough in the shelters and many arrived without the support network of local family who had already established themselves in New York. They were kids then, escaping the unsafe situations in Venezuela and Haiti, and other places. While living in a converted hotel in East New York run by the Catholic Church, they went to the city's public schools. They became New Yorkers.

And they found success. In the years since, this group of friends became business leaders, attorneys, developers, politicians, and even a celebrity. They've fanned out around the country. But they've stayed friends all these years and expanded their network to include hundreds of asylum seekers who came over as children. They share a bond knowing their lives could have been otherwise, and feeling a responsibility to pay some of it back.

This is what sparked American Dream Renewal, a policy institute and philanthropy led by congresswoman Olga Cardenas—the first asylum seeker elected to federal office. ADR is now a formidable presence in Washington and it's pushing a bold anti-poverty plan that would make Lyndon Johnson nod in approval. The most surprising thing about the plan: it has nothing to do with asylum or even immigration. Its point is simply to alleviate child poverty in the US.

Olga and her fellow asylees benefitted from the excellent New York City public schools where they learned English and discovered their talents and leadership abilities. ADR focuses on education by supporting special programs in public schools—especially ELS. It also tracks asylees through a pipeline of internships with companies the migrants started.

They've developed it from a pilot into a massive project over the last five years. Now they are lobbying to make it a federally funded jumpstart for the entire US education system, with the goal of evening out the quality of public education and access.

Olga Cardenas at 37 years, is a new member of Congress. She is the daughter of a Colombian labor lawyer mother and a builder father who brought them over under threat of death after their mother's work caught the attention of a mobbed-up local politician. They made their way to New York through the Darrien Gap, joining



ing asylum seekers from different economic classes. Olga's mother, Ricardo began working in a glass to skyscrapers soon after arriving in New York. In a formative episode he often recounts today, was laughed off the construction site by a foreman for his broken English, even though he'd been legally hired to work. He was told by his mother to absorb the lesson. A decade later, Ricardo founded a company that pioneered the widespread use of solar glass. Many NYC buildings now generate more than 25% of their electricity through their windows. Ricardo's company is now the largest solar glass provider in the state.

As Olga Cardenas and her peers push forward with their initiative to tackle child poverty, they are not just reshaping policy but reimagining what success looks like for those who come from hardship. They embody the idea that the American dream isn't a static concept but one that evolves, fueled by the very people who have faced its toughest tests.

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"NO ONE LEFT BEHIND: U.S. HOUSING BENEFITS NOW INCLUDE UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS"

REPORTED FROM THE IMAGINATION OF KATE POOR

NYCHA NOW EPICENTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

SELF DEFENSE PHILOSOPHY LEADS TO SUCCESSFUL OCCUPATION

Reported from the imagination of Alex Beria

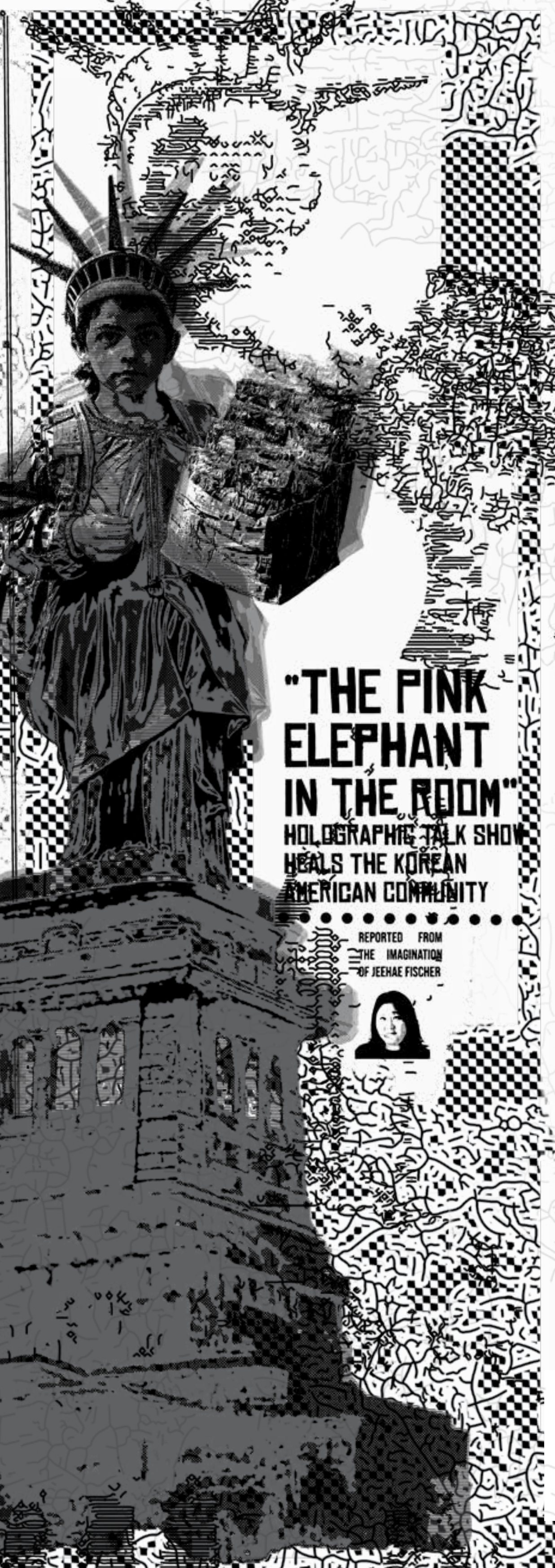
"THE AMERICAN DREAM RECONNECTED: HOW IMMIGRANTS SPARKED THE MODULAR HOUSING MOVEMENT"

