

## *A Chinese Kaleidoscope; An American Mosaic*

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### **Still Another 21 Streets And Confucius Building in Chinatown**

Apart from the 10 main streets we just mentioned above, there are 5 more streets that either are not included in so-called traditional Chinatown center, or are those which have been rapidly developed in the latest 20 years.

1. East Broadway: It has been swiftly developed in the past 20 years and most people dwell or commerce here are the immigrants from Fuzhou in China. That hence makes East Broadway as "Fuzhou Street" in Chinatown.
2. Grand Street: with the train station nearby, Grand Street enjoys a convenient traffic around. Notable Jewish stores selling like bedding essentials or curtains are most likely taken over by Chinese immigrants. Chinese people renovated them into all kind of different store such as grocery, bakery, seafood places, etc.
3. Division Street: There used to be many Jewish hat stores occupying here. Ever since it started to have a Mandarin name meaning "Street for selling hats", strangely no any more hat store had existed then. Along its odd number side is built as Confucius Building; the even number area is vigorously crowded by lots of stores.
4. Catherine Street: It's actually located on the border line to where people regard as Chinatown center. However for the latest 20 years, it has become prosperous and as if adding a fresh air to old Chinatown area.
5. Allan Street: There used not to have that many Chinese on Allan Street about 20 years ago. Nowadays more and more Chinese move in and start to run the business here. Some people even suggested Allan Street could be renamed as "Immigration Avenue" since it's expected to be as flourishing as Canal or Bowery Streets soon.

Besides those 5 streets, there are still some other important streets that all together and indispensably make the major Chinatown in New York.

- A. Oliver Street: Located between East Broadway and Madison Street, Oliver Street is also part of Chatham Square. One of the governors of New York State was born and grew up in this neighborhood.
- B. St. James Place: Starting from Oliver Street and ending at Madison Street, there is a small burial ground with a 300-year-old history.
- C. Madison Street: right between St. James Place and Pike Street, there are many government buildings as well as buildings for both commercial and residence use.

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- D. Henry Street: It's located between Oliver and Pike Street and used to be a bit deserted. Now 90% of the residences and business owners are Chinese on Henry Street.
- E. Park Row: Right by Chatham Square, Park Row sits between Worth and Pearl Streets. It's used to be a passage toward the City Hall or downtown.
- F. Market Street: It was sort of abandoned when many Jewish moved out. Located between Division and Madison Street, Market Street nowadays is almost fully taken over by my Chinese immigrants from Fujian.
- G. Hester Street: Located between Allan and Center Streets, Hester Street used to be part of Little Italy. The pricing of the real estate has gone highly increased for the latest 30 years.
- H. Broome Street: It used to be classified as Italian or Jewish dwelling area and now 90% of the population here are Chinese. Broome Street is same located between Allan and Center Street and it's also the main street to straight reach to Jersey.
- I. Baxter Street: between Bayard and Broome Streets, it's one of the hot spots for the Chinese immigrants when just moving here. But soon most Chinese left for Mott Street 30 years ago, it had been less crowded since then. In recent years, more and more Chinese came back here again; 80% of its population is Chinese.
- J. Center Street: A larger number of Chinese now live and do their business on Center Street, especially between White and Broome Streets. Around White Street, there is still the area for government and court building while many Chinese usually gather on the end close to Canal Street.
- K. Lafayette Street: 70% of the population nowadays is Chinese living and running their business here right between White and Broome Streets.
- L. Christie Street: Starting from Canal to Broome Streets; 80% of people who are active on Christie Street is Chinese.
- M. Forsyth Street: Same located between Canal and Broome Streets, 80% of Forsyth Street residents and business owners is Chinese as well.
- N. Eldridge Street: It's a street popular among new Chinese immigrants.
- O. Walker Street: Now there are a lot of Chinese that live and commerce here accounting for 70% of the population.
- P. White Street: Wen Hu Building on White Street between Baxter Street and East Broadway is among and closed to all federal, state, and city government buildings.

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Generally speaking, most streets in Chinatown that are also located in old Manhattan area are usually short, narrow and one-way direction except for East Broadway, Worth, Bowery, Allan and Canal Streets. They're not only wide in street bodies but also with spacious sidewalks as well.

When Chinatown initiated at the onset, the places among Mott, Perry, Bayard, and Doyers Streets are for Chinese immigrants of the 1<sup>st</sup> generation to plant their roots. And ever since then, they worked hard, resisted invasion, and created the fertilized ground for their followers.

