



AEPP 2015

English Language Institute
University of Chicago

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Table of Contents

Finding Chicago

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Central

Loop

- * The (0,0) Point of an Expanding Big City
- * Heart and Veins of Chicago
- * "L" Rail
- * Chicago Architecture After Fire: Fireproofing, Skyscrapers, and the Chicago School
- * Controlling the Chicago's Traffic
- * Escaping from Chicago's Cold Winter: The Pedway System
- * Native American Arts
- * Music Venue and Culture
- * Enjoy for free
- * Chicago Jazz Festival: Origins
- * Jazz in the City
- * Stayin' Alive (Chicago Jazz Festival)
- * The Show is Still On
- * Global Giant in Financial Derivative Trading
- * Derivatives Starting from Here
- * 707 Restaurant
- * Cafe Next to University

Gold Coast

- * Chicago: A Land Where Almost Anything Can Be Big
- * China Tries to Purchase Confidence in the US
- * Farmers Market In Chicago

Streeterville

- * One of the Last Survivors of the Great Chicago Fire
- * Prosperity of Ethnic Foods!

Printer's Row

- * Taking the Train of History

Museum Campus

- * Life as Time Moves On

River North

- * Lao Sze Chuan Saves Me!
- * The Phenomenon of Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX)
- * To Grasp Blues Music

Old Town

- * The Church That Survived the Great Chicago Fire
- * Mixing Flavors in Chicago

West Loop

- * Rights, Riots and Labor: A Tale of Oblivion
- * Wandering Market
- * Beyond Metropolitan Chicago
- * Modernization and the Lost of Tradition
- * The Ever Fading Cultural Identity

- * Learning to Let Go: The Challenge of Rock Climbing

Chicago Phenomena

- * The Racial Segregation in Chicago
- * Chicago on wheels of a Divvy Bike
- * The Birth of a New Giant

Lakefront

- * How to Avoid Chicago's Segregation through Biking
- * Cycling in Chicago—Have Fun but Be Careful
- * White Beach, Black Beach: A View from the Lake Front Trail
- * Finding Planets Along the Lakeshore
- * The Whale Sculpture in the Lakeside
- * Seashore or Lakeshore

South

Chinatown

- * Chinese in Chinatown
- * Chinatown — Too Close and Too Far
- * Cultural Development in Chinatown, Chicago
- * Why Does Cantonese Culture Rule Chinatown?
- * Subtle Chinese Charms in Chicago!

- ★ Finding interesting Stuffs in the Supermarket of Chinatown

Bridgeport

- ★ The Influence of White Sox to Bridgeport
- ★ The Position of Black People in USA through Baseball Field
- ★ Creating Community Through Art, Music and Craft Beer

Bronzeville

- ★ Taste African Culture

Kenwood

- ★ Parking Legally In Chicago

Back of the Yards

- ★ Difficulties as a Foreigner Becoming a Chicagoan: “Get an Electricity Bill on Your Name”, the Challenge.

Garfield Ridge

- ★ A Gap in the Boundary

Washington Park

- ★ Father of Chicago, Pride in African-Americans
- ★ Being a Positive Minority in U.S. What can We Learn from African American in Politics?

Hyde Park

- ★ Love and Hatred: Toward a Special Neighbor in Hyde Park
- ★ American Coffee Life
- ★ Subway

- ★ Food Trucks in the University of Chicago
- ★ Tools To Be Hygienic
- ★ From “Study, Study, Study” to “Study, Socialize, Sleep”
- ★ Reaching A Great Point
- ★ The Evocative Point
- ★ The Stealing View
- ★ Visiting Tomorrow
- ★ Legacy of the Fire: The Great Fire’s Influence to the City of Chicago
- ★ Opposite Consciences
- ★ Way of Living Matters
- ★ The United Church of Hyde Park
- ★ Just Books, or Even More
- ★ Bikes in Hyde Park

Woodlawn

- ★ Riding with the Community
- ★ Empowering an Underserved Community

Greater Grand Crossing

- ★ Colored Death
- ★ Where Past Connects to Present

Chicago Phenomena

- ★ How to Survive Chicago Winter
- ★ Ins and Outs of “Chicago Dibs”

West

West Town

- ★ A Mexican Recipe to Confront Summer Wind

Little Italy

- ★ Chicago's Second Chance
- ★ Save the Culture
- ★ Italian American Influence in Chicago
- ★ Finding Your Cheapest Lifestyle

United Center

- ★ Sports – the Light of Chicago
- ★ Chicago Bulls and Michael Jordan
- ★ Michael Jordan's "Contributions" to the Neighborhood

Garfield Park

- ★ Retreat from the Chicago Winter

Douglas Park

- ★ More Beer, Less Water

Pilsen

- ★ Lost in Pilsen
- ★ So Much Better than Tacos
- ★ Michoacán in Chicago
- ★ Still Far from Living the American Dream: Mexican People's Life in Chicago
- ★ Art & History in the Streets of a Chicago Neighborhood
- ★ The Story of a Beautiful Princess Mixtli

Humboldt Park

- ★ Mourning for Lost Graffiti Walls

Wicker Park

- ★ A Fading History: Vicissitude of the Polish Nation through the Lens of Their Story in Chicago
- ★ Oasis in Chicago Winter Desert
- ★ Short Essay on Wicker Park's Around the Coyote
- ★ Wicker Park: Urban Redesign
- ★ Clandestine Chicago
- ★ A Hidden Gem in Milwaukee Avenue

Bucktown

- ★ The Small Unique Houses in Bucktown

Chicago Phenomena

- ★ The Green River
- ★ Curb Your Dog? -- Understanding American Culture from a dog-owner perspective

North

Lincoln Park

- ★ Influence of Renovation on Cultural Mosaic in Lincoln Park
- ★ Enjoy Nature in the Vibrant City
- ★ Freeing the Zoo
- ★ All Roads Lead to a Lion in the Snow
- ★ Getting Involved in Sports: Transamerica Chicago Triathlon

- ★ Pizza or Pot Pie? Or Both?

Wrigleyville

- ★ Keeping up with Movie Festivals at the Music Box Theater
- ★ Baseball Superstar
- ★ Alta Vista Terrace District
- ★ Tobacco Shops Sell Tobacco?

Ravenswood

- ★ A Step Closer to the Chicago River

Logan Square

- ★ A Little Piece of Ecuador in Chicago

Rogers Park

- ★ Fighting Food Deserts One Turnip at a Time

Portage Park

- ★ Masks and Bones

West Ridge

- ★ IAC—First Stop of Indian and Pakistani Immigrants
- ★ Friendship Over Politics: A Better View from the Ridge, West Ridge
- ★ Harmonious Rivals Abroad

Chicago Phenomena

- ★ Tips: Do They Make Sense?

- ★ A Guide to Avoid Third Degree Burns in your Mouth

Suburbs

Oak Park

- ★ 18.2 Miles from Prairie

Bolingbrook

- ★ A Cheap and Easy Way of Moving

Chicago Phenomena

- ★ Looking for Furniture?
- ★ Hanging High

Multiple Neighborhoods

- ★ Reading Between the Lines of a Money Order
- ★ Revitalizing Chicago

Yutian (Ivy) Cao

The (0,0) Point of an Expanding Big City



Left: The origin point in Chicago's street numbering system

Source:
<http://wendycitychicago.com/house-and-street-numbering-in-chicago-encyclopedia-of-chicago-fact-of-the-day/>

Location

The intersection of State and Madison Streets, the Loop

Travel Details (from UChicago)

By CTA: 35 minutes

By Car: 30 minutes

Background

Unlike messy cities in China, many US cities, especially those in the Mid-West, have simple street patterns. As what I've

Yutian (Ivy) Cao

learned in my undergraduate history class, most of the Midwestern US was surveyed and divided into square mile sections of land in the 1800's. The main roads, which bordered the square mile sections of land, were thus constructed a mile apart, running either north-south or east-west. As the vast prairie land was developed into a city, those main roads evolved into today's main streets. Chicago is no exception; its basic street pattern remains almost the same in the last 200 years.

What is exceptional, though, may be Chicago's well-known street numbering system, which is so logical that one can hardly get lost. Here's how it works: The epicenter of the Chicago street grid is the intersection of State and Madison Streets in the heart of the Loop. The addresses on all east-west streets are prefixed with the words "east" or "west," depending on whether they fall east or west of State Street. Similarly, the addresses on all north-south streets are prefixed with the words "north" or "south," depending on whether they fall north or south of Madison Street. The address numbers increase or decrease

Yutian (Ivy) Cao

depending on their distance in miles from the State and Madison axis lines. Odd numbers are on the south and east sides of streets, and even numbers are on the north and west sides of the streets. There are 800 addresses for each mile of streetscape because there are typically eight blocks to each mile on the Chicago street grid.

For a great fan of orderliness, simplicity, and efficiency as myself, the intersection of State and Madison Streets, the origin point (0,0) in Chicago's street numbering system, just symbolizes Chicagoans' wisdom in city planning.

Broader Issues

Chicago's current street numbering system was adopted in 1909. There is a massive shift in how the city handles street names and addresses. Chicago was booming in the late 19th century, gobbling up neighboring towns and annexing them as new neighborhoods of the city. Every town that folded into Chicago, from Lake View to Hyde Park, had its own system for

Yutian (Ivy) Cao

naming and numbering streets. In 1909, the city decided to fight back against the growing menace of local residents continually getting lost and improper mail delivery. To put an end to this epidemic, the City Council passed a completely new and foolproof address system proposed by a man called Edward Brennan.

It's quite interesting that Brennan was just an ordinary Chicagoan who suffered from the chaos of the city's street numbering system; he was neither a postal worker nor even an urban planner. Brennan wasn't the first person to recognize the problem, but he was certainly the most persistent at arguing for a solution. Changing the street names was never simple or uncontroversial, for many people saw it as meddling with the historic nature of their streets. However, Brennan was determined to go forward with the can-do spirit that built the World's Fair. Today, Brennan's got an honorary street named after him at the intersection of State and Madison Streets, the city's (0,0) point. Every time Chicagoans navigate the 227

Yutian (Ivy) Cao

square miles of their city, they're unwittingly perpetuating
Brennan's legacy.

Fengshuo Zhang

Heart and Veins of Chicago

Location

Chicago Loop in Downtown

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 40 mins **By bike:** 40 mins **By car:** 20 mins

Background: The first day I arrived in Chicago, I issued a CTA 7-day-pass card. Then the following week I was able to go nearly everywhere in Chicago. CTA's railway lines are too old. Sometimes I even worried that they may break down suddenly. However, they are definitely the veins of Chicago, bringing energy and power to the entire city.

If CTA railway lines are compared to veins, then the Chicago Loop is the heart of this city. All lines come together in the Loop, and then go to every corner of the city. In the loop, lines are complicated. Many different colors of lines share a certain rail. Some lines are even one-way in the Loop. The situation of the Chicago railway system is totally different from what I experience in my hometown, so it could be a challenge for tourists.

The Chicago railway system—the 'L' system—was set up more than a century ago. The first line of this system was established in 1892, making it the second-oldest rapid transit system in the United States. The Union

Fengshuo Zhang

Loop, the common terminal in downtown, is one of the original lines. Its establishment was even before CTA was set up. In 1897 the Union Loop was officially started. After that, Chicago entered a development era.(chicago-l.org)



A 1913 map of the Chicago Elevated system

Source: *Keeping Everyone in the Loop: 50 Years of Chicago "L" Graphics*
by J. J. Sedelmaier

Broader issues: As discussed above, the Chicago railway system has run for more than 100 years. Even the infrastructure has its historical value. I believe Chicago government invests a large amount of money on annual maintenance of the railway system, but sometimes I really feel worried and unsafe when travelling by CTA trains.

Fengshuo Zhang

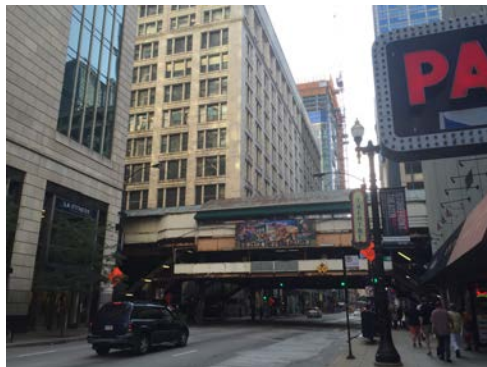
A shocking event in Chicago is the Chicago Loop derailment on February 4th in 1977. The derailment was caused by the collision between two trains. One train (Brown line) was waiting for getting out of the Loop. The other train (Red line) behind it failed to stop. Then the accident happened, killing 11 people and injuring over 180 because of the cars falling down.

After the investigation, the driver of that red line was responsible for the accident. But from my perspective, CTA does need an automatically supervisory system to avoid accidents happening.

Chicago railway system now plays a great crucial role in this city. We are proud of its long and colorful history, but we are also worried about the situation of its infrastructure. How could CTA company deal with this controversial issue? Should we maintain the history or improve the facilities? In my opinion, it is possible to take both sides into account.

“L” Rail

An Elevated rail runs through a narrow street in a flourishing shopping district. “L” is named originally short for “elevated” not for “LOOP”. These elevated rails began to be constructed in late 19th century, and according to



CTA, now there are 140 stations on them.

Background

When I walked into Loop for the first time, I thought the rail was cool. Since I grew up in Tokyo, skyscrapers and busy streets are familiar to me, but there are no such elevated rails in Tokyo. It looked old, but for me, it looked like a facility in Disney Land.

However, I got closer to the rail, and I found that the rail was really frail. Although it run overhead, it had no fence or protection around it. The pillars of the elevated rail were much thinner than the ones in Japan. It rumbled when the train came closer. In addition, in places, exterior materials of the pillars and walls were ripped off and its steel frame were exposed. I doubted CTA maintained the rail enough.

Broader Issue

In Japan, maintenance of old infrastructure is one of the most important issues. Major highways, rails, bridges and facilities around Tokyo were constructed in 1960's, when we hold the first Olympic games in Tokyo. They are getting old, and we are supposed to use billions of yens to maintain or renovate these infrastructures. Considering

hard budget condition in Japan, we have to reduce its cost as possible as we can, but it will be uneasy.



The rail of Shinkansen at Yurakutyo Station, Tokyo (from: asahi.com)

I do not know how much money CTA and the city of Chicago spend to maintain the rail, and I suppose it is much more little than Tokyo Metro. I admit that the situation is different, for earthquakes hit occasionally in Japan, rails should be maid and maintained to comply with earthquake resistant standard in addition to other rigid regulations.

Because I was accustomed to use clean, accurate and comfortable public transportation in Tokyo, I feel a little bit unsafe when I use train in Chicago. However, CTA

trains run on the elevated rail today without serious accidents anyway.

The rail looks like one of early 20th century's, although it is surrounded by skyscrapers and new buildings with latest boutique and fashionable shops. The fusion of old infrastructure and latest fashion makes Loop Unique.

Compared to remarkable cities around Arabian gulf or ones in China, we cannot expect both Chicago and Tokyo change dramatically in the future. Instead of constructing new facilities and infrastructures, we will have to spend money on keeping existing ones. However, maintaining and using old facilities is not always bad, and it might create its unique scenery and atmosphere in someday. The Loop rail told me so.



1954: Douglas Trains Passing (from: flickr.com)

Changwan Han

Chicago Architecture after Fire: Fireproofing, Skyscrapers, and the Chicago School

Location

The Palmer House, the Reliance Building, and the Fisher Building among many others
Loop Neighborhood

Phenomena

The Impact of the Great Chicago Fire on Chicago Architecture

Travel Time from UChicago

By CTA: 40 mins **By bike:** 50 mins **By car:** 25 mins

Background: During the period between the early 1800s and 1870s, Chicago's population grew rapidly and Chicago became one of the largest and commercially-robust cities in the U.S.

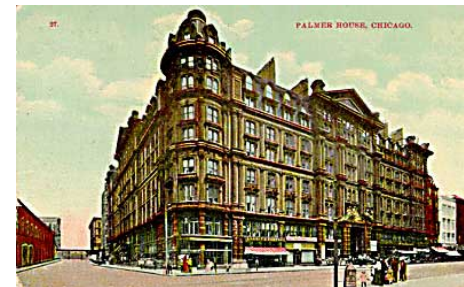
In 1871, however, the Great Chicago Fire took place and burned almost all of the downtown business area and rendered nearly 100,000 residents of the city homeless.¹

¹ Bruegmann, Robert, and Ill Chicago. *A Guide to 150 Years of Chicago Architecture*. Chicago, Ill.: Chicago Review Press, 1985. 17.

Changwan Han

Like it or not, this disaster provided an opportunity to rebuild the city from scratch and thereby pave the way for the advent of innovative architecture.

Due to the fear of fire and a newly enacted act prohibiting the construction of wooden buildings, businesses and architects made a constant effort to build fireproof buildings. Lack of stone, which is fire-resistant, and its expensive cost led some architects to use terra cotta to cover the iron structure of buildings so as to protect the buildings from being destroyed by fire. One of the first buildings adopting the terra cotta technique in Chicago was the Palmer House, now known as the Palmer House Hilton.



Above: The Palmer House in the 1870s
(Source: <http://www.lasplash.com>)

Also, the reconstruction of the city attracted a number of talented architects from all around the United State to

Changwan Han

Chicago and they, whose style is later referred to as the Chicago School, started to design high-rise buildings, so called skyscrapers, revolutionizing architecture and embracing new technologies in their efforts to build more efficiently and economically.²

Some of the most notable buildings constructed by the Chicago School were the Reliance Building (built in 1895) and Fisher Building (1896) among many others.



Left: The Reliance Building in 2010 (Source: J. Crocker)

Right: The Fisher Building in 2010 (Source: J. Crocker)

² Pridmore, Jay, and George A. Larson. *Chicago Architecture and Design*. Rev. and Expanded. ed. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2005. 42.

Changwan Han

Broader issues: Even though the devastating effect of the Great Chicago Fire, Chicagoans never gave up and began immediately to reconstruct the city, leading to the blossoming of a new form of architecture. It is a positive surprise to see this extraordinary resilience of human communities.

Furthermore, many critics and architects have acclaimed the city of Chicago as the capital of architecture³ thanks to its contribution to the development of innovative skyscrapers and houses, which became a kind of architectural norm of high-rise buildings around the world.

On the other hand, some critics have said that applauding this kind of architecture is a thing of the past because lots of cutting-edge and eye-catching buildings are now coming out all around the world and Chicago has not produced highly-praised architecture recently.

Suppose that those pessimists' views are true, wholly or partially – does that mean Chicago cannot become a hub of world architecture again? Maybe or maybe not. One thing that I can say for sure is that Chicago-based architecture schools need to make an effort to attract brilliant would-be architects more and develop and apply new ideas.

³ Zukowsky, John. *Chicago Architecture, 1872-1922: Birth of a Metropolis*. München, Federal Republic of Germany: Prestel-Verlag, 1987. 15.

Controlling the Chicago's Traffic (draft)

Location: Tower 18, Wells Street and Lake Street, Loop

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 30-40 minutes (#2, #6 or #10, \$2.00)

By Car: 30 minutes (Lake Shore Drive)

By Bike: 60-75 minutes (Lake Front Trail, Free)

Background

The CTA “L” had long grabbed my attention since it appeared in my English textbook in high school, a column article about a shell-shocked homeless veteran of the Vietnam War. The L tortured him with a terrible roar and vibration, which reminded him of continuous gunfire in Vietnam. I knew trains were somewhat noisy and shaking, but gunfire? I was curious and surprised to find that the L still used the same infrastructure since its construction in a century ago.

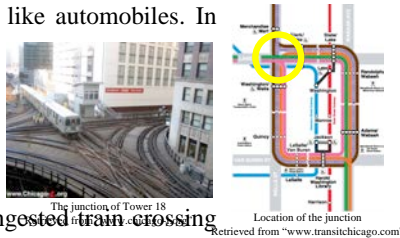
Eleven years later, I came to Chicago for the first time. As I walked to Downtown, soon the L appeared. As I had grown up

in a country with frequent earthquakes, its infrastructure initially seemed to me outdated and likely to collapse in an earthquake. However, at the same time, I found it forming a part of the great scenery of Chicago. Looking at trains running through the skyscrapers with 90-degree curve was exciting, and the roar (probably less noisy than before, thanks to renewed light-weight cars) was comfortable for me. I used it as a moving observatory of Chicago, and felt it as if it was an attraction for tourists.

However, the L is not just an exhibition, but a living transportation system with full of passengers. It has served the city's transport for more than a century. In 2013, it carried more than 21 million passengers, which is nearly eight times as much as the city's population. The compatibility of two functions, attraction for tourists and lifeline for citizens, is the attractiveness of the L.

Among the all facilities of the L, the junction of Tower 18, located in northwest edge of the Loop, remarkably features the uniqueness of the L. It is only in Chicago that I can watch the

trains crossing the junction like automobiles. In the morning rush hour, the trains cross the junction almost every 40 seconds. It may be one of the most congested train crossing



in the world. The operation to line up the trains into correct directions depends on the personnel of Tower 18.

Broader Issues

From the perspective of a tourist, the junction of Tower 18 is fascinating. However, for passengers daily using the L, it is a bottleneck. I often experienced the train stopping for several minutes between the stations, even at the section apart from the Loop. Because of this junction, a small delay in the Loop likely causes broad delays all over the L. Regrettably, frequent delays diminish the L's service quality.

Does CTA take any measure to reduce these delays? Yes, the tower and junction has periodically been renewed, and the latest

renewal was done in 2011, spending \$103mil, to introduce more reliable signal systems. Besides, the CTA continuously renovates the rail infrastructure to improve safety and to reduce delays. Then, will we be able to see more modern and super-accurately operated L in a few years? Probably not. These renewals often takes as long time and costs more than initially planned, as the past projects have. As is often the case with the public infrastructure, its budget may be likely to be cut because of the city's financial situation. Currently, the Chicago city has \$233 mil of budgetary shortfall, while public funding accounts for 49% of CTA's whole revenue (2014). For a big city like Chicago, a public transportation works tremendously in securing transportation for its citizens including socially vulnerable people and in keeping the city from over-motorization. However, there is a tradeoff between its service quality (operational accuracy) and public financial burden, and the preference is up to Chicagoans. So far, I am satisfied with the L, while sometimes frustrated by the delays. However, my perspective is close to that

Kohei IWAKI

of a tourist. So, I recommend you to continuously use and observe the L. How do you feel?

Alvaro Valdes



Escaping from Chicago's Cold Winter: The Pedway System¹

Travel Times from UChicago: Downtown

Metra: 17 min (59th Station); **Car:** 21min (7.7 miles);
CTA: 39 min (55 bus and Red Line); **Bike:** 47 min (8.8 miles)

Background: Everyone have heard about Chicago's inclement winter. Is it possible to survive in chilling days with -13° F (-25°C) outside?

As an incoming student, it was one of the most important concerns.

In some other countries, cities aren't prepared for cold waves and perhaps the only solution for such situations would be to hibernate. However, this is not the case of Chicago. This resilient city has the solution: A Pedestrian Walkway System, also known as the Pedway.

Its construction started in 1951, with an underground connection for two downtown CTA stations (Washington St. and Jackson Blvd.). Today, the Pedway extends up to 5 miles and connects 40 blocks and about 50 buildings².

¹ Pedway System Logo. Source: Foto taken inside Pedway.

² The City of Chicago's Official Site

The Pedway is not only a system of connectors, but it is also filled with stores and services. Chicagoans learnt from the mole's wisdom in order to develop this great solution.

Figure 1: Pedway Map and places; Source: The City of Chicago official Site³

Figure 2: Summary of Services and Stores; Source: Chicago Illinois Center Guide⁴ and self walking tours inside Pedway



³ <http://www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/cdot/pedestrian/PedwayPedwayMap2013.pdf>

⁴ http://www.bpa.org/members/1/docs/nlc12_ilguide.pdf

Broader Issues: Having discovered and explored this amazing urban creation, what follows is to determine if it is possible to live underground. Let's do a basic checklist.

First, food. It is definitely something that can be found inside the Pedway. Lots of restaurants and cafes are here. For those who enjoy cooking, groceries and supermarket are also part of the Pedway package. Second, Health Care. There are vision and dental care services, as well as pharmacies basic emergency service. Other institutions such the Northwestern Memorial Hospital are easily accessible by taxi (8 blocks away).

Third, for students that live in downtown, there are tunnels that connect almost every building to the Metra Millennium Station.

Fourth, it has banks, a State office, laundry and copy keys in order to solve personal issues. Also, a Gym, a Beauty Center and a flower shop, are some other 'fancy' services.

At the end, the Pedway definitely makes it possible to live underground.

However, why is this Pedestrian system located in downtown Chicago instead of other parts of the city? There are a lot of facts that explain that. One of them is the initial connection of two CTA stations. Red and Blue lines are accessible from almost every part in the city, so it should have been a social evaluation that

Alvaro Valdes

justified the public investment for this project. After that, the current Pedway could be product of a 'Serendipity'⁵ process.

In addition, underground constructions are extremely expensive⁶, which explains why this system is not easy to reproduce in other parts of the city.

In the same line, there was an important private support for this project, which complemented the public one⁷. Therefore, for private companies this location was more profitable than others. The Hyatt Hotel and Aqua Tower are some examples of that. Another important fact is that 'the Loop' receives everyday up to the 27.5%⁸ of the city workers. In other words, the Pedway has a positive impact for almost one third of Chicago's workers in winter. That maybe the strongest argument in favor of the location for this great Pedestrian Underground System.

If you want to explore this place without getting lost inside the tunnels, it is recommendable to follow a tour⁹. There is a small city inside there!

⁵ Serendipity: an instance of making a fortunate discovery by accident. (American Heritage Dictionary)

⁶ See <https://pedestrianobservations.wordpress.com/2011/05/16/us-rail-construction-costs/>

⁷ The City of Chicago's Official Site <http://www.cityofchicago.org>

⁸ Chicago Loop Economic Profile 2013 http://loopchicago.com/_files/docs/economicprofile_2013.pdf

⁹ Search in Google "Free Pedway tour"

Lu Yang

Native American Arts

Location

The Art Institute of Chicago

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 40min **By bike:** 1h **By car:** 30mins

Background: I'm always crazy about art and Chicago is the city for arts, jazz, museums, galleries, and numerous festivals. And the Art Institute of Chicago offers access to over 77,000 works and basic information about works of art from all areas of the world collection. And after I arrived Chicago, the first lesson about American culture is the history of Native America, which attracts me a lot. Plus, I'd lived in South America for half a year and am quite interested in its indigenous Indian culture. Traveling through some indigenous Indian tribes, seeing their houses, listening to their chief's talking, appreciating their arts, I was deeply involved, especially the part which is after the native Indian people encountered Europeans. The Amerindian collection in the Art Institute of Chicago has a long tradition collecting and displaying Native North American Indian works and some South America Exhibitions as well.

Lu Yang



Source: My pictures in Indian Arts of Americans in the Art Institute of Chicago

Left: Bowl with a design of spattering and a Standing Figure holding a Macaw

Right: In the late 19th century, a new style of decoration appeared in Acoma ceramics, perhaps influenced by imported textile designs. Nevertheless, the symbolic motifs stem from ancient Pueblo tradition, alluding to the sun, rain, and seasonal regeneration.

Broader issues: The Native Americans were indigenous to the American lands and composed of numerous distinct tribes. However, after Indian People in Americas were invaded by Europeans, most of them were colonized and forced to relocate such as through the "Trail of Death". Since the end of the 15th century, the migration of Europeans to the Americas has led to extensive political tension, ethnic violence, and social disruption. And after the establishment of the United States of America, the government tried to assimilate

Lu Yang

the Native Americans with the idea of civilizing. Later The Indian Removal Act commanded the Native Americans to relocate from their homelands to lands of the Mississippi River, which resulted in the huge loss of its population, that is, "Trail of Tears".

And the story is the same with Spain conquering the South America. Beginning with the 1492, the Spanish Empire expanded across half of South America for almost 300 years. The people in South America fought against Spain to their independence. It was a tough and tormenting history. From that time until now, how has this colonization and invasion change the arts of Indian people? How can the invasion influence Indian works? People want to explore the changing of their art style, the effect European culture had on their arts and the importance of arts in their life.

Music Venue and Culture

Lang Yu

Location

Jay Pritzker Pavilion
201 E Randolph St., Millennium Park

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: about 45 mins **By bike:** about 45 mins **By car:**
about 20 mins

Background: I'm a die-hard music fan of jazz and rap music, so Chicago is pretty attractive to me. Concert venues in Chicago are the most appealing places I want to explore. I first Googled some details about popular concert places in the Chicago area and then explored one famous music venue, Jay Pritzker Pavilion, during Chicago Jazz Festival.

The pavilion was named after Jay Pritzker. Jay Pritzker's family owns the well-known Hyatt Hotels. The building was designed by architect Frank Gehry and "was constructed between June 1999 and July 2004, opening officially on July 16, 2004."¹

I attended the Chicago Jazz Festival in Millennium Park on September 5th. It is surprising that music events in Jay Pritzker Pavilion are all free.

¹ "Facts and Dimensions of Jay Pritzker Pavilion". City of Chicago.

Lang Yu



Source: Maps of Jazz Fest from City of Chicago Website

During Jazz Fest, I listened to several artists including Brian Gephart Sextet and Douglas Ewart. The atmosphere in the festival was really amazing. Crowded people drank beer and enjoyed music. There are three stages during the day and one main stage in the evening.



Left: Main stage of Jazz Fest

Right: Von Freeman stage

Lang Yu

Douglas Ewart and Inventions gave a really creative and experimental performance at the beginning. Most performances in that evening were not actually traditional jazz.



Source: Performance of The Claudia Quintet (taken by myself)

Later that night, The Claudia Quintet, Mark Turner Quartet and Grammy-winner Dee Dee Bridgewater gave amazing performances. Specifically, The Claudia Quintet combined poem reading and jazz together, which left a deep impression on me.

Broader issues: Chinese people and Americans seem to have a completely different music culture.

Chinese are much less willing to pay for music, including albums, concerts and other derivatives. The underlying reason might be the missing law on

Lang Yu

copyright protection in China and the prevalence of piracy. In contrast, Americans take music as an indispensable part of their lives and are willing to pay for it. Music is integrated into their lives.

Chinese tend to listen to pop music, especially music from eastern Asia. Instead, Americans seem to be fonder of jazz, rap and rock'n'roll. Besides native artists, artists and bands from South Korea and Japan also have a wide audience. However, American and European music have a relatively small audience in China. A noticeable example is the concerts of Kanye West in China in 2008. It was weird as small stadium was not even full in consideration of the popularity of Kanye in America. Similarly, most of the audiences in Chinese concerts held in America are Chinese-born Americans and Chinese students. All in all, music preferences between China and America differ significantly.

Chinese music influences and is influenced by eastern Asian music. More specifically, the modern music industry in China, to a certain extent, draws lessons from the Japanese and South Korean industry. Take idol groups as an example. Such modes of producing idols were actually proposed and flourished in South Korea and Japan. Chinese music industry borrows this model and makes localization, which comes out a hit. In addition, the music origins from Hong Kong and Taiwan also leave an unchallengeable influence on the development of Chinese music. In contrast, we can see a

Lang Yu

hint of European music in American music. In particular, British Rock bands largely influence rock'n'roll in America. Moreover, Black culture and Latino also plays an important role in forming modern American music.

Jay Pritzker Pavilion Sawada Tamiko

Enjoy for free

Travel time from UChicago

Neighborhood: Jay Pritzker Pavilion

- 40 minutes by 171 bus and CTA train.
- 20 minutes by Uber

Background

This summer, a friend and I made a plan to enjoy Chicago as cheap as possible (because we both are students). We looked for free events through internet and found the free classic concert held in Jay Pritzker Pavilion in late August. It was an amazing experience for me. The orchestra played symphony of Elgar, and audience enjoyed high quality music for free. It was called Grant Park Music Festival, and Jay Pritzker Pavilion was constructed as the new home of this festival in 2004. Unfortunately, there is no free concert like this in Japan, but I'm sure that if I would join such concert in Tokyo, I had to pay at least 50 dollars.

When I was searching free events through the website, "choose Chicago", I noticed that there were varieties of free cultural events held in Chicago: music festivals such as Grant Park Music Festival, Chicago Blues

Jay Pritzker Pavilion Sawada Tamiko

Festival and Chicago Jazz Festival: art events such as Art Fest Michigan Avenue and Chicago Architecture Biennial. The number of free cultural events seems to show the high cultural level of the city. I'm very interested in why culture like music and art has developed in Chicago.



Grant Park Music Festival held in Jay Pritzker Pavilion
(<http://www.grantparkmusicfestival.com/photos/2015-season-highlights/>)

Broader Issues

One of the important characteristic of Chicago is diversity. According to the census¹ in 2010, 45% of the

¹ <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/17/1714000.html>

Jay Pritzker Pavilion Sawada Tamiko

population is White, 32.9% is Black or African American, 5.5% is Asian and 28.9% is Hispanic and Latino. This great mix of population might have contributed to flourish varieties of music from Jazz to Classic, and to gather talented modern artists.

However, the most important phenomena that explains why music and arts are prosperous here in Chicago is its climate. Winter in Chicago is very severe and long. People have especially developed inner culture to enjoy winter, and planned a lot of cultural events to enjoy short and beautiful summer.

Actually, inner culture is tend to flourish in colder place. For example, all of Big Five Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra and Cleveland Orchestra, put their base in cities where it snows in winter. Moreover, the three largest museums in the United States are also located in New York, Chicago and



The Art Institute of Chicago, the second largest museum in USA. (<https://www.gatewayticketing.com/>)

Jay Pritzker Pavilion Sawada Tamiko

Boston, where people suffer severe winter weather. On the other hand, Los Angeles, the warmer city, is the second economically largest city in the States, but its museums and orchestra are newer and smaller than those in Chicago.

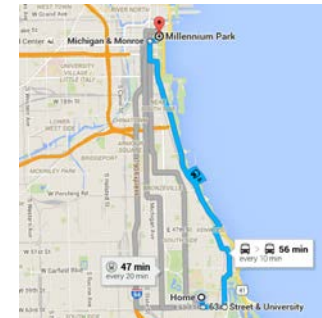
Owing to its diversity and weather, music and arts in Chicago have been highly sophisticated. During your stay in Chicago, you can check website, “choose Chicago”, and enjoy its culture for free!!

Ehsan Azarmsa

Chicago Jazz Festival: Origins



Where does it take place?



It holds in Millennium Park.

By bus (#63-6): 56 min

By green line: 47 min

By bike: 47 min

By car: 20 min

Background

“Just arrived at Chicago?, so check out the Jazz Festival” something could be heard a lot last week. The festival took place at Millennium Park in the downtown, September 3-6. So, some of my friends and I decided to enjoy the festival on the previous Friday (Sep 4).

Ehsan Azarmsa

When I reached there and saw the crowd of people attending the venue, I understood that Jazz is a popular genre of music in Chicago and besides, it's an important festival for this city. Therefore, I decided to learn more about the history of this festival and Jazz in Chicago.

Chicago Jazz Festival now is the biggest annual Jazz Festival in the world that takes place at Millennium Park and each year thousands of people attend the venue.

History of this festival backs to 1974, when big Jazz musician, Duke Ellington died at May 24. Shortly after his death, a Jazz festival organized at Grant Park to honor him. Since then, the festival (the jazz festival to honor Duke Ellington) became an annual event and each year about 30000 persons were participating in the venue.



Figure: Chicago Jazz Festival 1979

In 1978, another festival organized to honor John Coltrane, another big Jazz musician, who died at 1967 at his 40. In 1979, these two festivals with another one was combined in a one-week free Jazz festival in Grant park.

Since then, the venue is known as

Chicago Jazz Festival, which has continued to this year.

Broader Issues: Status of Jazz

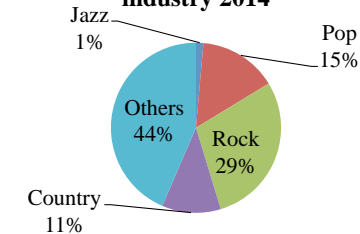
Ehsan Azarmsa

Now we may want to find out what the status of Jazz is today and how it's evolving. Is it a popular genre or getting more popular or the opposite, it's shrinking every year?

In general according to the statistics, it seems that Jazz is losing its popularity every year in the US. In 1999, Jazz had 3% of all recording sales (The recording industry Association of America), but this number was 1.1% in 2008. Also the median age of the fans of Jazz in 1982 was 29, while this number in 2008 was 46.

The following graph shows the share of Jazz music from the music industry in 2014. In other words, it shows that how much money is paid for Jazz music, compared to other genres.

Share of each genre from music industry 2014

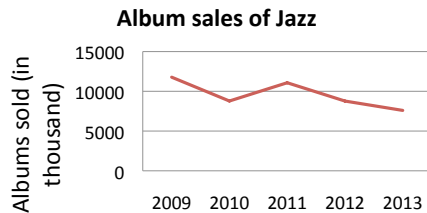


Resource: 2014 Nielsen U.S. music report

This graph shows that Jazz compared to other popular genres like Pop, Rock and Country had an insignificant market share in 2014.

Ehsan Azarmsa

Next graph shows that total album sales of this genre (2009-2013).



Resource: Nielsen U.S. music report (2009-2013)

According to this graph, the album sale in Jazz from 2009 to 2013 decreased by more than 30%.

But the situation in Chicago seems to be much better. Accurate statistics are not available, but in Chicago among the 150 best bands, 31 bands and among the best 10 bands, 2 bands are Jazz bands. It means that Chicago Jazz bands retained their popularity to some extent.

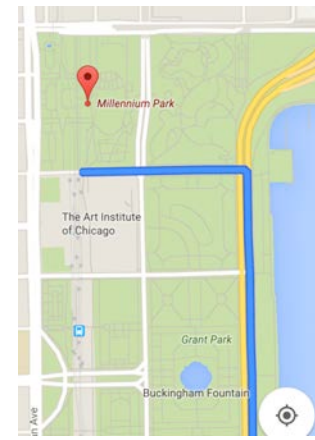
To sum up, Chicago always has been known for its Jazz musicians. The market of Jazz in the US and the world has always been important to the economy of Chicago, as there are lots of Jazz festivals in Chicago. So, it seems it's on the people and the musicians of Chicago to save the status of Jazz in the US.

Geraldine Garcia Medina

IAZZ IN THE CITY

Travel times from the University of Chicago

The Chicago Jazz Festival is hold every year in Millennium Park situated in Downtown Chicago.



Source: Google Maps 2015

The transit time in public transportation is 45 minutes, in average, from the University of Chicago. There are 3 possible public routes to take:

1. Bus Route 55 + Red Line Metro
2. Bus Route 55 + Bus Route 6
3. Buss 4

Also it is possible to bike 40 minutes or drive 17 minutes to get to Millennium Park from University of Chicago.

Background

The Chicago Jazz Festival is highly meaningful for me since listening to jazz music has been my favorite relaxing method during hard and stressful days. Besides, since my adolescence, I have had the curiosity to learn to play saxophone, a basic instrument of jazz music, which is highly enjoyable for my ears. Nonetheless, I have never had the opportunity to attend

Geraldine Garcia Medina
 a live concert since in my country, Peru, there are no many options. Today, living and studying in Chicago, I am so curious to explore the free options this city offers regarding high quality jazz music, one of these options is definitely the Chicago Jazz Festival. The Festival is held in an exhilarating environment (Millennium Park) during the best season of the year: summer. These factors complement the jazz experience I have been looking for.

This year, the 37th Annual Chicago Jazz Festival is taking place in Millennium Park with long-lasting schedules from September 3rd to September 6th. Among the important jazz musicians performing this year, is Dee Dee Bridgewater, a three-time Grammy Award winner. This event is organized together by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DECASE) and the Jazz Institute of Chicago.

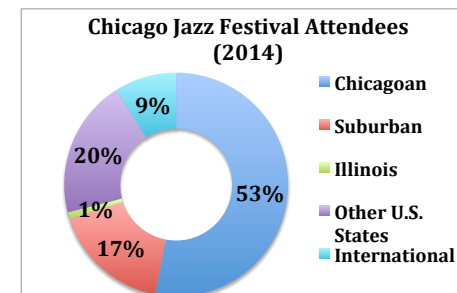


Source: Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events of the City of Chicago Official Site
<http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts>

Geraldine Garcia Medina
 The Jazz Festival takes place traditionally during the Labor Day Weekend. According to DECASE Official Site: “since 1979, the festival's mission is to showcase Chicago's vast jazz talent alongside national and international artists to encourage and educate a jazz audience of all ages.”

Furthermore, Millennium Park is a world-renowned location that boasts one of the world's most advanced sound systems that has showcased the talents of Charles Lloyd, Bill Frisell, Jason Moran and Donald Harrison and The Congo Square Nation (DECASE).

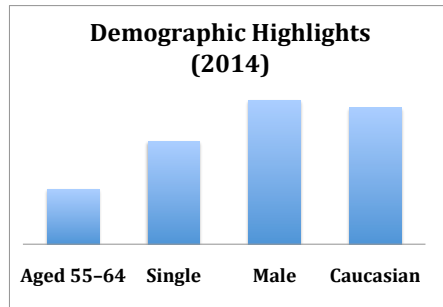
The expected number of attendants for this year is more than 135,000.



According to DECASE 2014 data, the Festival is attended mainly by Chicagoans (53%) and Americans from other U.S. States (20%). Only 9% of attendees are tourists or international people.

Source: Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events of the City of Chicago Official Site
<http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts>

Geraldine Garcia Medina



Other interesting demographic facts of the attendees are the age, marital status, sex, and race. It is curious to note that 60% of the attendees are male, and 57% are Caucasian race.

Source: Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events of the City of Chicago Official Site
<http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts>

Broader Issues

Even though there are approximately 135 thousand attendees to the Festival every year, not every citizen can easily access to it. In this sense, the DECASE of the City of Chicago could expand the event to wider locations, especially in the south of the city, in order to provide equal opportunities to enjoy jazz music to every Chicagoan.



The Chicago Jazz Festival on September 5th 2015
Source: Geraldine Garcia Medina Photography

Mauricio López

Stayin' Alive (Chicago Jazz Festival)

"By and large, jazz has always been like the kind of a man you wouldn't want your daughter to associate with."
Duke Ellington.

Location
Millennium Park

Travel Details (from UChicago)

By Car	By CTA	By Bike
via S Lake Shore 20 min 8.0 miles	1:22 PM-1:58 PM 36 min 171 > 6	via Lakefront Trail 42 min

Background (personal experience)

One of the greatest master composers and jazz bandleaders died in 1974, the great Duke Ellington. In order to honor his memory, a Chicago festival was born. Years later, a new jazz festival emerged in Chicago to honor another genius, John Coltrane. Through these series of tributes, Chicago became home to two of the greatest jazz festivals in the world at that time. Following this effort to keep the memory of jazz-giants and in order to preserve an essential element of Chicago's modern identity, the Jazz Institute of Chicago also planned a third jazz festival over the following years. This scenario provided the perfect conditions to consolidate the Chicago Jazz Festival, one of the best-attended jazz festivals in the world to day.

It is not unlikely that this happened in Chicago. Jazz culture began in Chicago way back in time during the "Great Migration" in the 20's and was facilitated by its fast-growing industries, which brought to the city great wealth, along with a huge appetite for urban and cosmopolitan culture. Today the Chicago Jazz Festival seeks to preserve this tradition, which many still consider to be an essential element of the identity of the city.

Mauricio López

Ever since its first celebration, the Chicago Jazz Festival has taken place on labor-day week; and its actual home is Millennium Park, in the most touristic neighborhood of the city, “the loop”. Thousands of visitors from all parts of the world go the festival every year to enjoy traditional and contemporary expressions of jazz, performed by the greatest musicians of our time.

Last Saturday I had the chance to go to the festival with a couple of friends. It was much like making a picnic at the park but with the luxury of having the greatest jazz performers of our time as companions. Many didn’t like jazz music or considered it a very complicated genre of music, “difficult to enjoy”. But the idea of hanging out at beautiful Millennium Park convinced a few others.

After a couple of hours, I realized the festival is not just about the jazz; it is about Chicago and its people. While sitting on the grass with a glass of wine in hand and surrounded by stars and skyscrapers I felt how the city was getting into me. Hundreds of people from different parts of the world, with different backgrounds and tastes, experienced not just magnificent performances but experienced what a city like Chicago has to offer.



Historical photo-- unknown



Self-taken photo

Broader issues: (analytical + academic)

Many jazz enthusiasts consider this way of experiencing jazz inauthentic and distant from what they consider true jazz culture. This is contradictory to

Mauricio López

me; I am not a jazz expert, and I agree with some that say that it is hard to get. But being there and enjoying myself with my friends, and also enjoying the music, was very easy to feel (isn’t it how it is supposed to be?).

As on many other artistic expressions, many have tried to put labels on what “jazz” means, but this way of thinking puts jazz culture in danger much more than letting it express itself in this way. Maybe not everybody attending the festival goes for the music, maybe they just take the opportunity to reunite with friends or family or just grab a glass of wine at the park. This does not mean that the festival is doing harm to preserve jazz.

Opening itself to broader audiences and making it so appealing to go to the festival is a great way to promote this great artistic expression. Making it possible for everyone to attend even if it’s not for the “right” reasons is a very effective way to expose people to the true value of jazz, and letting them experience jazz in all its colors and flavors.

The Show Is Still On

Zeyuan Zhou



The Chicago Theatre

Photo source: from the movie *Chicago* (2002)

Location

The Loop
175 N State Street

Travel Times from UChicago

Bus & Metro: 31mins / Bike: 48mins / Car: 20mins

Background

The first time I ever knew something about Chicago was when I watched the movie *Chicago* (2002) several years ago. In the last scene, a Jazz show was held in the Chicago Theatre to ironically show people's zeal to chase after fame by any kind of means in the 1920s.

At the time I watched this movie, I was still in high school and hoped to study in the U.S. in the future. I was interested in the culture of this country and tried to know more about it through a number of movies in different eras of the U.S. The movie *Chicago* was adapted from a silent

Zeyuan Zhou

film with the same name came out in 1927. This implies that the movie and the Chicago Theatre could kind of represent the sense of value of that period.

Broader Issue

Located in the very heart of downtown Chicago, the Chicago theatre has witnessed the change of the trend in Chicago for nearly a century. After its first open in 1921, a great many of the most popular shows were held there. At that time Jazz was regarded as a rebel, which was as dangerous as smoking and drinking (just like rock and roll decades later), Jazz shows were performed on its stage.

Nowadays, as a number of different media are developed, though many famous people are still performing here, the Chicago theatre might no longer drive the trend. Standing in front of the theatre, different from the sense of modernity brought by the Millennium Park, I feel the time flows back to the era when the Chicago theatre stood right on the front of the trend and many people came here to go after it.

As 94 years pass by, the city of Chicago has been changing. The Chicago Theatre had its own era, and now it is still there, remind people about that time.

Egg Butter

➤ Title:
Global giant in
financial derivative trading

➤ Travel Times from UChicago:
Chicago Mercantile Exchange
(CME) is located in the Loop area,
which means it is a 30-minute
train, 15-minute drive, and a 50-
minute bicycle ride from the
University of Chicago.



[Headquarters Building]
(Source: Wikipedia)



[Location of the CME] (Source: Google Maps)

Egg Butter

➤ Background:

The CME is, as once described by the *Economist*, “[t]he biggest financial exchange you have never heard of.” As the chart below shows, the CME is placed in the No.1 position on the globe in the amount of trading volume. It is too big to spare. The indexes and self-regulatory rules of the CME all have global impacts whether huge or not. Investors all over the world are concerned about the issues happening around the CME.

Exchange Rank				
Ranked by number of contracts traded and/or cleared. Futures and options volume broken down by subsidiary exchanges.				
Rank	Exchange	Jan-Dec 2013 Volume	Jan-Dec 2014 Volume	Annual % Change
1	CME Group	3,161,476,638	3,442,766,942	8.9%
	Chicago Mercantile Exchange	1,551,802,526	1,775,988,677	14.4%
	Chicago Board of Trade ¹	1,090,449,431	1,171,499,384	7.4%
	New York Mercantile Exchange	519,224,681	495,278,881	-4.6%
2	Intercontinental Exchange	2,558,489,589	2,276,171,019	-11.0%
	ICE Futures Europe ²	1,118,381,584	993,647,768	-11.2%
	NYSE Amex	549,050,523	473,742,797	-13.7%
	NYSE Arca	451,427,061	438,868,148	-2.8%
	ICE Futures U.S.	433,500,235	364,250,670	-16.0%
	ICE Futures Canada	5,688,295	5,659,335	-0.5%
	Singapore Mercantile Exchange	441,891	1,301	-99.7%
3	Eurex	2,190,727,275	2,097,974,756	-4.2%
	Eurex	1,551,889,344	1,490,541,110	-4.0%
	International Securities Exchange	606,765,206	481,279,337	-20.7%
	International Securities Exchange Gemini	32,072,725	126,154,309	293.3%
4	National Stock Exchange of India	2,127,151,585	1,880,362,513	-11.8%
5	BMF&FBovespa	1,603,706,918	1,417,925,815	-11.6%
	Bolsa de Valores de Sao Paulo	910,894,138	790,094,482	-13.3%
	Bolsa de Mercadorias & Futuros	692,812,780	627,831,333	-9.4%

[Exchange Rank] (Source: Futures Industry Association)

The advent of the Internet has broken down geographical barriers, which has enabled the CME to attract not just U.S. investors but also potential customers across the nations, pushing the CME to the position in the amount of

Egg Butter

trading volume. Such innovation has inevitably involved the process of globalization in the exchange industry, acquiring many competitors across the world. Every exchange faces such pressure, including the ones in my country. When I worked as a financial policy maker, study on the CME was essential every time new measures were launched; the CME was always on the leading edge. For example, the CME is the first U.S. exchange to be publicly listed, which happened in 2002, and almost every exchange across the globe has now gone public. Also, when the CME and Chicago Board of Trade merged in 2007, consolidation of procedures in their futures trading reportedly spurred substantial growth in trading volumes. These facts clearly had an influence on the business judgements of other competitors. In this way, this marketplace is special for workers of financial markets like me. Honorably, such an influential firm places its global headquarters in Chicago.

➤ Broader Issue:

After the financial crisis of 2008, it has been acknowledged that new comprehensive regulations, like the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act in the U.S., should be brought to financial derivative markets. One of the goals is to improve the transparency of bilateral derivative transactions, called over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives, through the use of

Egg Butter

central clearing. OTC derivatives used to be so privately negotiated and opaque that the uncertainty allegedly triggered credit insecurity after Lehman's fall. As a result of new regulations, most OTC derivative contracts must now be cleared at a regulated clearinghouse, one of which is the CME.



[Inside the CME] (Source: Getty, City A.M.)

The reform has not been completed yet; it takes time to establish such far-reaching regulations. Meanwhile, the CME has already placed itself between the derivative transaction counterparties, becoming the buyer to every seller and the seller to every buyer. Still, whether the benefits justify the costs is too early to decide. Every worker in the financial industry cannot help with observing the following development.

Derivatives Starting From Here

Travel Details:

Place: CME Group Inc. (141 W Jackson Blvd, Chicago)

Time: August 23rd

Transportation: CTA 6



Background:

My undergraduate major is finance. Having taken lots of courses in financial derivatives, I have got a deep

impression of Chicago Board of Trade. It is also the first concept I've heard about Chicago, even before the name of "windy city". So it is my dream to have a look at the real exchange itself.

Compared with the Financial Street in Beijing, China, the streets in this Chicago financial district are much narrower and shorter. Besides, walking across La Salle Street, it's easy to feel a sense of history.

Since the financial market in China has only developed for a few years, building are quite brand new and mostly located along wide roads.



Beijing

(From: <http://www.nipic.com/show/5912212.html>)



Chicago

(From: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/noaceulemans/8406650494>)

Broader Issue:

CME Group is the world's biggest marketplace, with the most diverse futures and derivatives.

Chicago is also growing into one of world's eight financial centers for its advantage in financial derivatives.

From the whole layout of American finance, New York is leading in traditional business, such as security and investment banking. While, Chicago stands out in

regards of financial derivatives and risk management. What makes Chicago the center for derivative trades? Without any doubt, it is Chicago's creativity and openness that makes nearly everything tradable. In 1972, Chicago started its financial innovation around the world with the birth of currency futures. Since then, Chicagoans have kept developing new financial products, most of which exert a big influence on the worldwide market.

Overall, creativity lays the foundation for Chicago's leading position. Thanks for CME groups giving me a deep sense of it.

Changji Xu

707 Restaurant

Location

Chicago Loop in Downtown

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 35min **By bike:** 45min **By car:** 19min

Background

I found this man when I was trying to differentiate myself from the crowd in front of the Bean. He was around 50 years old, nearly bald and wearing an old blue polo shirt. With a large beer belly, however, he craned forward to the Bean, jumping and also trying to find his image on the Bean. His gesture was so amusing, that I recognized him the moment I saw him one hour later, in front of the door of the 707 Restaurant. He was writing on the blackboard in front of the door.

“707 Restaurant,
Noodle’s day,
The Far East flavor.”

The restaurant is very special. According to him, the employee of the 707 Restaurant, they sell different food in different day, and they never repeat. On that day, they sold noodle, Far East flavor. He changes the name of the restaurant every day. That day was the 707th day, so he wrote 707 Restaurant on the shop sign. I asked him what they offered that day.
“Noodle.” he replied.

Changji Xu

“What kind of noodle?” I asked.