REPORTED FROM THE IMAGINATION OF JORDAN ROGROVE

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BORDERLESS DESIGNERS FIGHT BACK: YESMAD COLLECTIVE WINS HISTORIC LABOR VICTORY

Reported from the imagination of Lee-Sean Huang

GREEN LIGHT GO: CANNABIS SHOPS CLOSE AS GREEN CARDS OPEN

Reported from the imagination of Maya Lanes

"THE PINK ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM" HOLOGRAPHIC TALK SHOW HEALS THE KOREAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

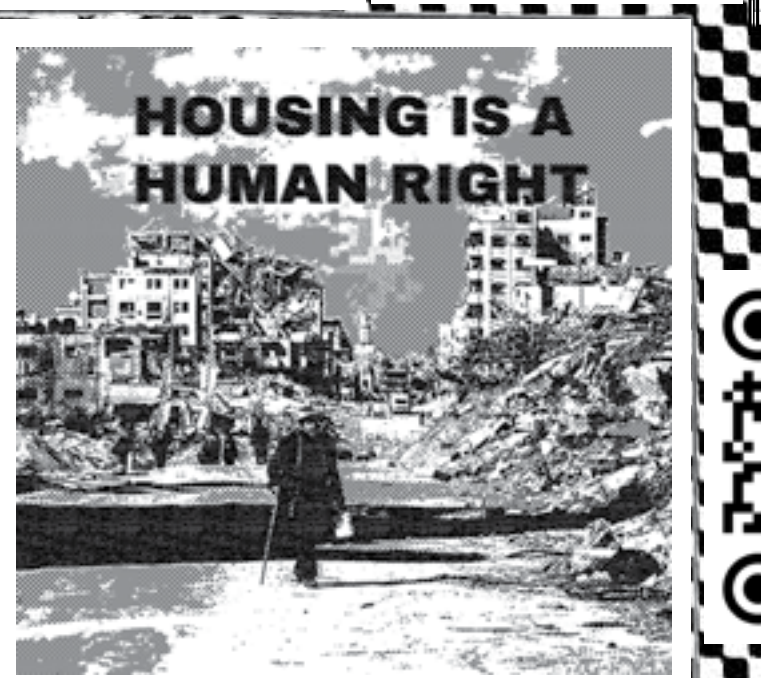
REPORTED FROM THE IMAGINATION OF JEEHAE FISCHER

PEOPLE FLEEING CLIMATE CATASTROPHES FINALLY WIN REFUGEE STATUS

REPORTED FROM THE IMAGINATION OF MERRILL ZACK

NEW YORK 2044 CLASSIFIED

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ARCHITECTURE

THE NEW AMERICAN DREAM? HOW MODULAR HOUSING BECAME A LIFELINE FOR NEW ARRIVALS

Reported from the imagination of Jordan Rogove, Co-Founding Architect, DXA studio and Liv-Connected

New York, NY - July 16, 2044
With refugee megacamps set up beside borders globally, and New York bracing for yet another record-breaking heatwave, the city is now facing the existentially daunting challenge of climate migration head-on. Modular housing is becoming one of the most important tools in meeting the challenge.