The streets in Manhattan are easy to find out since the way they're named and orderly organized. It begins on Houston Street starting from the southern end on 1<sup>st</sup> street going northern to 200<sup>th</sup> street. From East to West, it starts on D Avenue and ends on West Street or from 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Avenues all within the scope between East and Hudson Rivers. The streets in Chinatown on the other hand are often named after the leaders of immigration communities or famous people of U.S.A. and Europe. That makes it even more difficult to recognize both on maps and in reality.

The largest commercial and residential building is Confucius Building that was developed by The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce about 35 years ago. With the good will to improve dwelling problems in Chinatown at the time, leaders from The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce applied for permission from the government and then got through a federal mortgage with a low interest too. It took 3 years to successfully construct it in 1973. Majestically existing in the center of Chinatown, it's still the most iconic building among all.

### **Chinese People worked at labor Type of Work at The First Beginning and Gradually made their ways to be in Charge of Key Professions of the Society**

The era from 1850 to 1970 is a time frame only limited number of Chinese immigrants moving into U.S.A. With less competitive skills and inadequate language ability, the immigrants of earlier times devoted themselves to non-skillful, labor-intensified industries, such as catering, food production, clothing manufacturing, etc. As for a more welcome system in the U.S. and many Chinese descendants are born in America, new generation could take up lot of jobs they desire with a solid higher education background.

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Since then Chinese immigrants of new generation get to step in all walks of life, from street peddlers to CEO of large corporation, from PT workers to social elites. Some are engaged in the work of, for instance, the spectacular restaurant, ready-to-wear import and export, trade, manufacturing, supermarket, and finance, medical system, and law. Gradually all those labor jobs are replaced by the immigrants from South America. Also a larger number of Chinese immigrants also start to take part in the markets of computer programming, high technology, real estate investment, architecture, chemistry, machinery, and so on. Some others possess types of professional licenses and take the jobs as medical doctors, civil or criminal lawyers, judges, prosecutors, accountants, pharmacists, tour guides, etc. Still others work as teachers or professors at school of all types and all levels, composers, entertainers, vocalist, director, editors, and reports as well.

They also don't miss a role in the retailing management of furniture, cell phones, wedding gowns, handbags, luggage, accessory, jewelry, etc. A lot of people work as immigration agents, headhunters, fire fighters, police officers, and post office staffs. Moreover, the business of beauty or hair salon together with massage has been hugely developed and doing well. Besides all those facts, many young people also join the army as another pursuit of occupation in the latest 20 years. They enjoy one of the benefits of free tuition when attending the college. And most of them are prone to successfully either working with the government or leading their own business.

Overall speaking, the immigrants of 1<sup>st</sup> generation, no matter in any industry, tended to work alone, with family or some partners. And the scale of business was usually small. However with time and efforts effectively and efficiently devoted to the business degree by degree, they'd finally make it to expand it into a big corporation, called "group." Though compared with the groups in Taiwan, Hong Kong and China that oftentimes comprise of many companies, industries, stores of any type under, the groups located in Chinatown in New York are sort of too plain with only 2 salons or 2 fast-food restaurants as sub-companies.

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While Chinese worked or ran their business at the first beginning, they're likely to make decision in terms of flexibility or out of inquiry. Once they lay the foundation of business, it could there become a lifelong career. Some people work until at a certain age and they totally retire. At most times that's probably because those people took a lab job and in this way they couldn't be able to work it for long due to the increasing physical limits as time goes by. On the contrary, others who work professionally with certain skills and knowledge, and also require specific certification, like doctors, lawyers, and accountants, they usually work until 70 years old to retire. Furthermore, many of those who own their companies or corporations would love to stay at work until an elder age. Even they retire, they are no doubt involved in major events and crucial decision-making, too.

In the past Chinese worked hard and didn't seek for a quick success with cunning tricks or even by cheating. Depending on diverse variables at that time, they might make it big to profit a lot or possibly lose everything in the light of poor management. Nowadays there's kind of epidemic of job seminars aiming to allure people to put their money in some types of business, such as nutritious foods, stock investing, real estate development, Insurance for inheritance tax exempt; they're most likely for surreal fast cash too. But bear in mind that there's just no such thing as a free lunch. Seminars like those would be usually too ideal and riskily full of traps there.