“The Far East flavor.” He said.

He led me to a table in the middle of the room. There were some noodles, beef, parsley, chilli oil and mooli slices on the table.

He stared at my eyes for a few seconds, and said “You can put them on on your own.”

Then, he took out a big bowl, filling it with a big wad of noodle, and poured a couple of spoons of beef soup into the bowl.

“How much flavoring do I need to put?”

“Clear soup, white noodle, red oil and green parsley.”

He said seriously.

“So...How much flavoring do I need to put?”

“You can put them on on your own.” He stared at my eyes.

I put a few spoons of beef, and then found that the soup turned out to be really muddy. It reminded me of the surface of Cloud Gate, where my face was twisted and the dirt kept on telling me that it’s not real.

“It’s the Far East flavor.” He looked at me, and smiled.

Yoshihiko Chokyu

Changji Xu



Left: Route from UChicago to Cloud Gate. Map data from 2015 Google

Right: Cloud Gate and the city we live in. Photo by Changji Xu

Broader issues

A few days later, I visited the Loop again. A crowd gathered around Cloud Gate like usual, but I could not find the restaurant this time. I tried to look for help from pedestrians, but none of them seemed to have ever heard of that place.

However, I found a restaurant called 713 Restaurant which looked like 707 Restaurant exactly. Even the employee seemed to be the same person. He greeted me and started introducing me to the rules of his restaurant.

“Today is noodle’s day. The Far East flavor.” He said,
“You can put those flavorings on on your own.”

Café next to University

Location

DePaul University Loop Campus DePaul Center
1 E Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL 60604

Travel Time from UChicago

By CTA bus # 6 for 30 minutes from Hyde Park to the downtown.

Back Ground

Just after I arrived in Chicago from Japan on August 2, I walked around downtown every day in order to buy something necessary for starting new life, such as commodities, furniture, household appliances and so on. It was hard to stroll around the new city, so I searched a place to take a rest with hot coffee.

I found a coffee shop next to bookstore, Barnes & Noble Café, in Loop area. In Japan, my country, there were many similar styled bookstores, so I felt relaxed and enjoyed reading books with hot coffee. Then I noticed that there were various kinds of customers around me. Neighbors, tourists, and many students spend their relaxing time in this shop.

Yoshihiko Chokyu

After going out this shop, I noticed where this shop was. Surprisingly for me, this coffee shop stood in the building of the University, named the DePaul University. There are two surprising points. First, not only students but also neighbors and tourists enjoy their time in the café of the university. In Japan almost all consumers in the café of the university are students. Second, there are various universities in the downtown, especially in Loop area. At first I did not noticed this situation. But, after visiting Barnes & Noble Café, I came to find various universities easily while walking around the downtown.

Barnes & Noble Café



Yoshihiko Chokyu took this picture

Yoshihiko Chokyu

DePaul University



Yoshihiko Chokyu took this picture

Broader Issues

I think a lot of universities located in the downtown have contributed to the acceptance and diversity of the city of Chicago.

First, I want to discuss the acceptance of the city. I found many kinds of people, such as students, neighbors and tourists gathering and enjoying relaxing time in Barnes & Noble Café. In addition to the above, I found the bookstore next to the café sold varieties of books. There were some textbooks for students of the university, some magazines

Yoshihiko Chokyu

for neighbors and some guidebooks for tourists. In the result, neighbors and tourists can read some textbooks. In this way, people can make cultural interaction via the café and bookstore. I think this cultural interaction contributes to the acceptance of the city. So I guess that the openness of the café of the university in the downtown is one of the main factors that determine the acceptance of the city of Chicago.

Next, I want to discuss the diversity of the city. I find there are a lot of universities located in the downtown. The students of these universities are multiple. Someone is a businessman, someone is a child raising mother and someone is an international student. So various kinds of people gather around the university. I think these multiple students contribute the diversity of the city of Chicago.

In conclusion, I definitely thought that various universities with cafés located in downtown have contributed to the diversity and acceptance of the city of Chicago.

Yuki Riho

Chicago: A Land Where Almost Anything Can Be Big.

Location

Goudy Square Park, 1249 N. Astor St. Chicago, Illinois 60610

Travel Times from UChicago

By Car: about 30 mins/ By CTA: about 1 hr

Background

Since arriving at Chicago on July 23, I have lived in Gold Coast with my family. Because this is our first experience to live in foreign countries, there were a lot of accidents and problems. However, one of the most important and urgent problems is how to let my children play.

When we lived in Japan, they liked to play in the park and so we searched for a park near my house. Soon we found a park called



Goudy Square Goudy Square Park; Photo by Yuki Riho

Yuki Riho

Park. There are many trees and various playground equipment in the park. And what is more, the park is surrounded and not so large that parents cannot pay attention to the whole of the park. So, it is really a good park.

When I went there for the first time, I found the difference between that park and many parks in Japan. Many of small parks in Japan have some specific kinds of playground equipment such as slides, climbing frames, and sandboxes.

On the other hand, in Goudy Square Park, there are quite large combined equipment which are not so common in Japan. As my children have gotten tired of simple equipment in Japan, they really enjoy playing them. It is also a nice place for us, because my wife and I also have gotten chances to communicate with neighborhood



*Climbing frame;
Photo by Yuki Riho*



Slide; Photo by Yuki Riho

Yuki Riho



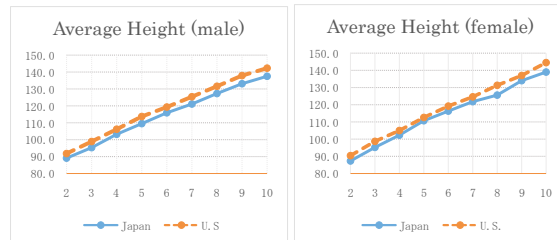
Sandbox; Photo by Yuki Riho

Broader issues

Because my children, especially my eldest daughter, are much above average in height, most equipment in Japan seems to be quite easy for them. However, after playing in Goudy Square Park, they seem to be really fulfilling and tired. One possible reason was that large combined equipment enabled them to play more complexly. However, with careful observation, I found that the equipment there seems to be a little taller than those in Japan. Because of that, they have to climb up more, which brings them a little harder physical activity.

It is difficult to compare the equipment in both countries exactly, but the difference of average height of children in both countries may influence the difference:

Yuki Riho



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2012), Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (2014)

The difference of average height is applicable to the adults. After coming to Chicago, I find the difference of the size appears not only in the park but also in various things. For example, the size of toothbrushes is bigger, the volume of dishes at the restaurants tends to be larger, and the area of rooms in the apartments seems to be larger. There may be various reasons why such differences have occurred, but the difference of average height may be one of major reasons.

When we arrived at Chicago, my landlord said “Here, everything is big.” This may be one of the characters of Chicago, or the U.S. This is interesting, but it is also important to make things convenience for various people.

Quliang Chen

China Tries to Purchase Confidence in the USA



Figure 1. The Coach store of the Gold Coast

Photo Source: Yelp.com

Location

Gold Coast Neighborhood

835 N Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60611

Travel Time from UChicago

Bus 50 mins / Bike 54 mins / Car 35 mins

Background

The Gold Coast is famous for its upscale stores. When I

Quliang Chen

went inside the Coach store, I was surprised to find that the customers there were all Chinese. There was even a Chinese sales person specifically to serve the Chinese. This phenomenon reminds me of the report I ever read about Chinese people waiting in line to buy Louis Vuitton.



Figure 2. The Chinese shoppers in the Coach store

Photo Source: Quliang Chen

With tremendous success in economy since the reform and opening-up policy, China has become more and more wealthy. And the rich Chinese people have gained great purchase power and more chances to go abroad. When they travel to the U.S., they will almost surely buy some luxuries such as Louis Vuitton, Gucci and Coach.

Quliang Chen

The photo above is just an additional example of the overwhelming Chinese shoppers of luxuries.

Broader Issues

On the one hand, this phenomenon definitely indicates how successful China's economy is. But, on the other hand, with further and deeper thoughts, we will find one tricky thing: these luxury brands are all from Europe and the U.S., but it is Chinese rather than Americans or Europeans who are attracted by and even crazy about them. There are many reasons why the Chinese love luxury brands so much: fashion, design, quality and social status. But, these reasons all stem from one underlying cause: cultural inferiority. Only the weak need to prove their strength.

In the past 10 decades, China was weak, poor and nearly conquered by Japan, and Chinese people suffered a lot from all these disasters. The pride that Chinese used to have on their fabulous traditional culture was vanished by China's economic, military and social failures.

And thus, when China becomes rich, Chinese people cannot be more eager to prove or "show off" their

Quliang Chen

success and wealth. Luxury brands become a natural choice for them: everyone knows that they are expensive, their logos are quite obvious and, most importantly, it is the “more civilized” white man that sells them. Despite the great economic success, Chinese people have not recovered their proud, and they still lack confidence on their traditional culture or even economic model. And hence, deep in their minds, the idea that western world is more advanced and more elegant, which results from past poverties, is still quite strong.

But, cultural confidence is not for sale and the more luxuries Chinese people buy, the more enhanced their cultural inferiority will become. China still has a long way to go before it becomes economically-powerful and culturally-influential. And maybe, the first step Chinese need to do is to make efforts to sell their own luxury brands to the western: just like they sold China and silk as luxuries to the Europeans in the Middle Age.

Zhipeng Lou

Farmers Market In Chicago

Location

Gold Coast Neighborhood

West Division Street & N State Street

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 45 mins **By car:** 30 mins

Background: On August 29, my friend and I took a trip to explore the Chicago neighborhood. Our destination is Gold Coast, a well-known neighborhood with beautiful beaches. What impressed me most is the Farmers Market held on the West Division Street. The street was crowded with people, some of whom are residents in the neighborhood and others drove far from home to buy fresh vegetables, fruits, flowers, bakery goods and so on. After chatting with some locals, we found that the Division Street Farmers Market is held from 7am to 1pm each Saturday, May 9–October 31. The customers all spoke highly of the fresh and cheap vegetables. When the Farmers Market was closed, almost everything was sold out. I

CHEN BI

Zhipeng Lou

was really surprised by its popularity.



Photo source: <http://www.cityofchicago.org/>

Broader issues: Chicago is among the top three largest cities in the US. With the high level of urbanization, there has been less chance for farmers to have such a gathering place to promote the sales. The majority of the commuters do not have enough time to seek for fresh grocery after tense work on weekdays. We cannot help asking, is it what we really want? If we must pay the price for metropolitan development, what can we do to enjoy more organic and healthy food?

One of the Last Survivors of the Great Chicago Fire

Travel Times From UChicago

Water Tower: 25 miles from UChicago

CTA: 40 minutes, bus 6 ➡ bus3/10

Car: 25 minutes

Bike: 43 minutes

Background

The first time I encountered the Water Tower was last weekend, when I was on the bus to work on the neighborhood project. I was deeply attracted by the design of the Water Tower on the first sight because it seems so charming and unique surrounded by those skyscrapers—though I didn't know this is the famous Chicago Water Tower at that time. After getting back home, I searched on the Internet to find out what it is, and also learned a lot about its history, about its world-famous survival in the Great Chicago Fire. During the process of doing research about Chicago Water Tower, I also find some evidence that could explain the outburst of the Great Chicago Fire from another aspect.

Located in downtown Chicago, the Chicago Water Tower was not as famous as it is today when it was first built in 1869. It was not until 1871, the year when the Great Chicago Fire happened, did the Water Tower gain its popularity among the public for the miracle survival in this devastating fire. But how could

CHEN BI

Water Tower survive the fire that almost ruined 90% of the city?



Figure 1 Water Tower among the skyscrapers

The Chicago Water Tower was built in 1869 in Gothic Style, which makes it look more like a European castle. The tower reaches a height of 154 feet or 47 meters and towered over all the neighboring buildings.¹

The Great Chicago Fire happened in the year of 1871, 2 years after the Water Tower was built. The horrible fire burnt 28 miles of streets, 120 miles of sidewalks, and over 2,000 lampposts, including 18,000 buildings and \$200 million in property loss.²

¹ Source: A View on City, <http://www.aviewoncities.com/chicago/watertower.htm>

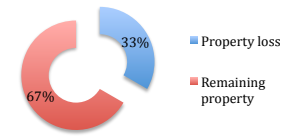
² Source: Great Chicago Fire and the Web of Memory, greatchicagofire.org

CHEN BI

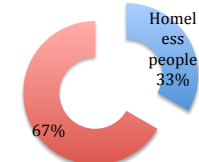


Figure 2 The burnt district in Great Chicago Fire³

**Property loss
counts for 1/3 of
the city's valuation**



**1/3 of the
inhabitants were
homeless**



Only 7 buildings survived in the fire, one is the famous Chicago Water Tower.

Broader Issues

Why did the Chicago Water Tower survive?

³ Source: <http://www.davemanuel.com/inflation-calculator.php>

CHEN BI

Comparing the construction of the Water Tower with other buildings in Chicago at that time, it's quite obvious how this would happen. In Gothic style, the Water Tower was constructed out of Joliet limestone blocks quarried in Illinois⁴, while at that time two-thirds of the buildings in Chicago were made of wood⁵. Actually, other buildings that survived the fire also had stonewalls or fabric structures for protection.

For centuries, people tried to find out the trigger for the Great Chicago Fire, and many believe that it is the cow kicking over a lantern that should be blamed. However, considering why the water tower could survive, it's not difficult to find out that the cow is only a trigger, and the real danger lied in Chicago's building structure and dry weather. That is the underlying reason for the Great Chicago Fire.

The good thing is, after the fire, it is required by the law to construct all buildings from fabric, stone and similar fireproof materials instead of wood. Hopefully, such kind of disaster would never happen again in the future.

⁴ Source: <https://www.illinois.gov/>

⁵ Source: Today I Find Out

Bumeng Zhuo

Prosperity of Ethnic Foods!

Location:

210 East Ohio Street,
Streeterville neighborhood

Travel Times:

CTA Bus #6: 40 mins

Bike: 43 mins

Car: 19 mins

Background:

Gyu-Kaku is a well-known ethnic barbecue restaurant that serves authentic Japanese foods. It has over 650 chain restaurants around the world¹, and this one in Chicago has recently been awarded Diner's Choice Winner in 2011².

I first heard of Gyu-Kaku from a schoolmate, who spoke highly of its excellent barbecue at an affordable price. Thus, I chose this restaurant to treat my friends to lunch last Sunday on Aug. 30th. Only at the first glance was I attracted to its delicate exterior Japanese-style ornament (*Fig 1*).



Fig 1: Gyu-Kaku, Japanese-style ornament.

¹ Gyu-Kaku official website, link: <http://www.gyu-kaku.com/#!yakniku-101/c12hn>

² Diner's award is derived from more than 10 million reviews submitted by OpenTable diners for more than 12,000 restaurants in U.S. Source: blog.opentable.com.

When we stepped inside, I could see people of various ethnicities enjoying the relaxing music and a cozy ambience. The restaurant was so busy, yet everything was in order and it only took a short while to fill the table with all these dishes.



Fig 2: Grill the tender beef over a flaming charcoal.
Photographed by Bumeng Zhuo.

We grilled our meats over a flaming charcoal (Fig 2). All meats were well-marinated, boneless and succulent. And tender meats tasted more flavorful after being dipped into the Japanese special sauce!

Besides, the smokeless roaster system³ kept us free from annoying barbecue smell. This lunch impressed all the guests. Gyu-Kaku has apparently topped the list of my ethnic restaurant recommendation.

Broader Issue:

Gyu-Kaku is a typical example, revealing that the demand

³ Gyu-Kaku official website, link: <http://www.gyu-kaku.com/#!yakniku-101/c12hn>

for ethnic cuisines in the U.S. is going up sharply. For another instance, the number of Chinese restaurants in U.S. reached 43,139 in 2009, which was more than all the McDonald's, KFC, and Burger Kings combined at that time⁴. So, ultimately, what results in the prosperity of ethnic food?

Although the history of ethnic cuisines differs from each other, their appearance is all closely related to immigration. As shown in Fig 3, the number of immigrants has been

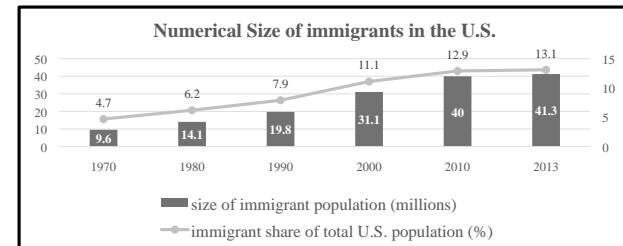


Fig 3: Number and percentage of immigrants in the U.S.

Source: Migration Policy Institute tabulation of data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 and 2013 American Community Surveys, and 1970-2000 decennial Census data.

rising dramatically since 1970. By 2013, they have already accounted for 13.1 percent of the U.S. total population.

⁴ Liu Y, Jang S. 2009. Perceptions of Chinese restaurants in the U.S.: what affects customer satisfaction and behavioral intentions? *Int J Hosp Mngt* 28:338-48.

Different ethnic cuisines were brought in with massive immigration. And large quantities of diverse restaurants opened up to meet the high demand for ethnic foods. Even local restaurants were including exotic food in their menus to attract more people. Eventually, it turns out that ethnic cuisines have become a huge part of food culture in U.S.

In addition, local U.S. people holding positive views toward ethnic cuisines may also have contributed to a large consumption of ethnic food. Americans' openness to incoming food may be rooted in its inclusive culture. They tend to stay in harmony with all external cultures, and are eager to explore different experiences. Moreover, a survey conducted by Block and others showed that some ethnic foods are healthier due to lower calorie items and higher proportion of vegetables⁵. This positive perception might also largely influence the demand for ethnic foods.

Therefore, undoubtedly, ethnic foods have well integrated into American culture and will continue prospering.

⁵ Block G, Mandel R, Gold E. 2004. On food frequency questionnaires: the contribution of open-ended questions and questions on ethnic foods. *Epidemiol* 15:216-22.

Taking the Train of History Travel Times From University of Chicago

By Car: 20 minutes.

By Bus: 30~50 minutes.

By Bike: 40 minutes.

Background

When walking in the vibrant neighbourhoods of the South Loop, it's hard to connect this modern area with the rich history of the city of Chicago. But if you are a foreigner who happens to be a little lost and wanders up to the North, you will get to a neighbourhood with a totally different atmosphere---the Printer's Row. The once Chicago's hub of printing and publishing industries has now become a quiet residential neighbourhood with lots of beautiful old buildings built at the time still standing.



M.A. Donohue & Co. building. Built in 1883, the building had served as the company's headquarter until 1971.

Among those old factories or now apartment buildings, one has attracted me the

most--- Dearborn Station. The now small shopping and business center that nearly no one goes in is deeply related to the development of Chicago.

Yee-Chung Chen

As one of the earliest major railway station in Chicago, Dearborn station served as an important terminal for the country. On top of that, the building itself was one of the most famous building at the time. But in 1970s, with the expansion of the U.S. Expressway System and Airline industry, railroad industry started to diminish. In 1986, the station ended its passenger service and the building was used as office. A decade later, the building was reopened as a marketplace with a lot of space to be rented.(source:www.dearbornstation.com)

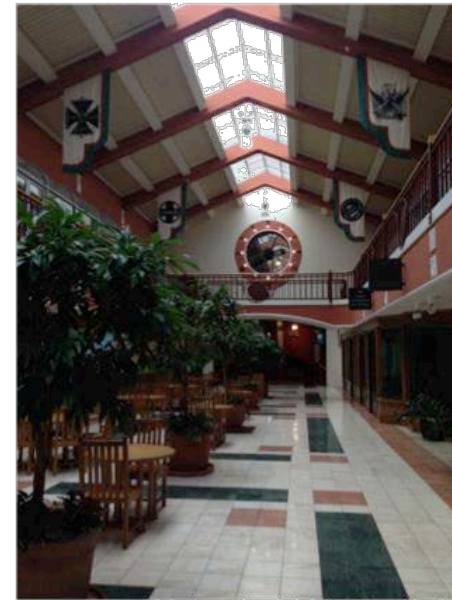
Walking inside the building or appreciating its beautiful appearance is absolutely interesting. The most interesting part is to think about the history of this building, and then imagine what it was like to be in the spot decades ago. Although now its an almost empty building with a lot of vacant unit waiting to be rented, the beauty and the history of it will still attract me to visit again.



Yee-Chung Chen

Broader Issue: A case of repurposing

As one of the many repurposed buildings in Chicago, I personally think Dearborn Station wasn't a successful story. But to be fair, the building is still absolutely magnificent. And I think the renovation inside the building also somewhat keeps the atmosphere of the time with the touch a modern architecture. So from my point of view, it was a successful renovation of the building judging from its exterior, but why are there so few people interested in going in?



Yee-Chung Chen

The reason I can think of is, they shouldn't have repurposed it into a marketplace/business center. Printer's Row is a neighbourhood that has a deep history and culture. People go there usually are not there for shopping(they would have gone a few blocks south to South Loop) but for exploring the interesting stories that Chicago has to offer. So in my opinion, the building should be turned into a museum that exhibits the history of the station and the neighbourhood. I think this is the way to make the best out of the building and attract more people while preserving a page of Chicago's history.

Peyman Hosseinchi

Life As Time Moves On



Field Museum of Natural History, Evolving Planet Exhibition

Chicago, 2015

Photo source: fieldmuseum.org

Location:

Museum Campus

1400 S Lake Shore Dr, Chicago, IL 60605

Travel Times from Hyde Park:

Car: 14 mins / Bus: 34 mins / Bike: 33 mins

Background:

One of the foremost questions that scientists have been striving to answer is how life has started on earth and how it has evolved over billions of years from simple single-cell organisms to complex creatures such as humans? I have always been fascinated by the history of life on earth and the genetic relation between us and our biological ancestors. The Evolving Planet Exhibition in the Field Museum has a vast collection of fossils from different geological time scales including Precambrian, Paleozoic and Mesozoic eras. For years, scientists have been using such resources to decipher the code of life. It is intriguing to explore this fantastic museum and further reflect on the most perplexing puzzle humankind has ever encountered.



Early Algae, Grypania Spiralis, Precambrian (4.5 billion – 543 million years ago), the oldest known fossil of a eukaryotic organism. Photo source: archive.fieldmuseum.org

The Field Museum was established as part of the endeavors to host the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. The idea was proposed by Frederick J.V. Skiff in 1890, who later became the first director of the museum. Although many leading citizens donated funds for the accumulation of exhibits, the establishment of the museum would not be possible without the generous donation of \$1,000,000 by Marshall Field. At first the museum was named Columbian museum of Chicago, but in 1905 it was changed to Field Museum of Natural History. It was one of largest natural history museums in the world. (Source: A Brief History of the Field Museum by Oliver Cummings Farrington)

Broader Issues:

The different collections in the museum can be related to Charles Darwin's quote: "from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been and are being evolved".

As you walk through the different exhibitions inside the museum, you feel that they have not been arranged in a random manner. Rather, different species in different eras have been organized in a way to convey a specific message. Observing the transformation of living creatures from simple organisms to

Peyman Hosseinchi

huge dinosaurs and after that to advanced animals like apes, puts the idea of Darwin's Evolution Theory in the viewers' mind.

The caveat is that the theory is not only widely accepted by scientists but sometimes taken for granted. Although right now the Natural Selection is the only plausible hypothesis explaining the process through which living beings have evolved during 4.5 billion years of life, we have to notice it is not invincible. It just means no better theory has been proposed, yet.

It was a century ago that all physicists believed Newton's gravitation law is the governing principle behind the motion of planets. When Einstein tried to challenge his law, few were willing to listen to his ideas without biases. Surprisingly, they all were convinced to be wrong. The point is while believing into contemporary theories; one should stay impartial towards newer ideas.

So, to be pragmatic, the question of origin of life is still up for debate. Further research and exploration is required on the subject, which may lead to other logical theories to rival the Darwin's theory. Endeavors such as the Field Museum of Natural History with help of new fields of research including genetics can help us cast light on such mysteries.

Jiangbo Wei

Lao Sze Chuan Saves Me!

Location

Downtown

North Bridge 520 N Michigan Ave

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 35 min **By bike:** 47 min **By car:** 23 min

Background: Moving to Chicago to pursue a PhD actually is not the first time I lived far away from home. I graduated from Peking University, which is almost one thousand miles from my hometown. Through four years of study in Beijing, I found neither the academic pressure nor the independent living is too difficult to face. The real dilemma, however, is that I cannot help missing the flavor of my hometown. As you may know, there are many tasty snacks in my hometown Xi'an, such as *roujiamo*, a kind of Chinese hamburger, and *paomo*, a really delicious staple food. Recently, more and more foreign friends come to visit Xi'an not only for culture heritages like the Terra-Cotta Warriors, but also for these great snacks.

Given all that, it seems that to study abroad should be a greater challenge for me, since at least I could still find what I like in Beijing even if is not authentic. Before I arrived Chicago, I believed I have to say farewell to my beloved snacks and traditional Chinese food unless I cook myself. Cooking is also not easy because I thought

Jiangbo Wei

it is difficult to buy ingredients in Chicago. Facts proved that I was excessively anxious before. Lao Sze Chuan saves me! Many Chinese food here are pretty authentic and delicious. You can find many typical dishes representing various branches of Chinese cuisine here. However, the catch is, the chef of Oven Roasted Peking Duck once worked in Quanjude, which is a higher-end traditional Chinese restaurant specialized in serving Oven Roasted Peking Duck in China. I tried this dish with my friends the first week I come to Chicago and we all believe it is worthy of the name.



Left: Menu of Lao Sze Chuan. There are many kinds of different traditional Chinese cuisines. (Source: from my own album)

Right: Free foretaste activities at the gate of Lao Sze Chuan. They share the food, which also promote the communication of culture. (Source: from weibo.com/tonygourmetgroup)

Jiangbo Wei



Left: The man on the right side is the founder of Lao Sze Chuan, Xiaojun Hu, who is also widely considered one of the most successful Chinese American businessmen in Chicago. (Source: from weibo.com/tonyhuchicago)

Right: Picnic party of Chinese American Association of Greater Chicago (CAAGC), of which the chairman is Xiaojun Hu. (Source: from weibo.com/tonyhuchicago)

Broader issues: Take Lao Sze Chuan as an example of blossom of Chinese food in Chicago. I wonder why it could achieve such huge success. This restaurant, with authentic taste as well as enthusiastic services, is one of the most famous Chinese food restaurants, which is not only known in Chinese people but also in local American people. Lao Sze Chuan gets high marks on many Gourmet evaluation websites, which means that its cuisines are widely recognized and appreciated. More importantly, Lao Sze Chuan would rather promote the communication of culture by sharing these cuisines on the most prosperous avenue as well as by shooting

Sumanth Krishna Mannam

Jiangbo Wei

advertise videos than just serve tasty and authentic Chinese traditional food. Lao Sze Chuan has been awarded 2012&2013 “Bib Gourmand” by the world’s most prominent food review authority Michelin Red Guide and received “Best Chinese Restaurant in the US” title from Travel & Leisure.

Xiaojun Hu, the founder of this restaurant and other ten famous Chinese Restaurants, is widely considered one of the most successful Chinese American businessmen in Chicago. He has a kind of legendary life experience.* He graduated from the first culinary institute in China and then immigrated to the U.S. as a special technician. He gradually established himself in Chicago and he has been the founder of Tony Gourmet Group that houses famous restaurants. Now Xiaojun is a pretty successful man with a lot of titles, a celebrity chef, restaurateur, culinary teacher, and community leader. He has been reported by many main stream media and he is one of the “100 most powerful Chicagoans” selected by Chicago Magazine. Xiaojun’s primary goal is to promote Chinese culinary culture and Chicago Chinatown, which is realizing now through his unremitting efforts. Maybe Xiaojun’s life experiences in Chicago can be a microcosm of the struggle and dreams of most Chinese people in American.

* from http://www.tonygourmetgroup.com/chef_tony.aspx

The Phenomenon of Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX)



Source: nytimes.com

Location:

Chicago Climate Exchange, 353,
North Clark Street #3100

Travel Details (from UChicago):

Car: 23 mins / **CTA:** 40 mins / **Bike:** 48 mins

Background:

I was browsing online to find interesting centers in Chicago which address various environmental issues like global warming and climate change. Incidentally, I came across the Chicago Climate Exchange, shortly called as CCX. It was North American’s first and till today, the only trading exchange for emission sources like greenhouse gases. Given Chicago’s rich background for finance and trading, I was excited to deep dive into CCX and interestingly this one is about emission trading, i.e.; they trade “carbon credits”. Government sets a limit on the amount of pollutants and allocates emission-permits to firms to put a cap on the right to emit a specific volume of the specified pollutant. CCX offers a platform to trade these emission-permits across various firms as a part of “cap-and-trade” system.

CCX was founded in 2003 by environmentalist and former Vice President of the United States, Al Gore and Richard Sandor, the creator of Sustainable Performance Group. CCX traded six greenhouse gases (like CO₂) emission allowances and its members are committed to reduce their aggregate emission by 6% by 2010.

Sumanth Krishna Mannam

The exchange had more than 400 members ranging from corporations like Ford, DuPont, and Motorola, to state and municipalities such as Oakland and Chicago, to educational institutions such as University of California, San Diego, Michigan State University and University of Minnesota, to farmers and their organizations, such as the National Farmers Union and the Iowa Farm Bureau. However, the CCX was criticized for its hidden economic agenda introduced by the elite Chicagoans. Eventually, it was acquired by Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) and closed its operations for the lack of legislative interests in 2010.



Dr. Richard Sandor (C) speaks with the U.S. Secretary of Energy and Chicago's mayor shortly after the CCX held its first auction for emission allowances

Source: <http://science.howstuffworks.com/>

Broader Issues:

Chicago is historically known for its business and trading. The Chicago institutions drive the United States economy. CCX is one of the steps to create a global environmental economy. The association of big names like Al Gore grabbed the global attention and many multinational companies showed their interest in protecting the environmental causes. The list of CCX members was overwhelming. CCX showed a path for unifying the countries under the cap-and-trade system but it failed to sustain while convincing the members for putting the environment causes ahead of their economic profits.

Sumanth Krishna Mannam

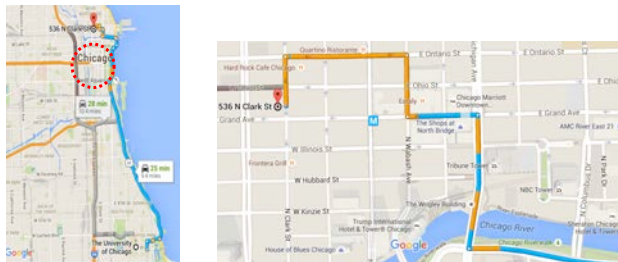
In this 21st century, as the countries are learning more and more about the environmental implications of the industrial growth, there is definitely a need for such financial organizations. However, the means and policies of these institutions is the bone of contention in today's world. Do they serve the true purpose of the sustainable environmental integrity? Is it correct for the companies sitting idle and earn money by selling their carbon credits? If that's fine, what's the point in government allocating the emission-permits to firms in such a market? These types of questions cast a serious doubt on the environmental attitude of the financial community. For this, the city of Chicago stood up first and tried to answer such questions by establishing the CCX. It was indeed a bold attempt, considering the long term impact of the environmental causes. Let's accept the past and appreciate the efforts of Chicagoans for investing in such an environmentally sustainable institution. The city of Chicago should take the lead and try to invent better economic as well as environmental growth models. CCX should serve as a mere proto type for all such future investments.

Hideyuki Wakutsu

To grasp blues music

Place:

The blues bar “Blue Chicago” is at 536 North Clark Street. It takes 30 minutes by CTA bus (#6) from UChicago to Michigan & South Water in the downtown, and then 10 minutes to walk to the bar.



Google Map

Background:

When I was a university student in Japan, my home country, I belonged to an a cappella group as a hobby. Then I sang and listened to many kinds of music including jazz. I heard that Chicago is famous for blues music, and I was looking forward to listening to it.

Hideyuki Wakutsu

It was a weekday before the language camp started. I researched some spot where I could enjoy a live performance of jazz or blues on the Internet, and found that there are several restaurants and bars in River North area. I walked around there, and decided to enter the bar “Blue Chicago”.

The entrance fee was just 10 dollars and drink was less than 10 dollars. It is quite reasonable for listening to live music. Soon after the performance started, many audiences came to the bar and it became crowded. Some were dressed up, others were in casual cloths. Some were involved in listening to music, others enjoyed talking. Some were white, others were black. As such, there were various audiences.



In the middle of the performance, the singer started a call and response with the audience. Everyone in the bar

Hideyuki Wakutsu

became excited, got into the rhythm and sang (or shouted) “Freedom” with the singer. I felt that the audience were united by the awesome performance of the musician. I enjoyed it very much though I was not used to American life and also didn’t know the musician beforehand.



Blue Chicago

Broader Issues:

The origin of blues music is African Americans in Mississippi, and they developed it in Chicago after they moved to Chicago for employment. Many blues songs were generated from hard lives of African Americans. In Japan, blues music (or rock music heavily influenced by blues) is thought of as a symbol of the abolition of racial discrimination and the civil right movement. However, blues music is not only for African Americans, but also for other American people.

Hideyuki Wakutsu

White people must have enjoyed blues music more than 50 years ago.

The point is that music has a power to unite people from different background. People can enjoy music even if they don’t know the language. People can sing together with others even if it is first time to see. People can be excited in music together even if their birthplace or race are different. Such feature of music might affect desegregation movement in the past, and will affect other kinds of liberal movements in the future.



Blue Chicago

I would like to learn the history of segregation and other social gaps in the United States at present. This is what I can’t learn directly after I go back to Japan. And such knowledge and experiences will make it possible for me to enjoy music more.

The church that survived the Great Chicago Fire

Transportation from UChicago

St. Michael's Catholic Church, which survived the Great Chicago Fire, is located on the corner of Cleveland Avenue, the Old Town neighborhood of Chicago. Starting from the campus of UChicago, you can set off to Old Town by car, Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), bike or on foot. Driving along I-90 and then I-94 will take you 28 minutes. As for CTA, you can take a No. 6 bus than transfer to Brown Line to Sedgwick Station, located on Sedgwick Street, Old Town. You can also choose a one-hour bike ride or three-hour seaside hike as well, enjoying the pretty view of Lake Michigan.

Background

As an international student majoring in chemistry, I am very interested in visiting religious sites. When living and studying in the southeast of China, I visited six Buddhist temples and four Taoist temples with extensive scale. In Chicago, St. Michael's Catholic Church in Chicago is too famous a Christian spot to be neglected by anyone's tour plan. Therefore, on August 28th, 2015, I went for a tour in Old Town with my friend Guangxu.

St. Michael's Catholic Church was designed by German architects, which was meant to provide a parish for German-Catholic immigrants¹. Therefore, the architecture style of this German Church is Bavarian Baroque². You can see this attractive religious building with gorgeous external decoration. (Fig.1) Inside the Church, you can observe intermittent stained glass windows with the theme of Bible story. Looking up, you will find carved pillars and vault with smooth plaster line. Regrettably, the dim photo cannot reveal the superb interior ornamentation. In front of the Church is a statue of St. Michael (Fig.2), the angel who continuously protects Christian and children of people from evils, stepping on a demon, with a sword in

his right hand and a firm expression on his face. According to the *New Testament*, St. Michael leads the revolutionary Christian forces to fight against Satan's army and defeats the Devil eventually.

Far from the building (two blocks away), you can find the marvelous spire of the bell tower of the Church, a brick bell tower which made the church the tallest building in Chicago when completed³. (Fig.3) Every day, the bells reverberates not only in the church, but also in the whole neighborhood, Old Town. Notably, there is a saying of Chicago that goes "When you can hear the bells of St. Michael's Church, you are in the Old Town."⁴

The original wooden construction was completed in 1852. However, when extended in 1869, most parts of it were built with bricks⁵. In that era, most buildings in Chicago were made of wood. Then came the Great Chicago Fire, in 1871, which almost burnt the whole city into ash, including this beautiful church. After the catastrophe, there were only the stone walls and the bell tower of the Church standing in Old Town, lonely but heroic⁵. In this case, the St. Michael's Church became one of the only few buildings that survived the Great Fire⁵.

When the fire came close, people tried to pack their own properties and transfer them to safe places. However, it was much harder for a public church to protect its flammable belongings from the fire. Fortunately, priests found a way. They dug some deep holes around the church then put all the robes, silver crosses and other religious things in the holes and buried them underground. After the fire, these buried things were dug out and found intact as expected⁶.

Visual

Kaiyuan Ni



Fig.1 overview of the St. Michael's Church. Photo credit: Kaiyuan Ni.



Fig.2 Statue of St. Michael in front of the Church. Photo credit: Kaiyuan Ni.



Fig.3 External bell tower of St. Michael's Church. Photo credit by Kaiyuan Ni.

Kaiyuan Ni

Broader issues

The Church, surviving the Great Fire which almost destroyed the whole city, gave us not only historical value but also practical wisdom of surviving fire. Leaving the discussion of the cause of the Great Fire aside, both the construction of the Church and what locals did to protect the properties of the church, gave us some lessons.

Through reflection on this fire incident, brick-making construction is much safer than ancient wooden structure when fire breaks out. Because concrete construction gradually popularized in 20th century (invented in 19th century), fire hazards put less and less threat on modern buildings⁷. Technically, concrete is cheaper and more convenient for the construction but marble and stone are more environmentally friendly⁸.

For a long time, people have been trying to learn more about fire and build the systematic understanding of combustion and fire. In addition, with the emergency exit for escaping, fire extinguisher, hydrant and other modern fire-fighting equipment, people can avoid fire hazards and save lives and properties if by any chances when fire happens. Learning both on the history of the Church, we get some experience on fire prevention.

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Zhuoya Xie

Mixing Flavors in Chicago



The Spice House, Chicago, 2015

Photo source: <http://www.chicagonow.com/cooler-lake-shore/files/2012/11/DSC05300-e1354242493366.jpg>

Location

The Old Town Neighborhood, 1512 North Wells Street,
Chicago, IL 60610

Travel Times from UChicago

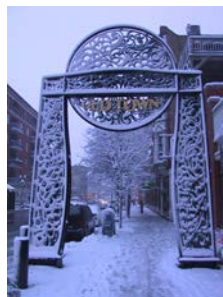
Bus: 1hr

Background

Zhuoya Xie

The first time I encountered this place is in our journey to the Old Town Neighborhood. I could still remember the smell of history when I first stepped into this place. Many of Chicago's older, Victorian-era buildings are still preserved well here. I visited many featured and characteristic structures, including St. Michael's Church, Up Down Cigar, Old Town Gardens, Old Town Ale House, etc, most of which have been existent for more than 50 years. Among all of them, the Spice House is the most impressive one to me due to my great passion about cooking. The best selection of the highest quality, hand-selected and hand-prepared spices and herbs could always be found here and sorts of spices are classified very precisely and exquisitely.

Zhuoya Xie



Neighborhood Street Sign

Photo Source:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0e/Old_town_sign.JPG

Old Town Neighborhood is a historic district in the north region of Chicago. It is located at the meadows north of North avenue. In the 19th century, German immigrants were the first who moved here and then started their farming industry here. After the World War Two, this neighborhood became well-known for its characteristic art affairs and was renamed “the Old Town”.

Zhuoya Xie

Broader Issues

Pink Salt in the Spice House is a unique kind of salt which first originated in the surrounding region of the foothills of the Himalayas more than 200 million years ago. In addition to its natural purity than other kinds of salt, it also contains many trace minerals. This unique kind of pure salt might remind people of a brief introduction of the ancient salt trade on the Time Magazine-Of all the roads that led to Rome, one of the busiest was the Via Salaria, the salt route, over which Roman soldiers marched and merchants drove ox carts full of the precious crystals up the Tiber from the salt pans at Ostia. A soldier's pay-consisting in part of salt-came to be known as solarium argentum, from which we derive the word salary. A soldier's salary was cut if he “was not worth his salt.” In ancient times, technique to purify salt was not mature enough, making it a highly valued trade item and regarded as a form of currency by people. The same dependence on salt sources actually contributes to the communication of merchandises and cultural interaction among different regions in the world. So does the Silk Road, which is also an ancient network of trade and cultural transmission route from my homeland China to the Mediterranean Sea.

Cristóbal Pinto Poehls

Rights, Riots and Labor: A Tale of Oblivion

Place: The Haymarket Memorial

Location: West Loop Neighborhood

175 North Desplaines Street (near Clinton Metro Station)

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 50-60mins **By bike:** 1 hr **By car:** 25 mins

Background: May 1st is the International Labor Day in many countries around the world. In fact, May 1st is considered a public holiday in most European countries, in most if not all Latin American countries, and in many other large countries outside the western world. More than 70% of the world population celebrates Labor Day on May 1st. This date has been, for more than 125 year, an occasion for the celebration of the improvement of labor rights and working conditions obtained after the manifestations in **Chicago's Haymarket** produce district [in 1886](#).

Personally, I always thought that May 1st was the one and only international date accounting for the celebration of Labor Day. I also believed that this was a “western world” date only (i.e. solely celebrated in The Americas and Europe). I was struck when I realized that the date is more international than what I initially supposed: it's a public holiday in both China and India, the two most populated countries in the world.

Cristóbal Pinto Poehls

It struck me even harder when I found out that May 1st is not celebrated in the US, Canada or the UK. Being large, wealthy and leading industrial countries in the western world, I assumed that they do. The most remarkable is the US case. Since the main events that led to the obtainment of better labor conditions in the US and throughout the world happened here in Chicago, on what is broadly called by US historians as the “Haymarket Affair,” it really blows my mind to realize that these events and its consequences are hardly remembered by anybody in this country.

The broad implications of the Haymarket Affair for some many people both in the US and around the globe, plus the fact that these events are hardly remembered in this country led me to choose the Haymarket memorial as my Finding Chicago Project site.



The Haymarket Memorial—by artist **Mary Brogger**



The Dynamite Bomb thrown into the crowd—photo taken from the website www.illinoislaborhistory.org

Broader issues: In the late 19th century, Chicago was an important hub in the industrial revolution and therefore one of the most industrialized cities in the world. However, the worker's conditions in the many factories of the city were amongst the worst in the US.

Cristóbal Pinto Poehls

In May 1st, 1886, demonstrations demanding better labor conditions started all around the country. The demand for an eight-hour work day was the cornerstone for these movements.

Chicago, “with its strong labor movement had the nation’s largest demonstration on Saturday, May 1st, 1886, when reportedly 80,000 workers marched up Michigan Avenue arm-in-arm carrying their union banners” (www.illinoislaborhistory.org). These demonstrations led to the violent killing by the Chicago Police of several workers at the McCormick factory, on Monday, May 3rd, and the killing of 7 police officers and 4 workers on Tuesday, May 4th, when a dynamite bomb was thrown by an unknown person (that was never found) into the crowds, producing chaos and confusion amid both policemen and demonstrators. The aftermath of these events resulted in the arrest of 8 of the demonstrator’s leaders (some of whom apparently never attended any of the manifestations), the hanging of 4 of them, and the mysterious killing of one in his own cell. The legitimacy of the trials that found these men guilty have been largely questioned.

In most United States history textbooks and other mainstream sources the Haymarket Affair seems to be poorly remembered. The main reason why it’s mentioned in these sources is because of the bombing attack that happened on May 4th, the subsequent death of 7 police officers, and the hangings that took place after the brief trial (www.illinoislaborhistory.org). In

Cristóbal Pinto Poehls

the words of William J. Adelman (1932-2009), a labor history expert and former professor at the University of Illinois, “no single event has influenced the history of labor in Illinois, the United States, and even the world, more than the Chicago Haymarket Affair. It began with a rally on May 4, 1886, but the consequences are still being felt today. Although the rally is included in American history textbooks, very few present the event accurately or point out its significance.”

In fact, the events at Haymarket had broad implications both inside the US and in the outside world. Haymarket set an inflection point in the relationship between employers and employees. After May 1886, workers in Chicago were finally effectively granted the eight-hour work day that they were fighting for. Better conditions were also established for workers outside the US soon after. In the subsequent years after Haymarket, many countries outside the US started changing their working laws and walking the path towards an eight-hour work day legislation.

It seems somehow ironic that these facts are not celebrated, questioned and barely mentioned in the very country where the events took place. Instead, another day was chosen for celebrating Labor Day. Is Haymarket doomed to oblivion or do the newer generations have a saying in bringing back the memories of the past and rewriting this important chapter of the US industrial revolution?

Seitaro Kondo

Wandering Market



Taken by Seitaro Kondo (2015/09/06)

Location

Maxwell Street Market
800 S Desplaines St.
Chicago, IL 60607

Travel Time from Uchicago

By Car : 15min
By CTA : 54min
By Bike : 60min

Seitaro Kondo

Background

When I was admitted to the University of Chicago, I got excited because Chicago is the birthplace of the modern blues, that I love. The Chicago blues was born around 1930's, and its influence on the modern music has been immeasurable. After arriving at Chicago, however, I noticed that one question has remained unanswered; in which part of Chicago did the Chicago blues was born?

It is in the Maxwell Street Market that the Chicago blues was played for the first time. The Maxwell Street Market, originally located around Halsted Street/Roosevelt Road, is an open air market now held on the S Desplaines Street in Near West Side. Since its beginning in 1880's, the market has been held on every Sunday, and there many people flock to sell and buy a wide variety of goods at remarkably low prices. That's why the blues bands also gather and started its electrically amplified sound, which is the main feature of the Chicago blues, to make the throng hear their music.

Though its heyday was in 1920's (see a picture in next page), we can find almost everything from women's underwear to old Nintendo videogames here at discounted prices even now; for example, we can buy a notebook at \$1.00 that is sold in the campus bookstore at \$2.50.

The market is open 7 am – 3pm, and foods, drinks and sweets are also available here. In addition, events are often held such as band plays and dances. Why don't you visit the market for lunch, entertainment, and of course, something special (and cheap) for you?

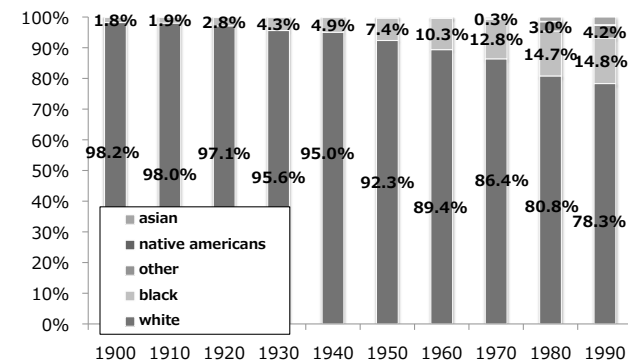


The Maxwell Street Market in its heyday
http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/maxwellstreetmarket0.html(City of Chicago WebPage)

Broader Issues

The history of the Maxwell Street Market represents the transition of ethnicity in the west side of Chicago. In the area around the Maxwell Street, Irish were dominant in middle of 19th century. In the late 19th century, Jews merchants gathered and the market culminated in their dominance. In 1920's, the wave of the Great Migration of African Americans reached the area and they became the major ethnicity in the area. These migrants brought the blues to Chicago from the southern cities such as New Orleans. In these days, Hispanics can be seen more than African Americans in the market. The change in ethnicity of the

Maxwell Street and its neighborhood is a microcosm of the move of the population by race in Illinois. (see a graph below) Moreover, as a crossroad of a wide variety of people, the market was a place for mutual understanding among different ethnicities and the drive for creating new mixed cultures.



Population by Race for the State of Illinois: 1900 to 1990
 (Data: "Demographic Trends in the 20th Century"
 by U.S. Census Bureau(2002))

Removed twice, in the name of the expansion of the University of Illinois, the market seems to have lost its original vigor and character of mixed cultures. It means that Chicago also lost one of the keys to overcome its segregation.

Xinyi Hong

Beyond Metropolitan Chicago

Location

Maxwell Street Market

On Des Plaines St. from Roosevelt S. to Harrison St.

Little Italy & University Village

Travel time from UChicago

By CTA: 63min

By car: 15—20min

By bike: 45min

Background

From shoestrings to expensive clothes, Maxwell Street Market seems to sell anything. It is one of Chicago's most



unconventional business-and-residential districts.
(Maxwell Street Market)

I did enjoy the atmosphere there—the customers bargain at the stalls, the Mexican traditional food sends off good smell, the drinks and dessert taste good. If lucky, you will

Xinyi Hong

meet a street dancer girl, who devotes 100% passion and optimism to the samba dancing. While walking at the market, people would get rid of the pressure from heavy daily work because of the easy way to eat, drink and talk.

Additionally, I found that the stall owners there are almost all Mexican, who prefer to speak Spanish than English. Although the district of the market is named Little Italy, it is made up of diverse ethnic groups. Its immigrants arrived from several continents and many countries shortly before the turn of the century. First to come were Germans, Irish, Poles, Bohemians, and, most prominently, Jews. After 1900, Italian-American remained as a vibrant ethnic group.

Before, words like “race”, “indigenous”, “Latino”, “Hispanic”, were kind of unfamiliar to me because in my country, China, race mix-up is not that normal. All around me are people who look like and speak the same language with me. Therefore, visiting Little Italy and University Village is a good way to explore how a neighborhood of different races and cultures form and exist.

Broader Issues

Here in Chicago stay diverse ethnic people, including Mexican, Italian, Asian, Ukrainian and so forth. They formed communities of specific cultures within Chicago Metropolitan area like Chinatown, Little Italy and Ukrainian Village. What got people with the same language together and how did the communities form?

People need a feeling of belonging, but cultural differences are barriers which prevent immigrants from merging into the new cultural circle and result in isolation. So finding a

fellow with common topics makes people feel necessary to be here.

Besides, living in a community of the same language brings more convenience in communication and getting help. For instance, some Chinese in New York's Chinatown could not speak English, but with help from people around, they still had lived in America for a lifetime.

Furthermore, to avoid job discrimination, people prefer to rely on those of the same background. For example, one of the factors that attracts more and more Chinese to live in Los Angeles and San Francisco is the original Chinese population base there because it is a good resource for Chinese new comers to find job.

In view of economy, normally, immigrants without economic foundation in Chicago tend to look for a place of low-level consumption, like the rent in Little Italy is much lower than that in Old Town, so diverse ethnical immigrants tend to congregate in that neighborhood for lower cost of living.

And how do these communities exist and remain for a long time? The key may be related to local people's respect and immigrants' open minds; that is they are willing to accept but not interfere with each other. For instance, in Little Italy, Italian heritage is evident in the Italian restaurants of Taylor Street, which is attributed to their changing food into an American-Italian style and local people's support.

Modernization and the Lost of Tradition

Location:

Maxwell Street Market

On the corner of W. Polk and S. Desplaines Street.

Travel Details (From UChicago)

By CTA: 55 minutes

By Bike: 45 minutes

By Car: 17 minutes



Source: <http://users.rcn.com/cowdery/maxnews.html>

Background

The Maxwell Street market is located in the University / Little Italy neighborhood. Just as its name has indicated, the community itself was established due to development of some Italian-American communities. Though other eth



Source: <https://redtricom.files.wordpress.com/2013/05/maxwell-street-market-flea-markets.jpeg>

nic groups had also remained their presence in the neighborhood, the area was named after the Italians because of the strong influence of Italian culture. In the 21 century, Little Italy is going through processes like “urban renewal, gentrification and the growth of the resident student population of the University of

Illinois at Chicago (UIC)”¹.

The history of the Maxwell Street Market could be traced back to 1847, and it was not until the arrival of Eastern European Jewish in the 1880s that this “pushcart market” came to its heyday. The influx of African Americans moved in after the 1920s, performing street arts, which were been remarked as the “Chicago blues” by later observers. After the Second World War, due to the construction of a highway, the expansion of the University of Illinois at Chicago, the Maxwell Street Market suffered from a series of shrinking, and finally moved to other place several blocks away from where it used to be. Now Mexican-Americans have be the predominant population in the area.

The Maxwell Street Market was an ideal place for entrepreneurs and businessmen to start their own business and make “quick cash”, as the import of

¹ <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/758.html>

goods from Asia and other parts of the world priced much cheaper than the American goods. On the other side, immigrants and middle-low income families had a great demand on those inexpensive products, which made the market a win-win solution for both the sellers and the buyers. No wonder why the Maxwell Street Market represented a fundamental change in the American retail and economic history.

Broader Issue

The decadence of the Maxwell Street Market is a reflection of urbanization (modernization) happening in Chicago. Street shops and boot stands are hard to manage for the authorities, and they also create noise pollution, traffic congestion and disorder in the city. Moreover, as more large-scale, chain stores are homogenizing the city's shape and feel, city dwellers in the meantime also prefer more to visit those shopping centers for their quality and reputation. Similar process is also happening in Beijing, China where the municipal government is trying to move out all the terminal markets for clothes, agriculture

and small commodities. Accompanying that will be another wave of gentrification within the neighborhood, and the restructuring of the local population.

The Ever Fading Cultural Identity



Street View of Maxwell Street Market, Little Italy, Chicago, 2015

Photo credit: photo taken by the author

Location

South Loop, 800 S. Desplaines St. Chicago, IL 60607

Transit Times from UChicago

CTA: 56 mins / Car: 20 mins / Bike: 42 mins

Background

Maxwell Street Market was one of the landmark spots my group had chosen to visit for our Chicago Neighborhood Project in the community named “Little Italy”. We decided to go there because first, we would like to explore the Italian commercial and cultural atmosphere in the market, and second, we were intended to conduct the five interviews with Italian-Americans to gain deeper insight into the neighborhood’s history, cultures, signature events, and so on. However, the experience of wandering in the market reminded me of the similar experience and atmosphere when I visited the street markets in tourist attractions back in China. It seemed to me that the categories, styles, designs, etc. of the merchandise sold in Maxwell Street Market had little difference with those of goods sold in China. Therefore, a question popped into my mind. “Is Maxwell Street Market losing its unique cultural identity?”