Over the past decades, modular housing has evolved from a temporary solution for displaced populations into an efficient and permanent cornerstone of American housing policy. Across the country, cities like Detroit, Cleveland, and rural areas of Maine, Ohio, and Texas have welcomed waves of migrants who are revitalizing these communities—and considering modest but stylish

rooms, and bathrooms snap together. They were pre-assembled in factories across the U.S. in just two days per house, and then shipped, and assembled in another 2 days. From Temporary to Permanent Infrastructure and regulations making it easy to shut down projects, the inefficient and often unsafe tents of the early 2020s were a period of transition. Double-wide trailers became widespread in the housing crisis of the early 1970s. At the time, HUD built hundreds of thousands, but then the economy changed, and modular houses lost their sheen. It took until the late 2020s for Liv-Connected's updated vision of modular carriage housing to gain momentum, and it continued throughout the 2030s. Its reach began to extend beyond rural areas and disaster zones.

More recently, modular units started popping up in urban developments too, from stacked units atop brownstones in Brooklyn to full modular neighborhoods in Austin. This rapid expansion sparked friction with trade unions, especially in the construction sector.

Ray Morales, a spokesperson for the Carpenters Union in New York, expressed concern: "At first, these modular units were filling gaps—helping deliver where traditional construction couldn't keep up. But now that people desire them, we're building massive tents on Randall's Island and Floyd Bennett field to house the asylum seekers. Due to the broken housing dynamics of the time,

PEOPLE FLEEING CLIMATE CATASTROPHES WIN REFUGEE STATUS

FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS HAVE TAKEN THE LEAD IN EXPANDING REFUGEE RIGHTS

Reported from the imagination of Merrill Zack, Vice President for Community Engagement, HIAS

New York City, July 20, 2044
There are refugee camps in Mexico and Turkey now rivaling the size of the world's largest cities. It's a result of the tragic storms of the last seven years in a row, followed by a crisis of displacement that has dwarfed any in history. And now, the UN has made a landmark decision that will reshape global refugee policy. Climate change has been formally recognized by the United Nations as grounds for refugee status. But the story of how this came about is decades in making. It reflects the success of lobbying efforts of a network of interfaith organizations that have focused on refugee support and resettlement in the last thirty years, pushing back against sectarianism and isolationist trends in favor of a neo-universalism whose moment has arrived. "Faith-based groups have been a powerful voice in ensuring that compassion and justice not fear are at the heart of treaties are being rewritten. These legal shifts will enable millions living in climate refugee camps along the borders of Mexico, Turkey, and beyond to cross borders legally and seek safety. They will be eligible for housing, food, and a universal basic income (UBI) benefits, a system bolstered by the UH expansion in the U.S. two years ago. This dramatic redefinition of refugee status could change the shape of global migration, with profound social, economic, and demographic implications for host countries.

The United States, alongside many other national governments, has already passed legislation reflecting this new reality, while international organizations like the UNHCR have begun drafting policies to support their fleeing citizens. In Europe, nations like Germany and Sweden are restructuring their immigration systems to accommodate the influx, focusing on affordable housing and labor market integration. The United States has mirrored these efforts by expanding access to housing benefits for climate migrants, who can now tap into UH benefits through a restructured HUD program. However, many are concerned about the long-term impacts of hosting large numbers of climate refugees, particularly in urban centers who have just recently begun to mitigate their own housing crises and income inequality issues.

The Role of Interfaith Advocacy
HIAS is a part of the interfaith coalition to strengthen and healing the rifts in the Korean American community, and it's inspired similar

NYCHA EPICENTER FOR GLOBAL RIGHTS

SEEDS SOWN BY MARTIAL ARTS GYMS AND THE DISCOURSE THAT BLOOMED FROM THEM

Reported from the imagination of Alex Beria, Urbanist

If 20 years ago one had imagined that NYCHA buildings would be occupied by a social movement building an autonomous quasi-state, we would expect a far more chaotic NYCHA. In fact, they have been a force for order and stability. In the last decade, these community initiatives have developed large scale decentralized voting tools that allowed it to speak as one voice.

But that's not what we're seeing with SD Comm's occupation of the public housing complex in Harlem. This movement has a robust web of relationships with elected officials and business leaders and more importantly, the NYCHA tenants themselves, which give it the social authority and political leverage to hold the space. In doing so, they are planting a NYC flag in the name of the growing international movement standing for the universal basic rights of people beyond their financial or national status.

The Evolution of a Movement
The SD Comm movement (SD references self-defense) began gaining traction in the late 2020s. Politically, the movement crisis, the migration and displacement crisis, lingering post-pandemic digital malaise, and the AI jobs meltdown. With an emphasis on mutual aid, and mixing physical training with organizing, it had seen in the Harlem art house theater. The film, "Bandung! Bandung!" brings a dramatic reenactment lens to the 1955 Bandung Conference, in which Asian and African countries presented a declaration against colonialism and in support of world peace.