People celebrate American as well as Chinese holidays in Chinatown. The Chinese New Year is needless to say the most imperative one marked on calendar. In earlier times, people were still allowed to play firecrackers on the New Year Day and the first weekend of the Lunar New Year, People no matter from anywhere would altogether enjoyed the holiday in the area among Mott, Worth and Canal Streets. Similarly, those American Holidays, like New Year Day, Independent Day and Thanksgiving, are also highly respected and welcomed among the Chinese communities even today

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As far as those celebration activities for American holidays are concerned, it somehow drew lost of people (Chinese or non-Chinese) to participate a series of events such as gourmet festivals, community festivals, and culture and art festivals. But instead of staying long to kill the rest time of a day, most people who are tourists would go to SoHo to Midtown for shop and eat. It's crucial for the authorities concerned in Chinatown to figure it out how to do the other way. Let's say there're same festival events going on in Midtown and Downtown; after that people would sweep into Chinatown further to shop and eat to promote more prosperity.

The Chinese families of 1<sup>st</sup> generation would be limited to take labor jobs in terms of lack of English proficiency as well as cultural blindness. Nowadays as for the young Chinese generation here, they're inspired and more empowered to take professional types of work like high technology or finance genres, etc. However still that many people have ever been engaged in the government jobs. Kuang Yulin was ever the first Chinese governor of Hawaii and, In America history, Elaine Chao was the 1<sup>ST</sup> Asian Pacific America woman and also 1<sup>st</sup> Chinese to be appointed to a President's cabinet as the 24<sup>th</sup> United States Secretary of Labor by President George W. Bush form 2001 to 2009. While if more Chinese descents could take up more government jobs, the real needs regarding welfare or fair rights and obligations of the Chinese immigrants would be more delivered to and solved by the U.S. government accordingly.

Regardless of different political stands in China and Taiwan, there is amazingly huge population accounted by the Chinese people totaling in 300,000,000. Also speaking of the economy growth, the Mainland China has accumulated No.1 foreign exchange deposit in the world.

When Americas typically think of Chinatown, inevitably they would connect it with mess and unsanitary. And so do some Chinese who lives in Long Island, Jersey, or Upper State. Bur in recent years, a more tidy and clean street scene has been discovered through the hard working by the Chinatown Partnership. Though compared with afar more high standard of cleanness on uptown, midtown and downtown, Chinatown still has a long way to go. Actually some procedures that have ever taken by the government of Hong Kong would be worth of a try by Chinatown Partnership for further improvement.

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In Hong Kong there are a lot of regulations on maintaining street in a clean and presentable status and they are also related to penalty usually over \$100 for each wrongdoing, like glittering, graffiti, random mucus, posters, or flies. The stores are required to clean the sidewalks 3 times a day with cleaners at least for once. Especially if bad smells come out from some restaurants; they absolutely have to remove all. Also before 11pm, no trash could be placed on the streets or in front of houses and buildings.

### **Chinatown enjoyed its golden age since 1960s through 1970s**

During the era of 1960s, Chinatown has its centered among Mott, Bayard, Perry, and Doyerd Streets. 90% of the Chinese immigrants were from Guangdong, especially from Taishan. There was a time after 1940 when people didn't get in touch often, economical, conservative and working hard all day. There were some famous restaurants, such as Port Arthur Chinese Restaurant, Nan Yuan, Jinlin and Bau Bau together with some groceries of that time all doing well. Different from nowadays all stores would shut down around 8 or 9pm in Chinatown every day, most of business owners ran their business until late night while more people still gathered there. The fare of single ride ticket for New York Subway was \$0.15 in 1960s; the market price of a regular housing with less than 6 stories would be around \$30,000 to \$100,000.

In 1970s, People from Taishan still made up for most of the population of Chinese immigration up to 80%. Lot of banks and restaurants opened and Confucius and Yong Ming Buildings were built as well. Ordinary people still made a living by take jobs in the catering, gift industries and clothing manufacturing. Before the immigration rush, restaurants and lots of food shops altogether reached their zenith. However traditional groceries started to regress when supermarkets vigorously emerged. Also lots of females replied on clothing manufacturing for a better income. They took up various kinds of jobs in the manufactures of that time. Over 100 clothing factories in Chinatown oftentimes closed late due to the good business. The fare of single ride ticket for New York Subway was \$0.25 that time, and the market price of a regular housing with less than 6 stories would be around \$200,000 to \$300,000.

