

The Newest Americans Portrait Project

Proposed by John Abramson

johnhenryabramson@gmail.com

[Website: www.johnabramson.com](http://www.johnabramson.com)

303-333-8163

Executive Summary: The Project proposes to create high quality photographic images of recent immigrant families who have come to this country to become American citizens will be in government buildings, places of learning and worship will remind us of our ideals and history that most American have immigrant origins. A written narrative will be created to accompany the photographs for each family. The narrative or backstory for each family portrait will illuminate the struggle and hardship of the families to take their places as American citizens and make their contribution to our society. This project will contribution to the public dialogue at a time when many need to be reminded of this. The Aurora History Museum is reserving a large exhibit space from mid June to mid September, 2017.

Project Goal: To create 15 family portraits of immigrant families living in the Metro-Denver Area. The family portraits would be formatted for publication, photographic exhibitions and for books including brief narratives of each family's journey and aspirations.

Mission Statement: This is advocacy photography intended to show the diversity, dignity, continuity of new immigrants' contribution to fabric of the United States. It is the goal to foster a greater understand of who these families are and their struggle to come to this country to become Americans and make their contribution to American society. Many Americans have forgotten their own immigrant and refugee origins. In this way, the Project aims to contribute to the current dialogue, as many immigrant families are often abstractions or stereotypes.

Portrait Subjects: The families to be photographed will be selected through referral from social service agencies serving the immigrant community. An effort will be made to have a representative group of families from diverse geographic regions, ethnic and religious backgrounds. Each family photographed will receive a custom printed family portrait suitable for framing. Referring agencies will have access to digital images for their media purposes. The project will be limited to approximately 15 families.

Format: The images will be high resolution for reproduction on paper, large or small format, and multiple forms of electronic media. Each sponsor and partner will have images in formats which can be utilized for printed or electronic format suitable for website or social media.

Project Narrative: Each portrait and candid photographs will be accompanied by a narrative with the family backstory to enhance the understanding of the immigrant family's struggle to find a future in the United States.

Audience: The portraits and their narratives will be in a format for publication or exhibitions and for public spaces in government buildings, schools and places of worship in the Denver area.

Partnerships: This project will reflect a partnership of the photographer of the Aurora History Museum and the immigrant families participating in the project. Among the sponsoring organizations are the City of Aurora, Colorado African Organization, the Aurora Asian/Pacific Partnership. Each sponsoring and partnering organization and partner will receive images and narratives for booklets, fund raising and social media.