

Separate But Connected: Challenges Amid Progress for Chinese American Enclaves in Boston

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Abstract

Chinatowns have long been symbols of overseas Chinese settlements and experiences. In major North American cities, traditional Chinatowns have changed gradually. Suburban Chinese American settlements have emerged. They exhibit signs of greater integration into the larger society than the isolation of Chinatown development of earlier generations. However, the new Chinese American enclaves are still connected to the old Chinatowns. This paper explores the recent demographic, economic, community, and political development of two Boston area Chinese American enclaves in the context of contemporaneous developments in Boston Chinatown.