During 1980 to 1990 that was when Chinese immigrants flew into U.S.A. to reside here. The turning point was the initiations of the diplomatic relations between the Unites States and the People's Republic of China.

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It hence caused drastic changes in Society and markets. A large number of Chinese Restaurants and groceries begin to exist everywhere in Jersey, Long Island, Queens and Brooklyn. That has a direct impact on those Chinese Stores located in Chinatown since many their customers no longer came all the way to Manhattan to purchase and switch to those in their neighborhoods. Some that did a bad business were forced to run out of business, too. Meanwhile, new Chinatowns in Flushing in Queens and around the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Brooklyn got their moments. Since then, there are Chinese immigrants moving in all the time in 5 boroughs of Manhattan. Different from the immigrants of earlier times, who came here not in a solid financial status and then couldn't help but take labor jobs, new immigrants are more abundant with money and therefore could create or invest the business. Moreover, one third of the restaurants have been decreased in the latest 30 years. The catering in Chinatown apparently declined with time. Also when Chinese, Mexico of the Third World passed through the economy resolution, they took up the role of production for most clothing manufacturing what used to be one of the main economic activities in Chinatown with regard to their low cost and cheap labor. Hundreds of thousands Chinese women in this way went to join the program of government nursing jobs, receiving the training and then were arraigned to take care of the aged who were with a low income and also not able to live independently their own. Generally speaking, the salary of nursing jobs is higher and more secured compared with that at manufacturing work. There're over 100 nurses who serviced in Confucius Building. The fare of single ride ticket for New York Subway was \$1.5 then; the market price of a regular housing with less than 6 stories would have unbelievably rose to over \$1,000,000. Those facts well explain the over-expense on social welfare programs by the government.

From 2000 to 2008, Brooklyn's Chinatown has been fast developed and expanded. All kinds of restaurants, groceries, and supermarkets were all there, so not only lots of Chinese but also non-Chinese switched their focus from Chinatown in Manhattan to the one in Brooklyn. The pricier parking fee accounted for less crowds in the city as well.

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However in Queens and Brooklyn, there're many parking lots run by the government. In order to fully satisfy the community people, they either were for free or charged a low fare of \$0.25 for per 15 minutes or 30 minutes. Until then, the fare of single ride ticket for New York Subway has surged to \$2; the market price of a regular housing with less than 6 stories already hit \$4,000,000.

In conclusion, the number of Chinese immigration has been endlessly increasing since the diplomatic relations between U.S.A. and China established. The older immigrants intended to find a way to permanently live in American in possession of citizenship and also sought to have their family members move here. That's the most crucial and legal way for immigration by Chinese but there're still other probably over 100 ways, legal or illegal, for people to come to U.S.A. to stay for temporary or for a long time period. From this century on, the total of Chinese immigrants has hit 50,000,000 or perhaps 100,000,000. The Chinese communities widely spread in 5 boroughs in Manhattan, Jersey, Long Island, and Connecticut. On the contrary, Chinese people who either live or commerce in Chinatown of Manhattan gradually moved out; one the main reasons is the insanely high rent.

### **3 Types of Chinese Associations: Confederations of Chinese Association, East Cost of the Unites States, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, and Other Neutral and Independent Associations**

In order to look for protection, the solutions to daily problems, and usual hangouts with whoever comes from same areas or same countries in Manhattan's Chinatown, there have been all types of Chinese associations, like clan association, women's clubs, alumni's association, chamber of commerce, Lions Club, Rotary Club, etc. among the Chinese ancestor immigrants. They all needed to register with the government first and then would come into existence.

Those associations or club generally are categorized into 3 types. The first type of groups are those that are closed to the Republic of Prople's China government or actually led by Consulate General of the Republic of People's China in New York. Confederations of Chinese Association, East Cost of the Unites States can be the representative. With 18 sub-associations under that claimed to be patriotic ones on its onset 20 years ago, there're now over 180 members.