Sunday, Oct. 30, 1988, a typical busy day at the Maxwell Street Market

Photo credit: Chicago Tribune historical photo



*Goods sold in today's market
Photo credit: City of Chicago,
Dept. of Cultural Affairs and
Special Events*

Maxwell Street Market was first started as a produce market by Jewish immigrants in the late nineteenth century. Over the years, it has grown into a vast year-round Sunday-morning (from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.) flea market selling merchandise from used books and old magazines to second-hand china and housewares, plus fruits and vegetables, sports clothing, decorative accessories, bicycles, and some of the best Mexican and

Latin street food in Chicago.

Broader Issues

In the past, Maxwell Street Market consisted of dealers and customers of varied ethnicities. It was founded by Jewish immigrants who were the predominant participants in the market at that time. Later, this area became mixed with Germans, Italians, Greeks and Irish, bringing their own unique cultural elements into the market. As time went by, other ethnicities were forced to move to west and north to the suburbs because of the construction of Eisenhower Expressway and the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) in the late 1960s, and the market gradually became predominantly Hispanic. The merchandise sold in the market today loses its previous diverse cultural characteristics, and most of the goods on display are labeled “Made in China”, “Made in Indonesia” or “Made in Vietnam”. It is difficult to tell which piece of article represents which culture, because most of them are made into same form, shape, color, texture and style by even the

Meijun Hu

same materials and processing techniques in the so-called “world factories”. So, the evolution of Maxwell Street Market raises a vivid example to show how urbanization and globalization force a local institution to lose its local flavors and uniqueness.

Jiayi Wu

Learning to Let Go: The Challenge of Rock Climbing

Location

Brooklyn Boulders

On the intersection of W. Madison St. and S. Morgan St.

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 50 minutes **By bike:** 54 minutes **By car:** 17 minutes

Background: I’m a 22-year-old Chinese girl who is going to the University of Chicago to pursue my dream. I like to challenge myself; I push myself to do a lot of new things and learn some new skills. However, I’m afraid of a lot of things, too. I think that those fears come from the fact that I’m afraid of death. Generally, I will avoid anything that might cause me to die. However, about two weeks ago, I did something dangerous. Although people might not think that it’s dangerous; I went rock climbing.

The reason I went there is that my boyfriend, Harrison, loves rock climbing. As his girlfriend, I compromised. It took us longer than 20 minutes to drive there. When we arrived there, I looked at the interesting rock climbing holds and said, “it’s not that difficult, right?” Harrison didn’t say anything and we entered. After we signed up and filled out some waivers, we went into the main building and Harrison started to teach me step-by-step. He taught me how to tie into the rope, how to hold the

Jiayi Wu

rope when your partner is climbing, etc. Finally, we started to climb on a bouldering wall, which is smaller and lower. On that wall, there are a lot of routes. Each route has its own color; different colors indicate different difficulty levels.

I started to feel afraid. I still remember the time I finished climbing and stayed on the top of the wall. Harrison told me to jump because the ground is soft and I'm about 2 meters from the ground. However, I almost cried because of fear. I felt that I was going to follow my gravity to the ground and that feeling of weightlessness made me frightened.

Then, I took the challenge of climbing a top roping wall about two stories tall. Harrison told me that it's easier when I jump from the top, because there's a rope holding me; he will hold that rope from the other side. However, when I reached the top, I was struggling to let go of the wall. I felt I would die if I let go, no matter what Harrison said in order to persuade me to jump. After few minutes struggling, I finally let go. I have to say that the feeling is amazing. At first, I held my rope tightly and closed my eyes, as if I was going to die. At that time, I heard Harrison yelling, "don't worry, look around!" I felt my blood pressure increased and my heart beat quickly. Then, I opened my eyes, and I got a feeling that I was a kind of animal that have very light bodies and could jump very quickly. After that, I tried some higher

Jiayi Wu

level options of rock climbing, even though I was still frightened.

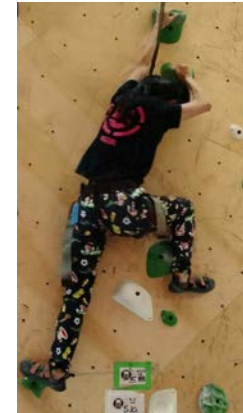


Photo credit: Harrison Wang.

Left: The photo of the rock climbing gym in Brooklyn Boulders.

Right: I was climbing up on a route rated at 5.8. The photo was shot in the rock climbing gym of Brooklyn Boulders.

Broader Issues: The essential part of rock climbing is to find the rocks to balance ourselves in order to stay on the wall. To save energy, we should keep our centers of our gravity near the wall. For most beginners, the biggest problem is that they don't trust their feet. Because we do not use the strength of our feet or use

Jiayi Wu

the strength of our feet less, we will abuse muscles in the arm and quicken the time we get tired. A good strategy when you are climbing is to first, move your feet, and then, move your hands.

Everything is related to friction. In a climbing gym, climbers use the belay device to put friction on the rope to stop them from falling. Climbers also need to use friction between the shoes and the wall, so they have to rent or buy a particular kind of shoes just made for this sport. Some climbers like to use chalk to increase the friction between their hands and the wall. The greatest friction is achieved when the normal force is perpendicular to the surface. Therefore, when you balance, you want to make sure that normal force is as perpendicular to the surface as you can get it.

The difference between an inexperienced rock climber and a serious professional is not dependent on the strength of individuals. Instead, the difference is that professional rock climbers know how to use the most efficient methods to maximize their strength. In the end, I highly recommend you try a rock climbing and challenge yourself!

Zuoming Li

The Racial Segregation in Chicago

Background: Before I came to United States, I had heard that United States is a great *Melting Pot*, meaning many different immigrants bring diverse culture. These culture mix, but remain distinct in some aspects.

When I arrived in Chicago, I did see a lot of people of different races and descents. Many people come from various of countries, many have parents who are immigrants. But I am told that people of different races tend to live separately. African American, for example, live in the south side of the city mostly, and Chinese also are more likely to live in Chinatown neighborhood. This phenomenon seems like kind of segregation.

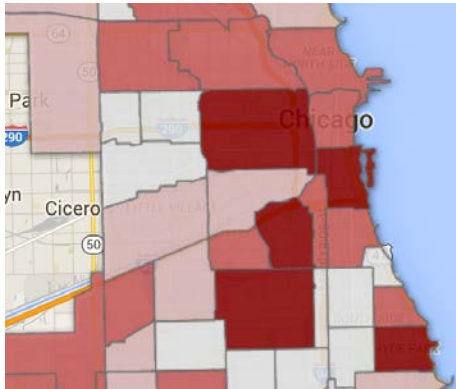
So, I wonder how actually racial segregated Chicago is, and does it matter.



Diverse people in front of Chicago's Bean

Zuoming Li

Research: According to the data from Rib Paral's American Community Survey, I tried to figure out the diversity of each Chicago community.



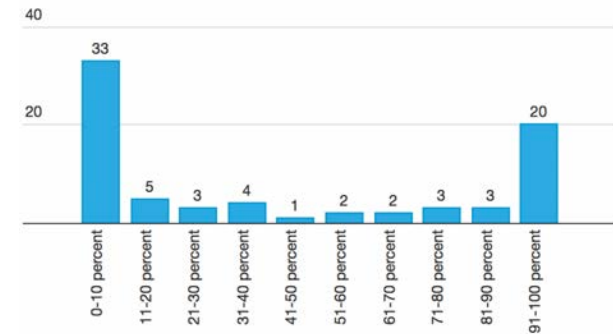
Part of Chicago community diversity map
Source: 2008-2012 American Community Survey via Rob Paral

In this map, a diversity score is given based on the percentage of Asian, Black, Latino and White people in a community. As we can see, along with some low diverse community labeled in white color, Chicago also has many high diverse community including Rogers Park, West Ridge and Hyde park.

So, what happened with these low diverse communities? When I checked each community with diversity score lower than 20, I noticed that only 1 of these 23 communities has more than 90% White people share

Zuoming Li

and 2 of them with Latino people, but all other 20 communities have very low diversity score due to a very high share of Black people. What's more, 23 communities in Chicago have African Americans make up more than 80% of the population while While only 4, Latino 5 and Asian none. And, 573 thousand of African Americans live in these 23 communities, which is 65.3% of the total African Americans population in Chicago.



Percentage of African American in each community area

Thus, African American seems to be the most segregated race in Chicago.

Broader Issues: Having a deeper look at these Black predominated communities, I found such segregation affects a lot. Such as education, 87% of public-school enrollment was black or Hispanic in Chicago. Schools

Zuoming Li

are also somewhat divided into black schools and white schools.

Although the law requiring segregation of blacks have long been repealed, the residential segregation is so hard to reduce. I think many reasons including historical issues, cultural difference, and discrimination should take the responsibility.

“Two hundred fifty years of slavery. Ninety years of Jim Crow. Sixty years of separate but equal. Thirty-five years of racist housing policy. Until we reckon with our compounding moral debts.” Just as Coates Said, "hypersegregation" is not an easy thing that can be forcibly removed.

So what can we do? Add more police stops in some neighborhoods is just a scratch of the surface, and sometimes may cause more issues. Improving the public education in the whole city instead of shutting down schools in some neighborhoods can contribute to this problem. And gentrification by properly controlling the housing prices can also foster the integration.

Carlos Fernandez

Chicago on wheels of a Divvy Bike

Location

All over the city of Chicago.

In

Travel Times from UChicago

The closest Divvy station for a student is located in front of Regenstein Library. Travel times from Harris School to this station are small. By foot it takes between 5-10 minutes. By bike less than 5 minutes and by bus (172) less than 5 minutes. Of course, there are more stations located in Hyde Park and all over Chicago and usually traveling times are not longer than 10 minutes by foot to any of them.

Background

Just arriving in the beautiful city of Chicago, I noticed how much people use bicycles for traveling to work, college, and high school or just for fun. It was the middle of August and of course the weather was great. Sunny days and refreshing winds coming from the lake recreate the perfect scenario for a cycling enthusiast like me.

My only problem was that I didn't have a bike!

So I started my quest to find the perfect bike to travel from my house to the University of Chicago.

Back in my country, I used to ride a road bike to everywhere. Also, every weekend I programmed trips to different places with a group of friends, also big fans of

Carlos Fernandez

cycling, and rode for hours to different places every weekend.

I was still looking for a good bike when my Landlord came to the rescue and talked to me about “Divvy Bikes” (and also lent me his key to use the bikes). Divvy Bikes is a public bike system, which allows its members the use of bikes all across the city of Chicago without the necessity to buy one. To be part of the system, it is necessary to pay a membership of 75 dollars per year that allows you to ride a Divvy Bike whenever you want for free during the first 30 minutes of your trip. After the first 30 minutes, you will be charged.

\$75	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS
UNLIMITED 30 MINUTE TRIPS - NO ADDITIONAL CHARGES <small>(Timer resets whenever you dock a bike.)</small>	
Avoid incurring overtime fees by returning your bike to any Divvy station within 30 minutes.	
Annual Membership Overtime Fees	
0–30 minutes of each trip	INCLUDED
30–60 minutes	\$1.50
60–90 minutes	\$4.50
Each additional 30 minutes	+\$6.00

Figure 1: “Fee chart of Divvy Bikes”, 2015
Photo source: <http://www.divvybikes.com>

Of course that is not likely to occur considering the number of dock stations across the city.

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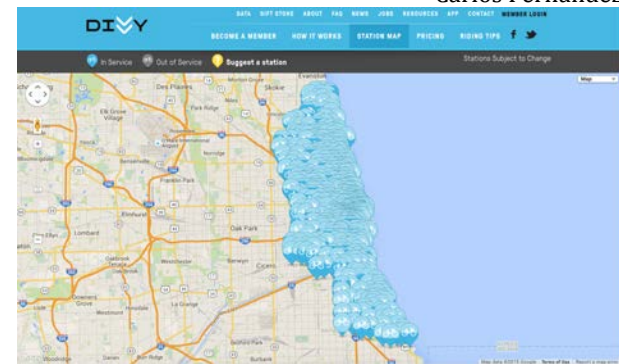


Figure 2: “Divvy Bikes Stations Map”, 2015
Photo source: <http://www.divvybikes.com>

From my experience using the system for almost 3 weeks, I can say that it is perfect for short trips to the University, the supermarket or any place close to a Divvy Bike’s dock station. Of course if you are fitter than me (most likely) it will be easier to go to a more far away places in less than 30 minutes, making the system an ideal transportation option.

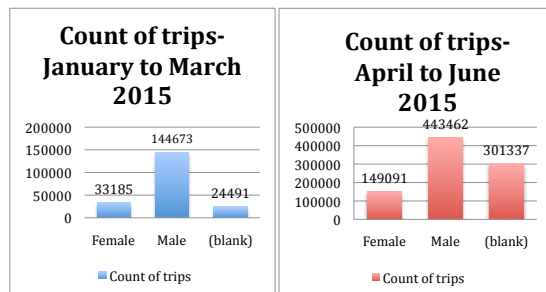
Broader Issues

The interesting thing about the public bike systems is the impact that these can have on the quality of life of the cities that implemented them. In this case, every trip made on a Divvy bike is one less trip made by more polluting and costly transportation alternatives like car or bus. This

Carlos Fernandez

means less traffic jams and less costs for the city just to name a few benefits.

The case of Chicago is particularly interesting because of the “winter effect.” People during the winter use the system less than in summer because of the harsh of the weather as we can see in the following graphs.



Figures 3 and 4: "Total N° of trips made by Divvy Bikes in the first and second quarter of 2015"
Source: Own elaboration

As you can see, the number of trips increases greatly after the winter. This implies that the positive effects of the public bike system in the city congestion and pollution are more notorious during the warmer months of the year. Additionally, is possible to see a notorious difference between the usage of the system between men and women no matter the time of the year. No reason for this behavior can be deducted from the data available and further research should be done to find a proper explanation to this strange phenomena.

Jader Guillermo Alarcon Plata

The Birth of a New Giant

Phenomena

People in the Chicago City and several other cities are using Uber, an app that allows you to commute on a private car instead of a taxi.

Travel Times from UChicago

You can ask for an Uber at 60 St and Woodland, in front of Harris, or in fact any street of campus.

Background: The guy at the wheel in Bogota, Colombia, lowered the window “Where are you going?” A few seconds later, the taxi was again on the road and I was still in the street in a hurry trying to get to downtown.

I had been admitted as a graduate student to the University of Chicago and my coworkers had arranged a farewell lunch for me; however I was stuck on the freedom of the street simply because the Bogota taxi drivers tend not to pick up passengers that are not going in the areas that they want to move around! (Fixed routes was not supposedly to be for buses?)

Although at the end I was able to arrive -late- at the middle of my lunch, I confirm without a doubt that Bogota’s citizens deserved a better transport service, a

Jader Guillermo Alarcon Plata
service that I was going to discover at Chicago although I didn't knew it yet.

Some weeks later, already at my language and math camp, while preparing to start my classes at Harris, I realized how frequent and easy was it to use Uber, and what a good service does it provide.

This system aroused me some questions related to the safety of uploading the credit card data to a cellphone app, or being transported by an unknown driver which seems kind of insecure in my country, however I definitively had to try it.

Now I haved used Uber more than 3 times, not only for moving to University of Chicago campus, but also to other neighborhoods as the Little Italy in Chicago. I have found a strong culture of good service, making it my first option when not taking the bus.



Image from <http://www.greenbookblog.org/>

Broader issues:

Jader Guillermo Alarcon Plata
I consider that the significant increase in the access to technology joint with the ease to share information, has amplified markets not only in United States but in several countries around the world. This has an enormous potential to change the way the traditional transport operate, service and security have improved, but at the same time, some strong social tensions have aroused.

Uber could be defined as a “Transportation network company¹” and a such allows people to ask for trips from a cellphone app. Although, the most innovative part consist in the drivers, who are common people that use their private vehicles to perform this service.

As can be seen, the use of technology and smartphones has suddenly created the possibility for hundreds or drivers to use their own cars to carry people and earn some money, which create and immediately fierce competition to the taxi services that usually were the only with the legal right to carry passengers.

As expected, this social change generates economic fights. In Colombia, the Taxi Association has performed a lot of legal pressure to make this cellphone systems illegal, and some taxi drivers has even realized violence acts against Uber drivers. Some of them has been not

¹ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uber_\(company\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uber_(company))

Jader Guillermo Alarcon Plata
only blocked while moving in the streets, but have also suffered damages in their vehicles. In Chicago, this system is now legal but has gone to lots of public debates, and it still have some restrictions as Uber drivers not being allowed to pick up passengers in the airport. Debate still remain².

Finally, the idea of picking up an unknown passenger or riding with an unknown driver involve at least to important issues, security and service, both of them well resolved until now.

Regarding security, when people ask for an Uber the data of both the driver and the passenger has been previously registered on the web. Financial information of the passenger would make it very easy to find him that would be necessary for any reason, and in case of the driver something similar happens, the driver has its own car but has gone to several security tests previously to be able to join the Uber network.

In the case of service, technology make it very easy to evaluate each ride, if drivers get poor punctuations will lose the right to be in the Uber network that provide them a good opportunity to earn some money driving when they want to do it, doubtless a new giant has born.

²<http://chicago.inno.streetwise.co/2015/06/02/uber-is-preparing-for-its-next-chicago-fight-ohare-and-midway/>

How to Avoid Chicago's Segregation through Biking



Figure 1. Bike and the trail (source: <http://www.vanscyoc.net> – modified by Pablo Aguirre)

Location

Coast of Lake Michigan.

From north to south, it runs through Lincoln Park, Grant Park, Burnham Park, and Jackson Park

Travel Times from UChicago (to Lincoln park through the trail)

Bus: 1 hr / Bike: 50 mins / Car: 27 mins

Pablo Aguirre

Background

When I arrived to Chicago the first thing I started to look for was not a bed, or a desk. It was a bike. Why? Back in Chile I used to ride my bike every day, everywhere.

I was used to ride twenty kilometers (approximately twelve and a half miles) as a daily average, therefore the Lakefront trail looked like a good option to start my bike journey in the United States.

That is how, with three other classmates, we decided to take our bikes one weekend and ride north.

The Lakeview road it is a beautiful place to take your bike for a ride in weekends. The buildings in the horizon, the shiny water of Lake Michigan, the breeze in your face in a hot summer day. It is just perfect for the ones who enjoy the outdoors and the bikes. But there is something more. While we were heading north, it became a regular thing to see a lot of different people exercising and families enjoying barbeques and the company of each other. Strangers from different ages and ethnicities sharing as equal.

Once in a while I felt like just leaving my bike on the side of the road and jump into the lake, or just sit on the grass to enjoy the day and the diverse environment that I was able to see and feel.

Somehow I was surprised, this did not looked at all as my average ride in Santiago. I used to bike through really nice neighborhoods but also through really bad ones, where I used to see all sort of things. The Lakeview on a Saturday afternoon was different. It seemed like Chicago was perfect.

Pablo Aguirre

Once we arrived to downtown the feeling I had while I was on the trail was gone. Not even the beautiful buildings welcoming me with the reflection of the sun on their mirrors or the great amount of different activities you can do caused the same sensation on me.

Days later I started to realize how the city had different realities and it was necessary just to walk a few blocks through any neighborhood to see how the houses can turn from big beautiful houses to small and uglier ones, or the lawns from shiny well taken care green to careless brown ones. People also was different.

It all started to make sense when every day it became more often to listen people from Chicago and the University talking about places you can go and places you can't or at least you shouldn't.

At the end, I was able to conclude that the weekends on the Lakefront are not the typical postcard of Chicago.

Pablo Aguirre



Figure 2. Riding downtown with classmates (source: Pablo Aguirre)

Broader Issues

According to the 2010 United States census, Chicago is one of the most diverse cities of the country. In other words, a lot of different ethnicities coexist within the city limits. But on the other side, according to the same source, Chicago is the most segregated city too. Then, within the same city limits these ethnics are not interacting. Added to this, Chicago is one of the most dangerous cities of the United States. Does not sound perfect.

Pablo Aguirre

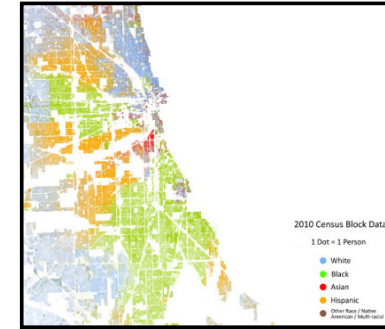


Figure 3. 2010 Census Block Data (source: <http://chicago.cbslocal.com>)

The city should improve its urban planning policy in order to take the most advantage of the diversity that has and not turn this on a negative thing that, eventually, is leading to higher levels of isolation and crime.

Maybe Chicago should be more like the weekends on the lakefront road and its beaches. Different people, different reasons to be there, but together enjoying a beautiful city. Enjoying their diversity.

Jingtao Zheng

Cycling in Chicago--Have Fun but Be Careful

Location

Location: The Lakefront Trail

Travel Details (from UChicago)

By Bike: 5 minutes

By Car: 3 minutes

By CTA: N/A

Background

Want to take a ride on your beloved bike and catch a breeze? Chicago Lakefront Trail is no doubt your choice! Extending from 7100 South/2560 East to 5800 North/1000 West, this 18-mile paved dedicated-use path connects a plethora of recreational facilities along the coast of Lake Michigan. Cycling along the Lakefront Trail, you should be amazed by the beauty of the nature: the expansive shoreline is on display in its full magnificence.



Magnificent View From The Lakefront Trail

Source: <http://www.museumofthecity.org/chicagos-beautiful-lakefront-parks/>

Jingtao Zheng

Despite that I moved to this city only a while ago, I have biked the Lakefront Trail for several times, and it can definitely be counted as my most pleasant (and also the toughest) bike tour. Starting from the University Campus, you will experience the diversity of architecture styles in Chicago: ranging from Gothic pointed arch, to quaint brick buildings, to splendid modern skyscrapers. On weekdays when there are not many people on the trail, you can enjoy a quiet afternoon by yourself and find the serenity of your own; while on weekends, crowds of people gather together, spending leisure time with their friends or family.



Serene Afternoon Along the Lakefront Trail

Source: <http://www.me-go.net/2010/11/10/biking-on-the-lake-in-november/>

Jingtao Zheng

But be careful! Cycling is not 100% safe. Last Sunday morning when I was biking along the Trail, suddenly two bikes showed up from the corner and heading very fast towards me. To avoid clash, I pressed the brakes so hard that the front wheel suddenly stopped, the bike pitched forward, and I fell hard to the ground, severely injuring myself. I ended up in the Emergency Room for the rest of my weekends in addition to the Labor's Day.

Hence, while enjoying the bike tour along the gorgeous Lakefront Trail, always be careful. Wear a helmet and be cautious of the surroundings. I wish you a safe and enjoyable bike tour in the city of Chicago.



Wear A Helmet!!!
<http://www.bicycleretailer.com/north-america/2013/05/08/brain-dealer-tour-family-affair#VfB2-xHBzRY>

Jingtao Zheng

Broader Issue

Safety of cycling is a big issue. To this end, Chicago has comprehensive facilities to protect the bike riders. It categorizes the bike lanes into 6 types: in addition to off-street trails such as the Lakefront Trail, there are barrier protected bike lanes, buffer protected bike lanes, bike lanes, marked shared lanes and neighborhood greenways.

As Mayor Emanuel once said, “One of my top priorities as mayor is to create a bike network that allows every Chicagoan—from kids on their first ride to senior citizens on their way to the grocery store—to feel safe on our streets.” We look forward to improvements and expansions of more protected bike lanes in the years to come.

Haishi (Harry) Li

White Beach, Black Beach: A view from the Lake Front

Trail

Travel time

On a three-hour trip around Lake Michigan, I rode my bike all the way from the University of Chicago to downtown. I saw beautiful lake views and beaches and handsome boys and beautiful girls playing all around.

Background Information



Lake Front Trail; Photo by Harry Li

A string of beaches scattered along the Lake Front Trail. As I rode across them, I was again impressed with the city's prosperity. On the 31st Street Harbor laid tens of elegant yachts.

Haishi (Harry) Li

And many others were sailing gorgeously on the lake.



Up: 41st Beach; Down: 31st Beach. Photo via Google Images

Across the beaches there is a sharp contrast in the “colors” of people playing on different beaches. The contrast is drastic and effectively mirrored the segregation in the Chicago neighborhoods. Even though one may have long been aware of the imperative segregation problems in the city of Chicago, however, he may still find it astounding to see white people playing on the 31st Street beach and black people and some Asians on the 41st.

Haishi (Harry) Li

Broader Issues:

The two groups were basically doing similar activities, like swimming, tanning, and barbecue. However, they do them separately. The separation indicates under these circumstances the people of one color heartily prefer to talk to and to play with people of his own race instead of with those of another color. Even if the formal legal segregation was ruled out by the US Supreme Court in the 1960s, the mental and spatial separation between races persisted and manifested itself especially in Chicago.

Several reasons may account for the separation of different races on different beaches. First, it might be the case that people prefer to rest on the beach close to their neighborhood. The neighborhood next to the 31st beach might be populated with more white people, while the other neighborhood host other races. In this scenario, the segregation on beaches actually builds on a spatial segregation of neighborhoods¹.

It also might be the case that the white people are average richer, and can afford to sail on the Lake Michigan. As a result, the harbor and the 31st beach is concentrated with the white people.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Side_Chicago

Haishi (Harry) Li

The black are thus driven away by the economic forces (for example, the rich white bid up local food and drinks prices too high for the black and the Asian to afford) and/or the tension between races (for example, one race may simply don't like the other and they yell bad words to each other). Whatever the case, the peace of the beaches from the appearance is actually covering the separation and contrast between races.

All men are born equal, accordingly to the sacred belief of the founders of the United States. This ideology consolidates the American people on a common basis. The fact that people of different colors playing on different beaches is clearly an obstruction of the principle, and may harm the consensus of the national identity and widen the gap between different races. Furthermore, according to the basic laws of economics, agglomeration increases productivity and causes economic growth from communication and the inspiration of new ideas. The separation prevents people of one color from chatting or discussing with the people of the other color and gaining the knowledge about the other culture. In the long run the separation will hinder economic growth. In addition, the separation is

Haishi (Harry) Li

obviously negative for social stability. Communication helps clear the misunderstanding between groups of people and increase mutual trust. If rumor on one group circulates around in the other group and there is no effective way to pacify the animosity and suspicion, the risk of a turmoil increases. As a result, the separation/segregation issues should be seriously addressed by government leaders, scholars and the society as a whole.

Wenbo Han

Finding Planets along the Lakeshore

Location

Along the lakeshore. Most of them are between E Chicago Avenue and 35th Street. All inner planets are near the Adler Planetarium Museum (13th Street near the lakeshore)

Travel Times from UChicago

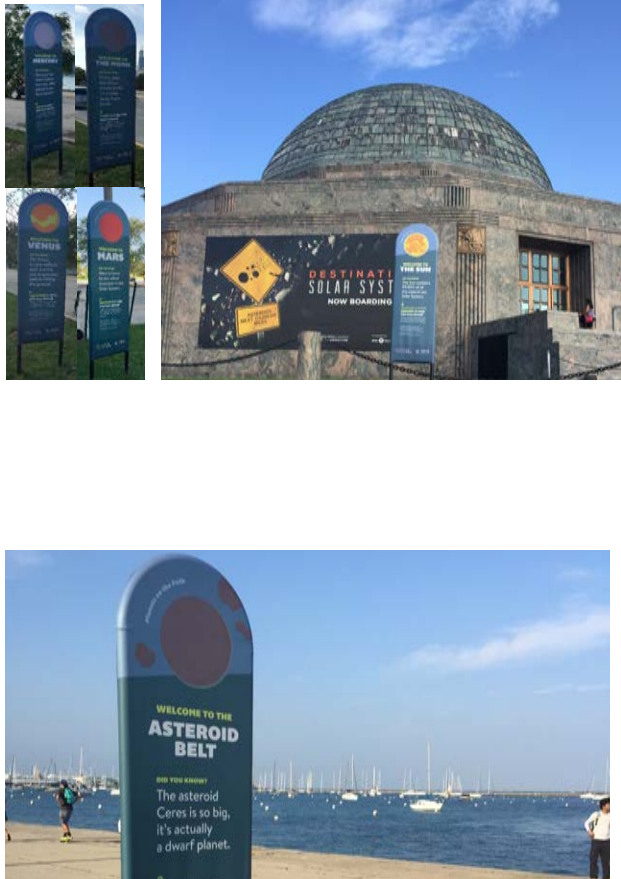
(To the Planetarium Museum) **By CTA:** 50min **By bike:** 36min **By Car:** 17min

Background

On the first weekend I arrived at UChicago, I went to the lakeshore to take photos. The path near 55th Street lead me to a small peninsula, which provided me a perfect angle to see the skyline of downtown Chicago. On my way home I saw a sign of Uranus. The Uranus sign also showed me the location of Saturn and Neptune. I became curious about the location of the other planets. Later I found that these planet signs are part of the Adler Planetarium Museum. They are called *Planets on the Path*. The sun is represented by the museum itself and other planets are located on the lakeshore as a scale model of our solar system. The walking time between every two planets is the same as the traveling time of light between them in the real solar system. For example, it takes about two hours for sunlight to reach Uranus. And the walking time from Hyde Park (the location of the Uranus sign) to the Adler Planetarium Museum is also two hours.

Most of the signs are somewhere between the museum (13th Street) and 35th Street (south branch) or E Chicago Avenue (north branch). I spent a sunny afternoon walking from the

Wenbo Han



Wenbo Han

Previous Page Top: The Alder Planetarium Museum and nearby signs

Previous Page Bottom: The Asteroid Belt sign near the lake (Source: My pictures)

museum to Magnificent Mile to find all the planets from Mercury to Saturn along the lakeshore. The walking time should be less than one hour but I was slowed down by the skyscrapers in downtown and the breathtaking beauty of the lake. For the rest of them, each sign is close to a beach. So it won't be boring for people to find them since these signs come with the pleasure of walking along the lakeshore and playing on the beach.

Broader Issues

The museum was opened in May of 1930. Three months before that, the last planet, Pluto, which is not considered a planet now, was discovered. 40 years later, the major planets were aligned, which is pretty similar to the arrangement of those planet signs seen today. NASA launched Voyager I and II to explore all the planets in 1977. The path of Voyager I just looks like the lakeshore path between 13th Street and E Chicago Avenue. It took Voyager I three years for this scaled one hour walking distance and now it already covers the distance from Chicago to the border of Wisconsin.

Voyager I and II are two representatives of the so called golden age of space exploration. In the 1960s, the space race between the USSR and the USA led to an explosion of space technologies. People on both sides of the earth launched countless satellites and space probes in the

Wenbo Han
following twenty years. It was the first time when human beings could touch those remote planets and people enjoyed the process of exploring. But unfortunately, people lost their passion gradually and gave up the chance to visit those distant destinations again. In 1990, the Voyager I took a family portrait of the solar system. But even today, 25 years after that famous portrait, there is still nothing else can reach that far to take a second photo. Why did people give up? With more advanced technology, better living condition, people refused to explore further. Maybe human beings, as a whole society, is getting older. Children are usually more excited than adults when meeting something new. They only focus on their new findings but adults have to consider the cost. Exploring remote objects cannot bring any benefit but costs a lot in terms of money. Governments are realistic, at least more realistic than they were in the last century, so they won't choose to spend much on space programs. But is that enough for people to keep eyes only on the earth?

Walking along the lakeshore, people can imagine themselves the space probe Voyager I, exploring all the secrets in our solar system. The lake is just like the endless outer space, calm and mysterious, inviting everyone to uncover the hidden knowledge of our universe.

Miao Zhang

The Whale Sculpture in the Lakeside

Location:

54th Street

Between the S Lake Shore Drive and the Lakefront Trail

Travel Details: (from Uchicago)

By CTA: 16 minutes

By Bike: 10 minutes

On Foot: 27 minutes

Background:

The first time I lingered around along the Lakefront, things that jumped into my sights, besides the tranquilized lake, are those distinctive sculptures by the lakeside. Literally, Chicagoans have made the lakefront "a public art exhibition". Most of those works are placed in 2012, lining the stretch between the Museum Campus on the south and Lakeview on the north. They are varied, both literal and conceptual, and made out of stone, metal and wood. Most of them, for me, are abstract and hard to

Miao Zhang

understand. Especially, they does not fit quite well into the natural environment. One columnist even called them “ugly”¹.



Two Abstract Sculptures by the Lake²

However, one special “sculpture” along the Lakefront Trail caught my attention. It sits quietly north to the Promontory Point. If people do not look around, they may easily miss it. It is a “whale” made of iron wire and wasted plastic bottles. The meanings and implications are evident and right in front of its audiences. It calls on people to care about the lake environment and not to throw rubbish into the lake, as those wasted bottles are collected by the artist from the lake.

¹ Cuddy, Allison. “Lakefront sculpture: Is mediocre art obstructing a beautiful view?” Retrieved from: <http://www.wbez.org/blogs/alison-cuddy/2012-10/lakefront-sculpture-mediocre-art-obstructing-beautiful-view-103001>

² Phot sources: <http://lakefronttrail.blogspot.com/2012/10/a-flipped-over-car-and-my-first-post.html>

Miao Zhang



The Whale Sculpture

Different from other sculptures I have seen along the Lakefront, this one is simple, but closely tied up with the nature around. The artist tries to use those wasted bottles and rusted iron wires to tell people to care about the lake ecosystem. Making this sculpture into the shape of a whale, might being an unwise choice, also indicates the importance of animals in the lake. I love this sculpture and if one day you take your time to walk along the Lakefront, try to locate this one.

Miao Zhang

Broader Issues

Chicago have 26 miles of shore line and among 77 neighborhoods in Chicago, many of them are adjacent to the lake. Lake Michigan is an inseparable part of Chicago's natural, social and cultural environment. Chicagoans like to sit by the lake to feel the breeze, to have some barbeque with friends, or just simply taking a picture of the beautiful scenery. Protecting the Lake is also an essential placed in front of every Chicagoan.

Yixin Nie

Seashore or Lakeshore

Location

S. Lake Shore Drive

Travel from UChicago

Just walk east until there is nothing except the Michigan Lake.

Background:

When I was a kid, I always believed that the best place for living is by the seashore. Listening to the waves, looking for the seagulls and walking down the beaches are most enjoyable things in the entire world. So as long as I arrive at a place near the sea, I will check the seashore and I think there is nothing comparable to the beauty of seashore.

However, this thought changed after I first came to Chicago and watched the south lakefront of Michigan Lake in this city. The first glimpse just stops my eyes from leaving this beautiful and tranquil shore and it is more elegant than all the seashore I have ever seen. Michigan Lake is, of course, visually comparable to any sea. But what make the shoreline so impressive are not only the Michigan Lake itself, but also the grassland along the shore, the parks beside the Lake Shore Drive and the delightful beaches. I have never seen a combination like this before in China and I think the

Yixin Nie

combo – lake, beach, grassland, street and park – is so perfect that each part is beautified by other parts.

It was like a dream when I first walked to the south lakefront from my living apartment. The weather was perfect that day so if you face the Lake you will get a wonderful view. As you get closer and closer to the lake, you will feel like you are stepping from metro to the nature and even the time become slower. You could do whatever you like by the shore, sports, picnic, or meditation and get relaxed. Just lay down on the grassland and you will feel like you are melting into the green and blue nature.



Melting into the Green and Blue
Source: Photo Taken by Yixin Nie



Standing, Watching and Meditating
Source: Photo Taken by Yixin Nie

Yixin Nie

An old Chinese poem said: "One can never discern the true face of the mountain Lu, if one can only look out from within these hills". Standing at the Lakefront and looking at the downtown helps you to relax, clear your mind or even lead you to the right track when you get lost in your life.

Broader issues:

The Chicago shoreline originally consisted of a natural sand edge, with dunes and swales and marshy lowlands. The plan of building a magnificent park and boulevard beside the south lakefront of Lake Michigan in Chicago comes from Chicago's famous architect and planner Daniel H. Burnham. His scheme was soon support by The Commercial Club and have been called the famous Plan of Chicago ever since. After several years, the shoreline become what it is now.

"First in importance [to the city] is the shore of Lake Michigan. It should be treated as park space to the greatest possible extent. The lakefront by right belongs to the people... not a foot of its shores should be appropriated to the exclusion of the people."

That is what Burnham wrote in the great scheme.

The shore of Lake should belong to the people. However, the question is how we should treat this shore. Should we treat it as an attraction or as industrial

resources? Should we improve it by landfill over and over again or just let it be what it originally is?

Yixin Nie

Chinese in Chinatown

Wanjia He

Location

Chinatown Neighborhood
Centered on Cermak and Wentworth Avenues

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 30 mins **By bike:** 50 mins **By car:** 10-20 mins

Background: The first time I got to Chinatown I tried a restaurant providing Guangdong snacks. Actually, I cannot understand Cantonese, which is the language in Guangdong. Waiters there usually speak Cantonese at the beginning, but when they find that I can only speak Mandarin, they switch the language they use.

And then we shopped at a place named Hong Kong Market. When I talked to the cashier, she also spoke Cantonese at first then turned it to Mandarin. Linked with the name of the market, I thought they may come from Hong Kong.

I came back to Chinatown about one and a half weeks later. This time I just went to a small shop to buy some food. Again, the cashier tried to communicate with me in Cantonese. Then I ask for her hometown. She told me it is Guangdong.

I began to believe that most Chinese who live in Chinatown come from Guangdong or Hong Kong. Is this

Wanjia He
correct? I am curious about the distribution of their hometown.



(source: www.conciergepreferred.com)

It shows the front gate of Chinatown. The meaning of the Chinese words is that the world belongs to public. That is a sign of a harmonious political ideal.

Wanjia He



(source: chicago-chinatown.info)

I forgot to take pictures when I was trying the Guangdong snacks. So I find this picture on the Internet to show you how delicate they are. Also I highly recommend that you try it yourself.

Broader Issues: In the 1850s, Chinese workers migrated to the United States, first to work in the gold mines, but also to take agricultural jobs, and factory work, especially in the garment industry. Chinese immigrants were particularly instrumental in building railroads in the American west. As the numbers of Chinese laborers increased, so did the strength of anti-Chinese sentiment among other workers in the American economy.

Wanjia He

Chicago is the second oldest settlement of Chinese in America after the Chinese fled persecution in California. The first Chinese immigrants arrived in Chicago in the 1870s. There are two reasons for Chinese immigrants to choose Chicago: the anti-Chinese violence along the Pacific coast and the completion of the first transcontinental railroad. The anti-Chinese violence forced them to move eastwards and the transcontinental railroad gave them opportunities.

Now, Chicago's Chinatown is home to a number of banks, Chinese restaurants, gift shops, grocery stores, Chinese medicine stores, as well as a number of services that cater to people interested in Chinese culture, including those speaking varieties of Chinese, especially Cantonese. You can also find architectural designs mixed with Chinese and American there.

Mengyuan Liang

Chinatown — Too Close and Too Far



Picture: Nine Dragon Gate in Chicago Chinatown
Source: www.inetours.com

Location

Near South Loop, in the Armour Square community
Centered on Cermak and Wentworth Avenues
From W 18th Street to W 24th Pl

Transportation (from UChicago)

By Bus: 35 minutes

By Car: 15 minutes

By Bike: 35 minutes

Background

I'm Chinese. Up until now, most of my whole life is spent in China and this is my first time setting foot in the

Mengyuan Liang

United States. You can imagine the culture shocks I have experienced. But fortunately, the footprints of Chinese people are everywhere in the world and they prefer being accumulated. Chinatown is the materialized symbol of that preference.

Chinatown is so close to me. From the first day being in Chicago when the fellow student who picked me up from the airport took me to the Chinatown, I have been there for several times with my Chinese friends. The narrow streets, the billboards and the Chinese characters in them, and the people busy working in markets, shops, and restaurants overlap the hometown in my childhood in the memory. Surprisingly, I noticed most people working in Chinatown shared the same dialect—Chinese Cantonese—with me. Maybe our hometowns are not far from each other. Same cuisine, same language and same building style sometimes make me feel that I have been back home, and even back in the childhood. This is a place where I can bury my homesickness.

Mengyuan Liang



Narrow streets of Chicago Chinatown
Source: www.grouptravelacademy.com

However, Chinatown is too far from me. For example, people there have settled down in America, which I am still trying to do now. Looking at their faces and listening to their chats, I cannot help myself to guessing their stories. How old were they when they came to America? Why did they come here? What kind of the difficulties they might come across? How long did they take to fit in a different culture? Every person has his/her own life story. Last decades have witnessed the great changes of China. I suppose Chinatown also have been through a lot. They look the same but they are not the same.

Mariella Gonzales

Mengyuan Liang

All in all, thanks to the existence of Chinatown, I can conquer the cultural shocks step by step without much pain. But constantly being in the Chinatown will give me an illusion that I don't need to step out of the comfort zone that the widespread Chinese culture created. That will hinder me exploring more about the local culture. So I suppose I had better stay neither too close nor too far from the Chinatown.

Broader Issue

Two similar places may have many things in common, such as habits, lifestyles, and traditions. It is tempting to view them as the same. When a policy is proved to be effective, the government may want to copy it in other similar places. However, if you fail to recognize the differences between them and simply treat them in the same way, you will never get the chance to know the distinctive characters and stories hidden behind the similarities. Before detailed research and targeted survey, it will not make sense and result in the waste of resources.

Cultural development in Chinatown, Chicago



Chicago Public Library

Photosource: <https://www.chipublib.org/locations/20/>

Location: 2100 S. Wentworth Avenue, Chinatown

Travel Times from UChicago: Bus 33 min / Car 14 min / Bike: 39 min.

Mariella Gonzales

Background

When our AEPP professor asked us to go to a nice neighborhood of our choice in Chicago as part of the AEPP, I considered many places. But the one that I really wanted to know about was Chinatown, since there is a very similar place in my home country, Peru.

In 1905, many Chinese were being abused in California. For example, this State passed a law that made it illegal to hire workers from China. Because of that treatment, there was a boycott to affect imports from U.S. in China. At the time Chicagoans heard about that, they started to become hostile with Chinese, especially landlords. In that context, in 1911, many Chinese people had to move to the current Chinatown (in Cermak and Wentworth). This neighborhood is a mix of cultures since, it was “originally settled by Italian and Croatian immigrants” (Chicago Chinatown Organization).

According with what I witnessed, Chinatown is a less developed town in comparison with others such as Hyde Park, where I live now. For that reason, I was very surprised to see that a new library, “Chicago Public Library”, was inaugurated the day I went.

Social and economic situation in Chinatown

The first Chinese immigrants in Chicago were mostly from lower economic and social classes. And even though they probably tried really hard to work and improve their

Mariella Gonzales

situation, it was tough and almost impossible to do that. In fact, there were laws and regulations that exclude Chinese from being in the working class and having regular and well paid jobs.

So that history background explains why Chinatown is still a less developed neighborhood in comparison to the rest of Chicago. According to City-Data organization, in 2013 the average household income in Chinatown was 30% lower than in Chicago. It must be due to that fact that the rate of people whose educational attainment in Chinatown is less than high school is more than twice the Chicago rate.

About the library

According to Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Public Library costed US\$19.1 million and it has attracted around 1,500 people per day since it opened. It is more than twice the number of people the former home of this library was receiving.

This new library is focused on children and teenagers. There are books, ebooks, movies and music. Another interesting thing about this library is that it offers many events such as games and book clubs, among others. So it encourages active learning. I think that group study helps children to be more interested in continuing learning. Another fact that apart this library from others and from places in Chinatown is that the architecture is modern and sophisticated. In fact, Chicago Public Library

Commissioner invited competing teams of architects to design it.



It is really impressive that people attending are able to reserve computers and study rooms. Then, this proposal allows people that do not own their own computer to benefit from these resources. Moreover, it has free wifi.

Mariella Gonzales

printers, it would be so hard for teachers and students to learn about technology, which is necessary for good jobs. So this library, will close the infrastructure and also the education quality



Finally, I must say that the government has not tried to remove the cultural influence of China in the library. On the contrary, you can find Chinese-language materials, such as books. I consider this is very important since most of the people who lives in Chinatown are related with China. Even some of them do not speak English. So giving material in Chinese must assure that more people visit this library and also that they feel connected with it.

Dora Wuyutong Yao

Why does Cantonese culture rule Chinatown?

Location

From 55th street & Blackstone to W 23rd Street

Travel Time from UChicago

CTA: Approximately 28 min via #55 bus + Red Line

Uber/cab: Approximately 15 min

Background

When I went to Chinatown for the first time, one interesting phenomenon I found immediately when wandering on the streets was that Cantonese restaurants and culture ruled Chinatown: many restaurants mainly served Cantonese food and sweets. And the decorations of shops there are also in Cantonese style — you can see statues of the red-faced, bearded deity Guan Yu, known as Emperor or Lord Guan, the shrine of the ancestors and menus in English and Traditional Chinese.

I have been to Hong Kong twice and the city attracted me deeply. In Hong Kong, modern architecture and shopping malls are along the streets, while in those alleys, small local restaurants which



Cantonese-style signboard in Chinatown; Photo by ChicagoChinatown.info

Dora Wuyutong Yao



Many Cantonese people worship guan Yu, also known as Lord Guan; Photo by StrippedPixel

provide indigenous Cantonese food demonstrate quiet ordinary life of the residents. I miss the city's cultural diversity and heritage of traditions. Therefore, when I got to Chinatown in Chicago, the illusion of being in Hong Kong made me feel at home but also raised my curiosity: Cantonese culture mainly thrives in Guangdong Province and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, while all other parts of China inherit Mainland culture. I searched online and found that Chinatown in other cities were also ruled by Cantonese culture. Then, what is the difference between culture in Mainland China and Guangdong/Hong Kong? Why does Cantonese culture rule Chinatown?

Dora Wuyutong Yao

Culture in Mainland China & Cantonese Culture

	Mainland	Canton
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mandarin• Simplified Chinese(爱)• Pinyin(Jet Li)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cantonese/English• Traditional Chinese(愛)• Jyupting(Jet Lee)
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chinese food	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cantonese & Western-style

Broader Issues

The reason why Cantonese culture rules American Chinatowns may be complex, involving historical and political facts.

Historically, the first century of Chinese food in America consisted solely of Cantonese-style food, particularly the version brought to the United States by immigrants from seven rural districts in Taishan, outside of Guangdong. (David R. Chan, 2014) Nowadays, there are still many Taishan People scattered in Chinatowns of America. Many of them work in the service industry, such as restaurants and supermarkets, bringing Cantonese culture to Chinatowns. Above all, the first reason of the phenomenon may be that the original settlers in Chinatowns were immigrants from Guangdong.

Another point is that after the first Taishan settlers arrived in the United States, many Hong Kong people rushed in. In the 1960s, when the United States lifted their immigration restrictions on Chinese migrants, permitting a new wave of Chinese

Dora Wuyutong Yao

immigration into the United States, Hong Kong Chinese initially spearheaded the migration. (David R. Chan, 2014) In addition, Guangdong province and Hong Kong are both near the coasts and are among the cities that were first involved in the China Economic Reform and Opening-up. That is to say, they have more opportunities to participate in overseas trade and some of them go abroad and never come back to China.

In contrast, Mainland China stayed back and fell behind. That may be why culture in Mainland China spreads to America in a later time.

However, it seems that this phenomenon may disappear within a few years. As China has become one of the most powerful nations in the world and the GDP of Mainland China has surpassed Hong Kong, the spread of culture in Mainland China seems to accelerate. A related phenomenon is that although Cantonese has dominated the Chinatowns of North America for decades, it is being rapidly swept aside by Mandarin.

In Chicago, there is a “new Chinatown” in the West Argyle Street Historic District, which is a historic district in the Uptown community area of Chicago. The biggest difference between two Chinatowns is that mainland culture dominates the new one. If you go there, you may find that restaurants providing Sichuan food, Shanghai food and other mainland cuisine are taking place of Cantonese restaurants.

Carolina Bernal

Subtle Chinese Charms in Chicago!

<微妙的中国魅力在芝加哥！>



Photo Source: <http://www.yellowpages.com>

Where Is It Located? 地点

Chinatown Neighborhood
2247 S Wentworth Ave

How to get there from U. of Chicago? 地址

Bus <公交车>: 28 mins ** Bike <自行车>: 30 mins

Car <汽车>: 12-20 mins ** Walk <漫步>: 1 h 42 mins

Carolina Bernal

Background

Located in the heart of Chinatown, *Ten Ren Tea and Ginseng Co. of Chicago Ltd.* is a **must go** place in the city if you are a tea lover!

The first time I went to this store, I was simply exploring colorful Chinatown. I wanted to find some ideas of the items that I could find in that particular neighborhood. Given that I am a great fan of the Chinese tea culture, I was immediately attracted by the only word I could read while walking in the area: “tea” <茶>

Based on the simplicity of the store’s façade, I initially did not envision what I would find inside. However, as soon as I crossed the entrance of the store, the variety of scents made me think that the store will offer me more than what I was expecting.

Once I had observed all the shelves of the store, I found that the most impressive characteristic of that place was their huge variety of teas. In Colombia (my home country) the most you can find are basically three types of tea: black tea, green tea and –if you are lucky– chai tea. In this store, nonetheless, the variety seems to be infinite!

One of the best aspects of this store is that they offer samples of each kind of tea. This is very useful for customers because it allows them to decide after having tried some of the most precious treasures of ancient China.

Carolina Bernal

If you once have the chance to visit Chinatown, here is my recommendation: 茉莉毛峰白茶!! (Go to Chinatown and try it yourself ;)



Photo **Source:** Left side
<http://www.tenren.com/jamawhitea.html>; Right side:
<http://www.yelp.se/biz/ten-ren-tea-and-ginseng-co-of-chicago-ltd-chicago>

Broader Issue

For the perspective of public policy, there is an interesting aspect of having a place like Ten Ren in Chinatown. If you compare the United States with a country like Colombia, it is evident that in the second one it is very difficult to find migration points comparable to Chinatown. In contrast, here in the US it is very common to find concentrations of migrants almost in every city.

That situation has to do with at least two aspects: First, with the fact that this country is an attractive destiny for migrants because people have the idea that the United States is a country (or “the” country) of

Carolina Bernal

possibilities. In other words, the idea of the *American dream* is still a powerful reason for migrants to come to the US.

Second, it has to do with the fact that that migration, although difficult, is still possible in this country. In some other countries the law might forbid migration, or there might be factual bounds that prevent migrants to go to a specific place. That is the case of Colombia, where the long history of armed conflict has caused forced displacement instead of migration.

Nonetheless, the situation in Colombia is changing a lot due to the peace talks that are currently on process. In that sense, the country has the challenge to identify what the best alternative to attract new and enriching cultures, such as the Chinese culture.

Among other alternatives, offering incentives to traditional restaurants to go to Colombia could be a good first step in the big challenge of improving Colombian capacity to attract foreign investment.

Based on that idea, the Colombian government should promote the country in other continents. Not only for the cultural enrichment that would be met, but also because it could lead to mutual synergies that can be beneficial for both countries.

Cha Chen

Finding interesting stuffs in the supermarket of Chinatown

Location

Chinatown

Laoyouju restaurant

supermarket in chinatown

Travel Details (from IHouse)

By CTA: 44minutes

By Bike: 39minutes

By Car: 14 minutes

Background

I have been interested in the chinatown in America for several years. When I was back in China, I always heard people talking about the chinatown in America and they usually try to convince me that the chinatown in USA is quite like a small Chinese area and you can get all the Chinese stuffs there, just like you are back in China. There is almost no difference between the chinatown in USA and a small town in China. And for the most of time Chinese



Left: The Famous building in the chinatown of chicago. And it's also one of the symbol of chinatown.

(source:[Cha Chen](https://www.flickr.com/photos/pulaw/7352626590/in/photolist-ccJ8HY-5m3RaA-bDmAKD-aNU9x-sQoxT-TYGG-76XwjT-aHFJ69-3JEhAe-5v9aJP-3PRm-2vWIPU-RprqI-B1Eja-6PxPHm-3JEmzi-iGxCCf-iGwXCR-iGxDuL-iGvPcg-iGwRLx-Rpr7w-Rpqn-bCgTJ6-durRAh-318m1i-31cSFo-2seXeK-9gwiVK-dumfJH-durRth-durRgj-dumfJH-durRvW-3PRef-yQ9rQ-3PRfS-2seXgk-2sjLd9-2UBCv7-4cWdYJ-3JJBxh-2sjLmG-6PtGag-5BZDSG-2UBCX1-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

people go to chinatown for the traditional Chinese cuisine and some special Chinese sources, such as soy source, that you can't buy in other area of the US. Besides, many people in china believe that we are going abroad to see what China is look like instead of seeing what the foreign country looks like. In reality, the world is becoming more and more similar these days, and I believe that Shanghai, Beijing or similar big city in China is already one of the most modern cities all around the world. However, the city in China becomes such a boring place and it just lost its own characteristics during the process of developing. And it seems amazing that the small Chinese "colonies", chinatown, in the USA is now has more Chinese characteristic than its original roots, mainland China. Thus I got a strong willing to visit the famous chinatown in the Chicago neighborhood. And, as far as I'm concerned, the best way for me to get a deep view of the culture in chinatown is to searching for some small and daily item inside chinatown. And the best thing should be the something that relate to our daily life very tightly. Hence, I decided to go to chinatown's supermarket to find some special items there, and hope that I can



Left: Laoyouju, "老幼居", restaurant. It would be a great place to go if want to experience some authentic Chinese life and Chinese cuisine in Chicago. I can promise that it will give almost the feeling you can get from mainland china. (source: copyrights reserved for Cha Chen)

figure out some deep hint from those items.

