

# Chinatowi





Revolving around the intersection of Cermak and Wentworth Avenues, Chicago's Chinatown is one of the nation's largest ethnic-Chinese neighborhoods. Chinatown wasn't always located in this spot, though. Looking to escape the "rampant discrimination and anti-Chinese riots" on the west coast, Chinese immigrants first arrived in Chicago in 1870 after the transcontinental railroad was completed. Settling around the area of Clark and Van Buren, these new Chicagoans were quick to set up shop. "16 Chinese-owned businesses were located along the twoblock stretch" by 1889, "including eight grocery stores, two butcher shops and a restaurant."

Discrimination and rising rents forced the bulk of these Chinese settlers to move south to the current location of Chinatown in the early 1900s. To improve connectivity between Chinese throughout the city, construction began on the Chinatown Gateway in 1975, meant to act as a symbol of unity and encourage greater cultural exchange between Chinese. The Ping Tom Memorial Park was created in 1999, features a Chinese-style pavilion that many consider to be the most beautiful in the Midwest.

Since then, the neighborhood, with its restaurants, shops, Chinese-inspired architecture, landmarks and other amenities that cater to those interested in the Chinese culture, has been a destination for new immigrants, locals and tourists alike.

## **BACKDRAFT**

Chicago Fire Department Engine 8 Company firehouse was used in the 1991 Ron Howard film Backdraft

### CHINATOWN SQUARE

One of the largest Chinese malls in America, Chinatown Square is a two-story outdoor mall consisting of a variety of shops and restaurants.

# **Population Demographics**

Total Population: 89,632

Median Age: 39.2

Black: 3.2%

Hispanic or Latinx: 1.3%

Asian: 89.9%

White: 5.1%

## **Economic Profile**

Owner Occupied: 44.0%

Renter Occupied: 56.0%

Median Household Income:

\$44,640

#### **Education Statistics**

No Highschool: 41.0%

Highschool: 26.0%

Associate's Degree: 9.0%

Bachelor's Degree: 17.0%

**Graduate Degree: 8.0%** 

## **HOYPOLOI GALLERY**

Blending just about anything imaginable, from real objects to imaginative fantasy with a splash of surrealism, there is no limit to just how far art can go in the HoyPoloi Gallery.