

Chinatown Cultural Gallery

Explore the communities that built Chinatown Fresno



Chinatown Fresno
Grocery Store, 1880s

History

When Fresno located along a new railroad line in the 1860s, many of the original settlers were Chinese, expert brick makers who began building a city. Soon, however, they were hustled off to live on the west side of the tracks.

Racially segregated residential enclaves were common in California in the 19th century. Chinatown was established here around 1872. Most of the cultural and ethnic communities got their start here. By the 1880s, more than one-third of Fresno residents were building their homes and businesses on “the other side of the tracks.”

Fresno’s Chinatown is one of the oldest areas of Fresno and while it was born of segregation, it now represents Fresno’s range of cultural and ethnic diversity.

These communities contribute significantly to the current Fresno region. While most are still struggling for economic and social justice, they continue to make Fresno culturally rich with potential for becoming inclusive. To honor their cultures, we have founded the *Chinatown Cultural Gallery*.

There are eleven documented groups of people who were located in the Chinatown area. They include people originally from Africa, Armenia, China, Greece, Japan, Italy, Mexico, the Philippines and Portugal, as well as Basque people from Northern Spain/Southern France and Volga Russians from Germany. Each brings a history and culture that has contributed to the vibrancy of Chinatown over the years.



Mexican Employment Office

Partners

We welcome new partners and any connections in the community that can provide resources for future showings or events. We also welcome donations to support our overall Gallery efforts or specific exhibits.

- Japanese American Citizens League
- Japantown Atlas
- Fresno Historical Society
- Members of the Japanese Community

FUTURE PARTNERS Various groups and organizations representing all eleven cultures



Gallery Hours

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
from 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Special tours can be arranged for groups of 8 to 20.

Exhibit Calendar

Japanese Heritage

August 13 - October 24, 2019

Mexican Heritage

October 30 - January 16, 2020

African Heritage

January 22 - April 9, 2020

Each culture will be represented by wall hangings and artifacts sourced from museums and collections, primarily from Fresno. Other features may include personal stories and one or more related events. These events may include music, dance, historical talks or tours. Our website will add resources for each culture as it is showcased in the Gallery.

Chinatown Fresno Foundation
is a 501(c)3 Community Benefit
Organization #82-4272279

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As a program of the Chinatown Fresno Foundation, all donations to the Chinatown Cultural Gallery are tax deductible.