As a result, I decided to go for the chinatown with some of my

Cha Chen

friends during the weekend. We got there by bus and red line, and it take us around 40 minutes. After arriving at chinatown, we first have our lunch at the famous Chinese restaurant Laoyouju, “老友聚”. In my opinion, it is an authentic “Chinese” restaurant, almost the same with the common restaurant back in China. In fact, I just feel that I was back in China, and everything is so familiar, the Chinese cuisine, Mandarin, and the Chinese people everywhere. I have to say that if you want experience an authentic Chinese restaurant atmosphere in Chicago, then Laoyouju is a great place. After that dinner, I was leaded to a famous supermarket for some special Chinese stuffs, such as soy source. However, besides the traditional Chinese items, I was surprised by some of the items inside that supermarket. I find quite a lot Japanese, and Korean stuff inside the supermarket as well. In the past, I thought the chinatown is the place only Chinese people will

Right: Some of the Korean sources I find in the Chinese supermarket. And also you may find some Japanese stuff around it too. (source: copy rights reserved for Cha Chen)



visit a lot. Japanese people, and Korean people will more comfortable with living with the western peoples, that is to say they will buy their special items directly from the ordinary supermarket in USA. However, it seems I just got something wrong.

Larger Picture

Finding lots of Japanese, and Korean stuffs in the supermarket in chinatown make me thinking more about the Asia immigrants life in America. In the past, I thought the Asia immigrants are living according to their nationality, and they were separately living in

Cha Chen

the US with little communication. Nevertheless, now, I start to believe that the Asia people in America has more things in common and more communication than I have ever thought before. In reality, several days before I went to chinatown I heard some of the Japanese people in I-House said that they were going to buy some special Japanese items from the chinatown. Hence, I begin to consider about the possibility that people stay in America will living not only according to their nationality but relate to the similarity in their culture as well. Drawing from my own experience, It is easier for me to make friends, and go out with Asian people than with the western guys. We all share something in common, especially something tightly relate to our daily life. To illustrate, we have a similar taste for the food, we have some similar concept about family and daily life, and the most important thing is that we all of us share the closely tied ancient history. I can easily convey some difficult concept to a Japanese by using Chinese characters since we can both understand it. Hence, in a word, I now believe that people with a similar culture background or maybe comes from abut area will have twisted life in the US, and which makes US more like a “salad” than a mixed “milkshake”.

The Influence of White Sox to Bridge Port

Location

333 West 35th Street

Travel Details(from UChicago)

By CTA: 31 minutes

By Bike: 30 minutes

By Car: 13minutes



U.S. Cellular Field (Photoed by Henan Ma)

Background

The apartment I live in is very close to the U.S. Cellular Field, which is the home field of White Sox. On

the first week I arrived at United States, I once asked my neighbor about what influences this neighborhood most. He replied without hesitation that “Definitely White Sox”, and then he started to introduce me various aspects

about this team, including famous players, recent matches, fans and so on.

As I am a sports fan, and I want to find out whether White Sox plays such an important role in this area. So I decided to watch a White Sox game. If you first reach at U.S. Cellular Field in a match day, you will be shocked by the atmosphere there. The whole court is shrouded in light, and hundreds of fans wearing White Sox shirts flooding into the court. You can hear people discussing about the first team, their predictions of the results and other news about that day’s match.

During the match, fans singing songs to motivate players, and if a ball is stroke into audience stand, fans will try their best to grab the ball, because they think it will bring them good luck. While the most exciting part is that the court will shoot off fireworks when home team finishes home runs, which will also light the whole audience.

After each match, most of the fans will go to Maria’s, which is a pub located close to U.S. Cellular Field, to

celebrate the victory; even if White Sox lose the game, they will also be there to have a drink and talk about the games.

White Sox is a strong baseball team, it won lots of champions and had great players, but its influence to Bridge Port is more than that.

Broader Issues



Gate Four of U.S. Cellular Field (Photoed by Henan Ma)

Bridge Port is a multicultural neighborhood, but it seems that there are not so many cultural conflictions among residents with different backgrounds. According to my observations, White Sox can always be the popular topics when people meet with each other, even they are strangers or coming from

different countries. People make friends because of White Sox, it helps them to eliminate cultural gaps, bonds them together, and puts a single same “White Sox

Culture” into them, which, in my opinion, is the most powerful part of this baseball team.

Meanwhile, White Sox reminds me another sports team “Guo An”, which is a soccer club of my hometown Beijing. They play almost the same role in their cities. As there are above 20,000,000 people living in Beijing, people usually argue with each other due to different local cultures. But if they are sitting at the home court of Guo An, they will forget all of their identities, such as jobs, social status, where they are come from; and become the loyal fans of this soccer team. That is the charm of sports and also the reason why White Sox deeply influence Bridge Port.

Tomoya Sakata

The Position of Black People in USA through Baseball Field

Place

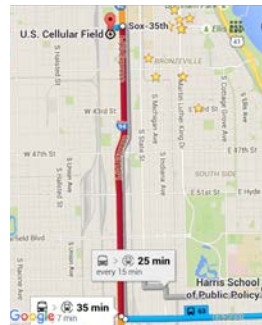
US. Cellular Field
(Chicago White Sox's Home Stadium)
333 West 35th Street



(Source)
Official Chicago White Sox
Website

Travel Times from UChicago

It takes 25 minutes to get
US. Cellular Field by using bus
(No. 59) and CTA (Red Line).
We can also get there by
bike for 30 minutes.



Background

Before I came to University of Chicago, I was very interested in African American history and current position. When I visited Bronzeville in Chicago Neighborhood Project, I found that US. Cellular Field near this town is loved by many blacks in contrast of Wrigley Field located in Uptown and having many white fans. This is the area segregation in Chicago. However, I'm very surprised that the ratio of blacks in all Major League Baseball (MLB) players is only 8.3% in 2015 (University of Central Florida<MLB> 24). On the other hand, in other main sports in America, the ratio is much higher. Blacks comprised 74.4% of all National Basketball Association (NBA) players in 2014-2015 (University of Central

Tomoya Sakata

Florida<NBA> 22) and 67.3% of all National Football League (NFL) players in 2013 (University of Central Florida<NFL> 18). Since I think sports are mirror reflecting the times, I will research the position of blacks in USA through baseball field.

Visual

This is a big and beautiful
baseball stadium. We can get image
from the official website.

(Source)
Official Chicago White Sox
Website

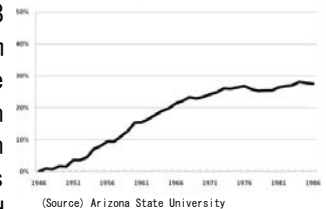


Broader Issues

I will see the time axis direction and the vertical axis direction of sports. The time axis direction means the history of sports and the vertical axis direction means the comparison of each sport in these days.

First, the ratio of blacks in MLB players are gradually increased from since Jackie Robinson played as the first black MLB player in 1946. In 1950' and 1960', African-American Civil Rights Movement spread. As black discrimination is disappeared, many black players succeeded in MLB.

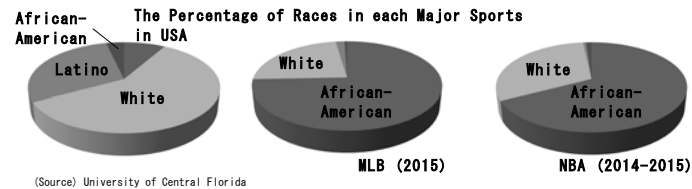
The Change of Blacks in



(Source) Arizona State University

Tomoya Sakata

Second, I consider the differences of black players' ratio among sports. We should go back to the start point



of playing sports to find the cause. Black children in poor area like Bronzeville cannot get expensive equipment and use good condition fields. Baseball needs balls, gloves



butts, helmets and so on. Baseball cannot be played in rough ground. However, basketball needs only a ball and a basket ring. Children can play basketball on concrete grounds.

Also, there is another intriguing reason causing these differences is scholarship. According to New York Times, Students can get only the average of 11.7% scholarships from Division I college baseball programs, but many students receive full basketball or American football scholarships from can get full scholarship since college get more profits in basketball or football. C. C. Sabathia, Yankees' famous pitcher said, "If I had a choice, I would have had to go to college to play football, because my mom couldn' t afford to pay whatever the percent was of my baseball scholarship." It is very sad for African American

Tomoya Sakata

children to give up their dream by poverty, although they had dream of dropping out from poverty. I have image of MLB as American Dream, but the word of American Dream may be fitter to NBA.

We will visit US. Cellular Field on this Friday. I think most spectators may be white people. This is not caused by a simple reason that black people are poor and they cannot buy high price tickets. Some blacks are rich. Moreover, we can find more blacks in United Center which is the home stadium of Chicago Bulls. It is not blacks cannot visit baseball fields, but they will not visit baseball fields. I will watch baseball on this Friday while this fact means the part of American society.

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Alicia Barceinas Cruz

Creating Community Through Art, Music and Craft Beer



Maria's Packaged Goods and Community Bar's facade
Chicago, 2015¹

Location

Bridgeport Neighborhood
960 W. 31st Street

Travel Times from U-Chicago

CTA: 31 min /Car: 16 min / Bike: 31 min

Background

I first went to Maria's this year in a previous visit to Chicago, in the early days of spring. It was the first time I was going out in the city with English-speakers and I was

¹ Photo source: Alicia Barceinas Cruz

Alicia Barceinas Cruz

somehow nervous about me speaking in English and, at the same time, eager to know what Chicagoans do on a Saturday night.

Although it was officially spring, the cold wind was freezing our faces, so we got into Maria's to find some shelter, and, of course, to have some drinks after a 30 minutes walk on the streets of Bridgeport.

I was unprepared for that kind of weather, and therefore, I felt so comfortable when I enter to Maria's liquor store. The first thing you see is an old lady in the cash register, who says "hello" in a low voice and warm demeanor to all the people coming to the store. People from the neighborhood, or more familiar with the place, just walk in, pick up what they want, and say "Hello Maria".

Bridgeport is one of the oldest neighborhoods of Chicago. German and Irish immigrants attracted by the jobs at the Illinois and Michigan Canal founded Bridgeport² as a historically working-class neighborhood. It is well known for being an ethnic village and the home of five Chicago mayors.

Although, Germans, Irish, Polish, Lithuanians and Mexicans are the main ethnic groups living in Bridgeport, the owner of this half liquor store, half neighborhood tavern, Maria Marszewski, is from South Korea³.

Maria is also known in the neighborhood as "Mom" or as "the Peggy Guggenheim of Bridgeport" for her support

² Source: <https://www.uic.edu/orgs/LockZero/IV.html>

³ Source: <http://www.chicagoreader.com/chicago/bar-issue-2015-marias-packaged-goods-maria-marszewski/Content?oid=16832689>

Alicia Barceinas Cruz

of the arts in the neighborhood. Maria's Packaged Goods and Community Bar is a very authentic place where Bridgeport dwellers and other Chicagoans enjoy music, art exhibitions and an extensive craft beer selection amid a truly community environment.

Broader Issues

Maria Marszewski started to run the place in 1986, but in 2010 she decided to hand over the reins of the business to her two sons. Initially, she and her sons were accused of gentrifying the neighborhood. However, as time passed by, people realized that Maria's was a place with a community-based approach. Its goal was to create a space that helped revitalize the neighborhood through the arts.

In addition, Maria's Packaged Goods and Community Bar supports craft beer producers from the entire country. While some people say that the craft beer trend is a *hipster* trend, Maria, the 79-year old owner, proudly states, "we only sell American small brands of craft beer". In fact, the store sells a variety of craft, domestic, and international alcoholic beverages. However, the principal attraction of the place is their selection of local brands of beer.

According to the Brewers Association⁴, an American craft brewer is small, independent, and traditional, provide jobs and support their local communities.

⁴ Source: <https://www.brewersassociation.org/insights/local-beer/>

Alicia Barceinas Cruz



Craft beer selection at Maria's
Chicago, 2015⁵

Although craft beer is becoming more and more popular, they generally remain much lower than the main domestic brews and imports in sales and revenues⁶. Much of this has to do with distribution, and that is why places such as Maria's are so important for the small brands.

⁵ Photo source: Alicia Barceinas Cruz

⁶ Source: <http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2014/04/the-state-of-american-beer/360583/>

Mengxiang Lin

Taste African Culture

Travel Times from Uchicago:

Yassa African Restaurant in Bronzeville: Walk to [Cottage Grove & 55th street], then take No. 4 bus to [35th street & King Drive] (~20min). Yassa Restaurant is near the bus stop.

Background:

Yassa Restaurant is a African Restaurant in Bronzeville. The word “Yassa” is also the name of a spicy marinated African food originated from Senegal. Bronzeville is a Black Motropolis area in Chicago with about 95 percent Black residents. Most people there think Yassa is the best restaurant in Bronzeville. I was first attracted by Yassa because of its African phenomenon and I wanted to try some African-style things. I like the beverage there. You can hardly find Bissap and Baobab in other normal restaurants in Chicago and they taste pretty good. The Yassa food like lamb and fish are also nice, but the Yassa fish may be too spicy for me. In a word, Yassa is the nice place to have a try.

Mengxiang Lin

Visual:



Figure 1-3: Yassa's indoor decoration: African Style
(photos from Mengxiang Lin)

Mengxiang Lin



Figure 4-6: Yassa drink & food. The top left is Yassa fish, the top right is Yassa Lamb while the bottom left is Bassap and Bottom right is Baobab. (photos from Tomoya Sakata & Mengxiang Lin)

Mengxiang Lin

Broader Issues:

What Yassa Restaurant sells is more like the African culture rather than the food and drink. As a African Restaurant, Yassa features a distinct African style. Upon entering the door one will see a big African map (see Figure 1). The African decoration there (see Figure 2-3) reinforce the phenomenon of Native Africa again. As for the food and drink, needless to say, are African specialty. The beverages there are all made from Native African plants.

Blacks like Yassa since it is African Restaurant – they regard Yassa as spiritual home, they can find the identification as African there; others are attracted by Yassa since it is African Restaurant – they want to try something different. It is hard to imagine that Yassa will be so popular if they also sell normal American food there. It is the African culture that give Yassa Restaurant the place of Bronzeville's signboard.

Parking Legally In Chicago



Parking ticket, 2013

Photo Source: uptownmagazine.com

Location

Kenwood Neighborhood

Travel time form UChicago

Bus 21 min / Bike 8 min / Car 7 min / walking 28 min

Background

For convenience and safety reason, owning or renting a car are commonly considered choices for many people who live in America or decide to live in America. Due to the low population density of America, many living facilities are loosely spread and hard to achieve. The poor public security makes things worse. As a result, the number of registered cars in America rises to 253,639,386 in 2012^[1], while the population is 314.1 million at that time^[2]. Nearly 5 people in 6 own a car. Therefore, here comes a question. How and where can I park my car?

I am one of those who decide to drive in America before came here. That is why I walk around in South Side and Kenwood neighborhood to find suitable parking places.

Broader Issues

There are two kind of parking in Chicago, paid parking and unpaid parking. Fortunately, the streets in Kenwood and South Side are free to park. The cars are parked in a line near the walkway. There is one thing need to be remembered that it is

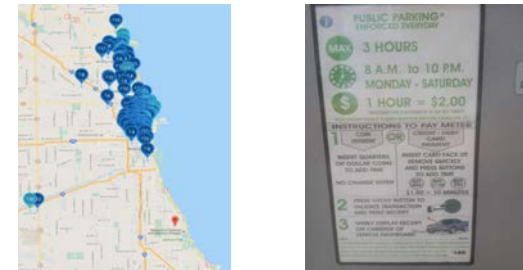
not allowed to park in the area near the crossroads. A sign will be seen near a crossroads shown in the figure below. Parking in the area pointed by the arrow in the sign is not allowed, otherwise the owner of the car will receive a ticket and has to pay \$60 parking fine^[3].



Free car parking in the road

Photo taken on 07-Sep-2015 2pm at Kenwood

There are places in Chicago where the Parking is not free; most of them are in downtown. The car can be parked in the street for 3 hours at most. The parking fee is \$2 per hour. The parking is free on Sunday. It shows that the car density at downtown is much higher than the surroundings of Hyde Park. Though the total amount of car is high in Chicago, the parking demand is not that urgent. And the parking demand in downtown also reduces on Sunday.



Picture Source

Parkwhiz Chicago Parking

<http://www.parkwhiz.com/p/hyde-park-chicago-il-parking/map/>

Photo Taken in 30-Aug-2015 5pm at Little Italy

Reference

- [1] Data from National Transportation Statistics
- [2] Data from U.S. Census Bureau
- [3] Data from City of Chicago
http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/fin/supp_info/rvenue/general_parking_ticketinformation/violations.html

Difficulties as a foreigner becoming a Chicagoan: “Get an electricity bill on your name”, the challenge.

Travel Times from UChicago

Neighborhood: Back of the Yards

Time to get there:

36 minutes by bus

31 minutes by bike

20 minutes by car

Background

At the time you arrive to Chicago you are definitely very enthusiastic about starting as soon as possible your life as a new Chicagoan.

The experience to find a place to live from abroad for us was such a challenge. It is hard to find a place to live for the next 2 years just by seeing pictures on the internet.

At the time we arrived to Chicago we thought it was all set up. But the truth was different.

We had a place to sleep, yes, but not a real home. We needed to do a lot of things before we could call that place “home”. One of the most important: get your electricity bill on your name before you run out of light!

Mayra Quinonez

Our building gave us specific instructions about what we had to do to make this happen. We thought it wouldn't take a lot of time to do such a task, so I volunteered to do it myself while my roommates make some other important things.

I called the electricity company to change the name of our bill and found out that, as a foreigner (or someone who has not a SSN), you cannot do this changes by phone.

The lady at the company told me that I had to go to an address (which she gave me) with two IDs so they could corroborate my identity and put the bill under my name.

I decided to go right away to the address given which was in a neighborhood called Back of the Yards. As a rookie in the city I guided my way with Google Maps and a lot of patience. I took two buses to get there and as I was getting closer to the place I began thinking that maybe the company sent me to that office just because I pressed 2 when asked if I preferred to speak with a Spanish speaking operator.

That was mini Mexico. All you could read around was written in Spanish. You could see any kind of Mexican shops and services. Unbelievable.

At the moment I arrived to the address given there was nothing except a Walgreens and a PLS/Western Union office. I started walking around to find the place without having luck. I called

Mayra Quinonez

the electricity company to ask them how the office should look like and after a 10 minutes call the guy told me that "he believed" that it might be at the PLS office. "Believe". Really?

I got inside just to find out that "there was no service for ComEd since 2 days ago". They sent me to another office. Apparently you could go to any office of PLS in the city. We had to go to another unknown place far away the day after. At the end of the day it wasn't that easy as I thought it would be.

Visual



There you are. Google says that you just arrived to your destination. 47th and Western Ave. Where is the ComEd office? Let's walk around to find it!
(Picture taken from Google Maps street view)

Mayra Quinonez

Broader issue

Is it really that hard to make a simple process in this city just because you don't have a SSN?

This is just one case of many that people from around the world face when arriving to live to a US city even if their migratory status is in order.

Even though Chicago has the fifth highest foreign-born population in the United States according to findings of the Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings, policies related to *every single day activities* for foreigners are restrictive.

The fact that a foreigner has to make so many extra efforts in order to get established in a US city could be even considered as a discriminatory practice. These discriminatory practices should be vanished.

It should be a topic on the city's agenda to provide easier alternatives for people who don't work but live in Chicago.

As a city full of colleges and universities which receive students from around the world every year, an adjustment in the requirements by different services companies should be made.

Paul Quaintance

A Gap in the Boundary

Locations and Travel Times

- The Chicago Portage National Historic Site
4800 Harlem Ave, Forest View, IL 60402
CTA: 1.5 hrs **Bike:** 1.25 hr **Car:** 23 min
- East End of Chicago Portage
3100 W. 31st, Little Village/South Lawndale
CTA: 55 min **Bike:** 46 min **Car:** 19 min
- Mud Lake
41°48'01.6"N 87°47'22.4"W
CTA: 1.5 hrs **Bike:** 1 hr **Car:** 26 min

Background: The swampy land that was to become Chicago sat directly upon the hydrological divide between the Mississippi River and Great Lakes/St. Lawrence River watersheds, connecting the region by water to the Great Northwest and the Gulf and Atlantic coasts. The original location of the portage, a boggy channel known as Mud Lake, once stretched for miles between the Des Plaines River and the South Branch of the Chicago River. Known to the Native Americans and early European explorers, the seasonally wet, dry or frozen lowland is the nexus of Chicago's identity as a transportation and commercial hub. Industrial parks, railroads and highways now cover Mud Lake, but Portage historian Philip Vierling suggests that a relic of our ancestral bog remains. To see for myself, I decided

Paul Quaintance

to take a pilgrimage to the murky waters from which the city sprang.

I sought Mud Lake on a tiny sliver of undeveloped, un-drained land between the rail yards, the Stevenson Expressway, and 51st Street.

Ignoring signs announcing *no*

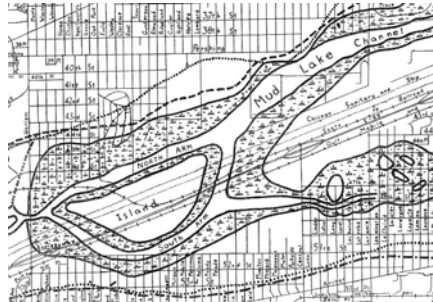
trespassing and *danger*, I made my way through a wrought iron fence and headed north, crossing the



Above: A comfortably sized hole in the fence on the north side of 51st

adjacent field into a small copse of trees. Inside, I bore east. The ground sloped down slightly, and I found myself in a low, muddy

Below: Philip E. Vielring's map showing the where Mud Lake would lie relative to 1973 Chicago (source: digitalcollections.library.cmu.edu)



Paul Quaintance

trough. Could this depression hold the same mud that once bridged the gap between the Mississippi River and Great Lakes/St. Lawrence River watersheds? Could this be where an ambitious speculator first envisioned the American Midwest's commercial capital?



Left: Looking west down the trough.

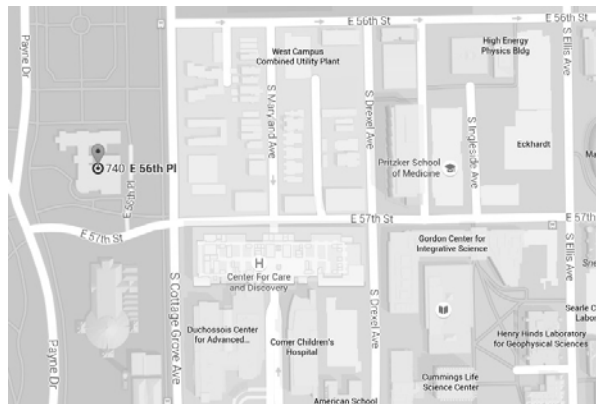
Broader Issues: In 1848, the completion of the Illinois Michigan Canal simultaneously fully exploited and rendered obsolete the geographical advantages of the Chicago Portage. The succession of new technologies and engineering feats has abstracted the identities of Chicago and its people still further from their origins. Exploring the Portage is an opportunity to reflect upon the primacy of natural boundaries—those between watersheds, say—over societal boundaries and to reconnect with the land whose contours the course of humankind has forever followed.

Xiaoqian Wan

Father of Chicago, Pride in African-Americans

Location: DuSable Museum, 740 East 56th Place

Travel Times from UChicago: 10-min walking distance



Source: Google Maps

Background

It will be difficult for you to get into someone when you gain the stereotype of them before doing some real personal talks. This was the first thing in my mind when everyone around me kept reminding me of the danger

Xiaoqian Wan

around Hyde Park. When I was waiting for the bus one day at the station, I began a small chat with some African-American young people by asking them the meaning of the tattoo they've got on the body. Then, I asked them frankly about the danger of the neighborhood. What surprised me was that they were quite aware of the stigma people hold to them and they themselves also needed to be cautious about the potential danger from the gangsters around.



The DuSable Museum; Source: www.chicagotraveler.com

Xiaoqian Wan

“The police just don’t care about us. But you are well protected here. The police will be suspicious when they see me talking to you or walking with you. But not all black people are bad guys, you know.” “We are good but you are not supposed to talk to the dangerous ones.” “After all, we were once the slaves when we were taken to this land.”

I learned about the DuSable Museum from one of them. Can you just imagine how proud he was when he talked about DuSable, the father of Chicago, was actually an African-American? This greatly intrigued my curiosity, mixed with sympathy and a sense of powerlessness facing the problem of racial problems that was like a dead end to Americans.

Broader Issues:

Xiaoqian Wan

There’s a song called “The Father of Chicago” on the website of DuSable Museum, in which people address



Dusable’s first arrival to the city and how he built up the business as well as restoring peace with the Potawatomi tribes. Interestingly what he did hundreds of years ago is related in the song to the poverty of current vulnerable groups in the society and the intense between people from different ethnic background. **What is important here is not what DuSable actually did years ago but how he is remembered and honored by the people and the city now. What matters is how people are actively shaping the historical stories in order to convey their attitude toward current issues.**

Museums are places more than for knowledge and history,

Xiaoqian Wan

but for collective memory and cultural identity. People give credit to DuSable as the founder of the city and relate him to African-American history. Those products actually have become symbols for African-Americans to identify themselves, which can be a good way to deal with stigma given by others and build up confidence. And for non-African-Americans, a visit to the museum can remind people of African-American history and how things happen today that shall never be oversimplified or taken for granted. It's better for a city that was built upon the mixture of culture to have a more inclusive system.

Aaron Junlong Zhou

**Being a positive minority in U.S.
What can we learn from African American in Politics?**

Location:

DuSable Museum of African American History, 740 E. 56th Place, Chicago IL 60637

Travel Details from UChicago:

Walking: 7 min; **By Car:** 3 min; **By Bike:** 5 min

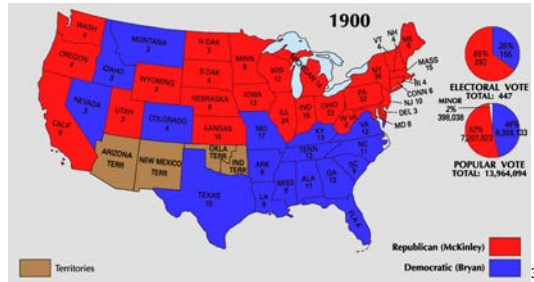
Background:

When we look back on the history of Chicago and also the history of party politics in United States of America, we will easily find a sharp transition in distribution of Democratic Party and Republican Party. The City of Chicago, which used to be a loyal friend of Republican Party, transferred into a *headquarter* of Democratic Party

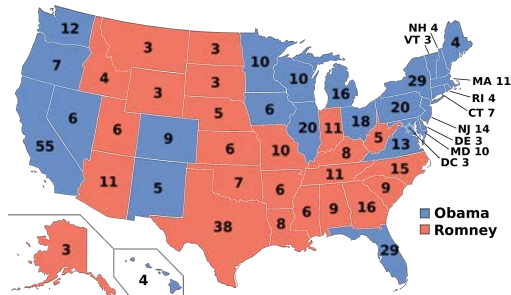


in a short time. It will be very interesting for us to investigate the reason of this transition.

Aaron Junlong Zhou



President Election in 1900



President Election in 2012

First, we should understand the founding of both parties. The Democratic Party evolved from the Jeffersonian Republican or Democratic-Republican Party organized by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison in opposition to the Federalist party of Alexander Hamilton and John Adams. The party favored republicanism, a weak federal

³ From <http://history.stackexchange.com/questions/16584/what-evidence-is-there-that-english-political-divisions-from-the-1600s-are-repl>

⁴ From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electoral_College_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electoral_College_(United_States))

Aaron Junlong Zhou

government, states' rights, agrarian interests (especially Southern planters) and strict adherence to the Constitution; it opposed a national bank, close ties to Great Britain, and business and banking interests. That party, the Democratic-Republican Party, came to power in the election of 1800. But after the War of 1812, the Federalists virtually disappeared and the Jeffersonian party split into factions⁵. In 1854, disappointed at the Kansas-Nebraska Act, anti-slavery Democrats left the party and joined Northern Whigs (a separated fraction of DRP) to form the Republican Party. The Republican Party was based on northern white Protestants, businessmen, small business owners, professionals, factory workers, farmers, and African-Americans. It was pro-business, supporting banks, the gold standard, railroads, and high tariffs to protect factory workers and grow industry faster⁶.

Broader Issues

Being a minority in U.S. is a task that every international student will encounter with at the very first stage. What we need to do is not only just study, but also fight for our rights, like majority. However, what we can do still remains a question, and the transition of party distribution shows us what African American have achieved.

This transition was taking place in 1960s. But actually, it just another wave after the New Deal, which paid more attention to minorities, lower social classes, and etc. And the *Civil Rights Act of 1964* made the African American people becoming pro Democratic Party.

After looking back on the history, we find out that African

⁵ From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Party_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States))

⁶ From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republican_Party_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States))

Aaron Junlong Zhou

American plays a significant role in American politics. The slavery is one main dispute between Democratic and Republican. As a result, African American got their voting right to some extent, and Republican did have dominance in senate, house and government for some decades after the *Civil War*. African Americans contributed this.

But that's not enough, since African Americans did not have the real equal rights as Whites, and their economic status remained at the button of whole society.

Political Party needs votes, and thusly the weapon African Americans can use is putting pressure on these parties to attract their attention and policy priority via voting choice. The following civil rights movement is absolutely an example of how African American playing a positive role in fighting for their rights, and attracting Democratic's attention. Thusly, the transition in party distribution is a result of Civil Rights movement.

Specifically in Chicago City, *The Great Migrations* brought hundreds of thousands of blacks from the South to Chicago, where they became an urban population⁷. In this area, African American did have unionized political power, to seize more rights, and I believe that is also a reason for Chicago becoming a *headquarter* of Democratic.

That is to say, African American's efforts on fighting for more rights did paid off after decades. This effort contains united consciousness, self-recognition, and efforts in their own job.

If we want to be a not marginalized minority person in U.S., we do need to learn a lesson from African American's history, always being a positive one in fighting for rights and in work.

⁷ From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_African_Americans_in_Chicago

Love and Hatred

Toward a Special Neighbor in Hyde Park

Location:

Valois Restaurant

1518 E 53rd St, Chicago, IL 60615



Above: Valois Restaurant (Source: me)

Travel Details (from UChicago)

By Bike: 15 minutes

By Car: 5 minutes

Background:

“Can you see it? The black billboard. That is the restaurant President Obama always had breakfast.”

An airport shuttle driver, the first Chicagoan I met, became an Obama tour-guide as soon as we entered the Hyde Park area. The shuttle bus ran its way through downtown and Lake Michigan, and there was only him and I left. I was a little bit nervous in a new town, but on a hot sunny summer day, everything looked shiny and nice. On top of that, his explanation added a special mood on it. The shuttle driver, who has lived in south Chicago for his whole life, seemed like being fond of Obama.

“True or not, people says Obama had his first kiss at outside of that Baskin Robbins, next to the restaurant. And that is the house of the president’s family – they come and stay there about 3 to 4 times a year. Who knows? Maybe you can see him someday on your way home.”



Above: Obama is ordering breakfast at Valois Restaurant (Source: www.democraticunderground.com)

Just like he said, I actually found an article that Mr. Obama ate “two over bacon, hash brown, wheat toast, a cup of hot tea” for a breakfast at this restaurant on 23 May 2014. In my opinion, this restaurant shows well Obama's celebrity presidency. Even though some people use the word ‘celebrity’ to mock Obama, it is hard to deny that he is admired and adorned around the world. It is because not only he became a president of the U.S. from scratch, but he is also a symbol of hope, change and racial equality. Therefore, it is no wonder that people in this area feel close to him and have high expectation when their neighbor became a special president

like him; his approval rate was up to 83% in Chicago when he first took the office. Moreover, to many newcomers including me, it could be an attractive chance to visit Valois and select the menu from “President Favorite” to feel that they’re sitting at the same place and eating the same thing with Obama.

Broader Issues:

Even though Obama was (and still is to some extent) a hope to some African-Americans, there were also some articles that Black residents in Chicago expressed their discontent toward Obama. It was hard to find the specific reason for these, and I think it is also not easy to evaluate right now whether Obama administrative policies were biased, giving advantage to white people. However, one hypothesis can be possible; some black people had high expectations toward him and it was not be easy to satisfy them.

Although Chicago is one of the most international cities, it is also one of the most segregated city in the U.S. This

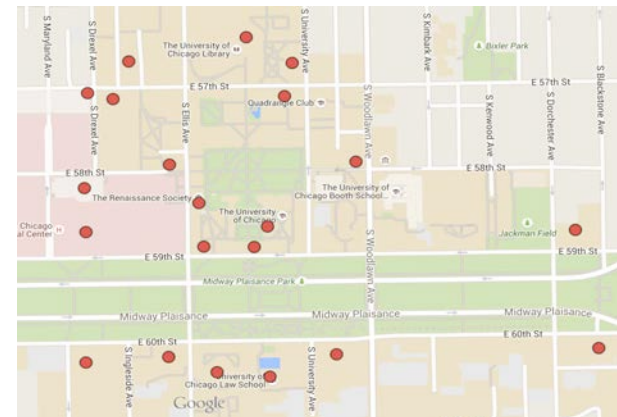
segregation appears in many forms: difference in education systems, job opportunities, level of security, etc. If black Chicagoans are furious toward Obama, it might not have only been his own fault, but the city’s negligence toward racial inequality also turned the love into hatred.

Kohei Matsumoto

train. People just sit back, reading newspaper, talking with colleagues, or sometimes just sleeping. We generally drink coffee inside a café, chatting with friends for a couple of hours.

Travel Time from UChicago: You may need within 5 minutes on foot to reach nearest café when you are in campus.

Fig. 1 Locations of Cafeterias and Starbucks on campus



Soon I noticed that many of them were holding a large bottle of coffee. We Japanese also love coffee, but usually we don't choose such a large bottle. Moreover, it is quite rare in Japan that people drink coffee on the

Kohei Matsumoto

After arriving at UChicago, I also saw many students walking around the campus with a large coffee bottle in their hand. In the Fig.1, you can see places where you can get a cup of coffee on campus. Surely coffee tells us one aspect of American culture.

Broader Issues: Many people are worried about how coffee intake affects our health. According to a recent research, following 229,119 men and 173,141 women in the National Institute of Health in New York between 1995 and 2008, coffee intake was positively associated with mortality, but it was negatively associated with mortality after adjustment for smoking status (Freedman et al. 2012). In 2015, a team of National

Kohei Matsumoto

Cancer Center in Japan announced that, after following 90,914 Japanese men and women for 18.7 years on average, it found that coffee intake actually has a negative relations with major causes of death, such as cancer, heart disease, and cerebrovascular disease (Saito et al. 2015). It seems that we need not be too much worried about its effects on our health.

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- Saito, E., Inoue, M., Sawada, N., Shimazu, T., Yamaji, T., Iwasaki, M., ... & Tsugane, S. (2015). Association of coffee intake with total and cause-specific mortality in a Japanese population: the Japan Public Health Center-based Prospective Study. *The American journal of clinical nutrition*, ajcn104273.

Finding Chicago

HIROSHI AKAI

Distance from UChicago

10 minutes by foot

Place/ Phenomena

Subway, one of the most popular fast-food chain restaurants in the world, is located on 57th street in Hydepark.

Background

I live in International House, located in 59th street. In the morning, I go to Subway to have breakfast almost every day, because it is near the International House, cooking is troublesome and I can have healthful food at a low price. Do you know Subway serves specific sandwiches at 3 dollars?

Visual



HIROSHI AKAI

Broader Issues

One day, I realized one thing- Subway has got much more popular than 7 years ago. When I was a college student, 7 years ago, I traveled to America. At that time, there were few Subways and there were few people in there, while McDonald's was so crowded. On the other hand, today, we can find Subway easily and it is so popular among not only elderly people but also young ones.



HIROSHI AKAI

Here, I want to talk about the change of food preference of people in the world. I think people today are defecting for healthier options such as Subway or Chipotle and reluctant to choose junk-food, including a lot of oil and salt, such as hamburgers of McDonald's. In fact, the profit of McDonald's is shrinking these days as the graph below shows.



HIROSHI AKAI



So, in my conclusion, the reason of Subway becoming more popular is that people are much more aware of their health and they tend to choose Subway rather than McDonald's. And, in terms of Public Policy, it can be said that the change of food preference is desirable because the Government of America might be able to reduce medical bill in the future.

Youpeng Zhong

Food Trucks in the University of Chicago

Location

University of Chicago campus, along S Ellis Avenue

Travel Times from UChicago

By walk: a few minutes

Background: As a new student at the University of Chicago, finding a proper restaurant to eat lunch or dinner is not easy for me. Then I fell love in food trucks. They park in S Ellis Avenue every working day from about 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and sell different kinds of delicious food at an affordable price.

There are several dining places on the campus of the University of Chicago. However, most of them are closed during summer vacation. This brings inconvenience to the teachers and students since many of them need to work in the campus during the vacation. There are several restaurants near the campus in Kenwood Avenue and 57th Street which are open during the vacation, but it's a little too far to walk there . So this creates the opportunity for the food trucks. They park on the roadside along S Ellis Avenue and sell different kinds of delicious food at low prices. People with tight schedule don't have to spend too much time on lunch because the food trucks are very easy to access.

Youpeng Zhong



Left: People are waiting to buy lunch from food trucks along the S Ellis Avenue (credited by author).

Right: The Chicago City Council rolled on Food Truck Ordinance on July 25, 2012 (from *Chicago City Council Ready to Roll on Food Truck Ordinance Today*, <http://mobile-cuisine.com>).

Broader issues: Chicago has struggled for years to develop fair food truck rules. Before 2012, “food truck operators are only allowed to sell food packaged in a commercial kitchen and park in metered spaces that are 200 feet from a retail food establishment.” But on July 25, 2012, Chicago City Council approves mobile food ordinance to expand food truck industry across Chicago, allowing food truck operators to prepare and cook onboard and park for free throughout the city. “Food truck operators will now be permitted to prepare ‘food to order’ on board their trucks and have the opportunity to park for free in newly created ‘food truck stands’ in highly congested areas as well as legal metered spaces that are 200 feet from a retail food establishment.” (from Chicago Food Truck Ordinance). Obviously, the 200 feet parking restriction aims to

Youpeng Zhong

protect the interests of brick-and-mortar restaurants. Many food truck vendors have complaint about this restriction, “ ‘This is devastating for the food trucks, devastating for consumers who will not be able to get what they want to eat where they want it and it's devastating for an industry when government starts protecting one business over another’, said Tiffany Kurtz, owner of the Flirty Cupcake food truck.” Although not fully accepted by the vendors, the new Ordinance helps the city catch up to others across the U.S. that have hundreds more food trucks than the few dozen operating in Chicago. “Fifty other cities have figured out a way to go forward on food trucks and brick-and-mortar (restaurants),” Mayor Rahm Emanuel said. “Chicago is known as the Second City and I just wanted to be sure we weren't known as the 52nd city.” (from *Chicago Food Trucks: City Council Overwhelmingly Approves Mayor's Ordinance*, <http://www.huffingtonpost.com>).

Tools To Be Hygienic

Location:

Between 54th East Street and 55th East Street.
On the South Shore Drive.
Besides the Sea View Park.

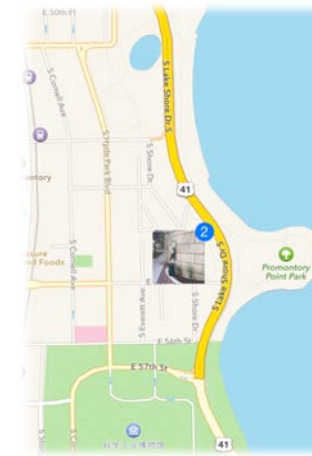


Fig1. The map of the station

Photo Source: Jill Yang

Travel Times from UChicago:

Walk: 30 min / Bike: 12 min

Background:

Many families in the Chicago have pets. Since I arrived at my apartment, I have met different people walking their dogs on the beach, in the park or on the streets. I was so afraid of stepping on pet waste that I always kept staring at the ground while walking. But I



Fig 2. Pet Waste Station
Photo Source: Jill Yang

didn't see any of it, even in the grass. One morning, I ran to the beach and that was the first time when I saw a pet waste station on the street. It is a simple device with all items a pet owner may need to use when cleaning the waste. There is a round garbage can under the box that contains small plastic bags and a sign encouraging dog owners to use this

station to dispose waste to keep the area clean. It caught my eyes as I hadn't seen such devices before in China

Pets like dogs and cats are very popular around world. Based on the [2012 U.S. Pet Ownership & Demographics Sourcebook](#), the total number of dogs in United States is 69,926,000. There are 43,346,000 of them owned by families. Each family owns 1.6 dogs on average. Based on *The Nest*¹, there are about 26.8 million dogs in China, my homeland. Because China has almost five times more population than United States, average number of dogs owned by one Chinese family is lower than in the U.S. Still, I saw dog waste in Chinese streets even in big cities. Since removing dog waste properly is a health and environment related issue, I think pet waste station like this could help dog owners to be more responsible.

Broader Issues

On one hand, it is really hard for environmental protection agencies or animal management agencies to punish pet owners who don't pick up pet waste. On the other hand, inappropriate waste disposal could cause significant pollution. There is a common sense that one of the applicable ways to solve this problem is to increase public awareness. But this suggestion can't be separated into step-by-step directions. There are other suggestions about punishing dog owners who fail to pick up dog waste

¹ <http://pets.thenest.com/number-dogs-cats-households-worldwide-8973.html>

Jill Yang

and dispose it properly. Adopting high technology is a way, such as collecting and testing dogs DNA samples from their waste to identify dog owners. However the cost of it is too high and it's also hard to require every dog owner to register their dog's DNA information.

In China, many cities have regulations about requiring pet owners to pick up pet waste in public place while many people just simply ignore them. Then, Chinese people take this as a moral issue, condemning pet owners who do not pick up pet waste as irresponsible and selfish people. In fact, that didn't solve the problem. After I saw this device, I started thinking that maybe in order to ask people to behave in a certain way, we need to provide tools and conditions to encourage and allow people to do it. If we want to wait till everyone to be civil and self-discipline enough to carry bags when they walk their dogs and hold dog waste for a long time before they can dispose it, we may have to suffer from a poor environment for a longtime.

Social progress is a process, and it usually comes later than economic development. Developing countries like China, are experiencing tremendous leaps in economic development in the past several decades, but it is hard to require everyone to adopt a same pace of social development. We need to accept this fact and manage to find other ways to promote public awareness.

He Ma

From “Study, Study, Study” to “Study, Socialize, Sleep” --At the Barbecue Parties along the Lake

Location

Lakeshore of Michigan Lake, near Promontory Point
Hyde Park

Travel Times from UChicago

By walk: 10-20 minutes

Background:

Can you imagine there is a wonderful outdoor place for barbecue parties near the campus? If you are an Asian student, like me, who spent almost all the academic years dealing with countless homework assignments and deadlines, you will definitely be surprised by these weird stone pits which seem to be specifically designed for barbecues.

These barbecue pits are just located around the Promontory Point. During summer evenings, a lot of people, enchanted by the magic of these mysterious stones, decide to offer sacrifices to them. Sacrifices usually include meats, spices and beers; the followers, in turn, get jubilation as reward.



Photo of a stone barbecue pit, captured by author.

He Ma

According to my observations, there are two kinds of faithful followers of the barbecue pits. Foodies and party students. Foodies' beliefs are relatively simple: they come in group of two or three and everything in their mind is how to cook delicious barbecues.

Students certainly know more about how to take full advantage of the stones. Except those tempting roast meat, nothing can be more enjoyable than a wonderful party of a dozen of close friends. Sitting around the fire in the stones, waiting for incoming food, watching the beautiful scenery of the lake, chatting with best friends, or even just playing on cell phone around the fire is a precious and unforgettable experience. When the party reaches its climax, students will turn on a loud music player, play a vibrant song and sing together. I personally never understood what they are singing, but probably you can, if you are more familiar with American students' campus culture.



Photo of a barbecue party around the stones, captured by author.

He Ma

Broader issues:

As was mentioned before: for people who come from a culture where the three most important things for students are “study, study and study”, they will probably have no idea why American students have time and mood to play sports every day, practice instruments for hours and hours, and holding barbecue parties. Intrinsically, party is perhaps a part of American campus culture. By observing those parties, one can see many aspects of American students' lives.

How do American students have time to hold barbecue party? It might be largely due to the diversity of values and pursuits of American education. There is a joke about the difference between American students and Asian students' evaluation of their grades. For American students, “A” means awesome; “B”: good; “C”: average; “D”: can be better; “F”: need to take the course again... For Asian students, “A”: average; “B”: below average; “C”: can't eat dinner; “D”: don't go home; “F”: find a new family... From the joke one can tell that the grades of courses are not that important for American students; therefore they have more freedom to participate in extracurricular activities and enjoy what they really enjoy (e.g. a Friday-night barbecue party).

Why are many American students fans of partying? The answer might partly lie in the expectation for American students to be “social”. American students usually say that being a student is to balance 3 “S”s:

Nuannuan Xiang

He Ma

“Study, Socialize and Sleep” (contrast to “Study, Study and Study” in many Asian countries). The ability to socialize with other students is recognized as equally important as studying. Under this environment, American students are more willing to spend their time with friends and classmates, even in doing some “useless” things considered by Asians.

Finally, from American student’s singing and dancing during the barbecue parties, one can find that American students, in general, are more open and willing to express themselves. This may consist in US’s national character, where people value direct communication and expression of individual’s feelings.

Summary:

There are wonderful barbecue stones along the lake! Not only can you cook your own roast meat there, you can also meet many interesting people around the stones, especially those students of UChicago. By observing those students you can get some intuitional experience of American students’ campus lives, and the culture behind it.

Reaching A Great Point



Promontory Point

Photo source: [Flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/chicago8c/), uploaded by user *chicago8c*

Location

Promontory Point Park
5454 S Shore Dr, Chicago, IL 60615

Travel Times from UChicago

Bus: 16mins / Car: 16mins / Walk: 24mins

Background

I like running. It's my favorite way of relaxing. After settling down in Chicago, the first thing I did is to find a place to run. Firstly, it should not be a gym. A Running machine to me is as boring as a cage to a squirrel. Secondly, there should not be too much traffic or crossroads. It's very

Nuannuan Xiang

annoying to be stopped frequently by a red light or a rushing car. Finally and most importantly, my route must be safe. Running alone in an isolated area in Chicago is unwise. After one week's exploration of Hyde Park neighborhood, I found a perfect place satisfying all my requirements listed above, which is, Promontory Point Park! Or you can just call it, the Point!

Just as its name indicates, Promontory Point is a small peninsula point stretching into Lake Michigan. It is located between about 54th and 56th Streets east of Lake Shore Drive. You can go into the park either via an underpass at 55th Street, or via a bike trail linked to Lake Shore Drive. In the west part of the Point, there is a small fountain named David Wallach Memorial Fountain. It's a bless for people and their pets (most of the time dogs) in the park. People can drink water in the upper part and pets can lick water in the lower part. This is also a bonus for runners as the fountain relieves a heavy burden of bringing water all along the way.



David Wallach Memorial Fountain
Source: hydepark.org

Nuannuan Xiang

There are many other reasons that make the Point a perfect place for running. As the 3-D map below shows, the route in the park likes a standard athletic track surrounded by all kinds of green plants. The length of the largest circle is about one kilometer, which makes it very convenient to count how far away you have run. If you are tired of the running on the same road, just try those little paths cutting across the lawn. It would be fun. You will never be a lonely runner here. Whenever morning or afternoon, sunny or rainy, there will always be people there running, walking, playing, thinking or doing nothing.

3-D Map of Promontory Point Park
Source: Apple Map

Although the Point is a very safe place for runners, you still need watch out when running in the west part. Remember I have mentioned that there is a bike trail subject to Lake Shore Drive in the entrance? Bikers riders hardly dismount when they go into the park, although there are signs requiring so. Actually I was once nearly hit by a super fast bike. Anyway it is not a big disadvantage. You just need to be more careful.

Nuannuan Xiang

Of course runners are not the only users of the park. It is also a popular wedding site. People get married here every weekend. There are also many barbecue pits available here, which makes it a great place for family and friends gathering. Swim is also allowed in the park.

Broader Issues

Starting In 2001, there has been a plan to repair the Point revetment. However, some users of the park resisted the plan because they thought part of the revetment did not need to be replaced. The process of solving the problem is



a good illustration of how government branches, representative institutions, nongovernment organizations, and individuals interacting with each other in governing public affairs.

Institutions involved are: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Chicago Park District (CPD), The community Task Force for Promontory Point, the Office of U. S. Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. and the Office of U. S. Senator Barack Obama. In detail, the ACOE offered funding and made a repairing plan; the CPD, a subordinate to Chicago City government, is in-charge of the park ; the Task Force is a civil organization of users of

Nuannuan Xiang

the Point; Congressman Jackson, Jr and Senator Obama support the Task Force. Through open and private meeting of different parts involved, the controversy over the repairing plan was gradually settled down.

The Evocative Point

Travel Times from UChicago

The Promontory Point is located at the very east end of 55th Street in Hyde Park neighborhood. This means that the Promontory Point is just a short walking distance away from the University of Chicago main campus. If you are reaching there from the Main Quadrangles, all you have to do is just to go along 55th Street all the way to the lake Michigan. It will take you around 30 minutes to get to the tranquil and one of the most picturesque places in Chicago.

Background

When I was flying over the lake Michigan on my way to O'Hare International airport, I was amazed by the vast mass of water stretching as far as my eyes could see. I grew up in the largest land locked country in the world with no access to the ocean, and in my first impression the lake appeared as big as a sea. Next day I decided to have a closer look at the lake from the famous Promontory Point. According to the Lonely Planet guide, the Promontory Point is considered one of the "Chicago's Hidden Gems". And once I went through the under-path of S. Lake Shore Drive, the Point's reputation of the "Hidden Gem" was immediately justified. Out of the busy city with all its hustle and bustle, I got into the lush green scenery of a peaceful haven. The park was quite yet not desolate with joggers, cyclists, dog-walkers and barbecue-families evenly distributed throughout the park. The Field House nestled on a green piece of land jutting out into the water was creating a charmingly bucolic environment. As for me, I headed straight to the water after descending the giant stone steps. One thing

that stroke me straight away and that is not normally expected to happen near a large metropolitan area, was the lake's crystal-clear water. I could nearly see the bottom of the lake. And of course, there was that "Gem" of the Point, a breathtaking view of both the downtown skyline and the lake. The view of the south side of the Promontory Point from the 57th Street beach reminded of an island in the Mediterranean Sea, which I once visited as a little boy with my family. This evocative view is particularly pleasing to me as distant a representation of a happy light-hearted childhood.

Visuals



South Side of the Point: Photo credit to Vladislav Kamysbayev

Description: View of the Promontory Point from the sandy 57th Street Beach. The photo captures the characteristic limestone blocks of the Point arranged in a series of steps leading to the green esplanade.

Vladislav Kamysbayev



Downtown Skyline: Photo credit to Vladislav Kamysbayev

Broader Issues

The Promontory Point was built in 1930s as a part of project to improve Burnham Park.¹ Although its partially eroded revetment was repaired more than 50 years ago in the early 1960s, this repair still stands today. However, like in all big cities, such naturalistic landscapes and historic monuments such as the Point might face renovation or even permanent destruction. The Point has already been at the brink of irrevocable renovation in 2001, when the city officials decided to replace the original lime stone revetment with concrete and steel.² Fortunately, Hyde Park residents reacted very negatively to this proposal and eventually it was rejected. The Point example is an exception of the general practice of destroying rather than preserving historical landmark in such vibrant and constantly changing cities as Chicago. City officials and local governments have to realize that preserving historical sights is

Vladislav Kamysbayev

not about “saving some ancient bricks” but saving layers of stories from our past. With modern construction practices quickly spreading all over the globe, historic landmarks are becoming modern cities’ hallmarks that make their architectural styles unique.

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2. Hyde Park Progress:

<http://hydeparkprogress.blogspot.com/2008/01/timeline-of-promontory-point.html> Last visited: 09/06/2015

Zewei Chu

The Stealing View

Location:

Harold Washington Playlot Park (Hyde Park)

Travel Time from UChicago:

By Car: 7 min

By Bike: 7 min

By CTA: 15 min

By Walk: 27 min

Background:

Harold Washington Playlot Park is a greenland near Twin Towers, where I have stayed for two weeks, and plan to live for the next few years during my study at The University of Chicago. I enjoy visiting the park in the morning, at dusk, and on weekends, watching people walking their dogs on the trail, squirrels climbing the trees, and friends enjoying their time on the greenland. Sometimes I sit on the swinging seat in the playground for an hour and feel so relaxed as if all these things worrying me in my life are not so annoying at that moment.