With the billionaires firmly controlling the government, and unwilling to raise taxes on themselves, the US federal budget hit an impasse and the country slid into a recession. The physical health of lower-income people turned into a full-blown catastrophe as unemployment stayed high. It sparked off an epidemic of immobility, obesity, sickness, and physical weakness along with depression and mental health crisis. Martial arts cooperatives were one answer.

"THE PINK ELEPHANT" IN THE HOLOGRAPHIC TALK

SHOW SPARKS DIALOGUE IN KOREAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Reported from the imagination of Jeehae Fischer, Director, Korean American Family Foundation

New York, NY - July 31, 2044
Joshua Fischer walks into the room with a broad smile, sits down on her crystal-clear hovercouch, and the audience erupts as she announces her latest guest: Senator Min-Ji Kim. The women take out their home-cooked Korean food, and the tension between traditional Korean values and the evolving landscape of American society. Snippets from the show reached through neural interfaces, even building an intuitive collective mind moment which sparked a nationwide debate on violence and racism. Fischer, in her room, became more than just a platform for discussion—it's a cultural movement that is strengthening and healing the rifts in the Korean American community, and it's inspired similar

proceed to that as they share dishes. Some of Joshua's viewers project the holographic show into their own living rooms and others log in to the holo audience. The Pink Elephant in the Room has become more than just a platform for discussion—it's a cultural movement that is strengthening and healing the rifts in the Korean American community, and it's inspired similar

CANNABIS SHOPS CLOSE AS GREEN CARDS OPEN DOORS

Reported from the imagination of Maya Lunes, artist

Brooklyn, NY - October 1, 2044
Next month, a sweeping federal law nicknamed the "Green Light Bill" is set to shutter almost all of the cannabis shops across the nation. This bill also fast-tracks the right to work and opens paths to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. It's been an emotional journey, says the bill's co-sponsor, Congresswoman Griffonia Perez-Kay. She nods at protestors who were a sign of protest with the question: "Is Your Child Under the Care of a Pot Head?" I'm sure these people have better things to do, she says, "but yeah, we had to make some trade-offs, just like any piece of legislation. And with the pot industry crash, there was a window to pass immigration reform."

"The weed shops were traps that kept my community down," explains Maya Lunes, a 40-year resident of Brooklyn from El Salvador who has been undocumented for decades. She is a staunch advocate for the new law. "They needed to shut down for us to move forward," says Lunes.

And yet the cannabis industry, with its reparations-adjacent promises to reverse the damage done by the War on Drugs, was popular with many, a neighborhood of thousands. Those employed in the industry will be offered unionized jobs in childcare programs, but, "It's not going to float everyone's boat," says Perez-Kay. "But let's talk about the expansion of the green card program, and how one affects the other."

DESIGNERS FIGHT BACK: HISTORIC LABOR VICTORY FOR BORDERLESS YESMAD

Reported from the imagination of Lee-Sean Huang, Co-Founder, FOOSA, Director of Programs at AIGA

New York City, August 4, 2044
The Nomad Collective, a sign, this victory marks a turning point, especially for immigrant designers who have long been at the mercy of exploitative gig work and restrictive visa systems. Formed in the wake of the climate crises and mass migrations of the 2030s, the Nomad Collective functions like a union without borders. It's a self-sustaining cooperative, using blockchain technology and AI tools not just to distribute work fairly, but to empower immigrant designers often blocked from the traditional job market. "The world has changed, so we did too."

Lee-Sean Huang, one of the founding members. "Designers, many of them immigrants, were losing their livelihoods to AI and unfair contracts. We built a system where their work can thrive." Immigration is at the heart of the collective's mission. As U.S. visa policies for creatives remain convoluted and in a competitive, many immigrant designers have been forced into through their collaborative efforts, they've even

UNDOCUMENTED SEEKERS NOW GUARANTEED HOMES IN HUD SHIFT

Reported from the imagination of Kale Poor, Housing Strategy Specialist, HIAS

Who could have imagined that senator Stefanik would add her vote to the historic legislation which housing has become an entitlement for all US inhabitants including unauthorized immigrants? In the US, it appeared they would comprise the very last group to be permanently decided on the new universal housing benefits.

With the recent automation surge—AI designed robots putting folks from surgeons to dishwashers out of a job and causing a deflationary spiral that put the economy into freefall, the government had no choice but to implement 2042's emergency Universal Basic Income expansion. But Republicans had refused to sign the new Americans into the expanding social welfare system.

Additionally, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has extended the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to all immigrants, including previously excluded undocumented immigrants and asylum seekers. Whereas many didn't previously qualify for Section 8 housing vouchers, and they could not access housing via