New York City’s Chinatown neighborhood is known for its rich culture and active commercial landscape. New York City has the largest Chinese population of any city outside of Asia, and, although many immigrants are now residing in Flushing, Queens and other nearby neighborhoods, Manhattan’s historic Chinatown remains the heart of the region’s Chinese diaspora.¹

This dense section of the city is located towards the southern end of Manhattan, nestled between the Lower East Side, SoHo, and the city’s government center. Chinatown is defined as the area bounded by Houston Street to the north, Essex Street to the east, Centre Street to the west, and Frankfort Street to the south. Demographically, in 2010, Chinatown was about 40% percent Asian, 20% percent White, and around 25% percent Hispanic. The median household income in Chinatown was lower than most of Manhattan but slightly higher than the New York City average. The concentration of residents over the age of 65 was particularly high in this part of the city with number of residents in 2010.

One of Chinatown’s most trafficked North-South arteries is the Bowery. As one of New York’s oldest streets, it has linked Manhattan neighborhoods since the city’s inception. It

Photos: Mojdeh Mahdavi, Nerali Patel, Emma Pattiz