Zewei Chu

“Don’t you feel that we are in the paradise?” said my friend Zhiying when we were walking on a beach near La Jolla Shore Drive, San Diego two years ago. The sunshine on the beach, surrounded by green trees, grass and the pure blue pacific ocean creates an unbelievable view, like a scene that could only exist in a dream.

Now I feel the same again in Harold Washington Playlot Park. The grassland, the trees, the squirrels, the dogs and the people, they all fit together harmoniously, and this is how paradise feels.

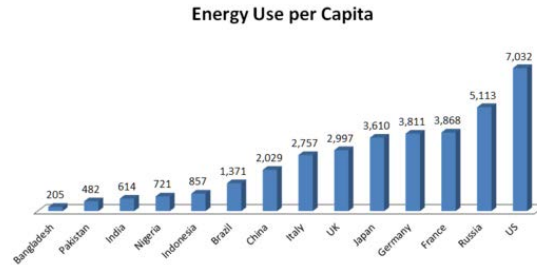
Born and raised in China, my hometown is recognized as one of the most beautiful cities in my country. However, it is more polluted and less enjoyable than any cities I have visited in America. The most beautiful lake and river in my city look dark and people can feel the dirt in the air.



Broader issues:

Do Chinese people pollute their home in the past for development and industrialization? The answer is affirmative. But do they have to take the full responsibility of the pollution? There is no easy answer to this question.

Zewei Chu



American people are consuming more products and energy than most other countries. They drive bigger cars, use more gasoline, and buy more products from the shops. How can Americans consume so much natural resources while at the same time protecting the environment so well? Maybe it is not only about how they protect it, but how they have successfully exported the pollution to other countries, especially those developing countries who would like to trade their environment for some quick money.

This is a tragedy which cannot be ignored. The perfect environment people have in America or Europe is built on the sacrifice of many other developing countries. Protecting the environment is not a domestic issue for any specific country, but a global problem that needs to be addressed by the effort of all human beings. For those countries who have gained some advantages by exporting pollution to other countries, they also need to take the

Zewei Chu

responsibility of helping others fight against the pollution. This is a war all countries have to win together, as it is the future of all human beings.

John Zhang

Visiting Tomorrow

Location: 5700 S Lake Shore Dr

Travel Times from UChicago: 15 minute walk, 5 minute by bike. You can also go there by CTA bus No. 10.

Background:

I live on 50th Street very close to Lake Michigan. On the second day I arrived at Chicago, My roommates and I went out to take a walk along the Lake Michigan. Originally we planned to visit



*A Small Interesting Robot EMYS;
Photo from Museum of Science and Industry*

John Zhang

the beach at 55th Street. When we arrived, we saw a very big building surrounded by a large green space. We had no idea what it is at that time. So we decided to take a look at it and that is how we first encountered the Museum of Science and Industry.

This robot is a part of the Robot Revolution exhibition. It can copy customer's expression. But not just replicating, it actually uses facial recognition software to



Smart Robot ROBOTIS-OP; Photo from Museum of Science and Industry
read and understand your expression so that it can interact with you more efficiently.

This robot is a smart robot. It uses face tracking technology to locate your face and recognizing things. It will know when you are looking at him.

All these things above are just one exhibition of Museum of

John Zhang



The Mirror Maze; Photo from Museum of Science and Industry

Science and Industry. There are other exhibitions like Numbers in Nature: A Mirror Maze which studies the mathematical pattern in nature, Material Science which explores the materials that affect our daily life and so on.

Broader Issues:

The museum will not only introduce the science and technology to normal people's lives but also arouse citizens' interests in science. This is especially important to children who have a very strong curiosity and have not yet decided their future career.

Another thing that worth being noticed is that a lot of interesting

John Zhang

technologies on display like the facial locating system seems to have very little value in application. What's the meaning of studying something that has very little meaning in real life? It is like the relation between Theoretical Science and Applied Science. Theoretical study seems to have very little to do with daily life but it backs up the Applied Science which is closely related to reality. Some technologies seem to be ridiculous when they were first invented but they are fundamental for later improvement and application. The value of technology should not be denied without further study and development. Great fortunes lie in some very small ideas sometimes. The best thing about the Museum of Science and Industry is that it will give people the incentive to study science and make that further exploration to exploit those great fortunes. The center for education can just fulfill the need of people to engage in some innovative programs after viewing exhibition. There are field trips, community programs, educator resources and teacher courses which can prepare children for future science study. The museum is a perfect introductory course and supplement for school education.

LEGACY OF THE FIRE

the great fire's influence to the city of Chicago

Location

Hyde Park neighborhood

Nearest fire department: 1148 E, 55th St.

Fire prevention equipments: everywhere inside or outside a building

Travel times from Uchicago

10 minutes' walk from Regenstein Library to the nearest fire department

Background



Chicago fire engine, photo by Bill Friedrich

When I first came to Chicago, I was so surprised to hear several fire alarms in one day. As a foreigner, I even thought that fireman was

the busiest job in the States. Then I had chances to visit other American cities and finally found out that firemen in other cities were not as busy as their fellows in Chicago. But why do so many fires happen in Chicago?

I didn't wait long for my first experience with firemen here. Once I was cooking fried vegetables in the kitchen. As it always did with Chinese cooking, there was some smoke. The smoke was so little that I did not even pay attention to it, until the fire alarm in the kitchen rang. I suddenly turned off the oven and opened windows, and the smoke went away quickly. However, I had no idea that the alarm was directly reported to fire department, nor did I know how to tell the department that I was fine by then. Shortly after that, some firemen came to my apartment, listened to my story and lectured me angrily. From then on, I always remember to turn on the ventilator when cooking Chinese food.

Another experience with firefighters happened during the AEPP program with all the students and instructors there. On Aug. 28, we were having a workshop in a big classroom at Kent Laboratory when the fire alarm suddenly rang all over the building. We had to pause the workshop and got out to the grassland. Several minutes later, a fire engine with a couple of firemen came here and went into the building. But it seemed that the fire already died out so these firemen checked the building and left. A chemistry student told me that small incidents like alcohol burner fire happened quite often in chemistry lab and most of them went down quickly without firemen's operation. I guess local firemen are also aware of that since they were very familiar with Kent Lab's location and just had it

Jinjing Xia

checked as routine. But still, the alarm rang and firefighters came in minutes.

It seems to me that the fire codes in Chicago are to some degree to strict. Isn't it a waste of money that firefighters are sent out for minor incidents when both they and people who start the alarm know that there is nothing really serious to worry about? Besides, Chicago also has abundant fire prevention equipment inside and outside any buildings. Many buildings themselves are built with fire-proof materials like stones or cement. People won't have any difficulty finding fire hydrant in their own apartment or any public buildings. Actually, I quickly found a small closet of fire prevention equipment in the elevator of my apartment when I started to notice the phenomenon.



firefighters' operation in the elevator of my apartment□Photo by Jinjing Xia

Broader issue



The Chicago fire, Chicago History Museum/Getty Images

Why does Chicago have such strict fire codes? It may has something to do with the city's memory of a great fire. In 1871, a fire burnt down the city, killing more than 300 people and destroying 3.3 square miles of land. Although the prevailing

Jinjing Xia

story of Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicking over a lantern is definitely a rumor¹, the fire did put questions to the city's quick expansion, teaching a lesson on building techniques and fire prevention for small incidents.

The fire did not stop Chicago from becoming one of the biggest city in the US and the world, and it brought the strictest fire standards and one of the best fire forces in the US to Chicago, which happened not long after the fire.

The city started to rewrite its fire codes quickly after the tragedy. According to new laws, buildings should be made out of fireproof materials including brick, stone, marble, terracotta, and limestone.² Before the big fire, fire forces of the city were provided by fire companies which did not respond in time at the beginning of the fire.³ The fire was a warning to the city, who started hiring its own fire fighting forces afterward. Now there are more than 4,500 firefighters and 100 fire departments in this city.⁴

¹ McNamara. R. The Great Chicago Fire of 1871: <http://history1800s.about.com/od/urbanconditions/a/chicagofire.htm>

² 1871: The Great Chicago Fire – Fire Codes: <https://aehistory.wordpress.com/1871/10/07/1871-the-great-chicago-fire/>

³ Iowa Department of Public Safety. History of fire and fire codes http://www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/inspection/history/History_of_Fire_and_Fire_Codes.pdf

⁴ Little. K. History of the Chicago fire department: http://www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/cfd/general/PDFs/HistoryOfTheChicagoFireDepartment_1.pdf

Jinjing Xia

In this way, history does influence people's life today. No doubt that the fire had left great pains and trauma to people who had suffered from it. But Chicagoans didn't just bury such sorrows in memory and let it go. The city choose the best way to commemorate it —— to prevent it from happening again, which results in one of the strictest fire codes and best fire forces in the country and even the world. And that is the really legacy from the fire —— a promise of safety and life from the city of Chicago.

Chicago's story with the fire is an example of what a city could learn from its history. History could hurt sometimes, especially those painful and tragic ones. But people would still learn from it, grow from it, and make sure the things that once hurt our ancestors won't hurt their descendants again.

Milca Morales

Opposite Consciences

Location

Hyde Park Neighborhood
Between Dorchester and E Hyde Park Boulevard

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 10 mins **By bike:** 6 mins **By car:** 7—8 mins

Background

There were so many things that got my attention when I arrived to the US. Among them, there was this occasion when I walked down the street, to my beloved friend's apartment. Once I got to the apartment, we started talking about trivial things. I noticed that she was washing *one* fork and *one* knife on running water. In addition to that, she left the water running for about five minutes while setting the table. In my home country -especially in the northern region- this is flat out unthinkable.

It seems to me that, at least in this part of the country, there are no drought issues. I come from a dry region, where water is almost always rationed. Naturally, there, water is something that you must never let run unconsciously. You have limited times a day to get

Milca Morales

water from the tap. Washing dishes in Chicago looks like a waste to me, and no one appears to care much about it.

I explained my concern to my friend, and she told me that, since the rent of the apartment included water, no matter how much she spends, there was no incentive to save it, nor to be conscious about that issue. Unfortunately, this is more common than what I expected, and even energy, or gas are in some places also included in the rent. People just don't care, because their pockets are unaffected by their consumption.



Tap from a graduate housing apartment. Photo credit: Milca Morales.

Milca Morales



Embalse Puclaro: This is the Puclaro reservoir in 2014, from the place where I come from: 50 km to the East of La Serena, Region IV, Chile. Photo credit: UPI news agency, Chile. In the picture above, you can contemplate the state in which the Puclaro reservoir has been more or less for about 3 years. There are some times when it contains a little more water – especially during winter months – but in essence, it is never enough.

Broader Issues

Due to the extreme climate change that has been going on during the last few decades, the level of water in the northern reservoirs do not reach the minimum level to satisfy their inhabitants' needs. Many people have moved out of these dry areas, and settle in less desert places. People in these areas are

Milca Morales

mainly farmers, who depend critically on water availability to produce crops. It is unfortunate that, even though water consumption in households and firms were rationed, the emigration have not stopped. We may have acquired conscience on the use of water, and the importance of saving energy, but we could not cease the inevitable, we could not work miracles.

A good example is what happens in the agricultural community Olla de Caldera, located 100 km east from La Serena. This community is composed of more or less 450 people. They have been working with goats for decades. They depend crucially on the commercialization of goat cheese and meat. The lack of water has caused many animals to die and many crops to dry. Local governments provide some water - about 1000 liter per family a week- when in normal times this amount of water is usually what only one person consumes in that week. Desperately, many of them have decided to leave their communities to work in the urban areas, doing jobs that require no qualification, with no expectations to climb any social ladder.

What a difference in the standard of water usage!
Should we get used to this new Chicago standard?

Finding Chicago

-Way of living matters

Background

Moving to Chicago for 15 months with my family is so exciting for us. Two week living in Hyde Park is enough for us to get to experience the friendly neighborhood, child-friendly facilities in parks, amazing architectures and museums, as well as all sorts of well-designed activities and events that both individuals and families can participate.

There are so many things worth talking about Chicago. However, 6 years working at international environmental NGO and international development institutions shaped my mind and eyes that pay special attention, even obsessed, to all things related to environment protection, which leads to my observations and thought on couples of small-can also be bigger- things.

Broader Issues: *Electricity Consumption*. One machine that we rarely see in China is the drying machine. Even

Xianying Fan

in South China where the climate is humid, we rely on nature to dry our clothes. However, we use drying machine to dry our clothes in Chicago and other states in American. It is convenient to use it when it is raining or snowing. However using drying machine in summer when there is sunshine and dry air, I don't see the necessity. I was trying to use Chinese traditional way to dry my clothes naturally here. It turned out there is no such a place in our house that can hand up our wet clothes.

Another phenomenon I found in past two weeks is that people in Chicago often experience two different seasons in one day, winter indoor and summer outdoor. I can't stay more than half an hour in Hyde Park Produce, a store mainly selling food, because it's freezing inside. When we have class, students who only wear T-shirt which is enough outside will have to go back home to get a jacket, otherwise they will very possibly catch a cold. Some students who live far away from school even choose to quit the class. What is hard to understand is that there are no control panels for people to adjust the

Xianying Fan

temperature in the room-at least hard for people to find them. When I was working at the environmental NGO, I learned that the most energy efficiency temperature for air condition is 77°F (25°C) in summer. But the temperature in the classrooms is below 68°F (20°C).



Picture taken by Xianying Fan in a classroom on 9 September 2015.

Disposable Items: Since the first day we checked in to the school, we were served with food in a paper box for a few days. Later we had large student gatherings when we were served with pizza, fruits, vegetables, as well as beverages. I started to realize that in Hyde Park we used disposable items a lot. Last week, I went to an ice cream shop in Lincoln Square. I was encouraged to try different flavors before purchasing. It turned out that every try would waste a disposable spoon, which means if a person wants to try the 20 flavors, they will have to use 20 spoons that will end up going to the garbage bin.



Source: from the website.

When I went to stores to buy foods and other items, I was also shocked by how many plastic bags I was provided. Most of the time the shop staff helped me put my items to different bags according to their categories, this is very sweet. However every time after paying the bill I would reorganize my items and return at least 1-2 bags back to the shop, as I have got used to Chinese living style that we pay for plastic bags in supermarket since the ban of plastic bags issued in 2008. Billions of plastic bags reduced each year which not only decreases the energy consumption of manufacture in the industry, but also reduce the environmental pollution caused from plastic bags.

Way of living matters: It's hard to convince people in

Chicago not to use dryer machine because people may ask: "other people use washing machine, why can't we use dryer machine." My education background in business management also makes it hard for me to ignore that it is a good business opportunity to promote drying machine to those humid area where in winter it will cost people more than 3 days to dry their clothes naturally. It is also hard to convince people that using less disposable items and recycle will make any changes to the world with so many problems. In the end, the way of living matters. I can't promise to be someone with 0 wastes, but I will try my best to use as much as I need and recycle as much as I can.

The United Church of Hyde Park

Location:

1448 East 53rd St Hyde Park

Travel Times from UChicago:

15 minutes by foot

Background:

I grow up in a religious family. So being part of a Church and go weekly to the worship was part of my life. Therefore, the first thing I did during the first weekend in Chicago was look for a Church that has a belief compatible with my one. This was my first meet with the United Church of Hyde Park.

Two things first attracted me to this place. The first one is its location. It is close to Uchicago and requires few minutes of walking. The second thing was its architecture. The churches I used to visit in my home country are not so sophisticated and big like this one. They have a beautiful classical style church and the building date from many decades ago.

The architecture was not the only difference I noticed. The liturgy, i.e., the way the worship is organized is very different. Their worship usually includes different sections like music, speech, talks and preys. Each section or reading is followed by a

moment with music played by a coral accompanied with a piano. The people present at the church can suggest religious music to be played among a list.



The United Church of Hyde Park, photo took from the official website

Another aspect of this religious community that surprised me is how much they are concerned with the neighborhood. More than one time during the worship this subject shows up. One of the speeches I heard there was about the relation Christians need to have with their local community. According to the speaker, it is a duty for the Christian to help their local community and neighbors in whatever their need.

Actually, the United Church of Hyde Park is the place that I go when I need to be introspective and think about my life. This Church made me saw some points of the Christian religion in a different perspective.

Broader issues:

Chicago has a huge religious diversity. This diversity also occurs inside a specific religion. There are more than 31 different sub-groups of Christians in Chicago. The United Church of Hyde Park is an alive example of this diversity. This church was created after the merge of 3 different churches and it is interesting to note how the city's events affected the church.

The first building of the church was created in 1858 in a land donated by Paul Cornell, an important figure in the history of Hyde Park. At that time, the church was affiliated with the Presbyterians.

A big fire incident occurred in Chicago in 1871. Many families members of the church suffered from financial problems due this incident. They answered to this issue by increasing the charity and assistance to the people affected by the fire.

In 1885 a group of people created the Congressional Church in Hyde Park. The Congregational Christians are a different class of Christians, but their ideas are similar to the Presbyterians ones in many different aspects. So in 1930 they decided to merge the two churches in order to created bigger and strong community of Christians. With this event the United Church of Hyde Park was formally created, but another church, of a different sub-group of Christians, joined them later.

The last merge of the United Church of Hyde Park was which a church created in 1889: the Methodist Episcopal Church. This church was especially recognized by it charity activism. Worth to say, they had a program to help families on Europe affected by war and another one to help Japanese descendents displaced after the attack to Per Harbor. Before the migration of African Americans to north, Hyde Park was mainly a white neighborhood. The members of the church was also manly white. After 1940, when Hyde Park was becoming more and more an African American neighborhood, the Methodist church created a program to welcome the incoming neighbors and to increase the racial diversity of the membership.

Because the Methodist church and the United Church was phisically close to each other and both of them suffering from financial problems, they decided to merge in 1970.

The history of the United Church of Hyde Park merges with the history of Chicago and shows the diversity of Christian beliefs present in the city.

Zhong Chen

Just books, or even more

Travel time from UChicago: the Seminary Co-op Bookstore is located in Hyde Park, 9 minutes of walk from the Cobb Hall.

Background:

When we were asked to visit one of the largest academic book stores in the world on campus, and to “take a picture in the maze of book stacks”, I didn’t have a hint of the wonderful things I was going to discover. I was even a little bit disappointed when I looked through the windows of the Co-op’s not so grand design. “Only one floor?” I thought to myself, “and this is the largest academic bookstore in the state of Illinois?” Skeptically, I walked into the famous bookstore and, “boom”, I understood the description of the bookstore in our assignment. It is indeed “the maze of book stacks”: walking among the gorgeous rainbow composed of hundreds and thousands of colorful books, we occasionally bumped into each other as we got lost in the maze. It was like the adult version of playing “hide and seek”, much slower, but with an extra thirst for

Zhong Chen

knowledge. There were about ten of us who went there for the first time, and it was amazing to see that all of us could find the book we were interested in, from poem to physics.

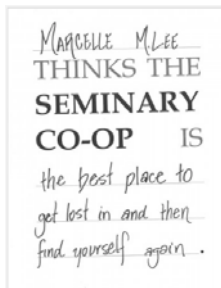
Besides the great variety of books we could find in the Co-op Bookstore, there are two other things that really intrigued and enlightened me. The first thing makes this bookstore a more personalized place, while the other one, explains about the first one in some way. The first thing that intrigued me was the special handwritten notes sticking in the book stacks, written by the staff working there. Each of them gives a brief review of the content of the book recommended, with some personal thoughts in the end. From the notes, I guess that the staff working in the bookstore are from different fields and are interested in a variety of things. However, there is one thing in common about them, their love for the books and for the place you stand. By reading through their notes and even skimming through the books I have never imagined reading, I can also feel the sense of belonging and the joy of finding something new. This strange feeling drove me to try to

Zhong Chen

understand the reasons behind this, and luckily I found more from the bookstore's past.

It's no wonder why I felt a sense of belonging in the Co-op, because giving people the sense of belonging has been its tradition since it started. The bookstore was founded in 1961 by 17 book lovers who invested \$10 each. Up to now, you could still become its shareholder by buying 3 shares for \$30. The bookstore also has committed to hiring professional booksellers, and this explains the book notes I found in the bookcases. There are so many things to explore in this small world and I definitely recommend a visit!

Visual:



People's feelings towards Seminary Co-op Bookstore before its move in 2012.

*source: www.semcoop-project.org/

Zhong Chen

Broader Issues:

It is no news to say that bookstores are now facing many challenges today, especially from their online competitors like Amazon or dangdang (an online bookstore magnate in China). Compared to their rivals, offline bookstores often fail in price, convenience and book reviews. However, the things happening in the Seminary Co-op Bookstore may have shed some light to the future of other bookstores, since the Co-op has just celebrated its 50th anniversary and is still expecting more. For other bookstores, the sense of belonging and sharing in its place should be the things that distinguish them from online book sellers. If the readers feel much more comfortable reading in a bookstore, the role an offline bookstore plays in the society could change from a tool to a lifestyle.

The approach the Co-op used seemed a good way and may be learned by other less popular offline bookstores to save themselves from dying out.

Location

Hyde Park Neighborhood

Between Hyde Park Blvd & 60th Street

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 0 hrs **By bike:** 0 hrs **By car:** 0 mins

Background: I love bicycles even before I knew how to ride them. When I was five, I remember the joyful sensation of running for hours next to mine just grabbing the handlebars. A few weeks later, and with the help of my father, this simple device was all that I needed to understand how freedom really feels. When I moved to Chicago, almost three weeks ago, I knew that I would need several basic things, and of course, a bicycle was first in my list of priorities (followed by a box of Froot Loops cereals, of course).

Chicago seems to be extremely friendly with bikes, and the Lakefront Trail is probably a sublime epiphany of a cyclist's dream. You can go from Hyde Park to the Loop and take a picture with the massive metallic kidney in just 50 minutes. In your way, you'll see geeses, beaches with white sand and miles of green areas, that will remind you that bicycles have the gift of giving you a different perspective of a thing that you believe to know well.

My bicycle, a shooting star in the darkness of Marketplace, has been a bridge between me and the generous Hyde Park sights. A superb mixture of bricks, vines and trees has determined that the shorter distance between two points is no longer a factor to consider (yes, Chicagoans! I'll make some adjustments to this line during winter). Hyde Park is a

beautiful neighborhood and bikes are everywhere. White ones, red ones, blue ones, with basket, with lights, etc. You can easily find pretty much every variation of a modern bike riding here. Now, But if you stop a little bit and start to pay more attention, a subtle detail will jump to your eyes very quick. Like the dust under the carpet, in a lot of beautiful, rich and sophisticated corners of this well-organized neighborhood, dismantled and rusty bicycles are the reminder that even here in Hyde Park, the demand of wheels seems to be higher than the offer.

The stolen bikes in campus and its symbolism with reality is, in conclusion, the focus of this essay.

Broader issues:

I have always believed that bicycles are the representation of something else, some sort of metaphor of the human effort to save time, money, calories and all kind of personal resources. They were invented precisely as that, as machines capable of helping people to move farther and faster, using less resources in comparison to do it without it. In a certain way, a bicycle is an analogy of our socio economic organization. Living in a city, surrounded by all kinds of "quick solutions" is, to a larger scale, also the result of human effort to save time, money, calories and also, all kind of personal resources.



A “healthy” bicycle has the potential of taking you wherever you want to go. If it is in really good condition, you can trust that it won’t let you down in the middle of the road, even if you face tough hills. A healthy socio economic system in theory should do the same, not leaving anyone behind, even in tough times.

A dismantled bicycle, without a tire, tied to a sign and in view of all, is probably the best metaphorical representation of an economic system that, both in Latin America (the place where I came from) and Chicago, has failed to include everyone in the travel to the place where all of us wanted to go.

It seems that the problem is not that there are not enough bicycles in Hyde Park for everyone, but perhaps not enough wheels for all. We live in a society where from time to time we need to deprive others of things in order to keep moving ourselves. The thief that stole a wheel from a bike immediately stopped the capacity of the other to move faster and farther. Climate Change is obviously one of its massive

representations. If you don’t believe me, a bad guy called C.C. is going to explain you this in a few years.

We live in a society where it seems, from time to time, that the bikes that some people ride receive a radically different treatment from the bikes of the majority of people. If you don’t believe, me you can ride your bicycle from Auburn Gresham in the southern part of Chicago to the Loop, and you’ll see how bicycles are changing along the way.

But probably the most worrying thing is that it seems, from time to time, that there are a lot of people with bicycles without any wheels, not because they were stolen previously, but because they didn’t have them in the first place. The South of Chicago’s NEET If you don’t believe me, just talk with some kids in the Lakefront Trail by night. It seems that they don’t even know where they could find them.

The Bicycles in Hyde Park are a constant representation of the reality of its people, and the dismantled ones, that even here there are a lot of thing to be done.

Riding with the community



Blackstone Bike Store. Source: Blackstone Bike Store, Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/BlackstoneBikes/photos_stream?ref=page_internal

Blackstone Bike Store (BBS), also known as Blackstone Bicycle Works, is located in Woodlawn a southern neighborhood just below the University of Chicago. It just takes five minutes to arrive there walking from the main square of the University.

When I arrived to Chicago I realized that it was a perfect city to use alternative means of transportation besides car, taxi or bus, so I decided to buy a bicycle. I searched on the internet for some used bicycle stores. There were a lot of them, but BBS attracted me not only because it was close to my home, but because of what it represents for the youth of Woodlawn.

Among the community of the University of Chicago, Woodlawn's reputation is not the best. Since our first day, people recommended us not to cross the 60th street, exactly the border of Hyde Park and Woodlawn. However, when I

visited BBS around 1 pm, I didn't perceive it as a dangerous place.

Blackstone Bike Store is a "social enterprise" founded by Experimental Station where young people of the neighborhood repair used bicycles and sell them. They get these bikes throughout donations. In addition, BBS sells all kinds of items related to bicycles (helmets, locks, lights, etc.). The bikes have a tag with the price, but they are open to negotiation. Throughout this business model, BBS is self-sustainable and at the same time creates social well-being to the people that are part of it. All the money that BBS earns is re-invested in the teenagers by creating educational workshops related to bicycles, ecology and other topics of interest for the youth.

The atmosphere of the place is really special. A lot of teenagers gather to work together. Not all of them repair bicycles; there are others that take care of the money, others who organize the merchandise, and some others that seem to be there just to have a good time with their friends. The teenagers do not receive a salary for their work. In exchange, each hour of work is rewarded with points that they might use to buy a bike for themselves.

The friendship of these young people can be perceived when you see some of the oldest teaching to the youngest

ones how to repair a bike. They are very respectful with each other and with the store. They share the material and arrange it on its correct place. They seem to be proud of BBS because they know that it is “their” place.

Broader issue

In Chicago, as well as in most of the big cities around the world, inequality is one of the greatest issues. It is easy to find wealthy neighborhoods side by side with poor ones. These poor neighborhoods may lead to problems such as crime and violence, especially within the teenagers. All these problems usually make a division between neighborhoods, a division in which people from a wealthier neighborhood are afraid of crossing over the next one.

Occasionally, people may be interested in helping the poor neighborhoods. In most cases, they think that poor people might need food, clothes or even money. So throughout charity, they share a piece of what they have. Actually, most of the things that they share might be useful, but by doing these hierarchical donations, they don't let poor people play an active role.

In contrast, throughout social businesses, or businesses that maximize profits while at the same time benefit society (either the employees or the consumers), people are able to

play an active role in their development and the development of their community.

Places like BBS give the opportunity to their workers, in this case the teenagers of Woodlawn, to develop skills, interact with people of their community and also with people from outside (in this case the clients). It is true that BBS depends on the bicycle donations, which is an act of charity. However, the fact that these teenagers have to put their effort in order to tune and sell the bicycles, make them play an active role. BBS might not be a very profitable business, but by running it, people get notion of what a future job might be and they acquire responsibility.

The empowerment that these kinds of projects give to their beneficiaries transforms their effort in well-being. They realize that they do not need to depend of the government or any other actor from outside the community. They realize that it is throughout organizing among themselves and hard work that they can have access to better opportunities.

I hope that BBS continues throughout the years. It is good see how teenagers get involved in the development of their community while at the same time providing a useful service to anyone who seeks to move throughout Chicago in an eco-friendly way.

Empowering an Underserved Community



Fig 1. Blackstone bicycle works
Photo source: ruyi sun

Location

Woodlawn Neighborhood

6100 S Blackstone Ave

Travel Times from UChicago

Car: 2 min / Bike: 3 min / Walk: 8 min

Background

Unfamiliar with the public transit system, finding a bike is always one of the top options for incoming students like me who do not own a car. As one of the two bike shops near UOC campus, Blackstone Bicycle Works has a high reputation on Yelp not only because of their services, but also their “admirable mission”.¹ Located on the 61st street, just 2 blocks away from the Hyde Park neighborhood, it should only take me less than 10

¹ <http://www.yelp.com/biz/blackstone-bicycle-works-chicago>

minutes to walk there from UChicago campus. However, during my first visit on a weekday with my intention to buy an affordable bike, it did take me some unexpected time and efforts to find this shop right behind a big dumpster site. After learning that it only sells bikes on every Saturday, I couldn’t feel more surprised since what business would turn down its customers who are willing to pay. Even more surprisingly, it’s extremely popular and more than welcomed among local residents. From one of the street paintings in this neighborhood, the name of Blackstone Bicycle Works is rather conspicuous (Fig 2).



Fig 2. Graffiti of Blackstone bicycle works



Youth participating in Earn-a-Bike program
Photo source: experimentalstation.org

My curiosity drove me to dig deeper about this charming shop and the underlying reasons that led to its vital role in the Woodlawn community. It turned out that the bike shop is one of the not-for-profit projects supported by “Experimental Station” as a way to empower Chicago’s underserved southern areas, especially the Woodlawn neighborhood². Besides providing regular services as a bike shop, it’s also an educational project that offers youth unique experience to work with bikes.³

² <http://experimentalstation.org/blackstone-bikes>

³ <http://experimentalstation.org/about>

Broader Issues

Woodlawn, like many neighborhoods in Chicago's south side, is racially-segregated and regarded as a dangerous place with high crime rates.

Segregation is easily observed. According to the 2010 Census, 87% of the population in Woodlawn is African American⁴. From July 26th to Aug 25th, there were more than three times as many violent crimes reports in Woodlawn as in Hyde Park 2 blocks away⁵. With 47 reports of violent crimes and 108 reports of property crimes in 30 days, Woodlawn was ranked as the 10th among Chicago's 77 communities in both categories⁶. Gang is also one of the prevailing issues concerning this struggling neighborhood.

Poverty and high crime rates in African American communities have reinforced the stereotype of African-Americans as dangerous among outside communities. For instance, the issue of whether the proactive policing tactics of University of Chicago Police Department (UCPD) has led to racial profiling has been constantly put up for debate⁷. Regardless of its original intention, it does cast some negative influences on neighboring communities and may consequently widen the invisible gap between neighborhoods. It is reported that some Woodlawn residents, who were stopped by the UCPD when passing the Hyde Park, would rather use alternate routes instead of Ellis Avenue to avoid unpleasant confrontations with the police⁸. This

⁴http://www.actforchildren.org/site/DocServer/2010_Census_Data_Fact_Sheet_by_Chicago_Community_Area.pdf?docID=1741

⁵ <http://crime.chicagotribune.com/chicago/community>

⁶ <http://crime.chicagotribune.com/chicago/community/woodlawn>

⁷ <http://uchicagogate.com/2014/06/02/a-wall-around-hyde-park/>

⁸ <http://uchicagogate.com/2014/06/02/a-wall-around-hyde-park/>

voluntary while passive choice to “segregate” is just an example to show how unequal treatment may push these already-segregated communities even further away.

Being segregated, the neighborhood inside is rather broken up than united. With prevailing issues such as poverty, gangs and crimes, parents who cannot afford to live in a better neighborhood find it hard to keep their kids away from the streets. It's not hard to imagine how many talented kids may have given up their dreams before having a chance to know their potential and how far they can go. “Discover the satisfaction of a job well done... and be safe and free of the pressures of the streets”⁹ is among the missions of this bike shop (Fig 3). Provided with this supporting and nurturing environment, kids in the Woodlawn neighborhood can celebrate their own success, witness the payoff from their efforts, and move toward a better future that is not easy to imagine in this neighborhood.

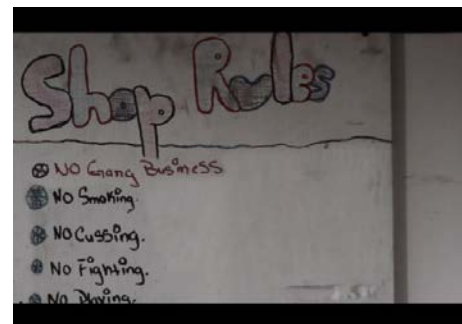


Fig 3. Shop rules in Blackstone Bicycle Works
Photo source: youtube.com

⁹ <http://experimentalstation.org/about>

José Toral

Colored Death

Location

Leak & Sons Funeral Homes
7389 South Cottage Grove

Travel Details (from UChicago)

By CTA: 23 minutes

By Bike: 11 minutes

By Car: 9 minutes

Background

I choose Chicago because I'm interested in crime. This idea could sound disparate regarding the common reasons a person considers to choose a city to live, but I'm interested in penitentiary policy issues and the nature of the crime. The terrible consequences of crime are, of course, a lot of increment in murder rates.

However, I never imagined that the phenomena could be so near. Just a few minutes walking from UChicago lay one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in all Chicago Area: Chatham. This situation is reflected in the number of funeral houses in the area and the specific characteristics of them.

Leak & Sons Funeral Homes, for example, is one the most crowded funeral houses in Chicago. According to Meribah Knight (2013), Leak & Sons served 107 of the 511 homicide victims in Chicago in 2012. However, the murder rate in the neighborhoods is not the explanation to its enormous number of services. The reason seems to outstanding business policy: Turn away no one (Knight 2013).

The origin of this philosophy lies in the civil rights movement and the struggle for segregation. The founder of the funeral house, Rev.

José Toral

A. R. Leak, "had a vision of opening his own funeral business after having realized that black people could not afford to bury their loved ones in a respectable manner. (Leak & Sons web page)". Mr. Leak was an important part of the civil right movement. He led the march to desegregate the Oakwood Cemetery (the closest to the UChicago). According to the foundation principles of the Funeral House, Rev. Leak argues that he was not the founder for the business, but God (Leak & Sons web page). The company affirms that they lowered their price or offered free services for people who could not afford a dignified service.

Larger Picture

Segregation was also a stigma after death. As the Southern Poverty Law Center relates (1973), in 1971, Wilbert Oliver wanted to embalm his mother and buried in the white-owned Escude Funeral Home in his hometown Mansura, La. The company accepted to embalm Ms. Martha Oliver but refuses to offer its premises because she was black. The only other similar bussines in the town, Hixson Brothers Funeral Home, would not handle black bodies at all (Honan 1999).

Oliver's priest, Augustus Thompson, contacted the SPLC to take the case against the companies. In 1973 a federal court in Alexandria, La. alleged that the Escude and Hixson Brothers funeral homes "violated the federal law prohibiting discrimination against blacks in contracts". (SPLC) This court's decree guaranteed the equality on the provision of funeral services.

How people die is also a form to see the relation between races, class of the lives.

Where Past Connects to Present

Name of Place

Oak Woods Cemetery

Name of Neighborhood

The cemetery is located between Hyde Park and South Shore.

Transit Time

The cemetery is very close to the University of Chicago. It takes you about 6 minutes to get there either by car or by bike. And it takes you about 16 minutes to get there by bus or on foot.

Personal Background with the Place

I first encountered this place when I was finding places near UChicago to visit. It just popped up on the map as a large area of greenspace due to its short distance to the campus of UChicago. Then I personally felt closer to this place when I learned that a lot of famous people who have lived in and contributed to the city of Chicago are now soundly resting here, gazing at the city from the South side. Among them are Nobel prize-winning physicist, Olympic gold medal holder, outstanding musicians, baseball hall of fame players, and at least

three past mayors of Chicago^[1]. So to me, this cemetery actually serves as a site with the greatest concentration of cultural and historical content of this city, crossing the barrier of different fields and the mist of time.

Visual



Photo 1 *The main Chapel of Oak Woods Cemetery, facing north. Photo taken by MrHarman*



Photo 2 The gravestone for William Craig, the first US secret service agent to die on duty when protecting the president. From <https://graveyards.com/IL/Cook/oakwoods/william-craig.html>

Broader Issue

Over the years, it is clear that preference on cremation is a trend. To illustrate with data^[2], the burial to cremation ratio has declined from 1.9 in 2005 to 1.08 in 2013 and a predicted 0.32 in 2030. Burial sites like cemetery itself requires a lot of money of maintenance and is subject to the needs in market^[3]. So less needs in burial service means the declining in these burial sites. And if this trend continues, burial sites is in danger of disappearing. Though cremation has a lot of advantages over burial^[4], in that it is much cheaper and more friendlier to

environment. However, burial sites like cemeteries are indispensable part of honoring death in that they bring deeper meaning and serve more various purposes^[5]. An especially important purpose is to maintain and pass on personal and community identities, and the notion of identity is of much importance both to the passed and the livings. Based on the above considerations, burial after cremation may serve as a rational substitute. And hopefully these cemeteries can find ways of transforming their services and to survive the market in the future.

[1]<http://www.findagrave.com/php/famous.php?page=ce&m&FScemeteryid=173554>

[2]<http://nfda.org/news-a-events/> National Funeral Directors Association

[3]<http://cemeteries.uslegal.com/cemetery-maintenance/maintenance-funds/>

[4]<http://funeral-tips.com/what-are-the-advantages-and-disadvantages-of-direct-cremation/>

[5]Defining the place of Burial. Mortality. Vol 5. No.3 2000

Youngseok Kim

How to Survive Chicago Winter

Location

Loop and Hyde Park

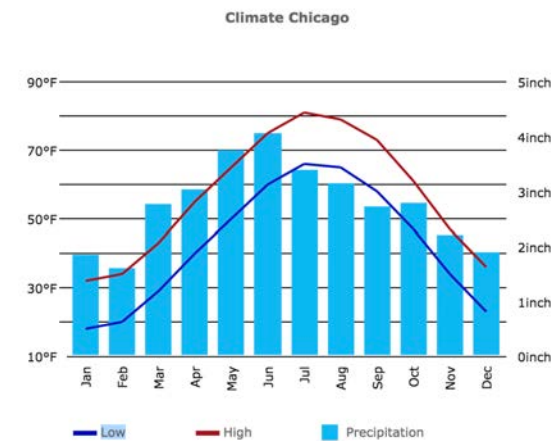
Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 20 min. **By bike:** 40 min. **By car:** 15 min.

Background: Do you think you are well-prepared for your first winter in Chicago? Please don't be confident. Whatever you imagine, you may see more than that. Do you have required clothes including coats, parkas, gloves, scarfs, hoods and boots? Remember. You may need all of them. According to NOAA (National Ocean and Atmosphere Administration), the average low temperature was -7.7 degrees Fahrenheit and the the lowest temperature was -32 degrees Fahrenheit in 1981-2010. Furthermore, the average annual snowfall in Chicago is 36 inches. Sometimes northeasterly winds bring lake-effect snow to Chicago, so that Chicago experiences a heavy snowstorm that can produce over 10 inches of snow.

Now, let's prepare for the winter in the windy city. I surveyed some Chicagoans to get some useful tips. You might live in warmer and less windy city before. Thus this is one of the most helpful reading materials for the incoming international students at the U of Chicago.

Youngseok Kim



Graph 1. Annual climate of Chicago in 2015
(Data from Climate Data Online, NOAA)

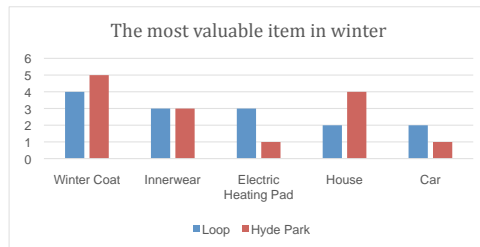


Figure 1. Chicago Winter
(Image from <http://fuphotos.com>)

Youngseok Kim

Specifically, I wanted to know how Chicagoans think of Chicago winter, and some helpful strategy to hold up very well in the winter. Details are as follows. The target of the survey consists of 15 Hyde Park residents and 15 loop residents.

1. Question 1: Do you have any plans to prepare something before winter is coming?
2. Question 2: What do you think is the most important thing during Chicago winter?
3. Question 3: What do you think is the best advice for international students? Results and Analysis



Graph 2. The most valuable item in winter

Broader issues:

I collected wonderful advices from the surveyed Chicagoans. I arranged all the tips as below.

Youngseok Kim

You need to get the right clothing for winter. You can purchase a bulk of winter clothing such as sweatpants or sweatshirts at a reasonable price at discount stores. Take a moment to visit TJ Maxx and Nordstrom Rack located at Clark Street in downtown Chicago. Another TJ Maxx store at North Michigan Avenue for relatively high end brand clothing. You also need a winter parka. The average precipitation during winter is 36 inches so you definitely need a winter jacket that is waterproof if not water resistance. Make sure to buy a down jacket with water resistant coated fabric or synthetic down jacket that can still retain heat with moisture. You may also want several pairs of base layers from brands like SmartWool or Under Armour under your shirt and jeans for extra heat retention. A pair of glove is also necessary. You may consider a touch screen glove to be able to use your smartphone through harsh conditions. You may also purchase a pair snow boots. It appears that you need to spend lot of money to prepare for the winter so don't forget the Labor Day sales and make most use of outlets.

I asked fellow Chicagoan about their favorite most useful winter item and most of them said house is most necessary. Another recommendation was to purchase a espresso machine that grinds a whole coffee beans and make fresh espresso along with foamed milk for you. Purchase an electric heated blanket from Hmart. Also recommend doing strength conditioning during winter. People tend to get really lethargic in winter so you need to exercise to increase your energy level and

Youngseok Kim
metabolism. An increase metabolism from active life style will also help you fight winter blues. Also maintain a healthy life style with foods high in healthy fatty acids such as omega 3 from nuts and fish and HDL, “the good cholesterol”, from olive and canola oil.

Not only winter tends to be really dry but also heating dry out the air in the house. You may purchase a cheap humidifier and make sure to clean it regularly or put a bath towel relatively close to your heating outlet.

Ins and Outs of “Chicago Dibs”

Background

Chicago Dibs, known as the time-honored Chicago practice of dibs, refers to the phenomenon that people use commonly seen household objects to reserve parking space on the street. It may take people hours in shoveling the car out of the snow. I was amazed to learn this from an interview of two locals when doing the Chicago Neighborhood project at Lincoln Park, since Americans gave us the impression of being friendly. At least, the dibs behavior is not a nice way to associate with others. In my mind, people should be good neighbors and help each other, not contend for the public parking resource. The interviewees suggested we go out into the neighborhoods after a deep snowfall if we want to understand a little of the city. Now before winter is coming, I would like to explore the ins and outs of this dibs practice.

Chicago Dibs can be traced back to the 1967 deep and heavy snow. And it’s believed to become an entrenched phenomenon since 1979 winter which produced a record 89.7 inches of snow overall.¹ After experiencing several big snowfalls, Chicagoans concluded that they should take the street parking space they shoveled out as their own in honor of their hours’ hard work, at least for a while. As time passed, this practice became de facto standard when

¹ Currently there is no official record of the origin of Chicago Dibs. For this part, I mainly refer to some news articles, such as [DNAinfo](#).

encountering blizzards. However, it seems dibs has a much lower threshold nowadays. People start dibs after, even sometimes before, any snowfall in Chicago. We can even see dibs for weeks. Has dibs gone too far? Before going deep to this, we'd better know what's current situation of dibs.

Visual Part



Figure 1 typical dibs claiming: chair + marker

² People use different kinds of stuff to hold the spot. And it's interesting to find that, among all the "dibbers"³, chairs are the most popular one. The marker, with the "#dibz" word, claims explicitly this

parking space is occupied. It seems everything is normal here. However, there are many more unfriendly markers, which warn or even threaten others to not to park their car there.

⁴

People who don't follow the rules may be retaliated against, even ending up with their car deliberately sabotaged. It's obvious to see from the right side picture the



Figure 2 retaliation of disobeying dibs: the note affixed with glue told us the anger because his/her dibs was not respected.

² This picture is from <http://chicagodibs.tumblr.com/page/2>

³ "dibber" here means the stuff people use to save the spot

⁴ This picture is from <http://piximus.net/fun/funny-parking-notes>

sarcastic tone by using the word of "rude". In real life, the penalty for disregarding this territorial marking can be anything from a passive-aggressive note to slashed tires to bodily assault⁵. Maybe the car owner in figure 2 should be thankful for not being attacked?

Broader Issue

Actually, people's arguments over dibs have been long lasting. On the one hand, some people are in favor of the concept of dibs. Many car owners already take their dibs practice as well deserved because that's exactly what they do. In their mind, dibs is the noble Chicago tradition, which has existed for about 50 years. It is the right thing to do.

On the other hand, many people don't agree. From their perspective, street parking spaces are public resource and no one should claim them as their own. That's to say, no matter how hard you work on shoveling out the car of the snow, that's what you pay to use the public property. Thus it has nothing to do with the future use of this parking space.

While the debate between dibsters and anti-dibsters⁶ continues, there are some unspoken rules that maintain the balance of dibs practice⁷. If a "free riding" neighbor takes another's shoveled space, it's

⁵ <http://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/20150208/ukrainian-village/ukrainian-village-woman-says-brakes-cut-as-dibs-aggression-heats-up>

⁶ "dibster" means people who use stuff to reserve parking space

⁷ <https://www.thrillist.com/entertainment/chicago/chicago-parking-dibs-the-unwritten-rules-thrillist-chicago>

commonly considered they can punish the rule destroyer. Thus many choose to respect the dibs practice just owing to their unwillingness to make trouble. Even if the dibs practice is illegal in Chicago⁸, city officials long have allowed drivers to call dibs on parking after heavy snow. There are some calls on stopping dibs on the parking, but the great tradition is still there dominating the winter. Fortunately there hasn't been a homicide case because of the dibs thing. There are more and more concerns about whether the dibs is going too far.

It seems no fair judgment can be achieved. Talking about dibs, it's not a simple problem to allow or forbid it. We have laws in respect of public property, but that's not a perfect way around. At least, concepts of dibs in people's mind cannot easily be changed or erased⁹. From perspective of ethics, we should respect other people's work. The situation is much more complicated when it comes to dibs retaliation. No one would love to see bad things happen and no one would like to give their dibs away. In this sense, some ways in the middle may exist. The goal is to avoid conflicts in utilizing public parking resource. If the community works together, things may get better. For example, one should join others in shoveling out parking space as much as possible. And then all the community people share parking spaces. If someone still claims dibs on it, every one else can drop their dibbers directly. Presumably following such dibs etiquette maybe worth a try.

⁸ <http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2011/02/15/city-no-more-dibs-on-parking/>

⁹ <http://theexpiredmeter.com/tag/chicago-dibs/>

Javier Balbontín

A Mexican Recipe to Confront Summer Wind

Location.

201 N Morgan St. West Town

Travel Details (from UChicago)

By CTA: 37 minutes

By Bike: 45 minutes

By Car: 15 minutes

Background: After tackling each item of the long "to do" list that all foreign students have to fight with upon their arrival to Chicago, I felt the need to discover and find my place in this city. Then, suddenly, two fundamental questions emerged: what to do and where to go.

My answer to these questions was to find a place to escape the chasing warm wind and to grab a cool "Michelada", a drink made with beer, salt, lemon juice, English sauce and tabasco. This is something that I have always done during warm days, on a terrace, looking at the crowd around and having trivial conversations with my wife.



Michelada
Source: <http://bartakito.com/gallery/>

Javier Balbontín

There was an additional fact to take into account, which made this search much more interesting: “Michelada” is a Mexican drink, and Chicago is known for having a huge Mexican community, much larger than the one existing in my home country. Indeed, according to the information available in the US Census Bureau, in 2010, 21.4% of the population of the city of Chicago identified themselves as Mexicans (518,000 persons)¹.

Thus, you might figure that my expectations on finding that perfect moment in Chicago were very high.

After an “exhausting procession” to various Mexican restaurants and bars, most of them in downtown and surroundings, the best experience that I had was in “Bar Takito”, a place that was strongly focused in rescuing the flavors of Mexico. The Michelada I had there was perfectly cold, prepared with a very Mexican Tecate Beer, with all the complex set of ingredients that give identity to this drink, and the opportunity for me to remember other beautiful moments I had out of Chicago.

In sum, I can say that Bar Takito offers a prime quality Michelada. But I would say that the only low points of this place were that the terrace was closed and most of all, the absence of the atmosphere that I felt in other restaurants in “less Mexican” cities in Latin America.

¹ Source: <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk>

Javier Balbontín

Broader issues:

A relevant thing noted in this search for the best Michelada is that all the places visited had high quality Mexican food and drinks. They had lots of Mexican employees, but the clients, the decoration and the spirit of these places did not inspire any Mexican feeling. It was like seeing a piece of art well executed, but not authentic, lacking a soul.

This weakness, found in all Mexican restaurants visited in this area, can be explained as a consequence of the extreme segregation that crosses all the fibers of the urban fabric of this city. Moreover, there are studies raising evidence of an apparent contradiction: Chicago is one of the most diverse

The Most Diverse And Most Segregated Cities

Among 100 most populous U.S. cities

CITYWIDE DIVERSITY INDEX		NEIGHBORHOOD DIVERSITY INDEX		INTEGRATION / SEGREGATION INDEX				
Most diverse at city level		Most diverse at neighborhood level		Most integrated				
1	Jersey City, NJ	75.5%	1	Sacramento, CA	66.5%	1	Irvine, CA	+11.8%
2	Oakland, CA	74.8%	2	Stockton, CA	64.3%	2	Sacramento, CA	+10.1%
3	Sacramento, CA	73.8%	3	Jersey City, NJ	63.4%	3	Paradise, NV	+9.8%
4	New York, NY	73.3%	4	N. Las Vegas, NV	61.8%	4	Stockton, CA	+9.2%
5	Stockton, CA	71.6%	5	Garland, TX	61.7%	5	Fremont, CA	+8.8%
6	Long Beach, CA	70.5%	6	Paradise, NV	61.6%	6	Chula Vista, CA	+8.7%
7	Chicago, IL	70.3%	7	Oakland, CA	60.7%	7	Anchorage, AK	+8.4%
8	N. Las Vegas, NV	70.2%	8	Irving, TX	59.6%	8	Henderson, NV	+8.3%
9	Irving, TX	69.9%	9	Aurora, CO	59.5%	9	Garland, TX	+8.3%
10	San Jose, CA	69.1%	10	Arlington, TX	58.9%	10	Aurora, CO	+8.0%

Least diverse at city level		Least diverse at neighborhood level		Most segregated				
1	Laredo, TX	8.4%	1	Laredo, TX	8.2%	1	Chicago, IL	-18.8%
2	Hialeah, FL	10.1%	2	Hialeah, FL	10.0%	2	Atlanta, GA	-14.5%
3	Scottsdale, AZ	28.9%	3	Detroit, MI	17.8%	3	Milwaukee, WI	-13.1%
4	Detroit, MI	29.0%	4	Birmingham, AL	28.7%	4	Philadelphia, PA	-12.6%
5	Lincoln, NE	30.1%	5	Scottsdale, AZ	27.2%	5	St. Louis, MO	-11.3%
6	El Paso, TX	32.8%	6	Lincoln, NE	28.5%	6	Washington, DC	-11.1%
7	Santa Ana, CA	36.7%	7	Miami, FL	28.6%	7	Baltimore, MD	-11.1%
8	Honolulu, HI	48.5%	8	El Paso, TX	29.9%	8	Baton Rouge, LA	-11.0%
9	Madison, WI	49.0%	9	Baltimore, MD	29.5%	9	Cleveland, OH	-10.9%
10	Birmingham, AL	41.0%	10	Atlanta, GA	30.7%	10	New Orleans, LA	-10.2%

Source: FORTYTHREE
BASED ON DATA FROM BROWN UNIVERSITY'S AMERICAN COMMUNITIES PROJECT

Demography of major cities in the US.

Source: <http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/the-most-diverse-cities-are-often-the-most-segregated/>

cities in the US in terms of nationality and ethnic origin of its population, but at the same time, is one of the most segregated cities in terms of the nationality and ethnic composition of their neighborhoods. A clear example of this extreme segregation can be seen in Hyde Park, with its high

Javier Balbontín

concentration of European and Asian groups, and the severe contrast it has with surrounding neighborhoods dominated almost exclusively by African American communities².

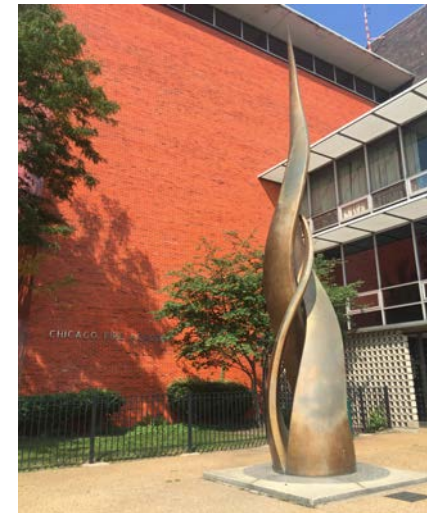
It should require much more research and better empirical data to make a fair diagnosis on the causes and effects of this segregation phenomena, but an hypothesis on causes probably should explore some relationship with a taxation and schooling system dramatically attached to the neighborhood of the taxpayer and its children, two public policies that seem to reinforce themselves in order to maintain the status quo.

