

Site Analysis

History & Community Assets

Sarah Ferrerter & Bradley Pavlik

King Street Community Timeline



Property of Museum of History & Industry, Seattle
Washington & 3rd



Property of Museum of History & Industry, Seattle
7th & King St. 1920

1870's
· 100 Chinese in Seattle

1890's
· Chinatown - Washington St.
· Japantown - Main St.
· Seattle Populations:
1200 Chinese
250 Japanese

1880's
· Chinese Exclusion Act
· Seattle Anti-Chinese Riots



Property of Museum of History & Industry, Seattle
Jackson Street 1908

1910's
· Jackson Street Regrade
· Chinese buildings on King St. & 8th
· 41 Chinese businesses in Seattle
· Milwaukee Hotel built

1920's
· Chinatown moves to King Street
· Japantown moving east on Main St.
· Chinese Southern Baptist Church built
· Jazz comes to Chinatown
· Chong Wa Benevolent Association built

1940's
· Japanese American Internment
· Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act
· Jackson Street Community Council refers to area as "international area" and pushes for first safe and decent housing ordinance

1930's
· Little Manilla on King
· Seattle Populations:
8448 Japanese
1347 Chinese
1614 Filipino

1950's
· First International Festival with International Queen
· Only 65% of Japanese return from internment
· Seattle Chinese pop. 2650



Property of Museum of History & Industry, Seattle
Bon Odori Festival 1959

1960's
· I-5 cuts through district
· Boundaries of district established
· Inter*Im established
· King County votes for Kingdome
· Seattle Chinese population: 4176

1980's
· International Children's Park constructed
· Little Siagon at Jackson & 12th
· Renovations of Ohio Hotel (618 Weller) and Gee How Oak Tin Building (7th and King)
· New building at 6th & Maynard
· District Population (1735):
47% Asian
39% White
10% African American

2000's
· New Building Construction:
Pacific Rim Center (Jackson & 10th)
Uwajimaya Village (Lane & 5th)
Union Station renovation
4 Office Buildings on 5th

1990's
· Renovations of the Rex Apartments (657 King St.) and Eastern Hotel Building (506 Maynard)
· Village Square Building with Seattle Library (8th & Lane)
· District Population:
55% Asian
36% White
5% African American

1970's
· Half of the district hotel/apartments close
· City passes resolution to mitigate Kingdome
· Special Review District Board established
· PDA established and buys Bush Hotel, Wing Luke Museum (7th), and New Central Hotel (657 Weller)
· 3 Apartment Buildings for seniors are built
· Milwaukee Hotel occupation (300 volunteers)
· Hing Hay Park constructed
· Danny Woo Community Gardens constructed
· First Vietnamese market opens at 5th & King
· District Population (1600):
25% Filipino
23% Chinese
16% Japanese
16% African American
43% White



Wing Luke Asian Museum
Kingdome Protest 1972

Timeline information compiled from:
Chin, Doug. 2001. *Seattle's International District: The Making of a Pan-Asian American Community*. International Examiner Press. Seattle, WA.



Photo: Wing Luke Asian Museum: Historic Market Display

source: Sarah Ferreter

Community Assets

Distinctive Architecture and Open Space:

The Chinatown International District is a community rich in culture, tradition, and diversity, and this is reflected in the built environment. The neighborhood features historic buildings with distinctive architectural character, as well as several unique parks such as Hing Hay Park, the International Children's Park, and the Danny Woo Community Garden. The variety of architectural adornments to the shops and businesses throughout Chinatown add to the richness of the district.

Prime Location:

A valuable asset to the community is its location. The neighborhood's proximity to Downtown and historic Pioneer Square, as well as the King Street transportation hub, assure that the district is easily accessed and contributes to the neighborhood's vitality. In addition, there are several spots in the district that offer dramatic views of the city.

Rich History:

As one of the oldest neighborhoods in the city, the International District is steeped in a rich and fascinating history. Since the late 1800s, Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino immigrants settled in the area and began to establish it as one of the largest pan-Asian American neighborhoods in the United States.

Strong Community Organizations:

The neighborhood features a large concentration of locally based non-profits and community organizations that work to help residents find jobs and housing, strenghten local business networks, provide meals for seniors, and provide support to new immigrants. Some such organizations also provide strong educational programs, host social gatherings, and provide assistance with language translations.

Abundant Markets and Food:

An abundance of affordable, healthy food is available throughout the district's many grocery markets. Traditional Asian foods, produce, herbs, medicines, and seafoods are abundant throughtout these stores. Some of the market owners place their foods and other merchandise on the sidewalks, which contributes to the bustling, vibrant feel of the streetscape when the locals patronize these businesses. Many excellent Asian restaurants, tea cafes, and bakeries also flourish in this neighborhood, and serve as a draw to tourists and locals alike.

Affordable Housing:

The district has a number of affordable housing units for seniors and developments are underway to provide more family housing throughout the neighborhood.

While these community assets add to the richness and vitality of the neighborhood, there is still room for improvement. There are opportunities for additional affordable and market-rate housing, streetscape improvement, rennovation of historic architecture and vacant buildings, and general greening of the area.