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It's only been in Chinatown hot for long. Also with the rising rent of that area, the building where Confederations of Chinese Association, East Coast of the Unites State started is difficult to keep steady. Since then, it's bee suffering from a changing location problem; sometimes even inside the chairperson's place or his or hers company. Plus there're no constantly professional staffs working for the association all most times. To sustain its establishment, Confederations of Chinese Association, East Coast of the Unites State is really requires to have a stable location, some working team engaged full time as well as all member's devotion and cooperation.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> type genre includes the associations or clubs who're familiar with Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York. And whenever they have any event or celebration, they'd definitely fly the national flag of the Republic of China, Taiwan. Most of those associations are with an over-50 year-old history; some even have lasted for over 100 years. Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association is the iconic one among all. Established in 1950, it's also in possession a whole building as permanent real estate and most importantly the location for the association. Taking on a space of nearly 10,000 square foot, The Chinese Building has 8 floors. The ground floor is rented; second floor are used for Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association's reception and office. Still the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor is Chinese School. There are 60 traditional associations or clubs under it and most of them own their estate buildings and earned their incomes by renting things to continue the management.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> type is referred to all associations or clubs that take a neutral stand on many issues between Confederations of Chinese Association, East Coast of the Unites State and Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association. As being neutral when they hold any inauguration and some other celebration events, it will be way easier for them to invite lots of government officials, no matter their diverse political viewpoints.

Most of major events would be usually held at a time frame either a week before the Lunar Chinese New Year or after within a month.

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Upon the fact that all members are busy with their things most of the year, it's always a lot of fun to get together on the celebration of the Chinese New Year or work hang over ceremony. And the atmosphere is merry with appreciation among the participants.

Since the economic revolution took place in China, the whole government system has also profited quite a lot in the latest 30 years. And many government officials are being encouraged to visit the immigrants in the United States. For instance, if the representative for Shanghai to visit New York, the group of people would be received by the Association run by or named as Shanghai. And of course the officials from Consulate General of the Republic of People's China in New York and members from Guangdong or Fujian Association or Club will be invited over as well. If that's the case for central senior officials, the standard of reception would be grand and focused. As for the budget, new associations are usually lack of money and location for the activity. And the way they deal with that is to choose a restaurant as event spot and gather money by fund raising or selling good coupons.

The staffs working in those immigration associations are usually called as leaders of overseas Chinese. The position will be often held by the aged. Some middle-age guys might work that job, but seldom the youth could be involved in. Traditional kind of leaders of overseas Chinese is like that. So 85% of those traditional ones will be around 60 years old. 30% are around 50-60 years old. And 20% are people who're under 50 years old. In terms of that most of associations can't offer salary or even transportation fee, and also because young people are likely to work around their age, the elder people who retire and also own extra money seem to be the right candidates for those jobs as volunteers at most times. Even several elder leaders of overseas Chinese intend to possibly seek for new elites as potential leaders, it's either because they couldn't get to find any or they just simply worry their qualifications, that's why those aged still hold that work as usual. And regarding the new associations or clubs, the participants or leaders are the immigrants of 2<sup>nd</sup> generation, not those American born Chinese instead.

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### **Traditional Immigration Associations Sustained by Rent Incomes and Those New Ones Survived Through Members' Contribution**

In the latest 20 years, many large corporations are prone to increase sales and downsizing the costs by business acquiring or merging. For instance, HSBC and Capital One's coop and J.P. Morgan merged with Chase as JPMorgan Chase & Co. are prominent cases. And JPMorgan Chase & Co. now is the largest bank in the United States by assets and market capitalization after the merger.

Nowadays there are over 600 immigration associations in Chinatown and there're even a few more increasing every day. But when it comes if they're ever really devoted to the membership office issues and the community service, how many associations could be regarded as being able to do a good job? Probably not that many. To be honest, if among all those 600 associations, 20 could be combined into a bigger one with more money and people to utilize, they'd improve the quality and real substance of what an association is supposed to do.

Here are some further facts of those immigration associations in Chinatown. 8% of them, including traditional or new ones, own their real estate assets. 4% of them could pay the persons in charge or some full time staffs. Therefore 96% of the associations, their persons in charge or leaders should sort it out for the money and volunteer for everything as far as the happenings of the associations are concerned. Also unlike in the corporation and the government organizations, the relationship between leaders and the members are parallel. Every member might have a chance to be a leader or person in charge for his or her belonging association.

Speaking of the real volunteers and workers for the associations or the communities, the elders are still more common than middle age and young people. It makes sense for them to devote themselves further to the association while those elders usually have retired from work and with more plenty of time and money, and they so can be carefree to support all business of the associations. Quite a few associations now also aim to attract more young entrepreneurs to join them. Those elites usually have strong financial ability and are also inclined to or would like to take a lead in other organizations or fields beyond their own professions.