With regard to the consequences, they not only manifest in violent crime rates and existence of areas where law enforcement may be deficient, but in a very wide spectrum of situations, even some of them very subtle, like the difficulties to have a Mexican sensation grabbing a perfect Michelada near downtown.

² Source: <http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/the-most-diverse-cities-are-often-the-most-segregated/>

Miriam Gonzalez Arano

Chicago's Second Chance



Site of the Great Chicago Fire: 137 DeKoven Street.

Photo Source: Miriam Gonzalez.

Location:

Little Italy & University Village

Travel Times from UChicago:

Bus: 52 minutes / **Car:** 14 -24 min / **Bike:** 43 minutes.

Miriam Gonzalez Arano

Background

When I was younger I wanted to study architecture because I was fascinated by the idea of something drawn on paper becoming a reality. For this reason, one of the things that I enjoy most about Chicago is visiting its famous skyscrapers and getting to know the histories behind their constructions.

I took the famous *Architectural Boat Tour*, in which I learned interesting things about the different architectural styles in Chicago. On this tour, the guide gave us information about some of the most remarkable buildings in the area. The guide mentioned that the construction of skyscrapers in Chicago began during the aftermath of the Chicago fire that devastated a big part of the city.

Although I had listened before about the big fire in Chicago, I never realized how important it was in shaping the future of this city. Given the importance of this unfortunate event in the history and architecture of Chicago, I decided to do this essay about the place where *the second Chicago* began –the place where the fire started-. This place refers to the property previously owned by Patrick and Catherine O’Leary at 137 DeKoven Street, where the Chicago Fire Department training academy is located today. Outside the academy, there is a sculpture –the one that I show in the first picture- that reminds all of us not only the place where the fire began but also where the second Chicago was born.

Miriam Gonzalez Arano

Broader Issues

The Great Fire of Chicago, as is often called, began in October 8, 1871. As is shown in the picture above, the area affected by the fire was very extensive and the damages were very high. According to some sources, the fire killed 300 people and destroyed more than 17,000 structures.¹



Map Showing the Burnt District in Chicago.

Source: R. P. Studley Company, 1871 (ichi-02870), 3rd Edition.

Given the several damages caused by the fire, a considerable part of the city was re-built, but instead of replacing the burnt structures for similar ones, Chicagoans took advantage of that disaster to reinvent

¹ <http://www.history.com/topics/great-chicago-fire>.

Miriam Gonzalez Arano
and redefined their city. That is why nowadays some people refer to Chicago as the second city.

Most of the reconstruction efforts can be seen in the architectural changes after the Great Fire. One of the most remarkable changes was the design and construction of new buildings that end up being the first skyscrapers in the world and that have become the landmark of Chicago's architecture.

It should be noted that the transformation that Chicago suffered after the devastation caused by the fire wouldn't have been possible without a public policy that prioritized urban planning. Despite the high costs of reconstruction, Chicagoans adopted a long-term project to re-build their city instead of a shortsighted view on what their city really needed.

In fact, the reconstruction of Chicago not only brought a better city in terms of urban design but it also boost economic activity. This is a clear example of how public policy can shape different aspects of a city and contribute to economic development and to increase the welfare of the society.

Wenqi Du

Save the Culture

Location

Little Italy & University Village
Between Ashland Avenue, Morgan Avenue, Roosevelt Avenue and Eisenhower Express Way

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 50 minutes **By bike:** 45 minutes **By car:** 20 minutes

Background: Last month, I arrived in Chicago and took part in the AEPP program as a new international student. Being curious about everything in this city, I looked forward to going around to learn about the culture and custom here. Luckily we were assigned to complete a neighborhood project. And when I first saw the name of this neighborhood beside downtown, "Little Italy & University Village", I was greatly attracted. Will it be like the romantic city Bath in UK, which is also deeply influenced by Italian and their culture? With this question, I started my trip to this neighborhood with my partner.

But when we arrived in Little Italy, everything is quite different from what we have supposed. Taylor Street, which is called the port-of-call for Chicago's Italian American immigrants, is very quiet with only a few Italian restaurants and sights. Except some Italian waiters in restaurants, we hardly saw other Italians in

Wenqi Du
this neighborhood. On the other side, the busiest area of this place—the Maxwell Street Market, is almost occupied by Mexicans and Latin. As to the overall appearance of this neighborhood, I have to say, it's the general American style, not something we imagined as Italian.



Taylor Street view



Some old Italian photos



A Mexican stall owner

(Photos taken by Wenqi Du)

It is strange that the name of this neighborhood actually doesn't match with its real situation. And we start wondering what happened that led to the disappearance of Italians and their culture here.

Wenqi Du
It is very similar to the scene that I saw in the old neighborhood of Beijing. Many old courtyards and Hutongs (a special kind of alley) were torn down where local residents lived, and they were all turned into modern skyscrapers. And because of this, many traditional Beijing architectures, people and culture have disappeared.

Broader Issues: Little Italy suffered several disruptions. And the largest one is when the University of Illinois was built in the mid-1960s and that displaced 8,000 people.¹ Similarly, old neighborhoods in Beijing were torn down and local people were forced to move away due to urban construction. When I walked on Taylor Street, I have the same feeling as visiting the remaining run-down walls of Hutong in Beijing. However, for the residents present living in Little Italy, they all say that they enjoy the campus environment because it is a lot quieter and safer. The same also goes for Beijing. The great apartments in Beijing also provide booming migrant laborers with better living conditions and larger rooms.

I felt lost. It is controversial whether this kind of reconstruction is right or wrong. What should we do to solve this contradiction: promoting the urban construction, or on the other hand, protecting the local cultural features and the right of inhabitants? It is

¹ Annie Sweeney, Can Little Italy be Revived? (Chicago Sun Times, Sunday, January 4, 2004).

Wenqi Du
difficult to balance. In China, it is common to turn old neighborhoods into tourist places and build museums, hotels and business sites, at the price of cultural features. As for Taylor Street, even though residents now live a relatively better life, few Italian sights and restaurants remain, and the Italian culture is quickly dying away. Those are very precious cultural treasures. How could we find an efficient way to save this culture? If there need someone to do this, who should take this responsibility? The government? The existing Italian-Americans? Or the present residents? And if we want to change the business model of Taylor Street, how could we attract people to come here to experience Italian culture? And also, since the UIC campus has already took a large part of this neighborhood, how should we combine the campus and Italian culture appropriately?

Michele Calvet
Italian American Influence In Chicago



Mario's Italian Lemonade Stand
Chicago, 2014
Photo source: eatmarios.com

Location

Little Italy Neighborhood
1068 W. Taylor Street

Travel Times from UChicago

Bus: 1hr / Bike: 54mins / Car: 21mins

Background

Going to Mario's Italian Lemonade stand has been a family tradition for over twenty years. Ever since I can remember my parents would pack up the family and drive to the city for our favorite summer treat. After every Chicago White Sox baseball game or visiting Brookfield Zoo, we would stop at Mario's for their Italian Lemonade. We would wait in crowded lines in extreme heat just to get our favorite cantaloupe or watermelon Italian Lemonade.



Michele Calvet

Neighborhood street sign

Photo source: <http://images.chicagotraveler.com/images/general-chicago/18-3-littleitaly.jpg>

Located on Taylor Street, this area is commonly known as Little Italy, due to the strong presence and Italian American influence in the area since 1850. Today, the area is known for its diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds as a result of immigration, urban renewal, and student populations.

Broader Issues

In the 1950s when Mario's opened, privately owned family stores were common in the Chicagoland area. However, as modernization occurred and the years passed, franchises and corporations began taking over the business world. This forced small businesses to shut down. Even with chain ice cream and dessert shops opening up throughout the city during changing times, Mario's has held its own in Little Italy. Mario's cult following continues to keep the stand as popular as ever.

Finding Your Cheapest Lifestyle

Place

Costco Wholesale on the 1430 South Ashland Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Transit Time from Uchicago

CTA 58 min, car 20 min, bike 45 min.

Background

It was truly a surprise when I entered Costco for the first time. Unlike any other supermarket I have been to in the past, I needed to get a Costco membership card just to enter the store. One of my friends drove me to Costco and she had a Gold Star Membership, so I entered without becoming a member. When I was in the market, I found all kinds of food, health products and household items in this amazing place. After spending a whole afternoon there, I could conclude that all of the goods have three characteristics: large packaging, low prices, and good quality. For example, I bought 12 butter croissants with only \$5.99. At first, I thought it would be dried out like other croissants in bags in normal shops. But eventually, it tasted pretty fresh and delicious. Since then, I was interested in Costco and started to think about how it could make profit with such low price and could this business model be duplicated in other industries or in other countries.

Vision

Costco Interior (source: Wikipedia)

In this picture, Costco is like a warehouse, which contains a variety of goods in big packs.

Broader issue

Costco is an American membership-only warehouse club. In 2015, according to National Retail Federation, it became the second largest retailer in the world (the largest is Walmart). And according to its financial statement, it has 663 warehouses in operation by August 31, 2014. Costco is famous for its low price and good quality. In fact, the price is almost as low as cost so that customers enjoy buying goods in Costco, price is

lower than anywhere else. And in the meanwhile customers enjoyed the good quality of the items. In Costco, there are only limited brands for specific goods, which are selected by professional buyers. Thus, customers don't waste time in choosing the best brand meeting their needs and Costco is able to keep its inventories extremely low.

It is natural to wonder when Costco offered high-quality goods with low price, how can Costco make profits? Remember, Costco is a membership-only warehouse club. People need to become membership to purchase in Costco. There are different kinds of membership, including executive membership and non-executive membership. The annual membership fees are \$110 and \$55 respectively. And according to Costco, Costco has more than 50 million members. Costco is making profit mainly from its membership fees. This is really an innovative way to operate supermarket. Costco is like a platform where customers can buy directly from factories with low price. Customers pay for using this efficient platform.

In 2014, Costco began to cooperate with Taobao to sell goods online to customers in China. Taobao is the largest online shopping platform in China, which contains more than 370 million members. In 2010, the trading volume was larger than 1000 billion Yuan. In Taobao, members are not supposed to pay membership fee, instead, Taobao make profits mainly from charging the seller for advertisement fees and management fees and transaction fees. So it is obvious that Costco and

Taobao have absolutely different way to make profits. It is less than 1 year from the start of their cooperation so that it is difficult to conclude how both of them benefit from this cooperation. However, it is reasonable to conclude both of them must adjust their profit model. Costco doesn't charge customers for membership fees this time and Taobao are not supposed to charge Costco for transaction fees and other costs. But in the long run, there is large possibility that Costco will charge for membership fee when customers are used to buying foods and other items of foreign brands in Costco. From that time, Costco can finally make money from this online platform and Taobao can benefit by charging Costco for transaction fees. Anyway, it is a good try for Costco to enter China's market. It might become its new profit point.

Sports – the Light of Chicago



Fig. 1 The Michael Jordan statue in Blackhawks

Photo source:
<http://www4.pictures.zimbio.com/gi/Staley+Cup+Finals+Philadelphia+Flyers+v+Chicago+nQxmwcDKAnjI.jpg>

Location

Near West Side Neighborhood

1902 W. Madison Street

Travel Times from UChicago

Bus: 52 min / Bike: 55 min / Car: 21 min

Background

I have been to the United Center once when I was an exchange student at UIUC. One of my best friends at UIUC drove the three of us from Urbana-Champaign

Min Xu



Fig. 2 The United Center (inside) – Home of Chicago Bulls and Blackhawks

Chicago, 2010

Photo source: min xu

to Chicago for the game. I remember it was a regular game between Chicago Bulls and Washington Wizards, and the final score was 101-96. Of course, the Bulls won the game!

Before we entered the center, we walked around it. We found a statue of Michael Jordan, the god of basketball, outside the center. We took pictures with the statue, so excited as if a follower meets Jesus. The United Center is huge, and there are many shops where you can buy souvenirs and fast foods. I bought a basketball training shirt of Chicago bulls.

Even though I was seated quite high up in the auditorium, the whole game was still very impressive to me because it is the first and the only NBA game

Min Xu

that I have ever watched live. Through the entire game, the DJ kept the audience aroused by playing powerful music. When it came to some critical moments for the home team, the DJ always encouraged the audience to scream and make noise to cheer the players up. And every single time, the audience never hesitated to pass on their energy to their warriors.



Fig. 3 Champions witnessed by United Center

Photo source: <http://lakesstudentmedia.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Chicago-bulls-story-900x675.jpg>

Broader Issues

As far as I know, basketball, ice hockey and football are the three most important sports in Chicago, and the Chicago people have their strong home teams in the three sports, the Chicago Bulls, the Chicago Blackhawks and the Chicago Bears.

Min Xu

In fact, Chicago Blackhawks, a strong team in NHL, shares the United Center with Bulls as their home. Both Bulls and Blackhawks have had glorious history, as shown in Figure 3, in their own leagues, and Blackhawks' are much more recent because they have just won the 2015 Stanley Cup, the champion of NHL. The Chicago Bears has its own home, the Soldier Field located at 1410 Museum Campus Drive, and it has been striving for its second Super Bowl since 1985.

Sports keep Chicago energetic. There are plenty of basketball fields in neighborhoods all over Chicago. Even without professional football field, youths could still enjoy football in public parks by throwing the ball in pairs or playing small-scaled games. It is the splendid games played by their home teams that inspire people in Chicago to get involved into these sports. In addition, on a winning day, the whole city will be turned on by the excitement of fans.

Sports unite Chicago people. There is no better way to instantly get two people close than having them share the same home team. They can spend the whole day in a bar talking about their favorite players, favorite game, opinions on strategies, etc.

In a word, without sports games, without those great teams, Chicago could never have been as attractive as it is now.

Masaya Fukami

Chicago Bulls and Michael Jordan



Picture of United Center

United center is a home of Chicago Bulls. It was opened in 1994. You can find the symbol of United airline there since it is sponsored by United airline.

Location

1901 W Madison St, Chicago, IL

Travel Times from UChicago

Bus: 1 hour / Train: 45 mins

Background

The reason why I got interested in Chicago Bulls (NBA) is that simply one of my friends in my home country is a big fan of this team. He advised me to go to see the basketball games of them before I leave my home country. After I came to Chicago, I realized that Michael Jordan, who I think is the most famous basketball player in the world, used to play at this team (He played at Chicago Bulls 1984-1993 and 1995-1998). Even though I usually don't watch basketball games, I know the name of Michael Jordan and that is why I went there to see the home of Chicago Bulls and the statue of Michael Jordan.

Masaya Fukami



Statue of Michael Jordan at United Center and the symbol of Chicago Bulls

United Center is located in Near West Side. After getting off the train at Ashland (Green Line), Going down the Ashland Avenue to the South and please turn right at the Madison Street. You will find United Center on your left. Since the place was refurbishing on September 2015, the statue of Michael Jordan was at a temporary place (You can see from the picture that the statue is surrounded by a fence).

Broader Issues

Chicago Bulls was founded in 1966. Before Michael Jordan joined the team, though it was famous as their strong defence, Chicago Bulls had never won the NBA final. So far, Chicago Bulls have won the NBA final six times, but all of them were in the era where the Michael Jordan was in this team. In that term Chicago Bulls earned much money to Chicago. After Michael Jordan retired, however, Chicago Bulls greet a slump again. The era of Michael Jordan was the golden era of the team.

Rong Nie

Michael Jordan's "contributions" to the neighborhood

Location

United Center
1901 West Madison Street, Chicago, IL
Near West Side

Travel Details (from the University Chicago)

By CTA Bus: 1 hour, Bus 126 and Bus 6

By CTA Train: 45 minutes, Green Line and Bus 55

By Bike: 55 minutes

By Car: 26 minutes

Background

Chicago has lots of nicknames, one of them is "Sports City". There are several famous teams in Chicago, Chicago White Sox for baseball, Chicago Blackhawks for ice hockey, Chicago Bears for football, and what I am discussing, Chicago Bulls for basketball, which Michael Jordan played for during 1984 to 1993 and 1995 to 1998.



Left: Michael Jordan statue outside the United Center. Statue shows that Jordan is flying high as he always did during his career. So people say Air Jordan. (Source: photo by Rong Nie)

As the home field of

Rong Nie

Chicago Bulls, United Center has seen history of this team (United Center was opened on August 19, 1994. Before that, the home field was located on the west area of United Center). Interestingly, Chicago Bulls has 6 National Basketball Association (NBA) championships, all of them are contributions of Michael Jordan. Michael Jordan owns 6 NBA championships, all of them were won during his career life in Chicago Bulls. Importance between Michael Jordan and United Center therefore goes without saying.



Left: Fadeaway between Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant. Almost exactly the same movement! Lots of NBA players regard Jordan as their idol and learn from him. (Source: fivethirtyeight.com)

Michael Jordan, known as Air Jordan, is famous all over the world, especially in the U.S. and China. In America, he is the idol of many young basketball players, even some NBA stars, such as Kobe Bryant. In China, he brings NBA and basketball to here. Because of Michael Jordan, basketball has become the most popular sport in China. Just after he had established his fame, China had her first NBA player, Zhizhi Wang. His success and personality have

Rong Nie

encouraged numerous children to achieve their dreams, not only basketball dream.

Broader Issues

Michael Jordan's contributions to neighborhood get beyond mere basketball. Although today, lots of players play basketball by imitating Michael Jordan's style, for example, fadeaway and wear Air Jordan shoes. Just like a lighthouse, Michael Jordan's most significant contribution is he points out a way to success and gives hope to teenagers who live in poverty that they have abilities to change their lives. Young people learn that they must fight for dreams and never stop steps.



Left: Huge contrast between magnificent United Center and humble street view of the neighborhood. (Source: photo by Rong Nie)

However, like negative charges always accompany

Tami Wysocki-Niimi

Rong Nie

with positive charges in the nature, there are some unfavorable opinions toward Michael Jordan. The most mentioned word is arrogance. Before Jordan became famous, he did important contributions to the neighborhood, building schools, helping people get rid of poverty, caring about children. But after he became a great basketball player, Jordan began to concentrate on business and earned lots of money. Seldom (or even never) going back to community leads this neighborhood does not as prosperous as other neighborhoods which adjoin Near West Side, for example, Little Italy. The price of Air Jordan shoes are very expensive. That is not common among NBA stars, because some of players will ask their sponsor to decrease their shoes prices so more kids are able to afford and get closer to their dreams. The sound of criticism is louder among Near West Side residents and most of them are residents who have been in the neighborhood for more than fifteen years and who are witnessing the history of Near West Side and the change of Michael Jordan.

Retreat from the Chicago Winter

Location

Garfield Park Conservatory
300 N. Central Park Ave., just north of Lake Street

Travel Details (from UChicago)

By CTA: 41 minutes **By bike:** 1 hour 17 minutes

By car: 30 minutes

Background:

From 1998 until 2003, I lived in the East Garfield Park neighborhood on the west side of Chicago. At that time (and, for the most part, even now), this neighborhood was considered “rough.” It primarily consists of African American families, and in some parts of the neighborhood, there is a lot of gang activity and drug dealing. I often had a hard time getting cab drivers to take me all the way home! My neighbors, however, were middle-class working families who cared about their properties and their neighbors; they looked out for each other – and for me!

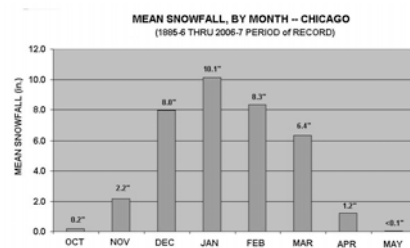
As you might have heard, winters in Chicago can be quite challenging. At the beginning of January 1999, we had a big blizzard that brought a lot of snow (over 21 inches [53 cm]). That year we had a long, cold winter. One day, I was commiserating with my neighbor and she suggested a visit to the Garfield Park Conservatory. It is open 365 days/year and the admission is free (a

Tami Wysocki-Niimi

donation is suggested). The conservatory is located in Garfield Park. She said it would be a vacation from the snow, and she was right!

The conservatory opened in 1908 and still houses many rare and beautiful plants. I fell in love with the warm, humid Fern Room, full of lush green foliage and a musical waterfall; a visit to the Desert House finally brought some warmth back to my bones! I had found a summer oasis in the middle of January!

Although winter is my favorite season to go to the conservatory, the outdoor gardens and events make it worth a visit in the other three seasons, too!



Tami Wysocki-Niimi

Left: waterfall in the Fern Room
(source: garfieldconservatory.org)

Right: Mean snowfall totals by month in Chicago 1885 – 2007 (source: climatestations.com)

Broader Issues

In the years after my time in East Garfield Park, the neighborhood around the conservatory has seen some positive changes after park renovations and repairs to the conservatory itself following a 2011 hailstorm. The conservatory plays an important role in the community through its outreach programming including educational workshops and events for children and families, novice gardeners, and even those who want to learn about beekeeping!

However, the conservatory remains a singular place to visit in the neighborhood. Areas outside of the actual park remain neglected. Old homes are in disrepair, boarded up and rotting. Many old structures have been torn down and only empty lots full of weeds and broken bottles remain. Some of my older neighbors have left to live with family in the suburbs; others have passed away. Despite the declining condition of the area in general, the area of East Garfield Park has shown hints of gentrification pushing south and west from Humboldt Park. This force, in turn, creates more tension in the area as residents anticipate change such as rising rents and cheap new condo buildings.

Tami Wysocki-Niimi

Gentrification itself is a complex topic, especially in relation to declining neighborhoods that seem almost unable to rebound. Is it too late for revitalization in Garfield Park for its current residents? Time will tell. We don't like to think about such topics when we are experiencing a beautiful space like the Garfield Park Conservatory, but we should.

Luiz Felipe Carvalho

More Beer, Less Water

Location

Lagunitas Brewing Company
2607 W. 17th St.
Chicago, Ill. 60608

Travel times

By CTA: 1 hour

By Bike: 52 minutes

By Car: 30 minutes

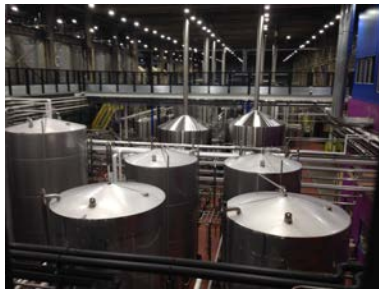
Background

It is still fair to place Lagunitas in the Craft Beer realm, one that employs 50% of all beer industry's labor force and is responsible for 10% of the total sales. Coming to Chicago from California, the brewery maintained its name as an homage to the city in which it was born, a 1,000 habitant town in California. Having a clear strategy to grow east, it stands proudly in Chicago, a "world class city", phrase repeated a couple times in the tasting tour I attended. So, as far as strategy goes, their plan is to go international: "make no little plans" was another repetition we all heard in the tour.

Every weekday, tasting tours are offered at multiple times. Visitors feel very welcome by one of the staff members, who offers five of their beers at the beginning of the tour, probably to introduce visitors to their laid back, easy going, creative aura. Creativity may be one of the highlights: "Little Sumpin", "Undercover

Investigation Shut-Down”, “Censored” (the original name was, actually, censored) are some examples of the 19 beer names that may well represent the Brewery’s atmosphere. The host’s pride of being part of the company is patent as he walks everyone throughout the 300 thousand square feet brewery that makes almost 2.5 million kegs/year.

As we will see below the company is closely connected to today’s struggle for sustainability. Apart from that, it is best never to forget: the beer is great, and they know that. Maybe that is the reason they give themselves the luxury to name one beer “Lagunitas Sucks” and be well sure that the public would understand the irony (even though irony is not the reason for the



Picture taken by the author

name). The tasting offers a glimpse of the care they put into their product, resulting in a high quality, tasty beer. Even the Pils, the most common of their products is a highlight. Others to mention: the malty IPA, the 8.5% alcohol and tasty Little Sumpin Extra, the fruity flavor Lagunitas Sucks, the old school Maximus IPA and the aromatic Hops Stupid.

The larger picture

The company is also proud of being a “value to the community”, having a clear sense of corporate responsibility. In Chicago, there are almost 200 people employed by the brewery. The tasting tour in Chicago offers a music gig at 4:20 pm. That does not happen on Mondays and Tuesdays because the Tap Room and Restaurant is closed for non-profit organization fundraisers (value to community, right?).

As to California, their brewery at Petaluma focuses on its water usage. You can’t make beer without a lot of water, something that Cali’s out of. As a comparison, the industry in general uses 5 to 7 gallons of water to 1 gallon of beer. In their Petaluma facility, the usage is half: 2 gallons of water to 1 of beer. Not only they reuse all of their water “to do everything else than beer”, but also the byproduct of the fermentation, methane, is used as the facilities power source.



Picture from company's website

By “making no little plans”, Lagunitas is opening a new brewery in Los Angeles by next year, which will be even bigger than Chicago’s. Don’t we forget that Chicago’s brewery is the “largest fabricating beer under one roof” brewery in the world. We can’t be sure if they are going for interstellar domination. However, we can be sure that visiting the brewery and tasting the beer is a unique, groovy experience in Chicago.

Lost in Pilsen

Location and Travelling

Pilsen (Lower West side, Chicago, IL.)

From UChicago→Pilsen (one hour)

Plan A: 56th St. →Metra → Pink Line→ 18th St

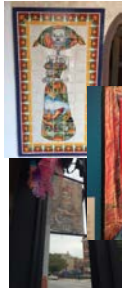
Plan B: 51th St. →Green Line→ Pink Line→18th St.

Background

“Lost” can be static; it can be used to describe the disappearance of something that once existed, just like a dead person. “Lost” can also be a procedure, during which original elements of a tradition fade away, which in turn gains new energy, redefines itself and endows itself with new meanings, just like the Day of the Dead in Pilsen.

When talking about the Day of the Dead, you are talking about Mexico. I had no idea about it until my arrival in Pilsen. We were warmly welcomed by hundreds of exquisite and colorful murals in the station, both on staircases and the wall, which is an essential part of Mexican culture. Well trained in the field of anthropology, though, I was shocked and befuddled by





those meaningful components of Mexican culture, among which the Day the Dead is the most attractive one. Although it is still two months ahead of the festival, travelers can never lose sight of the presence of skeletons everywhere: on the street, on advertisements, in the museum, or even on walls of any Mexican style stores. What is the relation between Mexican culture and the Day of the Dead?

The Day of the Dead and its brief history

Mexican immigrants in Pilsen, who became predominant since 1970s, now celebrate the festival on Nov. 1st and 2nd, when people build private altars, offer food, beverage and photos to the dead, or participate in grand parades. It is said by doing so, the dead will appreciate their efforts and give guidance to them as reciprocity. This practice can be traced to native Mexicans thousands of years ago, and the presence of skulls signifies the death and rebirth. Before Mexico was colonized, the day of the



ead was celebrated in memorial of Mictecacihuatl, or Catrina in modern time.

However, in the pre-Hispanic period, this festival was celebrated at a different time (at the beginning of summer) with a different length (approximately a month). The arrival of the Spanish force, together with Catholicism, in the 16th Century, significantly changed Mexican's religious beliefs, and moved the Day of the Dead to the beginning of November to coincide with All Saints' Day. Mexicans gradually lost their primitive culture when they encountered a new world.



Optimistic towards the Loss

Compared with China's Qingming Festival, when Chinese go to the grave sites of their ancestors of their clan and pray for the luck in the year, Mexican "Day of the Dead" can be busy and noisy. Despite their similarity on respecting ancestors, celebrations of festivals in Chinese and Mexican communities can be totally different.

	Qingming	The Day of the
		Dead

The delightful attitudes towards the dead of Mexicans cannot be imagined by Chinese, who tend to treat their

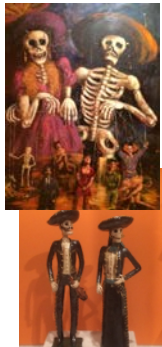
Place	Suburb	Street
Companion	Family	Crowd
Mood	Sad	cheerful
Food	Cold	Warm
atmosphere	Silent	Noisy and hot

ancestors with gravity. On the contrary, Mexicans are far from serious on the Day of the Dead. The different attitudes to the dead deserve further research, while Mexico and its neighborhood in Pilsen also welcome travelers throughout the world.

Table 1 Comparison between Qingming and the Day of the Dead

Broader Issue: Remaking Cultural Identities

In spite of regaining its independence after the revolution, Mexico didn't revive its pre-Hispanic culture.



In fact, deeply influenced by Catholicism and modernism, fewer Mexican people will be willing to identify themselves with native Mexicans. The situation remains unproblematic until Mexicans begin to reflect what it means to be a Mexican?

The mixture of cultural elements from disparate backgrounds can be easily discerned from artifacts of the festival: skeletons in European gowns, suits, or even sarcastic paintings of Communist Ideology.



By doing this, Mexicans embrace their newly reconstructed cultural identity in the new era, helping them stand out in their long history. And through participating in parade, which is actually a symbolic ritual, they form a kind of collective memory, sharing the common identity as Mexicans in the 21st century.

Utku Can Kunter
So Much Better than Tacos

Location

Pilsen, Lower West Side
Chicago

Travel Details (from UChicago)

By CTA: 54 minutes

By Bike: 1 hour and 12 minutes

By Car: 20 minutes

Background

Cultural diversity is an important asset for any city. As long as it can be maintained within a state of harmony, representatives of each culture are able to offer their own views of the world, ways of entertainment and interaction. Chicago is a city of great cultural diversity and is home to a wide range of communities that identify with many different cultures from Chinese to South American and from Indian to Polish.

Food is an integral part of the culture and offers many clues to people's ways of life. Among the cuisines most popular in the US, Mexican food is one of the most appealing, due to its distinct features and variety. As a group of 3, we visited the Pilsen neighborhood, located in the West side of Chicago, close to downtown.

Utku Can Kunter
We barely knew about the distinction between the popular dishes in the US that are called Mexican, and the authentic Mexican food. Everybody knows about tacos, burritos and fajitas, since these dishes were popularized, first within the US market and then spread across the world. This process of popularization had roots going back to the 18th century, when the populations of several Southwestern US states had a Mexican majority. After the separation of these states from Mexico, the regional cuisine took a slightly different path and blended with the American cuisine. As these states integrated with other parts of the US, their dishes gained popularity across the country. Tex-Mex (Texan-Mexican) cuisine still carries the signs of a Mexican legacy, but it is not considered by many to be authentic Mexican food.



Nuevo Leon
Restaurant, Pilsen

Pilsen is the right place to taste the authentic dishes and flavors of Mexican cuisine. There are plenty of Mexican restaurants in the neighborhood: Nuevo Leon, Fogata, Honky Tonk BBQ and Nightwood are among the popular

Utku Can Kunter
ones. We visited Nuevo Leon for a lunch. The colorful and welcoming paintings on the front wall matches the friendly atmosphere of the community. Inside, we were greeted with warmth and delicious appetizers.



Nachos and several sauces are offered as appetizers

Mexican cuisine being famous for its spices and sauces, we were delighted to get a taste of Chimole and Salsa Verde. Tortillas make a great replacement for bread and is widely used around the world to accompany food. Nachos, made by frying tortillas, are offered as appetizers along with sauces.

We ordered Bistec Ranchero (beef), Pollo Ranchero (chicken) and Flautas de Pollo (chicken). All three dishes were served with mashed beans and rice, making them both delicious and nutritious meals.



Bistec Ranchero

Bistec and pollos differs from the traditional American steak both by ingredients and preparation process. For instance, mashed beans are not used a lot outside the Mexican cuisine. Texture and flavors of yellow rice, mashed beans and meat complement each other perfectly. Sauces are typically hot, so one should be careful (as I realized too late). Flautas is easy to eat, made of chicken wrapped in tortillas.

We enjoyed our lunch in Nuevo Leon very much and would love go there again to taste different dishes. Surely we are not alone; people from around the city frequently visit the neighborhood and restaurants to experience the Mexican culture that is maintained there. It is advisable to pay a visit to Pilsen and experience what it has to offer.

Michoacán in Chicago

Location

Carnitas Uruapan Restaurant
1725 W18th St.
Pilsen

Travel Times from UChicago

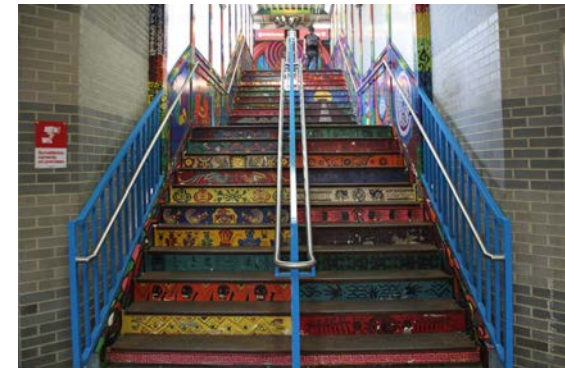
By CTA: 50 minutes
By car: 20 minutes
By bike: 45 minutes

Background

When I came to Chicago, I knew it had a big Mexican population but I didn't imagine how palpable their presence would be. The best example of it is West 18th street in Pilsen. The place is full of *panaderías* (bakeries), Mexican restaurants and shops with signs in Spanish. Just outside the 18th CTA station was an establishment that called my attention, Carnitas Uruapan.

The *carnitas* –fried pork usually served in a taco– is a Mexican dish from the state of Michoacán, where the town of Uruapan is located. In 1975, “*El Güero*” Carbajal, himself born in Michoacán, opened the restaurant. The menu is full of traditional dishes like *chicharrón* –crispy pork skin– and *menudo* –beef tripe stew. I was impressed with how authentic the food was. It seems that the

Mexican immigrants conserved their traditions unblended.



Murals on the 18th CTA station, Pink line. Francisco Mendoza and art students depicted lively scenes of Mexican culture.
Source: Public Art in Chicago, 18th Street/Untitled – Various Artists, <http://bit.ly/1KarLxO>

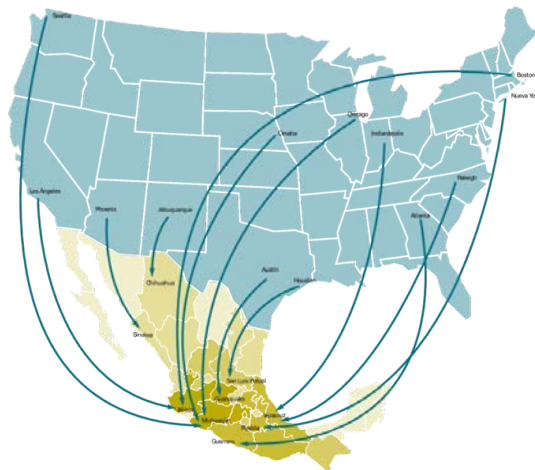
Broader Issues

Chicago has the biggest concentration of Mexican nationals outside the border states. According to the U.S. Census, in 2010, it reached 600,000 people, about 6% of the city's population. In numbers, there are more Mexicans living in Chicago than in San Antonio or San Diego.

How did Mexican immigrants arrived in Chicago? The first wave of immigrants came in the early 20th century. Political and social unrest caused by the

Alejandro Basurto

Revolution drove many people into the United States. They entered the country at the border with Texas, by the state of Tamaulipas. From there, the railroads brought them to Chicago, then a growing industrial hub with low-wage jobs. Once the immigrant population established itself in Chicago, the city became a major hub for migration.



Remittances from the U.S. to Mexico: origin and destination (2006-2007)
Source: Wikimedia Commons, <http://bit.ly/1Fyoldp>

Personal connections play a fundamental role in migration routes and destinations. It is usual that immigrant's communities help to migrants from their places of origin. A consequence of this is that certain cities in the U.S. have large populations of

Alejandro Basurto

immigrants from specific Mexican states. That is the case of New York City with Puebla and Chicago with Michoacán, the place of origin of the *carnitas*.

The creation of closed communities formed by people of the same origin and the proximity of Mexico enables immigrants to preserve its culture nearly untouched. This may explain the presence of such an authentic Mexican restaurant in Chicago. But it may also be an explanatory feature of another social phenomenon. According to a study of the *Colegio de la Frontera* (Alarcón & Ramírez García, 2009), the strong connection with Mexico and the formation of closed immigrant communities could be related to low education levels and poor command of the language, hindering the capacity of Mexican immigrants to assimilate the American culture. The vibrant culture of the Mexican American community in Chicago, then, is not only a proof of the immigration to the city, but also of the difficulties of the assimilation to a new culture.

Nurzanty Khadijah

Still Far from Living the American Dream: Mexican People's Life in Chicago



Mexican Mural in Pilsen, Chicago
Source: Nurzanty Khadijah

Location

National Museum of Mexican Arts
Pilsen Neighborhood
1852 W 19th St, Chicago, IL 60608

Travel Times from UChicago

Public Transportation: 1hr (using Metra + Bus No. 18)
Bike: 52 minutes
Car: 26 minutes

Nurzanty Khadijah

Background

According to the Population Census in 2010, there are 578,000 Mexicans in Chicago (21.4% of the total population), mostly residing in Pilsen and Little Italy neighborhoods.¹ Despite this emerging population, Chicago is ranked the 7th city with the highest Hispanic segregation in the US.² To understand more about the Mexican people's life here, I visited the National Museum of Mexican Arts in Pilsen. This museum has the biggest collection of Mexican art in the US. Moreover, since the museum is located right in the heart of the Mexican community in Chicago, I could explore the surroundings to get a first-hand experience of their lives.



National Museum of Mexican Art
Source: Nurzanty Khadijah

In the museum, I found a painting made by Marcos Raya, a mural artist from Mexico. He made this painting as a protest for Mexican workers' exploitation during the industrialization era. At that time, many Mexicans came to Chicago to work in factories with the hope to live up their American dreams. However, as they were forced to work for very long hours, they

¹ <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

² <http://www.s4.brown.edu/us2010/Data/Report/report2.pdf>

Nurzanty Khadijah

soon began suffering injuries caused by performing repetitive motions in intense frequency.



Marcos Ray's Painting about Mexican Worker in the US
Source: Nurzanty Khadijah

In his painting, Marcos illustrates the Mexican worker with a thin body posture, tired face, and hands that look like a machine. The worker is wearing the Liberty statue's crown, with smoke from the factories as the background. To strengthen his message, Marcos also took some real pieces from the factories such as gloves, clock, and parts of machines. With this painting, Marcos made an irony how the American dreams that the Mexicans were wishing for turned into the opposite.

Broader Issues

Until today, many of the Mexicans in Chicago are still living in poor conditions. As I was walking around Pilsen, I could see

Nurzanty Khadijah

clearly how different the neighborhood is to Hyde Park. There were many trash and homeless on the street. I also found food stalls in most of the street corners. When I tried to speak with the sellers, I realized they could not speak English.



Food stall near Harrison Park
Source: Nurzanty Khadijah

The unemployment rate of Hispanic in Chicago is higher than the city's average.³ Hispanic people are mostly employed in natural resources, construction, production, transportation, service, and sales occupations.⁴ Their limited job opportunities are affected by their low education attainment and inadequacy in English. As a result, they only earn low income. To address this issue, Chicago government can improve the Mexican workforce development by designing strategies to encourage children to go to school and providing English for Secondary Language class. As one of the cities with highest Mexican population, Chicago government should pay more attention to the life being of Mexican people.

³ <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat24.pdf>

⁴ http://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2012/ted_20121026.htm

Ivonne Acevedo

Art & History in the Streets of a Chicago Neighborhood



Hector Duarte's Studio
Photo Source: Mad about the Mural Blog

Location

Pilsen Neighborhood

16th Street between Western Avenue and Canal Street

Travel Details (from UChicago)

By CTA: 56 minutes

By Bike: 50 minutes (9.6 miles)

By Car: 21 minutes (10 miles)

Background

During the Chicago Neighborhood Project my teammates and I decided to go to Pilsen in search of great Mexican food. However, when I arrived I found a very cultural neighborhood with mosaics and murals in every corner. The tradition of murals

Ivonne Acevedo

is a common form of expression in Latin America. Particularly, in my home country-Nicaragua- decades ago there were murals across different cities. These murals offered a history of the past and hope of a better future as a result of the revolution. Some of the very best and most centrally placed murals have been painted over. As of today, and despite efforts of the government to declare as many murals as historic patrimony, nearly all have been destroyed.

For this reason, the murals at Pilsen were a pleasant surprise because its like walking in an exhibition of art in every street. Some of the people that we interviewed explained that the murals have always been part of the cultural scene of the neighborhood but in recent years it has been implemented an initiative promoted by the Chicago Urban Art Society to restore or paint new murals. In general, they commented that the murals had arisen directly from Mexican muralism and reflect the composition and evolution of the community.

For example, the mural “*Vida Simple*” represents the evolution of the Pilsen Community which first was inhabited by Czech and later it served as a port of immigration for the Latino population. Today, the neighborhood is a Mexican Community and the mural reflects the different generations that have lived there.

Also, the metro station is painted with a mural dedicated to the Aztec ancestors using vibrant colors and vivid representations. In another building you can find the portrait of The Virgin Mary

Ivonne Acevedo
of Guadalupe and other religious images which have become symbols of the neighborhood's identity.

Broader Issues



18th Street Pink Line

Photo Source: <http://chicagocyclingclub.org/Home/Image/2172>

According to various historic sites, Czech immigrants arrived to Pilsen in the late 19th century and named the district after the fourth largest city in what is now the Czech Republic. There were other ethnic groups amongst those immigrants that came from Croatia, Austria, Poland, etc. In the early 20th Century Pilsen was home to the wealthy as well as the working class and doctors lived next to maids and laborers.

However, at the beginning of the 1970s, Pilsen became an increasingly Mexican neighborhood as a result of a gentrification phenomenon, because the people were forced to

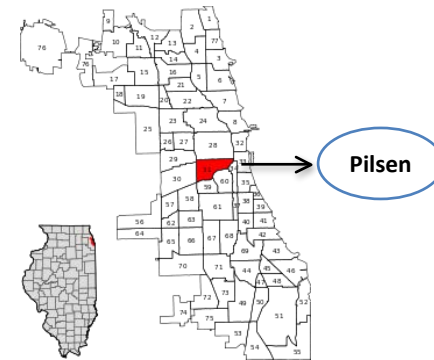
Ivonne Acevedo
move when their former small community in the North of Pilsen was torn down to make way for the University of Illinois. The neighborhood continued to serve as port of entry for immigrants, both legal and undocumented. Still today there are a few elderly Europeans residents in Pilsen, but today the community is largely Mexican population such that in the 2010 Census, they accounted for 82% of the neighborhood population as hispanic.

The case of Pilsen community is often seen as a case of study regarding gentrification. According to Hague (2015), today Pilsen can be divided into two groups. In one hand, the Immigrant families and in the other the Hispanic-owned businesses that are competing with new pubs and bars to serve a much younger and wealthier population. In this sense, the murals seem to be a reminder of the community's identity and history across different generations.

The story of a beautiful princess Mixtli

- A guide to explore rich Mexican Culture

Neighborhood: Pilsen
(also known as The Heart of Chicago)



Travel:

Distance: 8.6 miles (from 51st street)

Travel time:-

- CTA: 1 hour (CTA bus no. 6 and Pink line train)
- Bike: 40 minutes
- Car: 20 minutes

Background:

I wanted to explore Mexican neig b arily to explore Me b es. The journey to sati e to taste North Am b to the journey of exploring rich Mexican history and culture.



Boarded Issues:

Visiting the National Museum of Mexican Art at Pilsen challenges the notion of singular Mexican identity. It exposes one to the vast and rich culture and practices of Mexicans and their struggle to mark their multicultural identity in present America.



The story of princess Mixtli:



Mixtli, a beautiful princess in the valley of Anahuac had several suitors from the noble class. Her true love, warrior Popoca went to win a war to gain distinction so as to win the hand of Mixtli. To protect herself from marrying cruel noble Axooxco, princess Mixtlo resolved to take her own life. Upon returning after victory, warrior Popoca takes the princess lifeless body to the mountains hoping to bring her life back. Warrior Popoca froze to death and the couple became the volcanoes Iztaccihuatl (sleeping beauty) and Popocatepitl (smoking mountain), defining the Mexico's city landscape. *Source: National Museum of Mexican Art.*

Source of layout pictures: National Museum of Mexican Art, Pilsen.

Mourning for lost graffiti walls

Place: Graffiti Zone

Address:

3722 West Chicago Avenue

Travel time:

1.5 hour by bike; 1 hour by CTA; half an hour by car

Background:

Chicago is a city famous for arts. Through the Chicago Neighborhood Project, I saw some fairly impressive graffiti scattered on walls in Old Town. Then I became very curious about where the best graffiti place in Chicago is.

However, Chicago is not as friendly as I thought it would be to graffiti. Actually many cities on the worldwide scale adopt strict control of graffiti. However none of them goes as far as Chicago does. A series of ordinances were promulgated to curb graffiti in the city. Chicago's City Council approved a ban on spray-paint sales within the city as early as 1992¹. In summer 2014, the fines for those who graffiti in the city increase from

¹ American Coatings Association. "Spray/Paint Control". Accessed on September 8, 2015. <http://www.paint.org/find-your-issue/spray-paint-graffiti-control.html>.

\$500-\$1000 to \$1500-\$2500². What's more, government even launched a Graffiti Removal Program which offers free graffiti removal service for citizens. On Graffiti Removal Program's official website, graffiti was described as following:

*"Graffiti is vandalism. It scars the community, hurts property values and diminishes our quality of life."*³

Though Chicago's government adopts zero-tolerance policies towards graffiti, some programs allow artists to use their bare wall space to display their work. Graffiti Zone in West Humboldt Park is one of them.

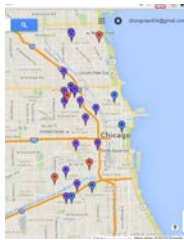


Graffiti zone is a good example of how proper graffiti contributes to the community (images by Graffiti Zone)

² The City of Chicago's Official Site. "Mayor Emanuel Announces Improved Response Times To Graffiti Removal Requests". Accessed on September 8, 2015. http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/streets/provdrs/graffiti_blasters/news/2015/may/MayorEmanuelAnnouncesImprovedResponseTimeToGraffitiRemovalRequests.html.

³ The City of Chicago's Official Site. "Graffiti Removal Services". Accessed on September 8, 2015. http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/streets/provdrs/graffiti_blasters/svcs/mayor_daley_s_graffitiblasters.html.

With the support of the surrounding neighborhood, Graffiti Zone plays a role as a local art studio where artists gathered and after-school programs are offered for students.



Representative graffiti walls legal or illegal in Chicago are shown in this picture (Blue markers indicate works that were destroyed).

Broader issues:

When you stop by at CVS in Hyde Park, you might not realize the wall behind it used to be a paradise for local graffiti artists who gathered together and made genius artistic works there. Unfortunately the wall was destroyed in November 2013⁴ to make way for a residential and retail building backed by University of Chicago.

While mourning for lost graffiti wall, a question then arises as to what attitude we should hold towards graffiti.

⁴ South Side Weekly. "End to End". Accessed on September 8, 2015. <http://southsideweekly.com/end-to-end/>.

Graffiti sometimes is tightly related with gang activity. Gangbangers use graffiti as a way to mark territory and spread influence, which will cause various troubles to the neighborhood. Besides, vandalism, which is embodied in some graffiti, largely devalues the properties, and diminishes property owners' life quality.

However, lines should be drawn between gang-related graffiti and unaffiliated graffiti, and between vandalism graffiti and artistic graffiti. Good graffiti can not only creates an enjoyable residential atmosphere, but also can plays a role as a supplement of education, from which people get enlightenment. In addition to that, graffitiists, like other artists, have the freedom and right to convey spirituality and comfort creative souls in their own ways.

In a nutshell, graffiti is not a black or white issue. Any extreme solution will inevitably lead to lost. What we could learn from Graffiti Zone is that graffiti can exist in harmony with the neighborhood. Chicago is a city of complexity with rich histories, not history. It is also a city renowned for arts, not art. Unfortunately, current restrictive ordinances and biased attitudes towards graffiti will not be helpful to keep this reputation.

Ziyi Qin

A Fading History: Vicissitude of the Polish Nation through the Lens of Their Story in Chicago

Location

Wicker Park Neighborhood
Basically along N Milwaukee Avenue

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 1hrs **By bike:** 51 mins **By car:** 22 mins

Background: I first went to Bucktown with my partner to work on our neighborhood exploration project. While recognizing Bucktown/Wicker Park as a place of Polish immigrant culture, I disappointedly realized there was hardly any such remaining there. True. More than 40 years' gentrification could substantially change an area. However, telling from the churches still providing Polish worships nearby (in Holy Trinity Polish Church, St Stanislaus Kostka Parish and St. Mary of the Angels, for example), and a census report of Chicago in 2000, stating that Chicago has the largest Polish population in America, I believe that the Polish people here are existing vividly in some way.

A second trip along Milwaukee Avenue starting from the *Division* station of the Blue line has told me much more. The Polish triangle, The Chopin theatre, the Society for Arts as well as the Polish Museum of America were all built along the street.

Ziyi Qin



Photo by the author—Chopin Theatre, outside and inside



This area has witnessed the first and second wave of Polish immigrants, happening from the mid-19th century to World War II. You can tell from a photo taken on Milwaukee Street in 1905 from the Polish Museum of America to see how people were illiterate at that time.



Photo by the author—Polish Museum of America



Historical photo—artist unknown



Zooming in of the photo in the middle

The photo reveals the historical scene of Milwaukee Street. According to the docent of the museum, the black board with three cards on it on the zooming in picture is a sign of "telling fortune". However, it was wrongly spelled. Both the error and the superstition have revealed the working class identity of Poles in that time.

Things differed later on. Migrants coming after the 1980s were better educated. Together with a lack of communistic collective memory, the new generation

Ziyi Qin
 living further northwest is a different Polish collective. I guess this is why that place (including Avondale and Jefferson Park) is named “Polish village”, distinguished from the “Polish downtown” in Bucktown/Wicker Park.

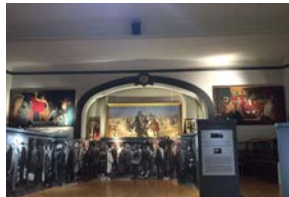


Photo by the author—Exhibition in Polish Museum of America

The institutions here though, have certainly made up their mind to go beyond their neighborhood. They intended to tell visitors about the uneasy maneuvering of the Polish nation, especially its reflection in American history. During my guided tour in the museum, the docent first showed me a great variety of paintings and inventions that were sold to America by the Polish government between WWI and WWII, in consideration of culture preservation and promotion of the nation's capacity. Later I also saw an exhibition of famous Poles living in Chicago that have contributed to the Polish nation, such as Mieczysław Haiman, a pianist fighting for Polish independence.

Broader issues: Identity and political-economic condition are two key factors to Poles' lives in Chicago and worldwide. The former shapes whom they are and

Ziyi Qin
 whom they are not; the latter influences where they go, and further complicates the identity issue.



Photo by the author—A flyer of an event in Chopin Theatre



Photo by the author—A exhibition concerning Communism Regime in Polish Museum of America

Russian Tsars, Nazism and Communism had all brought instability and crisis to the fragile Catholic country in Eastern Europe. The Polish history in Chicago could be a mirror of that. With all these material historic moments to be buried in history, the appearance of the transience here is also blurred within gentrification and the arrival of new migrants. Nevertheless, I am glad to see a Polish remaining still being here, working as an anchor between America and all other (Eastern) European culture, questioning the identity between the East and the West, and keeping a documentary of itself. With Poland's entering Europe, we could expect what will come next. If you want to learn more, you could come to the Taste of Polonia Festival in Jefferson Park and the Polish Film Festival of America organized in the Chopin and Gateway Theatres. Otherwise, just pass by any of the institutions I've introduced on a random day!

Oasis in Chicago Winter Desert

It's not winter yet, however, people cannot end their conversations without talking about the arduous journey from home to work in the frigid winter of Chicago. While they are bathing in the warm sunshine in the early September, even thinking that winter is pending always chills them up. Nevertheless, instead of hibernating at home the whole winter, many a people in Chicago is willing to go to bathhouses on the weekend, lying back, warming themselves up.

ⁱ Russian and Turkish Baths was one of the oldest bathhouses, which serve as oasis in Chicago winter desert. It was a traditional Russian-style bathhouse at 1914 W. Division Street in the Wicker Park neighborhood of Chicago, which has operated since 1906ⁱⁱ, as one part of Ukrainian Village. After the recent change in ownership in



Figure 1 Location of Red Square Bathhouse

2011 and renovation of this bathhouse, now it's called Red Square, where more services are added- a full bar, restaurant, tanning, scrub and other salon services.

This bathhouse was an unexpected bonus of the neighborhood project in Wicker Park. I took No. 6 bus at Hyde Park & Lake Park station, changed to the Blue Line in downtown, got off at Damen station. It took me 50



Figure 2 Transportations to Wicker Park

minutes to get to Wicker Park. I got to know this bathhouse when I talked to a man who lived in Wicker Park for 38 years, who pointed at an old beige building with carved *RUSSIAN AND TURKISH BATHS* on the roof and told me this bathhouse has been there forever.

The most popular feature at Russian and Turkish Baths is the traditional Russian Banya, Schvitzⁱⁱⁱ. Each of these rooms has a brick or granite oven in which boulders, approximately the size of watermelons, are heated to extreme temperatures by gas jets; hot water is then thrown on the rocks by the customers as desired^{iv}. A man I interviewed with who emigrated from Europe has been a regular sauna-goer for many years, commenting that the dry-sauna of Red Square is his favorite. People go to Red Square throughout the year, to sweat and relax, especially in winter, to get rid of brisk coldness.



