

# 唐人街 CHINATOWN

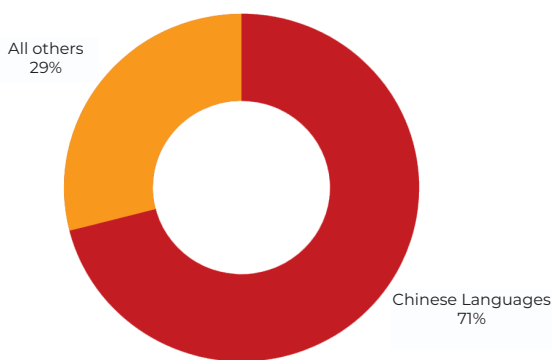


by Masooma Ali

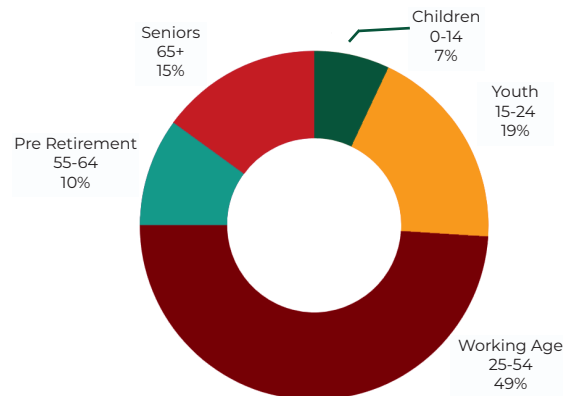
It seems almost impossible to talk about ethnic enclaves without mentioning Chinatowns. Almost every major North American and world class city around the world has an urban district full of food, shops and dwellings predominantly used, run and occupied by ethnically Chinese residents. The formation of many Chinatowns, go beyond preference. The Chinese Immigration Act is proof of the discrimination early Chinese immigrants faced, which is why many Chinatowns were created not out of preference but by necessity (Yee, 2005). Toronto's world-famous Chinatown, has experienced a great deal of adversity in the past having faced relocation twice. Which could speak to why it is so resilient today.

## CHINATOWN BY THE NUMBERS

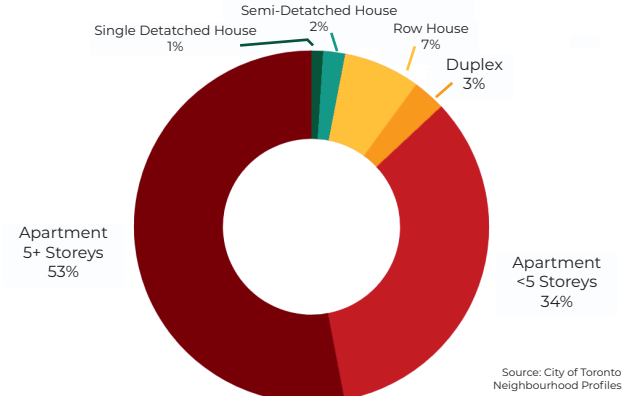
### LANGUAGES



### AGE OF POPULATION



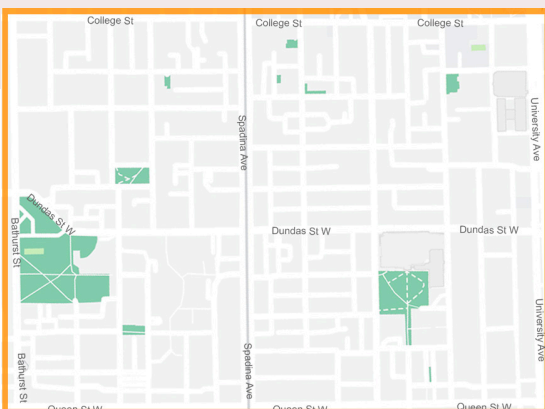
### DWELLING TYPE



Source: City of Toronto Neighbourhood Profiles

### HISTORY

The history of Toronto's Chinatown can be traced back to one man, Sam Ching, a launderer who operated a successful business on Adelaide Street in Toronto in the year 1878 (Chinatown Directory, 2015). By 1930 the Chinatown in Toronto was well established along Bay and Elizabeth Streets. Waves of immigration greatly affected the growth of the ethnic enclave. Following the tough situations and a housing crisis brought on by the great depression, there was a large influx of Chinese immigrants into the city which greatly benefited the area. This was until the start of the 1960's when the newly proposed Toronto City Hall was planned to be built in the middle of Chinatown (Chinatown Directory, 2015). Displacement and expropriation led to the residents and shop owners to move away from the original site. The remaining residents and businesses were threatened once again in 1967 when Chinatown was proposed to be moved to make room for office towers (Chinatown Directory, 2015). This led to the Chinese community moving west, to the area which they occupy now due to the affordable real estate prices at the time, especially for homes (Cheung, 2018).



### PRESENT



### FUTURE

The future of Toronto's Chinatown is as uncertain as any area of this city, but I would say this ethnic enclave is the most resilient one within our borders. Considering how old it is, Chinatown maintains the authenticity that many ethnic enclaves of this city have lost. Walking down the street you see the architecture, you smell the food and you see the Chinese residents of all ages dominating the streets, speaking their mother tongue freely, embracing their culture while also adapting to Toronto's. Considering the history and culture of this community, I believe Toronto's Chinatown has survived because not only do the Chinese come here to shop and eat, but most importantly they live here, they own property here and they prefer the urban environment over the alternatives. Both the young and the old, the new immigrants and old are found living and thriving here. With new Chinese ethnoburbs in areas like Markham, one could argue that Chinatown may no longer be in its prime, it will face adversity yet again, it will have to battle rising property prices and high rents, gentrification and intensification, but I believe Toronto's Chinatown will survive.

**WALK SCORE: 99%**

**BIKE SCORE: 67%**

**TRANSIT SCORE: 100%**

501 Dundas  
510 Spadina  
501 Queen

source: WalkScore.com

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