



City of Irvine 2017 Program Synopsis

Cultural Diversity



City of Irvine

Program Synopsis: Cultural Diversity

As one of the 100 largest cities in America, the City of Irvine is dedicated to making the community a better place to live, work, and play. 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 cities in the country today.

With a current population of more than 267,000, Irvine's ethnic profile is broken down by the U.S. Census/American Community Survey as follows.

Asian	45.31%
Caucasian	45.3%
Multirace	4.5%
African American	3.0%
Other	1.5%

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

Caucasian	29.9%
Chinese	18.7%
Latino	10.7%
Korean	10.2%
Asian Indian	9.9%
Vietnamese	4.3 %
Japanese	3.8%
Filipino	3.6%
African American	3.1%

There are 72 languages spoken in the homes of schoolchildren.

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 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 Nowruz holiday.

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 more than 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

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; 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 point of contact for international delegations visiting Irvine.

Cultural diversity is celebrated annually in Irvine with a signature community event called 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 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.

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