Figure 3 Outside and Inside of Red Square Baths (Russian and Turkish Baths)

For people growing up in Chinese culture, where public bathing is a typical northern living habit in China, the number of bathhouses in Chicago never fails to be a surprise. Given how much American people stress and cherish privacy, the prevalence of bathhouses in Chicago is to be explained in historical and comparative perspective here.

There are more differences between Chinese bathhouses and American bathhouses. To begin with, the birth of bathhouses is diverse. Bathhouses were born as an aristocratic baby in ancient China, in which only royal family members with money and power can enjoy the privilege of it. It was not only for health, but also a symbol of social-economic status, patriarchy. Men were the main customers of bathhouses while women were accessories or servants of men in ancient times of China. Services in traditional bathhouses are very basic—scrubbing and sauna. Whereas in America, with the increasing flow of European immigrants in 19th century, Dr. Charles H. Shepard opened the first Turkish baths at 63 Columbia Street, Brooklyn Heights, Brooklyn Heights, New York in 1863^v. Bathhouses came in as a way of entertainment in a European pattern, with a combination of bathing, sauna, massage, relaxation therapies, concentrating on its recreational functions rather than social-economic symbols.

Moreover, Chinese bathhouses serve more as a social-interaction field than American bathhouses do, bearing more senses of community. In modern times, Chinese people in the north are still in a quite tight relationship with their frequent visited bathhouses. They go to a specific bathhouse because of the scrub worker they know for a long time. They can get flexible and extra scrubbing or massage services from the worker. Customers and workers know each other well outside of bathhouses. However, since the later coming of bathhouses in a relatively mature form, bathhouses in the U.S. are more commercialized like products on the flow line, in which there are fixed massage or banya steps and procedures. What's more, talking about business in bathhouse is more common in China than in America. For Americans, saunas, spa, bathing

in bathhouses are other kinds of entertainment, like going hiking and jogging.

On the other hand, just the same as Chinese bathhouses these days, the basic functions of bathhouses are the same—bathing, sauna, and recreation. Because the north always suffers from dry air, skins of people in higher latitude are easy to shed. Getting someone else to scrub the dead skin of body can help people in the north keep sanitary and healthy conditions. While people in Red Square bathhouse drink Moscow Mule and have baked potatoes, customers in traditional Chinese bathhouses drink tea and play chess in bathhouses.

The bathhouse is a miniature of society. Different atmospheres in bathhouse in the U.S. and China reflect upon the diversified cultural backgrounds. With the increasing stress on the privacy of individual lives, and development of modern furnishing of houses, the social-interacted role that bathhouses play might be fading away.

Reference

ⁱ Figure 1&2&3 photo source: <http://www.yelp.com/map/red-square-chicago>;

<http://www.examiner.com/slideshow/red-square-caf-and-spa-chicago>;

ⁱⁱ "Red Square Tan-Spa-Restaurant-Cafe", <http://www.redsquarechicago.com>

ⁱⁱⁱ **Banya** or **banja** can refer to a number of types of steam baths popular in [Eastern Europe](#); **Schvitz**, verb (Yiddish) - schvitz or schviting: To sweat, perspire, and exude moisture as a cooling mechanism.

^{iv} "Red Square Tan-Spa-Restaurant-Cafe", <http://www.redsquarechicago.com>

^v [The Brooklyn Daily Eagle](#), 3 October 1863

Veda Hyun-Jin Kim

Short Essay on Wicker Park's Around the Coyote

Veda Hyun-Jin Kim (2015 AEPP)

Background

Primary purpose of this short essay is to introduce an art festival "Around the Coyote" after my personal visit. This art festival is annually held at FlatIron Arts Building in a Chicago's neighbourhood called Wicker Park, located in a north-western part of Chicago. The festival had often been held on the first weekends in October, but in 2015 the dates was from 4th to 6th of September. I did research about the festival before visiting, and I figured out that the history around the "Around the Coyote" (1989 - present) represents and sheds sharp light on the neighbourhood Wicker Park, bringing out more food for thought than mere appreciation of the paintings or performances.

To introduce some facts on the art festival, "Around the Coyote" was firstly launched in 1989 as a non-profit organisation, in order to help young artists to exhibit their works to the general public and build networks among them. The festival was named after an art gallery located in the FlatIron Arts Building, which was back then called as Coyote Building due to the gallery's name.¹ Moreover in 2010, the art gallery of the same name had to close its doors and stopped holding the annual festival, due to severe financial problem caused by rising rent price with the

¹ All facts, Wikipedia.

Veda Hyun-Jin Kim

continuation of the gentrification trend of the neighbourhood.²

However, the FlatIron Artists' Association was assembled mainly with the students in School of Arts Institute of Chicago and the festival "Around the Coyote" was revived from 2014. Currently the organisation gives monthly events called "First Friday at the FlatIron", and the "Around the Coyote" is one of the first Friday events but bigger scale.³

My Sentiment and Broader Issue

To explain my sentiment on my visit of the art festival, it was a sheer joy. The artists and their works were inspirational and the performances were amazing. Especially Jim Wright's photography "Midway Plaisance" was the most memorable and tempting. The art piece frames a person walking in snow on the Midway Plaisance, which is located at The University of Chicago's campus. The snow gives the ambience of 'blank' which is an

² Following text is the announcement made by the board president of the gallery, Christopher Mcvety: "[a]fter two decades of working with Chicago's vibrant emerging arts community, Around the Coyote is regrettably closing its doors and ceasing operations as of May 8, 2010. (...) Through the years we did our best to add to the Chicago art dialogue, support the start of strong art careers, and foster the collecting of the emerging arts. We are proud of what we accomplished, and we are confident that with continued vigor, good things lie ahead for the arts in Chicago" (retrieved from New City Art, 2 September 2015).

³ For more detail: <http://wpbfirstfriday.org>

Veda Hyun-Jin Kim

important element in East Asian art philosophy, and the person and his/her footprint stirred me to think about the life-path to fill the ‘blank’. Other art pieces certainly were memorable as well, although I do not vividly remember the pieces as much as the “Midway Plaisance”.

The experience of visiting the art festival was superb, and I genuinely hope that the festival lasts for years. However the fact that the festival was once halted due to financial matters makes me worried, taking the rising gentrification trend of the neighbourhood into account. It is not impossible that the organisation in charge of the festival could face a financial problem, as the former one once did.

In fact, according to Wikipedia documents and casual testimonies of taxi drivers in Chicago, the Wicker Park was not a classiest neighbourhood, as it is nowadays full of high-end party places and or art galleries. It is true that the 19th century’s earlier establishment of the neighbourhood was carried out by wealthy Nordic European immigrants. However after the 1950s middle-class citizens’ massive evacuation toward ‘suburbia’, the area was filled up by humbler dwellers from Ukraine, Mexican, and Puerto Ricans. The factors of rent affordability and accessibility to the city-centre area (so-called “Loop”) were actually the driving force attracting the young artists from late 1980s, which contributed to the advent of the festival “Around the Coyote”. From the 21st century, the gentrification trend took off and continued on until nowadays, compelling working-class artists to move out to other areas. Spatial

Veda Hyun-Jin Kim

conglomeration of artists, which was once a conducive factor for their creative activities, is no longer featured in Wicker Park. Some people might contend that the gentrification actually liberated the dwellers from article dangers of gang activities or drug trafficking. However, there is no point when the original dwellers have been pushed apart to other areas and not benefitting the overall development of their homelands, There are many ways to solve the social problems other than gentrifying the area with the force driven by the market.

I was able to find some inspiring graffiti works in Division Street which is in a bit humbler area, but not at all in the neighbourhood of Wicker Park.⁴ Moreover I asked some artists in the festival where their residential areas are, but no one said they lived around Wicker Park. These facts are not scientifically supporting my concern, but still they imply the looming trend.



⁴ I met a street artist working on a wall on Milwaukee Street, but he said that his work is commissioned.

Jose Hernandez

Wicker Park: Urban Redesign



Source: Google Maps

Phenomena

Gentrification in Wicker Park

1570 N Damen Ave, Chicago, IL 60622 (near Milwaukee Ave)

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 50-60 min **By bike:** 60-70 min **By car:** 20—30 mins

Background: My Mexican background pulled me and my friends over to a taco stand at Damen Ave and Milwaukee Ave when we were looking for something to eat after a party in Wicker Park. We were also drawn to eating there given their low prices - although expensive when comparing to prices back at home. I eat rather fast so I had to wait for my other friends to finish their food.

Jose Hernandez

In the meanwhile, I was able to just observe the dynamics of the neighborhood.

From the corner of Damen and Milwaukee you can immediately notice how Wicker Park is a predominantly white neighborhood. Moreover, most of the people there seem to be financially comfortable, as they are having dinners in fancy restaurants, beers and cocktails in bars, walking their well-groomed dogs, among other activities.



Source: Google Maps

We left the taco stand a few minutes later and we walked through Milwaukee Avenue.

Broader issues:

The Wicker Park area is very different now to how it was 35 years ago. As mentioned in the Encyclopedia of Chicago, during the 1960s and 1970s, this

Jose Hernandez

neighborhood was a predominantly poor and working class neighborhood. It had a huge African American population and the Hispanic community was growing relatively fast. In contrast, Wicker Park is now predominantly white and is inhabited by top-middle income families. Moreover, the neighborhood's multiple art shops, bookstores, restaurants, bars, active nightlife, among others, have converted it into one of Chicago's hotspots. This phenomenon Wicker Park has experienced is called gentrification.

Among other causes for this gentrification process to happen, one particularly stands out: higher real state value. Higher rent and housing prices would force the economically and financially vulnerable out of the neighborhoods; and in come the middle and top income families, together with their higher disposable income for consumption in art, books, and food, among other elements. This process would continue across years, even decades, which would gradually displace the African American and Hispanic community from Wicker Park towards other places in the city, particularly the south side.

The image one could take from the taco stand at Damen and Milwaukee fits right in. From there, you would be in close proximity to a small African American and Hispanic community who is grabbing a bite from one

Jose Hernandez

the cheapest places in the neighborhood. At the same time, from that standpoint, you would see that the vast majority of people around there would be having dinner at fancy restaurants and entering bars. The day-to-day dynamics in Wicker Park is very different now from what it used to be.

Other neighborhoods in Chicago have also evidenced this kind of phenomena. A quick Google search of "Gentrification in Chicago" leads to several links that also associate this kind of phenomena to Lincoln Park, Logan Square and Lake View. It seems to be commonplace among current *hip* neighborhoods; however, this is a story that is not usually known – let alone told.

As the city keeps growing, one has to wonder if gentrification in these neighborhoods, including Wicker Park, has reached its endpoint or is it still in the making? Is it yet to occur in other neighborhoods? While we are unable to have a true, pinpoint response to these questions, we can be certain that these neighborhoods as we them today are not how they used to be 30 or 40 years ago. Understanding Chicago, particularly its recent history, involves recognizing the importance of this gentrification process that occurred in many of the city's neighborhoods *vis a vis* the city's growth.

Gabriel Ugarte

CLANDESTINE CHICAGO

Location

The Violet Hour
Wicker Park Neighborhood
In the corner of Wicker Park's Park near to Damen-
O'hare station

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 1 hrs **By bike:** 1.5 hrs **By car:** 20 mins

Background: While walking in the frenzied six-way intersection of Damen/Milwaukee/North in Wicker Park neighborhood on a Saturday evening, you can feel that many things are going on: Overcrowded bookstores and cafes, musicians and artists performing in streets corners, open-air fashion and music festivals within meters, and all kind of people walking through the sidewalks.

Although the neighborhood is very busy, you never feel anonymous or rootless. On the contrary, you find a familiar town with very kind people. Just in my first trip to Wicker Park I could start interesting conversations with very different people. We even danced with one of the assistants to the art and fashion festival that was taking place that very same day!

Gabriel Ugarte

On the Damen Avenue, just a few meters from the six-way intersection, is a wall with a mural and a singular light bulb designating the entrance to the "The Violet Hour" bar. In the night it is also characterized by the queue outside the wall, generating curiosity in the passersby.

The norms for entering include attire rules, not asking for beer, and not bringing anyone "that you wouldn't invite to your mother's house for Sunday dinner". Once inside, the attention is focused on the entrance curtains, the chandeliers and the dim light, giving the feeling of entering a clandestine, but also exclusive, place.



Title: The Violet Hour Entrance
Author: Sean Davis
Source: Flickr, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/seandavis/8703856731/in/photolist-eg8xnn-9mRj6L>
Copyright information: Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerivs 2.0 Generic (CC BY-ND 2.0). Free to copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose. No changes were made.

Image: The entrance of the bar with murals that change every few months. The murals are very different from

Gabriel Ugarte

one another but typically they are a mix of vintage animations and graffiti.

Broader issues: On December of 2015, United States will celebrate the 82th anniversary of the repeal of the 18th Amendment that prohibited the sale, manufacture and transportation of alcohol, which was in place between years 1920 and 1933.

Well before the ban on alcohol, Chicago had plenty of organized expressions of temperance, such as religious societies. These forces soon turned to political forces that passed a bill that dried up two thirds of sales points in 1909, and afterwards ratified the 18th Amendment to the Constitution making the alcohol illegal in the state (chicagohistory.org).

Illegal drinking places flourished throughout Chicago during the years of the ban, called speakeasies, which made their own liquors or imported them from other countries, such as Canada. In Chicago, the gangster took advantage of this situation, and started to sell liquor across the country, making it a very lucrative business. As a consequence of the legal restriction on alcohol, it is believed that organized crime rose, corruption increased, and illegal places to drink became popular.

The Violet Hour resembles this prohibition era, especially the first years, when many bars remained open, with blank storefronts and entrances by the side.

Gabriel Ugarte

Although the ban on alcohol came to an end in 1933, this 13-year period is considered one of the most defining moments of Chicago. Probably, this city would not be the same without the speakeasies, the whispering in the streets when speaking about bars and drinking alcohol, and the risk of being caught doing something illegal.

Maximiliano Vejares

A Hidden Gem in Milwaukee Avenue

Myopic Books

Location:

1564 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Travel Details from UChicago

By CTA: 46 min

By bike: 1 hr 5 min

By car: 25 min

Background

One of my favorite movies of all time is Wicker Park, named after the neighborhood in the North West part of Chicago. When I arrived to this city, one of the first things I did was visiting the area to find some filming locations but oh, wait! The actual movie was filmed in Québec, Canada. After this disappointing realisation, something just a few steps away from the Damen blue line CTA station caught my eye: Myopic Books.

It may be its signs exotic font or the thousands of books you see through the window, but Myopic definitely stands out from the rest of the neighboring shops. Once inside, any person who enjoys reading will be delighted with the large

Maximiliano Vejares

amount of categories and aisles you can find, from the basement to the second floor. The store has collection of over 80,000 volumes, with a whole room dedicated to the occult, with sections such as Phenomenology and Mystery.



The best things of Myopic is that sells very affordable used books that are in great shape. In my home country, Chile, books are very expensive and independent bookstores are hard to find. This large and unique bookstore really fulfills everything I look for when trying to find any product: connectivity, good quality and reasonable prices.

To my fellow social scientists, I'm sorry to tell you that it will be hard to find textbooks that will help you during your program. If your field is Sociology or Anthropology, you may find some interesting things, though. I was lucky to find two books that will help me during my studies, but I had to work hard to find them hidden in those never ending aisles. Regarding economics... I'm sorry guys, you won't even find a section in the whole store! If you are interested in History, this is a place specially made for you.

Maximiliano Vejares

Broader issues

Independent bookstores have a large history in Chicago, in which Myopic is distinguished as one of the oldest and largest. These entrepreneurship give a real, sustainable and affordable option to both students and the general public.

The access to reasonably priced books is a worldwide issue. In the Unites States, a student spends an average of \$1,000 in textbooks during an academic year, amount that is added to the already high price of education. In this sense, independent used bookstores are an excellent alternative to make studies more accessible. Better yet, a used book price range is usually between 50% and 70% of its original value.

More importantly, the presence of good used independent bookstores such as Myopic generate an important incentive in the books market, adding competition to the large chains. Ultimately, this could affect the price of books, making them more affordable for everyone.

Wen Zhang

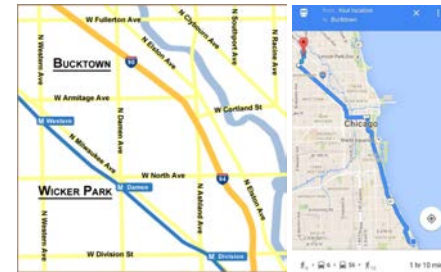
The Small Unique Houses in Bucktown

Location

Bucktown Neighborhood
Between North western Avenue/Wicker Park and North Branch Chicago River

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 1.25 hrs **By bike:** 1.25 hrs **By car:** 20—30 mins



Source: <http://www.wickerparkbucktown.com/the-neighborhood/getting-here>

Background: Here, I want to talk about the neighborhood named Bucktown and the characteristic houses there. Bucktown is located in the north side of the city of Chicago. There are many ways which you can use to get to Bucktown from the University of Chicago. If you drive to Bucktown, it will take 20 minutes if there is no traffic jam, but the time will be longer in rush hour. Various routes can be used to take the CTA buses and

Wen Zhang

trains to go there and the average time is 1 hour and 15 minutes almost the same time as riding bike to Bucktown. The first time I went to Bucktown was when I was doing my Chicago Neighborhood Project. Since I was in the Academic English Pre-matriculation Program (AEPP), I chose Bucktown to do my neighborhood research project. I spent about 1 hour and 20 minutes to take buses to Bucktown. When I got off the bus, I was amazed by the cozy view of Bucktown.



Source: Taken by myself

Bucktown is quiet, beautiful and looks like to be a warm home. The impression Bucktown gives to me seems to be the same as the impression my hometown in China gives to me. I was curious about how Bucktown can feel like a big family. As I walked into Bucktown to find the reasons, I noticed that the houses in Bucktown are small and well-arranged. Most houses have only 2-3 floors, but every house is different from each other and has their own building style, which is really not like the tall apartment buildings in other neighborhoods. It seems that people in Bucktown design their houses by

Wen Zhang

themselves. They plant different flowers and trees in the gardens which are also unique.



Source: Taken by myself

There was also an Arts Festival held on that day, so we grabbed the chance to interview many people of different genders and ages. Most people told us that Bucktown is safe and convenient for living. They all mentioned that people there are friendly and hospitable, which we had realized through our interview. They also stressed that the houses in Bucktown are small and unique and it made Bucktown feel like a family neighborhood. An old gentleman told us that because the houses were small, they knew their neighbors very well and felt that they were living in a big home. It is really amazing that he even has the keys of his three neighbors and often help them to take care of their pets.

Broader issues: The experience in Bucktown encouraged me to think more about the effect of houses on people's emotion, behavior, and life. If the houses are very high and crowded in Bucktown, it is hard for people to know each other. And the crowded buildings may make them feel depressed and easily get angry. People

Wen Zhang

may not be as friendly as they presently are. Life in Bucktown will also be different. For example, in my hometown in China, the houses are also not high. People know each other very well and often visit their neighbors. During Chinese traditional festival it will more feel like a big family because almost all people come out to celebrate the festival. I always feel relaxed when I get to my hometown. But after I moved into a big city and lived in a tall building, I always feel depressed because the crowded houses and limited view from my room. Most times, I can only stay at home to pass the boring weekend. In fact, by the time I came to Chicago, I still did not know much about my neighbors, even their names. Above all, I believe that houses play an important role in affecting people's emotions and lives. I strongly suggest that if you want to have a high-quality life, you had better live in a neighborhood where houses are small, not big tall skyscrapers. So I would like to recommend Bucktown as a permanent living neighborhood.

The Green River



Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago_River

Time and Location:

Chicago River

Closet Saturday to St. Patrick day, (this year on March 14th), 9:15 am.

Travel Time from UChicago:

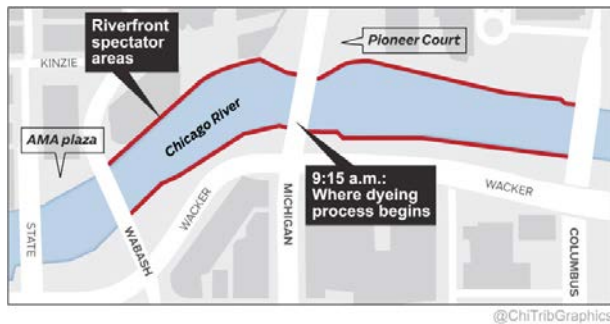
Car: 20 min / CTA: 40 min / Bike: 46 min

Background:

I like knowing special things about the place I live in. Chicago is a city with a great history and culture, and many activities happen there. When I searched about the Chicago areas I found some beautiful pictures of Chicago River in green that amazed me. So I became very curious about the reason for doing this.

Every year, for about 50 years at St. Patrick day, the Chicago River is dyed to green to celebrate the heritage of Ireland. This process starts at the 9:15 am at the Michigan Avenue and it goes to west and east of the river. The best places to see this beautiful phenomenon include [4]:

- East side of the Michigan Avenue Bridge
- West side of the Columbus Drive Bridge
- Along the banks of the Chicago Riverwalk between Michigan Avenue and Columbus Drive.
- Signature bar at Trump International Hotel & Tower



Source: www.chicagotribgraphics.com

Dyeing tradition of Chicago River is now holds in observance of St. Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, although at first it carried out for totally a different reason. Richard J. Daley, the

Mayor of Chicago at 1962, is known as the first person that suggested dyeing the river. As he was responsible to develop the city's riverfront area, there was a problem with the river: The river was a sewage-filled eyesore. [1]

To solve this problem, Daley authorized the pouring of a special green dye into the waterway in order to find the exact places where waste threw away into the river and to find those who are responsible for this problem. [1]

But the history of dyeing Chicago in celebration of St. Patrick day started with the proposal of Daley's friend, Stephen Bailey, who was also a member of the Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Local, the city's St. Patrick's Day Parade chairman. He came up with this idea that if they could streak the Chicago River green, why not turn it *all* green? [1]

Three months after that, hundred pounds of a chemical dye were poured into the river in order to make it wholly green that made it green for an entire week. [1]

Since then 'till now, the same practice was repeated every year, but with one difference: the amount of dye used was cut in half over the next two years until

Negin Sadat Mousavi

they finally reached to 25 pounds of dye to have one day of green water. [1]

Notice: About 45 minutes after they start the procedure the Chicago River will be green but it doesn't last for a long time. The color stays about 5 hours. So enjoy it as they start dyeing it! There is an Irish parade along with this happening.

In 2009, the White House fountains dyed green at the request of Michelle Obama in observance of Patrick Day. [2]

"The dyeing process begins at 9:15 on the morning of the parade when six members of the local Plumbers Union hop aboard two boats, four of them on the larger vessel, the remaining two on a smaller boat.

The larger boat heads out onto the water first, with three members of the crew using flour sifters to spread the dye into the river. The smaller boat follows closely behind in order to help disperse the substance." [3]



Source:
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-chicago-river-green-dye-st-patricks-day-20150312.html>story.html

Negin Sadat Mousavi

The dye that had been used to color the river was made of an oil-based fluorescein that is outlawed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency later. Afterward, the parade organizers used a powdered, vegetable-based dye. Although the exact formula has been kept secret, it has been tested by official organizations and verified harmless for the environment. [2]



Source: <http://www.chicagostpatsparade.com/parade-and-river-dyeing.html>

Broader Issues:

As the health of the river has improved, some debates over this tradition among environmental activists have been shaped.

Negin Sadat Mousavi

"Dyeing the river green may not injure the animals and the surrounding environment, but it sends the wrong message to the public that the river isn't full of wildlife that depend on it", Margaret Frisbie, the executive director of the environmental group Friends of the Chicago River told USA TODAY Network. [6]

As the new discussions about this phenomenon arise, one might think about this question: Should this tradition continue or some changes should be made in this particular way of celebration?

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Carlos E. Alvarado

Curb Your Dog? -- Understanding American Culture from a dog-owner perspective



Source: Southpoop.com

If you own a dog, you would probably have seen these signs before, all around Hyde Park and other parts of Chicago.

Literally, the "Curb your dog" sentence means that a dog-owner has to have her dog do its necessities at the side of the road, where the curb is.

Of course, this is in most cases impractical, given that most dogs do their business i) where they want, and ii) where it is safe for them to do so. That is, the side of the road might be a dangerous place for them to be, and, of course, they prefer to pee or poop where their nature tells them to do so.

Nowadays, for the majority of pet-owners it is a non-discussed issue that they must be responsible for taking care of the waste their pet produces.

Carlos E. Alvarado

Nonetheless, this was not the case in Chicago (and other cities in the US) early 20th century, and because of this, some rules had to be put in place to have healthier and cleaner cities.

Example of this is Ordinance 7-12-420, which states *"No person shall appear with a pet upon the public ways or within public places or upon the property of another, absent that person's consent, without some means for the removal of excrement; nor shall any person fail to remove any excrement deposited by such pet"*.

According to such Ordinance, as long you are willing to pick your dog's excrement up, you are in compliance with the Law.

However, according to this writer's experience, if you are a dog-owner in Chicago, some of your neighbors might ask that your dog do not:

1. Pee or poop on the sidewalk next to their houses
2. Pee or poop on the parkway next to their houses
3. Pee or poop in public parks next to their children

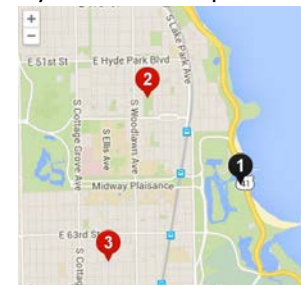
Carlos E. Alvarado

This is a more extreme version of the "Curb your Dog" phrase, and it seems it is an accepted version, at least for some Americans.

But there is more.

Walking your dog in public parks is also somehow subject to certain rules. On the one hand, there are parks specifically designed and available for dogs. It is worth mentioning **Jackson Bark (1)**, **Nichols Park (2)** and **Wagsworth Dog Park (3)** (see Fig. 1).

Figure 1. Hyde Park and pet-friendly parks



Source: Yelp.com and Google Maps

On the other hand, however, there are public parks where dogs (or other pets) are not allowed to enter.

Carlos E. Alvarado

Therefore, you should be very careful of where and how you walk your dog in Chicago; otherwise, someone could get really upset with you.

Broader Issues

The story above presents an exaggerated example of what might be in the heart of the American Culture: respect for the private property and for individuals' rights. This order of things is reflected in (implicit and explicit) rules that obey to these maxima, and which you might find are somehow contradictory with those of your own culture. Nevertheless, any difference you might encounter here is an opportunity to revisit your own ideas about how communities and members of communities should interact among each other to have a more pleasant life. Is a nice green lawn or exterior painting more important than your pet's needs? Should your pet be banned from some parks because it is a threat for children? These and more profound questions are to be answered by yourself, keeping in mind that in the US the answer tends to favor individuals. And as long as you don't have the answer to those questions, please Curb your Dog!

Kunihiro Kawasaki

Influence of renovation on cultural mosaic in Lincoln Park

Location

Lincoln Park

On the corner of N. Clark St. and W. North Ave.

Travel Details (from UChicago)

By CTA: 35 minutes

By Bike: 53 minutes

By Car: 20 minutes

Background

I visited Lincoln Park in this summer and noticed one interested signboard. It says "welcome" in English and some other foreign languages. When I went back home and check what languages are used in signboard, I found that those are English, Spanish, Polish, German, Italian, French and Japanese in this order.



Left: A signboard in Lincoln Park. The languages used in the board is English, Spanish, Polish, German, Italian, French and Japanese (source: photo taken by the author).

Considering the huge population who speaks

Kunihiro Kawasaki

Spanish in Chicago, it is as a matter of course that Spanish translation is located 2nd under English. As to German, Italian, French and Japanese, it is reasonable to add these language, because there are many tourists who use such language and visit Lincoln Park. However, why is Polish used? Why is Polish written after Spanish and over German, Italian, French and Japanese? I analyze this issue considering the history of Lincoln Park.

Brief overview of the history of Lincoln Park

Lincoln Park was first settled by German farmers in the middle of 19th century. Two decades later, with the development of furniture factories nearby, Italians and Poles began to reside in this area as factory workers. After the Great Depression, this area turned into a slam and massive renewal plan was executed in 1960s and poor people were displaced. (source: <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/746.html>) As a result, Lincoln Park is now considered as an area with “non-preeminent (ethnic) group” (<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/3889.html>)

Discussion

In light of the above history of Lincoln Park, particularly the renewal plan and subsequent drove off of Polish in 1960s, frequency in the use of Polish can be reduced, but as shown above, Polish culture still remains in the signboard. The reason is, in my opinion, because the culture in particular neighborhood cannot be easily erased even by the

Kunihiro Kawasaki

thorough redevelopment. Rather, culture easily survives such renovation. Of course, the renovation can disperse the people from particular area, however those who are drove away can live near the area and can exert a sufficient influence on the area afterwards. We can find Polish near by on the above ethnic mosaic map sited above. For this reason, Polish is still used in the signboard.

As an additional evidence to my assertion, I can also point out that the same thing also happened in the Italian culture. While Italian people were also drove away by the restoration of Lincoln Park, Italians lives Little Italy near Lincoln Park. Considering the distance between Little Italy and Lincoln Park, Italian culture can have significant influence on Lincoln Park. In fact, we can find numerous Italian restaurants in Lincoln Park, particularly in the western area of Lincoln Park. (Little Italy is located in the west of Lincoln Park.)

From the discussion above, culture in certain area can survive renewal of neighborhood and can have significance influence on the area even after the renovation. Unless entire population of particular culture is forced to move thousands miles away from the neighborhood – though, it is unimaginable in modern democratic countries – the culture keeps on influencing the neighborhood.

Broader Issues

I can broaden the above analysis and I can easily find the similar cases as happened in Lincoln Park. To illustrate, Celtic people were invaded and lost power in U.K., but

Kunihiro Kawasaki
have some influence on English. We can still find some Celtic English such as bin, clan, and flannel. In 1066, Norman Conquest of England occurred and the defeated people were suppressed. French words poured into English and the usage of English was limited to some extent. However, English itself has survived. In this way, culture survives some hardships. I will study this issue further.

Xi Chen (Cindy)

Enjoy Nature in the Vibrant City



(source: mcg-acura.capitisdevelopment.us)

Location

Lincoln Park

Bordered on the north by Diversey Parkway, on the west by the Chicago River, on the south by North Avenue, and on the east by Lake Michigan

Travel from UChicago

By CTA: 15 minutes by #55bus (Garfield) & 20 minutes by Red Line (Clark/Division)

By car: 22 minutes

By bike: 64 minutes

Background

In fact I came to Chicago on August 3rd so I do not know much about this city. Lincoln Park is a name that seems to be familiar to me and my friends told me that it is a very good neighborhood. It is actually Chicago's largest and maybe the most active green space with diverse culture and astounding recreational resources. The Lincoln Park Zoo there is also famous and it is free for everyone. I love nature and photography thus I chose Lincoln Park as my destination without hesitation. My exploring experiences there proved that my choice is right. I enjoyed the beautiful scenery and felt so comfortable and relaxed while walking along the park.



Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool

(source: photo by myself)

There are some magnificent gardens and ponds in Lincoln Park, especially the lily pool. Water with green trees as well as wooden pavilion around create such a peaceful environment. You can easily find people and animals there immersed in their leisure time. Moreover, Lincoln Park Conservatory made me surprised with its large and beautiful lawns, especially the fascinating flowers blooming in the sun. It provides good chance for people to enjoy nature even in winter.

Broader Issues

Diverse wonderful ideas, designs, engineering, and arts make these entire beautiful nature views. It really should take a lot of efforts to maintain and improve this park. There exists some environmental problems ever bothering Lincoln Park. The fact is that near Lincoln Park there is a uranium processing mill whose operations have released radioactive materials and metals into the environment. These releases contaminated soil and groundwater around the mill and the Lincoln Park area. There are some cleanup activities which focused on eliminating the mill site as a source of contamination to Lincoln Park, and eliminating exposures to Lincoln Park residents. The problem has not been totally solved yet. The Lincoln Park community planning meeting is held and EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency) is gathering community input to work things out. I think making residents, business owners, organizations, local government and other interested parties to participate in is a great way and I am sure the nature in Lincoln Park will have a bright future.

FREEING THE ZOO

Background

I discovered the Lincoln Park Zoo (LPZ) at Chicago when I was doing my Neighborhood project at Lincoln Park neighborhood. What really surprised me was the Souvenir Shop; first of all because it was not right at the entrance of the place as other retail stores of my country, instead it was more at the center of the place. Second, because it was a very big store for a public space. Then I realized the reason when I saw that in the shelves of the shop there was a sign that said: "Remember that with **every purchase here** you help to keep the zoo entrance for **free**".

This financial scheme of maintenance in function of the revenue from selling gifts and souvenirs at the shop was what kept my attention. With that idea in mind I thought about all the public spaces here in Chicago that are for free and make the City what it is. In fact, the city is well known for being a place where you could easily travel between different neighborhoods with all kinds of backgrounds and culture influences. And maybe the reason you could do this is because this free public spaces are a connection between them.

Travel Times from UChicago

The transit time to the Zoo at **Lincoln Park** neighborhood is about:



Oliver Arroyo Ramón

Visual

25 min 52 min 53 min



"The biggest factor in Lincoln Park Zoo remaining free and open 365 days a year is your support!"
Source: <http://www.lpzoo.org/magazine/articles/how-does-zoo-stay-free>

Broader Issues

For instance, Millennium Park, Lincoln Park and Wicker Park are essential parts of the city not only because they are cosmopolitan centers, but also because all kind of people can walk there. In fact, what keeps their relevance, as an essential part of the city is the characteristic that they are free for visitors. This effort for having free parks and truly public spaces is what makes a city great for tourists and residents. Take for instance, Paris or New York, two cities that have in common the quantity and quality of their public spaces, you can walk the city and discover all kinds of interesting venues for free.

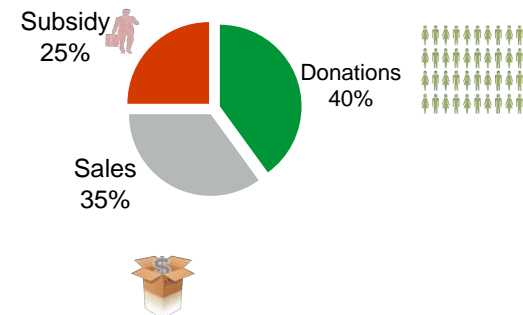
Oliver Arroyo Ramón

In the case of the LPZ the true effort to keep it free is amazing. The real cost of operation by day for the zoo administration is \$62,000 dollars.

But instead of charging an entrance fee it receives its funding by three ways:

1. **Sales:** The consumer support by purchases at the different stores and food courts.
2. **Donations:** by different members of the society and institutions.
3. **Subsidy:** A fixed annual amount provided by The Chicago Park District fund.

Lincoln Park Zoo Budget (2014)



Source: <http://www.lpzoo.org/magazine/articles/how-does-zoo-stay-free>

This arrangement of financial sources constitutes the best example of a Public Private Association. In a very simple way

Oliver Arroyo Ramón

the zoo found a solution to reduce dramatically the costs for the government to finance and maintain it. For example, "The Park District support made up 46 percent of the budget in 1995 but only covered 25 percent last year."¹

Diversifying the budget for public spaces could be a solution for some attractions in Mexico City. For example, Mexico City also has a Free Zoo at one of its central parks named *Chapultepec*. The main reason that you would not find a big souvenir shop at the zoo is because of the informal retail stores outside the park that offers souvenirs at a lower price than the ones you could find inside. This cast a problem if you want to take advantage of the sales of the souvenir shop to pay part of the operation costs, and the reason is that the consumer has two prices between which to choose. One price is the formal one (at the souvenir shop) that includes taxes that makes it expensive. The other one, the informal price (outside the zoo) with no taxes that makes it cheaper.

If the authorities wants to minimize the cost of operating this type of attractions they should **incorporate the informal retailers to the souvenir shop** and charge them a tax in order to pay for the work they are illegally doing and to sum their sales to the annual budget of the zoo. In fact, this solution would reduce informality and unemployment near the zoo. But also would improve the quality of life of this street vendors by incorporating them to a social security and pension system.

¹ Source: <http://www.lpzoo.org/magazine/articles/how-does-zoo-stay-free>

Oliver Arroyo Ramón

Also the Lincoln Park Zoo experience show us the importance that some events and advertising has on the way the people live their public space. Members of the zoo feel like they are helping a generation to discover wild animals in their natural environment by different approaches. In other words **they feel it like their own** helping the donation system to work and constitute the biggest part of the annual budget. In emerging economies this social service approach could be use to help diversify the budget of a public space in order to minimize public expenditure on this type of venues.

MARCELLO PULIGHEDDU

All Roads Lead to a Lion in the Snow

Travel Time from UChicago: 65 minutes by bus

Background

There's a proverb in Italy that goes like “All roads lead to Rome”. This sentence dates back to the Middle Ages and is based on the actual fact that most of the roads built during the Roman Empire originated from Rome. The meaning of the proverb is that different paths can lead to the same destination, be it a place or the solution to a very difficult problem. My problem was fairly simple: how do I get to the (free) zoo in Lincoln Park from UChicago, specifically from IHouse?

A quick search on Google after I obtained the first solution: use the CTA bus, start with route #6 to Michigan & South Water, then change to route #151 until I am arrived. But wait, is there a better way?

Sometimes the bus on route #6 are too crowded and it's hard to find a seat. The Metra System offers a more comfortable and, depending on traffic, faster option. Also, there is a Metra station which is actually closer to IHouse than the route #6 stop.

Now, let's pretend I'm not a lazy person and I want to do some exercise this Sunday. The Lakefront Trail, which as you guessed is a beautiful trail on the lakefront of Lake Michigan, goes from Lincoln Park to Hyde Park and further South and is open to pedestrians and bicyclists. It takes more than three hours on foot, so that for me is not an option, but the time reduces to approximately one hour using a bike. Another advantage of the bike option is that, after my visit to

MARCELLO PULIGHEDDU

the zoo, I have the perfect tool to quickly explore Lincoln Park.

Visual



The African Lion Sahar trots through the snow in the Lincoln Park zoo (source: www.lpzoo.org)

Broader Issues

Chicago is home to the second largest public transportation system in the United States, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)¹. It operates approximately eighteen hundred buses operating more than 120 routes and eight rapid transit line of elevated rails, called “The L”¹. The suburbs of Chicago are connected to the Loop by eleven train lines operated by Metra².

In addition to these services, Divvy is a bicycle sharing system

MARCELLO PULIGHEDDU

which offers the possibility to rent a bike in over 470 stations spanning all Chicago³. After paying an annual membership fee of \$75 the user gets unlimited free 30 minutes trips.

A public transport system capable of transferring a large number of people within a reasonable amount of time is vital for the well being of citizens in a big city. It reduces congestion on roads, thus enabling faster travel and plays an important social role by making travel affordable for almost every member of the society, e.g. poor graduate students without a car.

A very important factor for the well-being and health of a population is pollution, especially air pollution. A reduction in fuel consumption leads directly to a reduction in the pollution level. While there is a debate about the general fuel efficiency of public transport in rural area and small cities^{4,5}, the consensus is that in cities public transport is significantly more energy efficient than private vehicles.

Another important advantages of public over private transport is that in some cases, e.g. electric trains, the production of energy does not happen in the vehicle but in a production plant outside the city. In addition to being slightly more energy efficient this solution moves the source of the pollution from densely populated areas to low populated ones, thus reducing the impact on public health.

Bicycle is by far the most environmentally friendly transport mode, even taking into account the increase in CO² emission due to the physical activity and the emissions during production and transport to consumer⁶. Of great importance is also the positive health effect due to the regular physical exercise.

MARCELLO PULIGHEDDU

Weather plays an important role in the choice of transport mode, depending on comfort and safety requirement of a person. Especially in a city like Chicago, famous for its inclement winter, rain, snow and wind represent major disadvantages for those wishing to use a bike. Inclement weather seriously reduce the comfort during a bike ride, forcing many people to leave their bike in a garage during winter. In addition to this, even long after a precipitation event the wet condition of the road, small deposits of snow or ice and strong gusty winds all constitute major risks for bicycle users, while still allowing the circulation of the more stable cars and buses.

In conclusion, an efficient combination of public and private transport, together with the promotion of alternative means of transportation more respectful of the environment, is vital to the health and well-being of the citizens of a modern metropolis. While each city has its own peculiar road architecture and climatological challenges, public administrations are getting more and more conscious of the important of public transport for the well being of citizens and of the environment.

References:

¹http://metrarail.com/metra/en/home/utility_landing/riding_metra/faq.html#q2 (Retrieved 9/8/15).

²<http://www.transitchicago.com/about/facts.aspx> (Retrieved 9/8/15).

³<http://www.divvybikes.com/about> (Retrieved 9/8/15).

⁴R. Kemp, Power Engineer, 18, 5 (2004), pp.12-17

⁵S. Meinardi et al., Atm. Env. , 42, 34 (2008), pp. 7951-7923

⁶C. Walsh, P. Jakeman, R. Moles and B. Oregan, Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment, 13, 6 (2008), pp. 392–399

Zhi Wang

Getting Involved in Sports: Transamerica Chicago Triathlon

Location

Goes through the Lincoln Park Neighborhood
On the North Lake Shore Drive

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 1 hr By bike: 1 hr By car: 22 min

Background: At 21, I was admitted to the University of Chicago in 2015 Fall quarter. I took the AEPP course for future success in communication and expression in English. In this course, I was assigned a mission to explore the neighborhoods in Chicago, among which my partner and I chose Lincoln Park. On 08/29/15, we visited this neighborhood and interviewed five local people, first of which told us the special events happening in this area, including the triathlon. I like sports very much, so I am very interested in this event and hence choose it as the topic.

After searching the triathlon on the internet, I discovered that it is a big sports event held once a year. This year, it was held on 08/30/15.

Furthermore, I found that there is a similar event in Beijing named Beijing International Triathlon, which will be held on September 19th this year. Both of them offer sprint (750 M Swim; 20–24.5 K Bike; 5 K Run) and international/Olympic (1.5 K Swim; 40 K Bike; 10 K

Zhi Wang

Run) level of distance. However, the Chicago triathlon provides more options for kids. Additionally, it has a super-long-distance competition named “Triple Challenge”. As is introduced above, the Chicago triathlon offers more options and has a larger scale.



Top: Photos for swimmers in Transamerica Chicago Triathlon (left); and the winner who finished the race (right). Look at the swimmers. They are striving for victory, and they are doing sports for themselves. Why don't we take part in events of exercise like them?
Source: www.marathonfoto.com

Bottom: Photos for swimmers (left), runners (middle) and riders (right) in Beijing International Triathlon. People who do sports have strong muscle, and they are

Zhi Wang

well-shaped. As ordinary people, we shall participate in exercise like them as well, both for our health and for our appearance. Source: triathlonchina.weebly.com

Broader Issues: Definitely, these events are interesting and exciting, since watching runners' sprint to the finishing line is absolutely thrilling. However, should the audience just watch but do nothing? The objective of Chicago triathlon is not simply for entertainment and sensational enjoyment, but to encourage the public to do exercise.

Oh, you may be doubtful about this, but it is true. Normal triathlon (like Beijing International Triathlon) does not provide competition apt for children. However, Chicago triathlon does. And there is not only one; there are two! One for kids aged from 7 to 10 and another for those of 11 to 14. What for? I suppose it encourages the kids to participate in, but not just compete for, sports. If all the children love physical activities, everybody will like it. Hence, the final goal of such sports event is appealing to participation in fitness and sports.

Notwithstanding, many people, *eg.* students in the university and white collars, claim that they do not have free time for sports. Actually it is harmful to their physical goodness and, what is more, working and studying efficiency.

When you do exercise, you burn your fat. Moreover, while moving or pulling or pushing, you are increasing

Zhi Wang

your blood circulation to provide more energy, temporarily stored in ATP, for the specific part (usually muscles) of your body serving for the movement. In this process, you strengthen your muscles. As a result, it will enhance your physical quality and disease resistance. Simultaneously, after exercise, you will feel tired, and you will sleep better, and work better after a good sleep.

As is indicated above, doing sports has so many benefits. Why are there many people reluctant to exercise themselves? First of all, they are busy. Indeed, many people are working or studying all day long. However, they should have pieces of fragmentary time, which are usually wasted. Provided they save the time, lack of free time should never be an excuse. Another reason for unwillingness to do sports lies in hardship of keeping on doing physical fitness. Admittedly, sometimes it is really suffering, but it also brings us many benefits, just like learning. Therefore, EVERYBODY shall do exercise on his own initiative, but not merely see the thrilling games.

Maybe you are new to the city, or you have lived in Chicago for a long time. You should see the triathlon, if you are interested. But the most important thing is that you should practice yourself and let your physical ability approaches those of competitors.

Pizza or Pot Pie? Or Both?

Introduction:

In Chicago, pizza can be found in every corner of the city and suburbs. The typical Chicago-style pizza is known as deep-dish pizza, which is baked with high edge and a deep surface for large amounts of cheese and thick tomato sauce.

Despite the success of deep-dish pizza, there is another special type of pizza hided in the rich residential area, Lincoln Park. The restaurant is called the Chicago Pizza & Oven Grinder Company (Chicago Pizza for short), which was founded in 1972 and specializes in a signature dish called the "Pizza Pot Pie". The uniqueness of the Pizza Pot Pie mainly lies in its appearance, which might confuse you at first look: is this a pizza or a pot pie? Actually, the answer is both since it looks like a giant mushroom without a stem. Nowadays, the Pizza Pot Pie has been so popular that national people are attracted to this place everyday. Now, please avoid drooling and follow the journey of the Pizza Pot Pie.

Travel Times from UChicago:

The Pizza Pot Pie is a successful creation by the Chicago Pizza & Oven Grinder Company, which is located on the 2121 North Clark Street in the Lincoln Park neighborhood, Chicago, IL. The distance between Chicago Pizza and UChicago is about 11.1 miles. You may want to choose CTA, car, or bike to transit between these two places. If you choose CTA, it may take you around 56-63min. If car is more

convenient for you, you would just need 26-30min. If you want to exercise and enjoy the view of the city by bike, it may take you 58min to get there. Enjoy your trip!

Background:

We were very lucky to come into Chicago Pizza restaurant! After several hours' walking on the day of neighborhood exploration, my partner and I were so tired and hungry that we needed to eat something. At that time, we completed most of the interviews, in which two interviewees strongly recommended us to try Chicago Pizza. So, we googled its location and finally arrived there. It was a true neighborhood restaurant since we were surrounded by mostly locals who were willing to wait, which was a good sign. After that, we realized that going into Chicago Pizza was the best choice that we made on that day. Remember, Chicago Pizza is CASH ONLY!

Visual:

Although the Pizza Pot Pies look like a giant mushroom without a stem, the truth is that it is just a cap of bread covering a ceramic bowl that holds the rest of the goods, all of which is revealed once the server flips the Pizza Pot Pie over onto a plate. See the picture below for the visual experience! Note that the pictures are from the author.

From the server, it is known that all food provided in Chicago Pizza are homemade. Quoting from the menu, it is "made up from scratch with a tripled-raised Sicilian bread type of dough". They also have a vegetarian option that

includes the option of white or wheat crust. BTW, they also have the Pizza Pot Pies available frozen to take home.



Left: The basic look of Pizza Pot Pie. Center: The look after the server flips the Pizza Pot Pie. Right: The picture taken when the author had Pizza Pot Pie in Chicago Pizza.

Broader Issue:

The Chicago Pizza is a CASH ONLY restaurant. If you forget to bring your cash and have dinner there, it will be very awkward when you pay the bill. The true reason for this rule in Chicago Pizza restaurant is not clear, but cash is indeed preferred in some circumstances in the US. For example, some gas stations in US offer discounts for customers who use cash instead of credit, or a merchant offers a customer a discount if they pay in cash instead of using a credit card. This is an interesting phenomenon since credit cards are so convenient and prevalent that many people never use cash in their daily life. So, it is necessary to discuss which payment method should be used in a certain situation.

The advantage of paying by cash lies in that it is a great way to avoid overspending. You can choose exactly how much cash you are willing to spend, and stop spending when you are out of cash. From this point, when paying with cash, you actually know how much you have spent, and thus know how to control the shopping desire. From another perspective, you may get some discounts for paying with cash because if you pay by credit cards, the merchant will have to pay some additional fees for credit card transactions, which leads to less profit. However, the drawback of keeping cash on hand is that if it is stolen, you can never get it back.

Speaking of paying with credit cards, it is the most convenient payment method in contemporary society. With credit cards, you can even buy something you cannot afford right now. However, it is very easy to overspend with credit cards because you really have no sense how much you have spent. In addition, paying with cards often means paying more because of the transaction fees, especially when you buy something expensive, the transaction fee can be very high. However, if your credit card is stolen, you may not be that terrified because the banks have some special insurance mechanisms for protecting the owners of credit cards, which is a big merit for paying with cards.

To sum up, it is important to know which payment method to use in daily life. But one thing for sure is that you can only pay cash in Chicago Pizza restaurant.

Keeping up with movie festivals at the Music Box Theater

Location

Music Box Theatre
3733 N Southport Avenue, Chicago, IL 60613

Travel Details (from UChicago)

By CTA: 1 hour

By car: 30 mins

By bike: 1 hour 30 mins



Source: Arts and Culture Chicago

The Theater. Inaugurated on August 22, 1929, this theater showcases foreign language, American independent and documentary films in the US since 2007. This building was described by The Chicago Tribune's Paul Gapp in 1983 (an architectural critic) as "an eclectic mélange of Italian,

Spanish and Pardon-My-Fantasy put together with passion." Maybe he fell in love with the building designed by Louis A. Simon, an architect of the Depression era, with *nouveau riche* style. The theatre was born in a time when the sound had just been incorporated in the movies and that is the reason it was built without an orchestra pit or a stage. Maybe one of the prettiest features of the theater is the design of its blue ceiling, resembling a night sky with twinkling stars, suggesting to its clients an open-air scenario to watch a movie.

Truth is this theater has a long and winding story. During the seventies and the early eighties, the theater showed international movies and sometimes even porn, until the Music Box Co. restored it in 1983 and eventually, foreign films were reinstated, and independent and cult films were added. This theatre managed to stay cozy and personal when many films and chains of cinemas became massive.

The Ghost. As almost every theater, this one has its own myth and they call him Whitey. He used to be the manager of the theater from 1929 to 1977. The story goes that on Thanksgiving of 1977, he was about to close the theater but he fell asleep on the lobby and never woke up in a couch that remains in the theater. Some say he still wanders the theater and sometimes the crew of the theater relate him with strange happenings.

Special events. The Music Box hosts many special and unique events, for example:

Guangpu Li

Baseball Superstar

Location

Wrigleyville Neighborhood
1060 W Addison St.

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 0.5 hour **By bike:** 0.75 hour **By car:** 25—30 minutes

Background: Unlike in China, baseball is a very popular sport in the USA. Because the largest baseball field called Wrigley Field is located in Wrigleyville, I decided to go there in order to explore the different sport culture. I took No.55 bus to Garfield Red station and then took the Red Line to Addison. Wrigley Field is west to the Addison station.

Since it was built in 1914, Wrigley Field became the ballpark of Chicago Cubs team. A lot of souvenir shops are around the Wrigley Field now. Nearly all the restaurants provide beer for people when they are watching the baseball match on TV.

- **The Chicago International Film Festival**, where important Hollywood movies and independent films coexist
- **The Return of Blacklight Cinema**, featuring black independent filmmakers
- **The Music Box of Horrors (my favorite event!)**, a 24-hour marathon with different horror films and special guests near Halloween



Source: www.chicagohorror.com

Broader issue. This is a place that adds color and personality to Chicago. Many places like this theater are sometimes forgotten because of the new stores and standard popular cinemas that we visit every weekend. I think it's time to enjoy the magic of a place that still makes you feel like going to the movies is a special event.

Guangpu Li



Left: Santo finally elected to Baseball Hall of Fame. Retrieved from <http://mwltraveler.com/2011/12/05/santo-finally-elected-to-baseball-hall-of-fame>
Mid: Ernie Banks Statue. Retrieved from <http://www.thisdayinchicagocubshistory.com/Ernie-Banks-Statue.html>
Right: Billy Williams. Retrieved from http://www.offbeat.group.shef.ac.uk/statues/STUS_Williams_Billy.htm

Besides the shops and restaurants, three sculptures stand around Wrigley Field. The sculptures are in memory of three legendary baseball players: Ron Santo, Ernie Banks, and Billy Williams. They are super stars in the history of the Chicago Cubs. Their achievements are written on the stones under the sculptures. Their names are also written on the brick of Addison Street. On the one hand, although two of the three super stars have died, the sculptures still remind people some great matches have happened around them. On the other hand, the young players are encouraged by the super stars to work hard, to be brave and to overcome difficulties.

Guangpu Li

Broader issues: The super stars have been a part of the team culture. But a lot of super stars came from the Chicago Cubs, such as Ken Hubbs, Hank Sauer and so on. Many fans feel disappointed that their favorite players do not own a sculpture. Maybe the players do not care about the sculpture. But sometimes it is unfair for those who played very well and devoted to the Chicago Cubs.

The three sculptures make Chicago people feel proud of the Chicago Cubs and the city. They are worth to putting into the museum of Chicago Cubs team, maybe not Wrigley Field surrounding. But if a new boss comes to the Chicago Cubs and decides to change the name of team, all the sculptures will be removed because they do not represent the new team. If that happens, all the honor and history will disappear. The new fans have no chance to know how great Wrigley Field used to be and the great events that happened in the field. The player sculptures are entwined with the Chicago Cubs. But their relationships are not so close with Wrigley Field.

