

# CHINATOWN/LAKE MERRITT BART STATION AREA HISTORY



1882  
Chinatown

1906: San Francisco earthquake spawns influx of San Francisco Chinatown refugees into Oakland Chinatown.

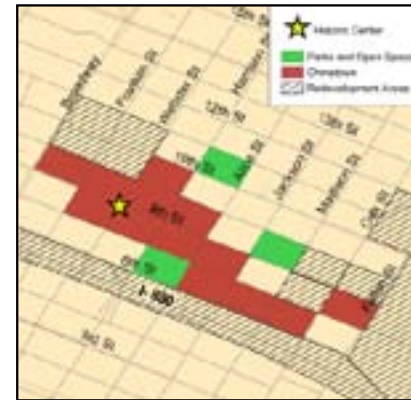


1950  
Chinatown

1963: California outlaws racial discrimination in housing, allowing Chinese families access to housing outside of Chinatown.

1966: HUD approves the Oakland Redevelopment Agency's Central District Urban Renewal Plan; no local support.

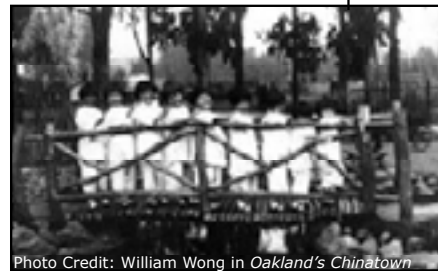
1960 - 1970: Chinatown loses 13% of its residents and 20% of its housing units due to encroachment into Chinatown by various redevelopment projects and suburban flight.



2000  
Chinatown



1850s: First Chinese arrive in Oakland.



1936: The Ming Quong Home opens, but must be relocated for BART in 1965.

1950s: Chinatown shifts from bachelor to family community with relaxation of immigration laws.



1953: The Oakland Chinese Community Center opens.



1959: Freeway is constructed.



1965: The new BART construction relocates Madison Park and takes over three blocks in Chinatown.

1967: Edward B. Wong and Chinatown business leaders release their redevelopment recommendations.

1981: Asian Branch of the Oakland Public Library opens.



1960s - 1970s: Many new community groups are formed.

1968: Rev. Frank Mar holds first Chinatown community meetings, leading to the establishment of the Oakland Chinese Community Council, now Family Bridges, Inc.

1970s - 1980s: Immigration laws abolish national-origin quotas, and Chinatown gains a more diverse, Pan-Asian population. Residential area expands to "China Hill."

1985: A group of merchants forms the Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce to promote the general welfare and prosperity of the Oakland Chinatown area.



2003: Residents and activists protest evictions from the Renaissance Plaza, ultimately resulting in victory for the residents.



2004: New street crossings are installed for pedestrian safety and beautification.

Center for Community Innovation, 2009.

# LAKE MERRITT BART STATION AREA PLAN 2011



The City of Oakland, BART and the Peralta Colleges/Laney College have initiated a public partnership to develop an Area Plan for the community surrounding the Lake Merritt BART station. The Area Plan will bring together the goals and objectives of key neighborhood stakeholders to generate a shared vision for the planning area that builds on the successes of Chinatown as a transit-oriented neighborhood while providing strategic opportunities to link key transit destinations such as Laney College, Chinatown's commercial core, the Oakland Museum of California, Kaiser Auditorium, the East Lake neighborhood, Alameda County offices, and other institutions in the area. The planning effort is committed to community engagement in the creation of this shared vision.

## OAKLAND CHINATOWN COALITION

The OCC is a broad, neighborhood based coalition of service and community based organizations, businesses and professionals, churches, and residents who live, work, play, and shop in Chinatown. We have advocated for the Specific Plan to make nine key improvements to our neighborhood through a strong community engagement process: public safety, access to jobs, affordable housing, community facilities/open space, small businesses, transportation, cultural preservation, and public health.

## FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT:

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# 9 PRINCIPLES FOR THE LAKE MERRITT BART STATION AREA COMMUNITY

## 1. PUBLIC SAFETY:

Immediately implement pedestrian-scale street lighting along 8th, 9th, Jackson, and Alice Streets.



Image Credit: Lawrence Ko Leong



Image Credit: Metropolitan Transportation Commission

## 2. JOBS:

Ensure that any project with public funding is subject to the City's local hiring requirements.



Image Credit: Lawrence Ko Leong

## 3. HOUSING:

Protect current residents against displacement, and ensure that at least 30% of the housing in the project plan is affordable to families at or below 60% of Area Income, including extremely low and very low-income families.



Photo Credit: EBALDC

## 4. HEALTH:

Create a pedestrian-friendly environment with open space that promotes public safety, walking, and exercise. Facilitate destination traffic to Chinatown while diverting Alameda, Oakland, and I-880 through traffic away from the area in order to improve air quality and community health.



Photo Credit: Darren Yee

## 5. COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE:

Improve Madison Park with physical programming and regular programming. Add a block of contiguous park space to the Chinatown core. Establish a Community/Youth Center that provides programs and services.



Image Credit: Lawrence Ko Leong

## 6. BUSINESS:

Encourage new grocery stores, farmers markets and healthy restaurants, attract new businesses, especially pharmacies, banks, and bookstores.



Photo Credit: www.blog.taiwan-guide.org

## 7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Ensure that community residents and organizations are involved in decision-making and monitoring of the neighborhood plan.



Photo Credit: Eva Chiu

## 8. TRANSPORTATION:

Calm traffic on 7th Street, install pedestrian scramble systems at controlled intersections on 8th and 9th streets between Harrison and Jackson Streets, and convert 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, Harrison, Webster, and Franklin streets into two-way streets.

## 9. CULTURAL PRESERVATION:

Celebrate Asian culture using streetscape improvements, public art, historical markers, and bilingual signage. Zone for active ground floor uses, especially along 8th Street and 9th Street. Rename the BART Station to Oakland Chinatown/Laney BART Station.



Photo Credit: Darren Yee