

Population and Immigration in San Lorenzo

In the 1860s, immigrants began moving to the San Lorenzo area from all over the world. Immigrants came, for example, from Portugal, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Ireland, and Germany.

From the 1860s through the 1940s, most of the people who lived in San Lorenzo were farmers or worked on farms. New immigrants to the area often worked as field hands, including the large number of Chinese immigrants who came here after the completion of the railroad in 1869. Many of the Chinese workers who had come to America to work on the railroad chose to stay in the area to work on the local farms.

In the 1900s, many Japanese immigrants moved to the area, where many were employed in the thriving nursery and floriculture business.

Those immigrants who could save money hoped to run their own small farm. A few successful land owners were able to make a small fortune from their acreage of land.

Not all immigrants were welcomed with open arms. When the San Lorenzo Village began construction in 1944, the Homeowners Association's original covenants included restrictions on the race of "acceptable" buyers. Under those restrictions, only Caucasians ("whites") were allowed to buy a home within the Village. African-Americans were not.

These restrictive covenants were finally changed in the mid-1990s. Over time, with the building of more apartment complexes in the area, the population did eventually become more diverse, including many African-American, Filipino and Latino families.

Today, San Lorenzo's population is very diverse, with 2017 stats showing the following (info from [CityData](#)):

Hispanic/Latinx: 43.2%

White: 25.0%

Asian: 23.8%

African-American: 3.4%

Multi-ethnic (Two or more races): 3.4%

American Indian: 0.4%

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander: 0.3%
Other: 0.9%

Population in San Lorenzo, 2017