Maybe the owner of field who built the sculptures should care about the history not just 3 players. A sculpture of events has a closer relationship with the field. It is a display of the awesomeness that was happened in the field over time. And history events are the memory of a baseball field exactly.

Gushu Li

Alta Vista Terrace District

Location

Wrigleyville Neighborhood
Between N Seminary Ave and N Kenmore Ave

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 54 mins By bike: 1.2 hrs By car: 30 mins

Background: Last weekend, my partner and I went to the Wrigleyville Neighborhood for the Chicago Neighborhood Project. After visiting the famous Wrigley Field, we went around the neighborhood for the interview task. When we walked to the north of Wrigley Field, we met a landmark (shown in *Figure 1*). It read that there is a historic district called Alta Vista Terrace District. When we looked around to find the place, a very kind old lady (shown in *Figure 2*) who has lived in Wrigleyville for a long time, asked us if we were lost. Then she told us a lot about the Alta Vista Terrace District.

The Alta Vista Terrace Avenue is from West Grace Street to West Byron Street, between North Seminary Avenue and North Kenmore Avenue (*Figure 3*). The district, with about 40 small houses, was designed by Samuel Gross. The key feature is that there are about 20 different architectural styles on this avenue, especially for the doors. *Figure 4* shows several doors of different

Gushu Li

styles. Houses are built to match another house opposite on the street.



Figure 1, the board of the Chicago Landmark¹



Figure 2, the kind old lady

This street is a very nice, quiet street. Many people live on the block, walk their dogs, and do exercises. It is very close to the CTA Red Line Addison Station, so it is very convenient to travel around. Wrigley Field is also only few blocks away and everyone I interviewed in that area has been to the field. You can reach Lake Michigan easily, if you walk a few blocks to the east. Anyway, it is a really good place to live.

¹ Figure 1 and Figure 2 are taken by my partner, Guangpu Li

Gushu Li

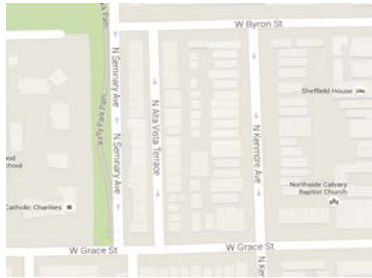


Figure 3, the map of Alta Vista Terrace District²



Figure 4, doors of different styles³

² Google map

³ Photos in Figure 4 are taken by my partner, Guangpu Li

Gushu Li

Broader issues: This Alta Vista Terrace District was burnt by the Great Fire. This event was very important in the history of Chicago. There were a lot of wooden houses surrounded by wooden barriers in Chicago before the fire. It is said that, on Oct 8, 1871, a cow kicked down an oil lamp which caused a fire in the stock barn. In a while, the wind blew the fire to the next several blocks. Unfortunately, the Chicago Fire Department (CFD) at that time was not strong enough to control the big fire. The fire burnt the center area, the theatre, tower. This terrible fire continued for about 30 hours and burnt down almost two-thirds of the Chicago.

The great fire could burn down the city, but it could not destroy people's confidence and hope. As one of the biggest cities in the world, Chicago recovered from the catastrophe very quickly. Trains full of food, clothes, construction materials, and tools arrived in a short time. Newspapers began to publish and the market reopened. The city was redesigned with a better-planned structure. A lot of landmarks appeared after the fire. Houses were built with safe materials and the CFD was strengthened.

Tong Wu

Tobacco Shops Sell Tobacco?

Location

Lakeview
Near Belmont Ave. and N. Clark Street

Travel Details (from UChicago)

By CTA: 1 h 15 min;

By car: 27 min;

By bike: 1 h 30 min

Background

During my visit to Lakeview, wandering on the street, I saw a shop called TOBACCO. It seemed nothing special and there are also a lot of similar shops in China, which sell all kinds of cigarettes. But I also saw lots of glass bottles that looked very similar to those used in my chemistry laboratories. There were also some beautiful decorated glass appliances, which I have never seen in my laboratories before.

When I got in, I realized I was wrong—TOBACCO by no means resembles tobacco shops in China—no cigars and cigarettes. Moreover, the shop does not have a smell of tobacco at all. It is fragrant. The glass bottles are much more complicated than the bottles used in the labs. When asking the salesman, I was told that he did not know much about the shop, but there was a similar shop near there.

In the second TOBACCO shop nearby, a friendly assistant told me that those beautiful little glass appliances are used for solid perfume. When people

Tong Wu

put the perfume in and ignite it, they can easily enjoy the fragrance.



Beautiful pipes in TOBACCO shop; photo by Tong Wu

As for the larger transparent glass bottles, they are used to make essential oil from plants. I satisfyingly thanked the assistant, for I experienced different ‘tobacco’ culture between China and the US.

After the presentation, where I shared this interesting experience with classmates, my teacher said that she was sorry that the *TOBACCO* shop was not as I introduced. They are neither for perfume nor for essential oil—they are used for marijuana.

I was surprised. I have heard that marijuana is permitted for medical use in many states and it can also be retailed in four states. But I have never

Tong Wu



More glass at the TOBACCO shop; Photo by Tong Wu

imagined that pipes for marijuana can be acquired that easily on the streets of Chicago. In China, anything related to drugs are strictly restricted. That is why I had no idea about what the shop sells. I suddenly understood why the salesman in the first shop did not want to talk to me-I will never buy the 'bottles' because I knew nothing about them.

Broader Issues

For visitors who are not familiar with the drug culture in the US, it is hard to imagine that marijuana is so popular that it is sold just in shops on the streets of Chicago. They may also felt that drug problems are always related to people in poverties, such as African

Tong Wu

Americans or Indian Americans. Affluent people are thought to lead healthy lives and are away from drugs. Thus, asking those questions may be weird to the Americans, but it is just natural for newcomers.

Chicago is an international big city, with diversified culture and complex social compositions. The poor, owing unhealthy living habits and less educated, tend to be contaminated by drugs and become addicted easily; wealthy people, though well educated, also try marijuana or other drugs when they are looking for ways to relax and reduce pressure. Maybe this accounts for why TOBACCO shops also locate in Lakeview, a residential area for wealthy people.

In recent years, the policemen in Chicago are getting less and less harsh to people planting, selling and taking marijuana. This act helped to reduce the black markets, which is an unstable factor to the society. It is also said marijuana could be a very important part for the governments' tax income. The loosened law may also partly accounts for the existence of TOBACCO shops on the streets.

Mingchang Gao

A Step Closer to the Chicago River

Location

Ravenswood Neighborhood
Between Forster Avenue and Montrose Avenue

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 1.5 hrs **By bike:** 1.5 hrs **By car:** 45—55 mins

Background: My first impression about the city of Chicago, like most visitors on this piece of land, is the Chicago River gurgling between the banks along which stands world famous skyscrapers. Although having seen many pictures of the river shot from various directions, I still got a whole new sense that I had never had before when I listened to the gurgling sound on the bridge across the river. Peacefully, the Chicago River embraces the city just like the Liao River encircles Shenyang, my hometown that is named after its mother river. I also realize the most vivid description of the Chicago River can never replace a direct and close contact with it.

While people use “wide” and “historic” to respectively generalize the characteristics of the Main Branch and the South Branch, the North Branch is depicted as a quiet beauty. Following my instincts, I decide to explore the north branch of the Chicago River instead of the highly developed urban area.

The North Branch calmly floats next to the River Park. Located at the convergence of the North Branch and the North Shore Channel, River Park (5100 North Francisco Avenue) was first open to the public in 1920. This site now offers a rich wildlife habitat, fishing and a canoe launch.

Among the various recreational activities, canoeing is the most refreshing outdoor activity in this green place, which enables you to

Mingchang Gao

explore the wildlife habitat at its fullest. The trip route passes through deep landscapes. This also provides a safe opportunity to enjoy nature and escape from city grind. The stretch of water trail between the Chicago Park District’s canoe launch at River Park and their launch at Clark Park, approximately two miles downstream, is a very popular stretch of trail, especially for beginners.



Left: A small dam at River Park creates a “waterfall” at the confluence of the North Branch and the North Shore Channel. It also marks the place where the North Branch becomes navigable for power boats. (SOURCE: my picture)

Right: Canoeing on the north branch of the Chicago River. (SOURCE: chicagoriver.org)

Also, canoe trips have played an important role along the history. From the early 1600s to the 1900s, French, English and Dutch fur traders and explorers used native bark canoes to explore and establish trade routes thousands of miles long across the northern part of the continent. Chicago’s recorded history began with the visit of Marquette and Joliet in 1673. Both they and the French fur traders that met here had traveled thousands of miles to and from

Mingchang Gao

Montreal using birchbark canoes. Birchbark canoe is the original type made by Native Americans. Although replaced in Chicago and elsewhere by other types of boats, the designs of the original Native American birchbark canoes have remained in use to the present day.

Broader Issues: In 1920s, the River Park is designed to provide recreational opportunities along the rustic river bank of the north branch of the Chicago River. Also, the activity of canoeing now is increasing public access to the river. Due to these changes in the functions of the river, Chicagoans are increasingly viewing the river as a civic asset and recreational waterway rather than an industrialized sewage canal.



Above: The north branch of the Chicago River floats next to the River Park. The River Park is designed to provide opportunity to

Mingchang Gao

explore the wildlife habitat along the bank of north branch of the Chicago River. (SOURCE: my picture)

Public access to the Chicago River is essential in making people feel connected with the river and clean up the river if they want to. Canoeing in the green public space, people in modern society can develop a close connection with the natural ecological environment that surrounds the city and flourishes and withers with the human world. Like many ecosystems, the Chicago River and its watershed was once home to a wide variety of organisms. Some of these organisms are no longer found in this area at all, while others are present in tiny numbers.

Chicagoans' connections with the river can be more eco-friendly established if they are provided with more access to the rich wildlife and wonderful resource of it. Therefore, there can be no better way than joining the canoe programs to take a step closer to the Chicago River.

Vanessa Tobar

A LITTLE PIECE OF ECUADOR IN CHICAGO

Background

One of the main characteristics of a culture is its food, and it is one of the things that immigrants introduce in a country. This is also a way to share a little bit of their country and remember home.

When I arrived to Chicago, I found that Chicago is a city rich in gastronomy, mainly because of the many cultures that live here. You can find a great variety of restaurants, from American to Chinese, to Japanese, to Persian, to Korean, to Mexican, etc. However, I did not see a restaurant from my country, Ecuador.

As other foreign residents in the city, from time to time I would like to eat my country's traditional food. Moreover, this is another way to introduce my country to other people and get them to know a little bit about it. So, I looked in the Internet for Ecuadorian restaurants and I found three in the city. I chose the one with more positive reviews on Yelp and because it is located in Logan Square, a neighborhood that I had not visited yet.

Travel times from UChicago

The trip to the restaurant takes about one hour if you go with CTA and an hour and 15 minutes if you prefer bicycle. By car, the travel time ranges from 26 to 50 minutes depending on the traffic.

Vanessa Tobar

Visual

The pictures below provide a sample of the menu. If you are not too much hungry I recommend “Bolon de Verde” or “Empanadas”. If you want an entrée, I would go for “Llapingachos”. And, if you are not full, have as dessert “Arroz con Leche” which is a sweet drink made with milk and rice.



Source: <http://restaurantecuador.com/>



Source: <http://restaurantecuador.com/>

Vanessa Tobar

Since I found a small number of Ecuadorian restaurants compared to the number of other Latin restaurants, I thought that the Ecuadorian community was relatively small. However, I was wrong.

Broader Issues

According to the Chicago Community Trust's Latino Landscape 2008, Chicago was the home to 18,796 Ecuadorians, making up 1.09% of Chicago's Hispanic community –until 2006–, which makes Ecuadorians the fifth largest national-origin group in Chicago behind Mexico, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, and Cuba. (Cepeda, 2009).

The Ecuadorian presence in Chicago can be traced back to the mid-twentieth century. (History of Chicago Encyclopedia). Most Ecuadorians came to the United States because of the economic and political environment in Ecuador. Ecuador has faced political and economic instability for almost a decade since 1999. In that year, oil prices dropped and natural disasters affected the Coast region, where most of the products for exportation are produced. Inflation –generalized increase of prices– reached almost a 100% at the beginning of 2000, mostly because of the continuous devaluation of the currency. During this time is where most of the migration to other countries took place. The people that were the most affected by this crisis flew to countries such as United States, Spain and Italy.

Vanessa Tobar

Since Ecuadorians have such a participation in the Latin community in Chicago, it would be interesting if they promote more of its culture. Not only in Ecuador's national holidays but also through its food –participating in festivals, promoting Ecuadorian chefs in events– not exclusively for the Latin community but also at an international stage. In addition, the Ecuadorian government should promote its culture not only by its tourists' attractions, but also with its unique features, like food¹.

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Brianna Johnson

Fighting Food Deserts One Turnip at a Time

Location

Peterson Garden
On the corner of Howard Street and N. Ashland Ave.
East Rogers Park

Travel Details (from UChicago)

By CTA: 1 hour and 5 minutes

By Bike: 1 hour and 38 minutes

By Car: 34 minutes

Background

I moved to Rogers Park in 2014 and fell in love with the diverse atmosphere and flourishing international presence in the neighborhood (more than 80 languages are spoken!). Wedged between the wealthier suburb of Evanston to the north and the college neighborhood of Edgewater to the south, Rogers Park is a more affordable and welcoming community for those with a lower income bracket. Some people say that it is more dangerous than other neighborhoods on the north side (for example, my car got broken into on my first night living there), but compared to the rest of Chicago, it is still relatively safe.



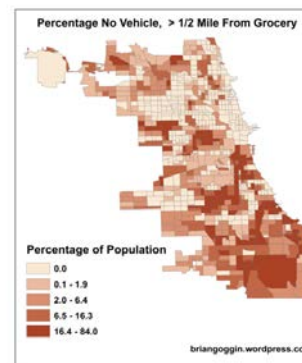
Left: An aerial view of the empty parking lot that eventually became the site of Peterson Garden (source: Google Earth).

Peterson Garden was established in 2013 as a revamped initiative of the Victory Gardens that emerged

during WWII. Located at the site of an abandoned parking lot in the east Rogers Park neighborhood, it provides a welcome reprieve

Brianna Johnson

from the run-down, vacant buildings adjacent to it. Because it was a large expanse of empty space, it was frequently prone to teenage hangouts and minor criminal activity. Police often patrolled the area. For the past two years, however, it has been a space where neighbors come together to grow sustainable food. In the summer, portions of the unused lot are used for "Movies in the Garden" for children, and a small farmer's market with games and activities for kids takes place on the weekends from spring to autumn. On weekday evenings and weekend mornings, you can find "everyday farmers" (people like you and me who do not necessarily farm for a living) tilling their dirt diligently and attending to their seasonal fruits and vegetables. In lieu of opening a cocktail bar or a upscale shoe store, this space was created for community involvement the way it already is instead of adding to the gentrification of Howard street, which is unfortunately beginning to push poor people out.



Left: Percentage of Chicagoans with no car who live more than .5 miles from a grocery store in 2015. Rogers Park is the very last neighborhood in the north east corner, where about 6.5-16.3% have a decreased access to grocery stores. (source: briangoggin.wordpress.com)

Larger Picture

In areas like Rogers Park, the availability of fresh and healthy food is much lower than wealthier communities. This lack of access is called a "food desert." Quick Marts and less prominent grocery stores are more prevalent in these areas,

Brianna Johnson

and they tend to sell many pre-packaged junk foods, while at the same time lacking in edible fruits and vegetables. In addition, the poor who are less mobile and do not have cars find a harder time to reach grocery stores that have better and healthier options for themselves and their families. Food deserts are a serious problem in Chicago, and they affect minority communities that are namely low income.

Peterson Garden is a way to combat food deserts and make poorer communities more aware of the importance of fresh, healthy foods. Eating whole, non GMO-foods is largely seen as a white, upper-class phenomena, but should it be? Does a focus on the availability of healthy food insinuate that the poor would not (read: could not, should not) live there? Based on the geographic socioeconomic disparities within Chicago, this seems to be true. It might be time to rethink the differences between what resources are available to poor versus wealthier communities, and start thinking about how we can move towards ending food deserts in Chicago.

Pamela Martin

Masks and Bones

Location

Portage Park Neighborhood
Between Milwaukee Avenue/Irving Park and Belle
Plane

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 1.5 hrs **By bike:** 1.75 hrs **By car:** 40—50 mins

Background: At 22, I impulsively moved to Chicago to escape the undertow of Toledo, Ohio. After determining that West Town to Portage Park via Milwaukee Ave was my favorite way to see Chicago, I'd spend long, purposeless days driving the strip. When I discovered the block-long Fantasy Costume in Portage Park (4065 N Milwaukee), I instantly felt safe and warm and chose an apartment nearby to live. This was ironic. I had dreamed of leaving Toledo for 15 years, and when I finally did, I chose an apartment next to a place that couldn't have been a better representation of my childhood.

Across the street from Fantasy Costume is the haunting and lovely Portage Theater, which first opened in 1920. It's no longer fully operational and is in quite a state of disrepair, but various Chicago groups still rent it out for special film screenings. My favorite fall activity is attending the 24-hour Horror Movie Massacre at

Pamela Martin

Portage Theater, where we, the audience, fight the cold by huddling together and reciting the lines of our favorite movies in unison throughout the night.



Historical photo--artist unknown



Photo from Save the Portage Society

Left: Portage Theater in December 1920

Right: As the Midwest continues to change, many see these old massive theaters as valueless relics, incongruous with contemporary urban landscapes. Others see these establishments as an essential part of our collective history. Who decides the future of the Portage? Who, if anyone, is its caretaker?

Broader issues: A large group of young Midwesterners was transient in the 1990s and early 2000s. Many young people from Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and rural Illinois—too frightened and level-headed and self-conscious and awkward to even consider moving to New York or L.A.—packed their belongings and fled their ailing, jobless hometowns in hopes of finding better futures in Chicago.

Pamela Martin

Being a young adult in Chicago wasn't easy during those tough economic decades. Many of the new Chicago transplants, despite once being their hometowns' best and brightest, couldn't find gainful employment in the Big City. Still, these transplants were motivated largely by the fantasy of what life could, perhaps would someday be in Chicago, and what represents fantasy better than a movie theater and a costume shop?

For many transplants, life did eventually get better, and now, for those whose lives are settled, it is not always easy to shrug off the guilty feelings they might still have about having left their hometowns in the first place. The sons and daughters of all the Detroits, Toledos, and Garys of the Midwest were supposed to be their towns' caretakers, but they abandoned their posts, not unlike those who deserted the Portage Theater decades ago. Who, if anyone, is supposed to revitalize these towns? If we don't repair these towns, how can we utilize this space? How can we prevent this deurbanization in the future?

Xiaomeng Li

IAC—First Stop of Indian and Pakistani Immigrants



The front door of Indo-American Center

Photo resource: <http://www.choosechicago.com/neighborhoods-and-communities/west-ridge/things-to-do/>

Location

Indo-American Center
West Ridge Neighborhood
6328 N. California Avenue

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 1 hour and 17 minutes

By Bike: 2 hour and 34 minutes

By Car: 40 minutes

Background

Before I arrived here, I never experienced ethnical diversity in my hometown because in my community, almost all citizens are Chinese, even a foreigner is rare to see, no

Xiaomeng Li

mention immigrants. That is why I am interested in West Ridge, one of the most diversified communities in Chicago, where Jewish, Middle Eastern and Southeastern Asian people settle down after 1900. Whether those immigrants can integrate with the mainstream, how to get along with each other in such a diversified community and how to keep their unique ethnical identity, with those questions, I spent a whole afternoon exploring this community and regard it an epitome of US diversified society. During the past two years, I worked for community development in a rural village in China, so my destination fell on Indo-American Center, a community service center in West Ridge.

Located on the corner of Devon Avenue, the heart of Indian and Pakistani communities, this agency has served local citizens for 15 years, providing various programs including Senior's Program, Youth Development, Adult Literacy and so on. In response to a growing number of immigrants from South Asian, IAC was founded in 1990 by some Indian immigrants, devoting to help immigrants to adjust to the new environment. On average, it serves more than 4500 people annually (Resource: <http://indoamerican.org/>). When I arrived, those senior citizens were doing warm-up dancing and ready to begin their lunch. IAC provides free lunch for senior citizens as one of their programs. Fortunately, I was also invited to share the authentic Indian cuisine together. Dozens of senior citizens chatted and laughed during their mealtime. The atmosphere seemed like

Xiaomeng Li
they were in their home countries, eating food of the hometown and chatting with familiar people in mother languages. Community is where we live and it gives us safety, comforts and a sense of belonging. In IAC, people from India, Pakistan or other Asian countries gather, chat and dance together, regarding the center as their social platform. During the past two years, I was struggling for providing better services for local citizens there, and I hope that someday people in my community can find their belongingness in the center I worked.



Left: Senior citizens of the center just finished their daily warm-up activity. (Source: taken by my partner of AEEP)

Broader Issues

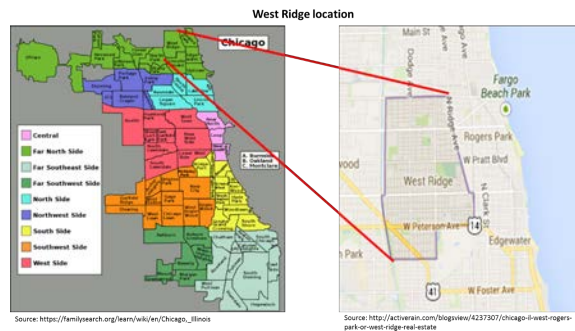
As a country of immigrants, US attract people all over the world to start their dreams but various social problems take place simultaneously. Except for the beneficial policies and strategies of federal or state government, the role of the Third Party cannot be ignored, which plays a significant role in social governance. According to the official website of Illinois Department of Human Service, in 2010, there are 1.8 million immigrants settled down in Illinois and translation services and community education are provided by thirty-eight agencies in order to help the residents(Resource:<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?ite>

Xiaomeng Li
m=30363). As one effective supplement, NGO or NPO in local community provides direct services and has a pragmatic influence. For immigrants, especially those with a low working skill or speaking limited English, an immigrant community is easier for them to start. For some young immigrants, they need to learn English and working skills like cooking or computer to enhance competence. For some new immigrants, they need to learn about the policy and apply for their citizenships. For senior citizens, social activity is a necessary to alleviate solitude. The rigid demand calls for such kind of community service centers such as IAC in West Ridge and CASL in Chinatown of Chicago. However, on the other side of the story, the center or even the community seems to provide a “comfort zone” for those immigrants. On one hand, in such a zone, immigrants are able to live easily, which on the other hand, will inherit their integration with other ethnical groups or other cultures. Although America is called a melting pot, it seems like that different groups still live in their own pots and it is not easy for different ethnical groups to melt together.

Friendship over politics

A better view from the ridge, West Ridge

Chicago is city that offers opportunities and experiences for anyone eager to learn and enjoy. West Ridge is located in the northern area of Chicago and approximately 70 minutes by train from The University of Chicago Campus (approximately 40 minutes by car and 2 hours in bicycle).



West Ridge is home to a large community of people with diverse origins, cultural and religious backgrounds. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, ridge is a large area in the top of a mountain. In some cases, authors use an analogy of a mountain as a place where the horizon and the bottom can be seen from a better, and wiser

perspective. The latter is no exception for West Ridge, habitants of the neighborhood have strong ties to Indian and Pakistani culture. Pakistan and Indian political relations are matter of study and opinion of a vast number of researchers and political analyst. From different opinions or newspapers editorials you can presume that tensions in the area could be supported from a possibly animosity between citizens from these countries. Located in the Ridge, well from West Ridge you find a 25 year community center called the Indo American Center (IAC). Founded and sustained by economic support of the community, the center offers information and activities to support social and cultural integration in the United States of America. I must say that beside the name, the IAC has transformed to a table-talk arena for the community. Not only to discuss the common concerns of people integrating to a new country but to exchange opinions about topics as raising a family or where to obtain the precious ingredient that will allow to create grandma's recipe.

I had the opportunity to talk with an activity facilitator at the IAC about the challenges of cultural integration, just in the middle of our conversation several members joined us to share their opinions and with the conversation some of them added that they were Indian or Pakistani, Muslims or with other faith practices. Naturally, we started talking about politics and conflicts, opportunities and family. We all

Enrique Mezo

came to similar conclusions: be nice to your neighbors and work hard...do not trust politicians.

From the ridge it was clear that West Ridge is a neighborhood where international political agendas meet real people with same concerns that do not only share their opinions in a polite manner but where friendships are built.

The IAC hosts events for Indian and Pakistani immigrants or descents in which they interact together, share concerns and motivations, and get along for amazing conversations about day to day life.



The IAC, located at 6328 N. California Avenue, Chicago, IL 60659
(source: <http://www.flickrriver.com/photos/zol87/2742368168>)

But besides great political and social integration West Ridge is a fantastic location to experience amazing Indian and Pakistani cuisine in their vast offer of restaurants, bakeries and desserts establishments in which delicacies and traditional recipes are easily accessible for visitors.

Enrique Mezo

The supermarkets offer all the ingredients needed to create the most traditional curry to the cutting edge dessert to offer your guests at home. Books, clothing and art, are reachable as you walk thorough West Ridge's streets.



Source: <http://www.choosechicago.com/neighborhoods-and-communities/west-ridge>

West Ridge is a great example of community and family. I do not pretend to minimize any historical, religious or cultural milestone, but to highlight that Chicago is home to diversity, cultural integration and a great place to eat and enjoy with people from all over the world.

Piyush Arya

Harmonious Rivals Abroad

Location

Little India

Devon Avenue

Between N California Avenue and N Seeley Avenue

Travel Times from UChicago

By Car:- 40-50 min By Bike:- 2 hrs By CTA:- 1.5 hrs

Background

I moved to Chicago from India in August 2015 to pursue my graduate studies at the University of Chicago in the Department of Chemistry. After living here for two weeks, I really started missing the good old Indian food. I asked around and found out about this street called Devon Avenue. This place also known as “Chicago’s Little India” houses a broad range of Indian and Pakistani restaurants which serve delicious ‘desi’(local) dishes. The first step on this street felt like being back at home. There are great Indian and Pakistani stores and restaurants lined across the streets which serve some wonderful delicacies. Some of the major roads have also been named after some great Indian and Pakistani leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Mohammed Ali Jinnah.

Piyush Arya



The location and extent of Little India. Source:- www.google.com/maps



Mohammed Ali Jinnah Way Source:- www.dawn.com



Sabri Nihari, a Pakistani restaurant Source:- www.ithforum.com



Gandhi Marg Source:-www.panoramio.com



Arva Bhavan, an Indian vegetarian restaurant Source:- www.artofbarter.com

Piyush Arya

At Little India, the Indians and the Pakistanis have come together to form a harmonious neighborhood. I was surprised to see such a friendship between the two communities that used to be very strong rivals back home. I entered a Pakistani restaurant, Usmania (great food, do check out this place) and was warmly greeted by the owner and the waiter. They said they mostly had Indian customers at their restaurant and they enjoyed serving and chatting with them.

The Larger Picture

India and Pakistan have always been rivals to each other, be it in politics or sports. A majority of the people from each state have a negative view regarding the other. There's hostility between the two nations and numerous wars have been fought over major conflicts. But, here in Little India, people from both the nations have come together to form a friendly community. There is no sense of hatred among the people, both groups welcome the other with open arms. Separation from their homelands has caused these two neighboring rival countries to put their differences aside and form a harmonious neighborhood. That's the difference a city far from one's native place makes. Looking for familiarity in a foreign land, one starts to appreciate things even remotely connected to his/her native state regardless of their personal feelings towards them back home. One would be

Piyush Arya

surprised to see people from two rival communities join their forces to build a place that feels a lot closer to their homes, 9000 miles away in the city of Chicago. In other words, Chicago has taught two very strong rival groups to shake hands and live peacefully with each other and accept each other's cultures.

Tips: Do They Make Sense?

1. Background

(1) I first encountered the tip phenomenon when I was going to go to my apartment first time from the downtown of Chicago, on 23 August. The fare was about \$17, and I paid \$20 expecting about \$3 as a change. But it was not money, but instead, the driver's gratitude that I could receive with his saying "Thank you!". That was my first encounter with tips.

(2) On the same day, my mover came to my apartment to bring in my furniture. The total cost was \$420 and I recognized the necessity of tips to them. But how much? I paid \$30 for 3 workers in the mover company. Then, I received an email from my friend suggesting that at least 15% was necessary due to the workers' low wages, which were about \$5 per hour! Doesn't the wage amount violate minimum wage? I became intrigued by tips and their rationale.

2. Visual

Answers from International Students to My Questionnaire on Tips

(1) Amount of tips students normally pay at each

Service	Range	Service	Range
Excellent	\$15-\$20	Not Good	\$10-\$15
Fair	\$15-\$18	Bad	\$5-\$15

service level

Recipient	Yes	Recipient	Yes
McD's Clerks	0/8	Mover Workers	4/8
Bus drivers	0/8	Doctors	0/8
Barbers	7/8	Real Estate Agent	0/8

(2) Number of students who pay in each situation

From this result, we would be able to say tips are paid in situations meeting following requirements.

- (i) Job has an aspect of physical work
- (ii) Job has direct contact with customers

(3) Whether students could pay tips naturally
6 students out of 8 students could not pay tips smoothly first in the US mostly due to the lack of knowledge on appropriate amounts, and on the way to pay tips, showing the difficulty for international people to pay tips in an appropriate manner.

3. Broader Issues -Rationale of Tips-

A broader issue is the rationale of tips. Given that there are so many direct cash payments of tips, possible arguments against tips would be as follows (in addition to time and effort for paying tips):

- (1) Difficult for authorities to grasp accurate amounts of people's incomes, leading to less revenue for governments.
- (2) Difficult for authorities to check employer's observance of minimum wage regulation by letting employers excuse that the amount of tips including directly-paid tips exceeds the

minimum wage. See below for more details.¹

On the other hand, tips have positive sides, among which we would find the best one is to encourage workers to provide better service. We might find it possible to do so through customers' choices of service providers, but on some occasions, it is difficult, as we can find poor service in taxis in many countries.

The downside of the above (1) is good news from workers' perspective and it might be possible to say that the disadvantage of (2) is offset by such merit to some extent. If so, shouldn't we focus on the good aspect and cherish tips as a culture of the US?

¹ Please note that according to the US Department of Labor, minimum wage regulation of states can be classified into three groups: (1) state requires employers to pay workers full state minimum wage before tips, (2) state requires employers to pay workers above federal tipped minimum wage, (3) state requires employers to pay workers as low as federal tipped minimum wage (\$2.13/hr.). In cases except for (1) (which the number of states adopting is just 7), it is critical to be able to monitor the amounts of tips actually paid to workers. (<http://www.dol.gov/whd/state/tipped.htm>)

A guide to avoid Third Degree Burns in your mouth

Travel Times in minutes from University of Chicago

to:	by car	by CTA	by bike
Fogo2go	26	55	66
Brasil Legal	24	63	71
Zed451	22	43	52
Fogo de Chao	20	50	51
Texas de Brazil	20	33	48
Sinha	18	54	59

Background

Personally, I find the USA awesome but the food in general is awful. There are many different sauces but all of them taste exactly the same: super hyper spicy. All I can feel is my mouth burning. The food is maybe the only thing that makes it hard to adapt to the USA. Cuisines in Brazil, with the exception of Baiana cuisine, do not make use of pepper. So I decided to look for Brazilian restaurants in Chicago to see if they serve milder meals. Google Maps returned 8 results to Brazilian restaurant but 2 of them were not evaluated because their menus were too Americanized. The next table summarizes my findings:

restaurant	cheesebread	guarana	entree
Fogo2go	good	sold out	pizza
Brasil Legal	none	yes	prato feito
Zed451	none	no	all-you-can-eat
Fogo de Chao	good	yes	all-you-can-eat
Texas de Brazil	excellent	yes	all-you-can-eat
Sinha	excellent	yes	all-you-can-eat

Fogo2go offers cheesebread with catupiry as appetizer and a wide range of pizzas but the ones that I tried both tasted too American.

Brasil Legal offers only prato feito (beef, onions, yucca, rice, beans, lettuce and tomato) as main course. I think that farofa and a fried egg instead of lettuce and onions would feel more Brazilian. The dessert menu included brigadeiro, cajuzinho, casadinho and beijinho but none was available.

In the other four restaurants the customer can eat as much as he desires. There is one price for brunch or lunch and another for dinner.

Zed451 was the only of the 6 restaurants not to have any soft drink of guarana. Then I realized that, although its serving style is Brazilian, its cuisine is not from Brazil. The sauces were very spicy but they came

separately. Without them most of the meat tasted very good.

Fogo de Chao and Texas de Brazil are probably the two that most resemble a typical Southern Brazilian steakhouse. Nothing but salt in the meat. Awkwardly, at Texas de Brazil a waiter offered to add pepper to my dish. Maybe he thought I was an American customer and was making a concession to the local taste.

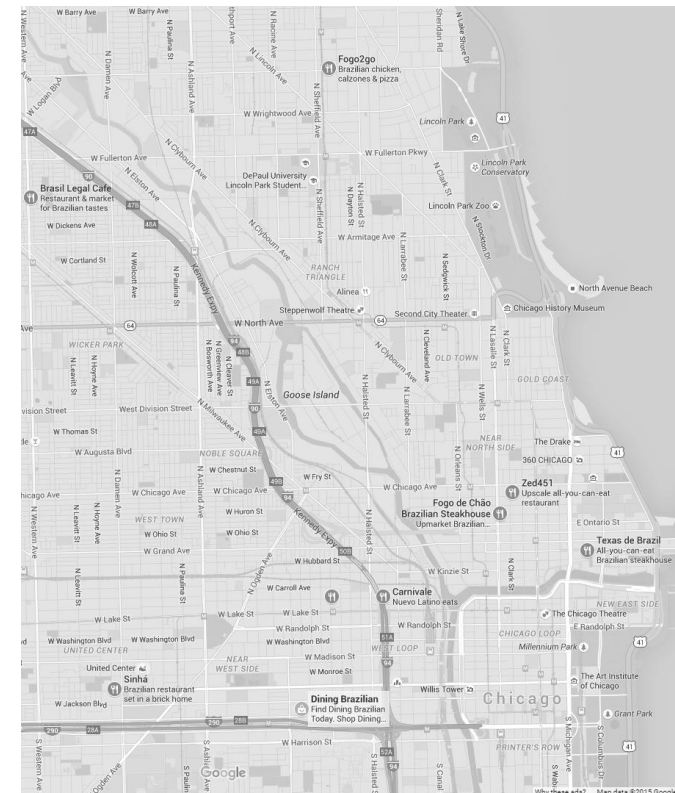
The next table summarizes the hours the restaurants are open, the price range of the main course and my subjective overall evaluation:

restaurant	brunch	dinner	price	evaluation
Fogo2go	12-14	14-22	\$10-\$27	regular
Brasil Legal	09-14	14-19	\$10	regular
Zed451	10-14	17-22	\$34/\$50	excellent
Fogo de Chao	11-14	17-22	\$33/\$52	excellent
Texas de Brazil		17-22	\$47	excellent
Sinha	12-14	14-18	\$14/\$30	good

Broader Issues

Sometimes the adaptation to a different city, state, country or civilization may be harder than the students would expect. The difficulties may come from quotidian aspects that they often ignore.

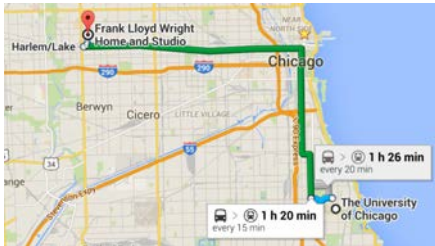
Map of Brazilian restaurants in Chicago



18.2 miles from Prairie

Location:

Technically, Oak Park is not one of the neighborhoods of Chicago. It is a municipality situated in Cook County, which adjacent to the west side of the city of Chicago.



*Go to Oak Park by Green Line
© 2015 Google maps*

From UChicago to Oak Park, it will take about one hour and twenty minutes by CTA Green Line; 40 minutes by car; as regards by bike, you will not want to do so because it is so far from here.

Background:

When I first arrived in UChicago, I was fascinated by the

architecture of buildings and houses, among which the one located at the corner of 58th Street and Woodlawn Avenue surprised me most: not for its attractiveness, however, but for its harmony with the surrounding environment.

Several days later, thanks to the Campus Tour suggested by our teacher, I stood in front of that gorgeous house again. This time, I knew a lot more about it, including its name, Robie House, its architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, and its architecture, Prairie Style.

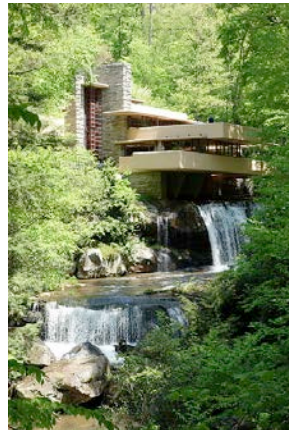


A drawing near to Harlem/Lake station, Green Line. © Shen Han

In the following weekend, my friends and I went to Oak Park for a visit, where Frank Lloyd Wright's home and studio, as well as lots of his works were

located in. Most of his masterpieces were in a Prairie Style. They are typically marked by strong exterior horizontal

lines, low-pitched roofs, long bands of windows, and integration with the landscape. As a leader of the Prairie School movement of architecture, Frank Lloyd Wright was distinguished by his “organic architecture”, which emphasizes the harmony between human habitation and the natural environment. His philosophy was best exemplified by Fallingwater (1935), which was built partly over a waterfall in rural southwestern Pennsylvania.



*Fallingwater © 2013 Daderot,
Courtesy of Wikipedia*

Broader Issues:

The philosophy is that Robie House and Frank Lloyd Wright’s home and studio shares could also be found on the other side across the Pacific Ocean. On my undergraduate school in Tianjin, China, I discovered another building that embraced the river, the

trees, the students and the campus harmoniously. The same story happened there, but at that time the protagonist is not Wright, but Liang Si-Cheng, a famous architect I was told afterwards.



*Liberal Arts Innovative Building at Nankai University
© Unknown photographer*

18.2 miles, the distance between Robie House at the University of Chicago and Frank Lloyd Wright’s home and studio, inspired my curiosity about the American style of architecture and the philosophy of integrating humanity into the nature. We never come alone: humans were created by the environment, accordingly, and we reach the answer for the environment.

Cagatay Dursun

A Cheap and Easy Way of Moving



IKEA Bolingbrook Entrance, September 2015

Photo Source: Cagatay Dursun

Location

750 E Boughton Rd, Bolingbrook

Travel Times from UChicago

Bus: 2hr / Car: 40mins

Cagatay Dursun

Background

Located 2 miles north of the Historic US Route 66, IKEA Bolingbrook is my choice of shopping for settling to my new apartment in Chicago. Especially, if you hesitate to buy used furniture or kitchen items, then IKEA Bolingbrook is a place where you should come over and see what it offers for your home.

I went there with my friend from English class; we bought basic necessities for our apartments.



IKEA Bolingbrook Home Organization Field, September 2015

Photo Source: Cagatay Dursun

Cagatay Dursun

On Saturdays, people start to come at the opening hour at 10:00 am to IKEA. Then as time passes, you are becoming one of the flood of people, looking for the items amid the different departments. Even I wasn't aware of my needs for my new apartment, I would recognize them while touring the fields of IKEA from kitchen items to self-service furniture.

While approaching to the check-out point, I realized how tired and hungry I was. After I loaded my items to the car, I was ready to taste one of the cheap and delicious (open to debate!) sorts of the IKEA restaurant. If you have Costco Membership then you can buy your food and other consumer products from a wholesale store next to IKEA Bolingbrook which is a different story to be told.

Broader Issues

IKEA has widely distributed stores all over the world. These kinds of stores provide not only cheaper alternatives for household appliances but it is also a standardized place for international people to buy things.

Cagatay Dursun

New arrivals to the city do not have well established ideas on how to manage their budgets for their new lives or the knowledge of convenient way to shop for their necessities. There is a strong need for adjusting their budgets carefully at the beginning. Furthermore, newcomers to the city require the knowledge of best place or method for buying stuff for their new homes.

IKEA Bolingbrook meets such kind of cheaper alternative requirement in a convenient way while providing a familiar store atmosphere for the newcomers of City of Chicago.

LOOKING FOR FURNITURE?

Finding the most suitable apartment might be a difficult issue, but finding cheap and nice furniture might also be a nightmare. Of course that the apartment should be the number one priority, and so, after



Google images: you might look like him, trying to move your furniture.

finding the right apartment, looking for furniture could seem at first look, like a good plan. But this “furniture hunting” could rapidly be transformed in a nightmare. In my personal experience, I went 4 times to IKEA, not only because I forgot some piece to assemble the furniture, but also, because when you start living in your apartment you realize the things you are missing.

Unless you have done a research into the web page of the most known furniture stores in Chicago, you will face the reality when you will be there. So this is a kind of guide book of the furniture stores most recommended among students

The most common stores are:

1) IKEA



IKEA is maybe one of the most famous furniture stores in the world (as of 2015, 373 stores in 47 countries). The company sells ready-to-assemble furniture in really small and compact boxes, which makes it really easy to buy them and have them ready to enjoy at

your home.

Chicago have two IKEA stores:

- I. IKEA Bolingbrook: Located at about 1 h 16 min from downtown (By public transportation)

3:31 PM–5:01 PM	1 h 30 min
3:37 PM from Michigan/Madison on time	
8:27 min every 20 min	
Details	
60 124 634	1 h 27 min
7 120 634	1 h 22 min
630 634	1 h 31 min

Google maps. The Picture shows the different options of public transport from Millennium Park to IKEA Bolingbrook.

- II. IKEA Schaumburg: Located at about 1 h 56 min from downtown (By Public transportation)

3:32 PM–5:28 PM	1 h 56 min
Blue Line 600	
696 905	
3:43 PM from Washington	
16 min every 40 min	
Details	
20 696 696	1 h 56 min
Blue Line 600 600	1 h 45 min
600 600	1 h 46 min

Google maps. The Picture shows the different options of public transport from Milenium Park to IKEA Schaumburg.

2) The Salvation Army



The Salvation Army is definitely a place for people that is looking for really cheap furniture and they don't care if the furniture have had another owner or not.

In fact The Salvation Army is a worldwide charitable organization. In their stores they sell donated things, such as clothing and furniture.

3) There are also lot of webpages such as marketplace.uchicago.edu, overstock.com or craigslist.com, were you can find special offers and incredible deals.

4) But if you are looking for more fancy furniture, and if you can spend more money, I would recommend you to check this webpage (<http://chicago.racked.com/maps/best-home-stores-chicago>). Which offers, in my view, the best furniture stores in Chicago.

As most of the American do, and as my experience taught me; I would recommend you, to first check the furniture stores websites. Because most of the most convenient deals, are there.

Broader issue

What really called my attention, is how American people relay on smartphone apps and webpages.

Most of the people do not go to the stores to check what they are buying, they just buy what they need from internet, and if they don't like what they bought they just ask for a refund.

Needless to say that the reliability in their use of the smartphone is creating a dependence on them, as you can see in the street, people are always using their cellphones instead of interacting with others. It is interesting, in the era of communication, the communication face to face (the most important one) is decreasing.

On the other hand, globalization has increased the communications networks, allowing people to communicate worldwide. It has narrowed the asymmetry of information, and has created revolutionary ways of interact and express opinions, such as the social networks (Facebook, Twitter, etc).

Hanging High



A Corner in Shanghai (2010) by Liping Jiang

Travel Times from UChicago

CTA: 21min/ Car: 13min/ Bike: 26min

Background

The other day, when my husband and I finished our visit to the Field Museum and the Shedd Aquarium, we went west along the Roosevelt road. A tall building blocked the

glaring sunshine, so I could look up at the sky-high blue glass structure clearly. “See, it has large balcony. How about we buy one unit so that I can be the first who can hang my colorful laundry up there.” “You wish! Line drying must be not allowed here.” “What?” It was the second time I came to realize that clothes drying in Chicago could be a real problem. The first time was when I went to the downstairs laundromat, opened the dryer, looked at the filthy lint trap, wondered why I should pay \$2 for this while air drying is cleaner and for free.

Broader Issues

In China, people have dried their clothes on a line for hundreds of years. Even now, when most Chinese people would buy a washing machine with a drying function, they still prefer the traditional air drying. On the other hand, when the sun-air drying is taken as an old-fashioned way, using machines may have long since become another kind of tradition in American households. According to the Netherlands Statistical Office, it is estimated that 75% of the households in the US own a clothes dryer, whereas only about half of households in Europe own one. In China, this figure is much lower. The dissimilarity between China and US’s drying style directly contributes to the large gap between the two countries’ annual CO₂ emission per person. Just look at the below graph about several key economies’ *Annual Emissions in Tons of CO₂ per Person*, the average person in China (very different from China’s per capita emissions, which factors in things like factories

Annual Emissions In Tons of CO₂ Per Person



Data from Global Carbon Project/World Bank/Kevin Anderson
Chart designed by Slate © 2014

mes far less carbon than the average American or European. Just by simply turning off its dryer, the third-most energy intensive appliance in many American households, the typical US household could prevent more than 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere each year.

Expect to be environmental-friendly and economical, sun-air drying has more benefits beyond that. The UV light can disinfect the laundry and helps to brighten whites and remove stains. By hanging the laundry under the sun,

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people can get their daily dose of sunshine and fresh air, which both encourage physical and emotional health. The most important is that if you never do your laundry drying in the sunshine, you would never know that there is a smell called the smell of sunshine in the world. Even taking the dryers powered by solar energy into consideration, drying in sunshine still has its merits simply because the manufacture of solar panel is an energy-intensive and highly polluting industry.

It should be admitted that dryers are still needed in regions that are either too rainy or too cold. It should also be admitted that a preposterous view can be created when the color laundry dances with the wind on the balcony of a cool modern building in downtown. But in Chicago, a city who boasts its eco-buildings and its ethos in leading almost every frontier, even in cold winter, laundry drying indoors can moisture the dry air resulted from heating.

If you like sunbathing, there is no reason to deprive your favorite clothes of such rights. Let your clothes enjoy the sunshine, and then you can use the money and fuels saved from this support your next flight to Florida to have a most environmental-friendly sunbathing you've ever had.

Thelma Armendariz

Reading between the lines of a money order

Chicago is characterized for being an international hub in the United States of finance and commerce importance. Along the city there are neighborhoods with a mix of people of different ethnical backgrounds. Such diversity, along with its strong cultural essence makes it a great target for tourists and foreigners.

The solid multicultural influence of the city makes it unique in its variety of services and products that satisfy the needs of its diverse population. It is frequently seen in Chicago's neighborhoods places dedicated to do money orders. However, if you are planning to do a money transfer late in the evening or during the weekend you might face some difficulties. This is even harder for foreigners, because in some places you might even be asked for an U.S. identity document.

What is a money order?

A money order is an order of payment with an amount of money specified by the user. Some of the advantages of using a money order include that a checking account is not required and that it is

Thelma Armendariz

considered a more secure method of payment than the check.

Personal Experience of a Foreigner

As an international student, I encountered special conditions that made my first money transfer a little nightmare. I arrived to Chicago on a Sunday afternoon of August and in order to get the keys of my apartment, I needed to make the lease payment that day. It wasn't easy at all. I had to go around Hyde Park but every place I could think of was closed. Then I decided to go to Downtown and do the money order there, however the specialized places for money orders were closed, I tried on a CVS but I was asked for an U.S. identification document so I couldn't do it there. At last, I tried on the most unimaginable place, a small 7-Eleven. It worked!

Money Orders and Latin Influence

This situation might seem simple, but in fact, it reflects a broader issue. If you analyze what are the places where you can do a money order you will find that the neighborhoods with strong Latin communities have more special businesses for money orders, in fact some of them open 24 hours every day.

Thelma Armendariz

This phenomenon might have to do with the fact that Latin people send remittances to their families in Latin America and one of the ways to do that is through a money order. Besides, the relationship between the open hours of money order businesses and the ethnic group of the neighborhood might also be related to the longer working hours Latin people usually have compared to other ethnic groups in the United States.

Table 1. Latin Population in selected neighborhoods

	Total Population	Latin Population	
	#	%	#
Little Village	98,551	88	86,725
Belmont Cragin	78,743	79	62,207
Pilsen	47,352	78	36,935
Humboldt Park	63,416	47	29,806
Back of the Yards	56,524	51	28,827
Albany Park	55,504	46	25,532

Source: Data from LISC Chicago. <http://www.lisc-chicago.org/>

The windy city has a strong Latin community, which accounts for around 29% of the total population¹. As it can be seen from Table 1, an important part of the population is Hispanic in many of the communities. Probably, the most popular neighborhoods in this list for their folklore and their visual attraction, like the

¹ Chicago (city), Illinois, State & County Quick Facts. United States Census Bureau. <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/17/1714000.html>

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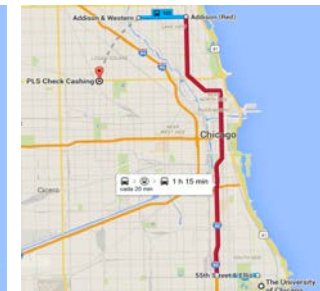
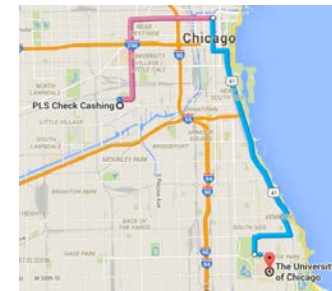
painted murals and statues, are Pilsen and Humboldt Park. In Pilsen, the share of Latin people is 78% of the total population; while in Humboldt Park, 47% of its population has a Latin origin. In both neighborhoods you can find business like PLS Check Cashing (PLS) open 24 hours 7 days a week, here it is some information in this regard.

Table 2. Travel time from UChicago to PLS

	In Pilsen	In Humboldt Park
CTA	1 hour	1 hour and 15 minutes
Car	16-26 minutes	35 minutes
Bike	42 minutes	1 hour and 19 minutes

Source: Data of the map, 2015 Google.

Route from UChicago to PLS Check Cashing
In Pilsen **In Humboldt Park**



Source: Data of the map, 2015 Google.

Débora Carvalho

Revitalizing Chicago

Travel Times from UChicago

The 606 crosses four neighborhoods (Wicker Park, Bucktown, Humboldt Park and Logan Square) and it has thirteen access points listed on the park's website.

To enter The 606 at the 1801 N. Milwaukee Ave. access point, one at UChicago (at Hyde Park) would take: (i) by car: 25 minutes (12 miles); (ii) by CTA: 1h04min (riding the green and blue lines, as one of the possible alternatives); (iii) by bike: 1h10min (riding the Lakefront trail – the total distance would be of 13 miles).

Background

The 606 is a park and a 2.7 miles elevated trail system located in Chicago's northwest side. According to the park's website (www.the606.org), the trail, called the Bloomingdale Trail, has a 10-foot-wide path with 2-foot-wide running tracks on both sides. Along the trail there are temporary exhibitions of works of art. The park's name is inspired on Chicago's zip code prefix (606). It was inaugurated on June 6th, 2015, and is open everyday from 6am to 11pm.

Débora Carvalho



One of the access points to the trail. Pictures: Débora Carvalho



The trail. Picture: Débora Carvalho.

Before arriving in Chicago, I read about The 606 in a magazine of a Brazilian airline company that compared The 606 to New York City's Highline. At that time I already knew I would live in Chicago for one year and, as I found The 606 very interesting, I added it to a list of places I would like to visit.

The 606 is meaningful to me, because I appreciate cities that invest in the improvement of the environment where people live in, by creating more options of parks and places to ride a bike or go

Débora Carvalho

jogging. However, the main reason why The 606 caught my attention is a broader issue.

Broader Issue

An issue constantly being discussed nowadays is the urbanization process and the consequences of the continuously growing necessity to create more access routes to the many areas of giant metropolis. An engineering work known for its bad consequences to the neighborhoods it crosses is the overpass Presidente Costa e Silva, built in 1971, in São Paulo, Brazil, known as “Minhocão” (giant worm). It is actually an express lane of 2,8km (1.7 miles), passing about 5 meters from buildings, which depreciated real estate and deteriorated the nearby areas.



Minhocão on weekdays. Picture from the website <http://minhocao.org>

Currently, Minhocão closes for vehicles on Sundays and holidays, as well as on Mondays to Saturdays from 9:30pm to 6:30am, when people can use it to ride bikes, skate and jog. However, what many people would like to see is the transformation of Minhocão

Débora Carvalho

into a park, just as Chicago did to the Bloomingdale Line.



Minhocão on Sundays. Picture from the website <http://minhocao.org>

The Bloomingdale Line, which is now The 606, was a railroad whose traffic slowed down in 1990's. At that time, attention turned to how the line could be transformed into urban green space, something much needed by many big cities nowadays.

According to The 606's website, Chicago used community input to create and design the park. This is exactly what the population of the neighborhoods affected by Minhocão in São Paulo are looking for.

Urban constructions such as railroads and overpasses tend to depreciate residential buildings and areas, as they bring noise, pollution and other problems. Therefore, The 606 is not an ordinary green area or park, it is the transformation of a potentially depreciating urban construction into the exact opposite: a park that brings nature, art, sports and quality of life to the population. This should be an example to many cities.