



CHINATOWN COMMUNITY FOR EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT FACT SHEET 2019

- Immigrants make up 91% of the population over 18 in Chinatown. 94% of immigrants in Chinatown speak a language other than English. 89% of these immigrants speak English less than “very well.”
- Demographics: 70.6% Asian, 23.5% Latino, 2.5% White, 1.8% Black, 1.5% Other. (based on 2010 census)
- The reported median income in Chinatown is \$19,500.
- 94% of housing in Chinatown is renter-occupied.
- Half of Chinatown residents already pay more than 30% of their income in rent.
- CCED has recorded at least 43 new developments that have been completed within the last two years or are somewhere in the planning or construction phase. Of these 7,795 new units, only 202 units will be “affordable.” That is only 2.6%, and the definition of affordable here is based on median regional income, more than 3x what Chinatown residents earn.
- Chinatown is one of the first areas of Los Angeles to be impacted by artwashing. The influx of galleries began as early as 1999. In 2017, CCED has counted close to 50 galleries in Chinatown. The highest concentration is on Chung King Road.
- In 2014, Jia Apartments opened, a building with 280 luxury apartments costing \$93 million. A studio starts at \$1,915/mo. It is accelerating the interest in market-rate development in Chinatown.
- Similarly, Blossom Plaza, a 237 unit building with 18,500 sq ft of commercial space opened in 2016. Studios start at \$1,925/mo. Eastern Projects Gallery pays \$10,000 a month for rent.
- Currently, there are four major condo proposals. “Elysian Lofts” has 920 market rate units, excluding town houses and commercial spaces, with zero affordable housing. “College Station” proposes 770 new apartments with 51,390 square feet of commercial space. Chicago starchitect Studio Gang is collaborating with MOB Hotel Paris and Creative Space Los Angeles to build a 26-story tower with 300 apartments, and 149 hotel rooms. Vancouver-based Townline and Forme Development proposes “Harmony” on Broadway, the high-rise would hold 178 market rate residential units.
- Public spaces in Chinatown are increasingly being policed by private security hired by the Chinatown Business Improvement District to control street vendors, musicians, and homeless individuals who make up the community.
- Whereas Chinatown was once a gateway community for immigrants, it is in danger of becoming a home for only those with higher incomes and access to wealth.

Chinatown Community for Equitable Development (CCED) builds grassroots power with low-income and immigrant communities through organizing education and mutual help. We are a multi-ethnic and intergenerational organization based in Los Angeles Chinatown.