



City of Irvine 2015 Program Synopsis

Cultural Diversity



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As one of the 100 largest cities in America, the City of Irvine is dedicated to making the community a better place to live and work. Focusing attention on the City’s growing cultural diversity and developing initiatives that promote cultural integration, Irvine is recognized as one of the most ethnically diverse and fully integrated cities in the country today.

With a current population of more than 242,651, Irvine’s ethnic profile as broken down by the 2010 U.S. Census is as follows.

Caucasian	45.1%
Asian	39.0%
Hispanic or Latino	9.2%
African American	1.6%
Other	5.1%

A further breakdown of the rich cultural diversity in Irvine is found in the enrollment profile of students in the Irvine Unified School District.

IUSD student ethnic profile

White	38.0%
Chinese	12.1%
Korean	11.6%
Hispanic/Latino	8.2%
Asian Indian	5.5%
Vietnamese	4.8%
Japanese	4.2%
Other Asian	3.1%
Filipino	2.8%
Black	2.3%
All Others (Under 1% each)	7.2%

The Census reports that a non-English language is spoken in 58% of Irvine homes, with more than 70 different languages spoken in residences throughout Irvine.

Much of Irvine’s cultural diversity is attributable to local factors: large and diverse colleges and universities; pioneering policies in affordable housing; and new technologies that have attracted entrepreneurs and workers to Irvine from all over the world.

The City of Irvine has a notably high number of Iranian-American residents, estimated at 25,000, and is a hub of cultural activity in Southern California with two Persian markets and one of the largest Persian New Year celebrations in the country. For more than 25 years Iranian-Americans have gathered at Mason Park in Irvine to celebrate the Norooz holiday, with recent crowds estimated at 30,000 attendees.

The City recognizes the value of investing in social infrastructure and is dedicated to meeting the needs of a growing multicultural community. Among the great number of multicultural organizations supporting Irvine through community partnerships are:

- Irvine Multicultural Association
- South Coast Chinese Cultural Association
- Irvine Evergreen Chinese Senior Association
- Network of Iranian American Professionals of Orange County
- Irvine Korean Parents Association
- Ektaa Center for Indian Arts & Culture
- Merage Jewish Community Center
- Islamic Center of Irvine

Irvine is home to over 80 churches and places of worship, representing a wide cross-section of the community's cultural and religious diversity, including:

Agape Nest Presbyterian Church
Bethel Korean Church
Chinese Bible Church
Chinese First Baptist Church of Irvine
Christ Our Redeemer AME Church
Church of Jesus Christ of LDS
Evangelical Formosan Church
Filipino-American Church
First Korean Baptist Church
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.
Irvine Canaan Christian Community
Irvine First Korean Church
Islamic Center of Irvine (ICOI)
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
Mariner's Church
Messianic Jewish Congregation
Orange County Chinese Evangelical
Pacific Church of Irvine
Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'i
St. John Neumann Catholic Church
St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church
UCI Episcopal Campus Ministry
Unified Mosque of Irvine
University United Church Methodist

A complete listing of Irvine churches and contact information can be found at http://www.cityofirvine.org/about/new_to_irvine.asp.

To increase Irvine’s cultural awareness, the City supports active international programs that foster goodwill and understanding between Irvine residents and people of other nations. The City has sister city relationships with Tsukuba, Japan; Hermosillo, Mexico; and Taoyuan, Taiwan; and Seocho-gu, Korea. The City’s Friendship City program includes a relationship with Nowon-gu, Korea.

The City has an Irvine Multicultural Affairs Office to facilitate collaboration and partnerships with Irvine’s many multicultural organizations, as well as serving as the principal point of contact for international delegations visiting Irvine. http://www.cityofirvine.org/cityhall/citymanager/multicultural_and_international_affairs/default.asp

Cultural diversity is celebrated annually in Irvine with a signature community event — the Irvine Global Village Festival. This celebration, held each fall, features international cuisine, live entertainment, children’s activities, cultural exhibits, and a world marketplace. The day-long Festival attracted an estimated 20,000 visitors in 2014, with attendance growing each year. <http://www.cityofirvine.org/globalvillage/>

The City of Irvine values the varied perspectives of all people with diverse cultural backgrounds. The City strives to uphold the ideals of equality, equity and freedom on which the United States is based, and promotes respect for all individuals and ethnic groups as a principle fundamental to the success and growth of our community.

For more information on cultural diversity in the Irvine community, contact:

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