

A GLIMPSE INTO THE

# INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT



## BACKGROUND

Although the Chinatown-International District has been disrupted several times by the suppression of the Asian American community, it has persisted as an important neighborhood for new immigrants and their American-born descendants. It is located southeast of Pioneer Square and south of the central business district. It's character derives from entrepreneurs of various Asian backgrounds and the community's strong family ties. Its diverse ethnic restaurants and shops attract tourists as well as locals.

The initial Chinese settlers were evicted from Seattle in 1886, but by 1889 the Chinese population had rebounded to about 350. In 1909, the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition celebrated the growing importance of Asian trade to Seattle. Still, this did not assure that the racist violence of the 1880s would not be repeated against the Chinese and the growing number of Japanese and Filipino immigrants.



## OUR OBSERVATIONS

As a group we observed that the International District is made up of mostly local, family owned businesses that have been passed down for multiple generations.

From the grocery stores to the billboards, this district incorporates a vast amount of cultural elements and languages. The people walking the street are diverse, representing different wealth classes, races, and education levels.

The district is tourist heavy because of the diversity of the area and the breathtaking, representative street art and building-architecture, as well as its fun, bustling energy that engulfs everyone the second they step off the light rail.

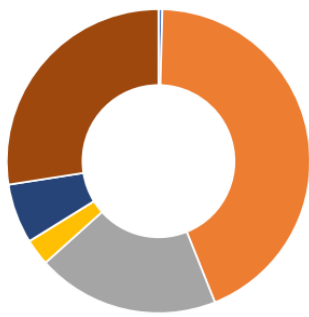


## DEVELOPMENT

By the late 1920s, when construction of the 2nd Avenue Extension just east of Pioneer Square uprooted much of the original Chinatown, a thriving neighborhood of Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino families and their American-born descendants was already blooming in the modern-day International District. Japanese Americans constituted Seattle's largest ethnic minority and the second largest such community on the West Coast. Considering the development of Chinatown as a whole, it is a barrier. Compared to region around Chinatown, Chinatown still remains the economy in 2000. The infrastructures are not as good as other regions in Seattle. The primary structure of business is family business which is already eliminated by modern business structure.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The International District does not have suburban nor "cookie cutter" houses, which contributes to the unique character the town has to offer. However, housing is limited, quite expensive for the quality, and there are plenty of people without shelter. This is a barrier. Housing looks to have a "build upwards" mentality, rather than out. This means clustered, cramped, apartment-style living. There are very limited spaces to live. It's to the point where the city turns older, run-down hotels into apartments, seeing leases going for around \$1500 a month.



### RACE/ETHNICITY:

- American Indian + Alaska Native 0.4%
- Asian 43.5%
- Black or African American 19.4%
- Hispanic or Latino, any race 2.8%
- Native Hawaiian + Pacific Islander 0%
- Some other race 0%
- Two or more races 6.3%
- White 27.5%



## RACE, ETHNICITY, & CULTURE

Chinese Individuals settled into International District in the 1850's. Initial Chinese settlers were evicted from International District in 1856 but by the 1860's the population had increased. Today the population in International District is around 6,222. Within the population, 41.57% are Asian, while 32.51% are White. 15.91% of the population are either Black or African American. There is affordable housing for families who are in need. Healthcare buildings are nearby if people are in need of drugstore products. The streets of International District have multiple Asian restaurants where people can enjoy a delicious meal. There are multiple festivals one can enjoy such as Lunar Year, DragonFest, JamFest, and Autumn Moon Festival and Night Market.

## ARTS

Seattle's International District is filled with public art. From murals and sculptures to stylized architecture, the public art of the International District is representative of the people and cultures who make their home there. Public art acts as an asset to the population health of the community. It is culturally expressive, it adds beauty to the district, and it helps international people from Asian cultures to feel more at home. The International District is primarily composed of three Asian cultures; Chinese, Japanese, and Vietnamese. The public art found in the International District is expressive of these cultures, and can be seen in our photos from when we visited the district.



## A CULTURAL HUB OF THE ASIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

"International District's character is derived from entrepreneurs of various Asian backgrounds and the community's strong family ties" - Walt Crowley



## URBAN PLANNING

The Urban plan used by the city of Seattle for this neighborhood was the 2016, Chinatown-international District Framework and Implementation Plan, taking into account stakeholders and previously placed city amenities in the area. The two focused objectives were to create a plan that guides public investment and to design culturally relevant and responsive involvement processes. Right now, the Mayor's budget includes \$200,000 to support further culturally relevant outreach, in-language engagement. Urban planning is an up-and-coming asset to the International district community as improvements being made are to make the space more culturally accessible.



## BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

### Of the working civilians (age 16 or older)

- 23.9% in hospitality
- 12.1% in professional, scientific, & technical services
- 11.5% in health care & social assistance
- 10.9% in retail

### Sex Ratio

- Wholesalers - 2.19x more male than female
- Retail - 1.81x more male than female
- Hospitality - 1.58x more male than female
- Healthcare - 2.03x more female than male
- Education - 1.7x more female than male

### Median of annual income by industry (of working population)

- Real Estate (\$225.9k) - 3.31%
- Professional (\$80.6k) - 12.1%
- Hospitality (\$19.5k) - 23.9%
- Retail (\$29.5k) - 10.9%

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