Photo: Community Bulletin Board

source: Sarah Ferreter

Events

One of the strongest assets within this community are the various annual events that fill the streets with locals and tourists to celebrate various aspects of Asian culture. Among the most popular events are:

Lunar New Year Celebration:

This free festival celebrates the Chinese New Year, a major holiday in Chinese culture. Seattle's Chinatown celebrates this holiday with multi-cultural entertainment, including dragon dances and dance performances. Local businesses, non-profits, community organizations, and artists set up booths throughout the neighborhood.

Summer Festival:

This is the largest Pan-Asian American street fair in the Pacific Northwest. The festival became an annual tradition in 1975. Local artists and craftspersons sell merchandise and food vendors abound. Multicultural family activities are offered to visitors, as well as music, dance, and martial arts performances.

Night Market:

During summer nights, Chinatown plays host to the Night Market, a community-wide open-air street market that features local crafts, foods, and entertainment.

Bon Odori:

The Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple hosts this Japanese festival that celebrates culture and tradition through music, food, and performances. This Buddhist holiday has been celebrated in Seattle for the past 75 years.

Chinatown Seafair Parade:

Held during one of Seattle's largest city-wide events, Seafair, this parade features lion and dragon dances, the Chinese Girls Drill Team, and other local groups.



Photo: Dragon Dance, Lunar New Year Festival

Source: Jim Girardi <http://www.theseattletraveler.com>

Events Timeline:

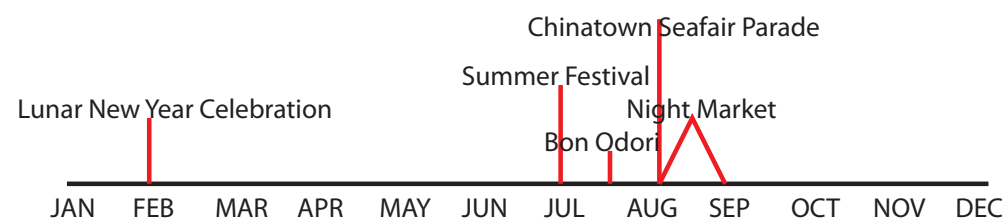


Photo: Night Market

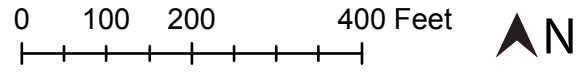
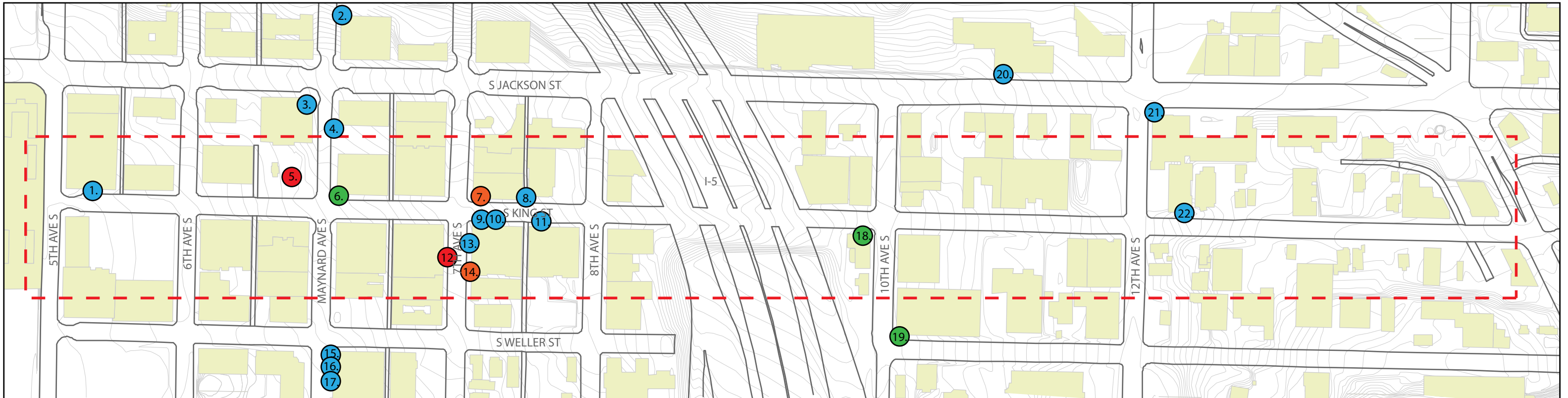
Source: <http://www.cidbia.org>



Photo: Bon Odori Festival

Source: Steve Schwartz <http://www.flickr.com/photos/vasculata/196516784>

Community Assets Map



KEY:

Site Boundaries

Non-Profit Organizations

Religious Associations

Community Bulletin Boards

Social Clubs

1. Union Gospel Mission

2. Inter*im

3. SCIDPA

4. International Community Health Services

5. Community Bulletin Board

6. Amitabha Buddhist Society of Seattle

7. Kung Fu Club of Seattle

8. Bing Kung Association

9. Lung Kong Tin Yess Association

10. Artist Association

11. Wing Luke Asian Museum/ Library

12. Community Bulletin Board

13. Chong Wa Benevolent Associates

14. Pacific Dance Academy

15. Chinatown-I.D. Business Improvement Area (CIDBIA)

16. International District Housing Alliance (IDHA)

17. WAPIFASA

18. Chinese Southern Baptist Church/ Mission

19. Nichiren Buddhist Church

20. Helping Link

21. Asia Pacific Environmental Exchange

22. Nisei Veterans Committee