

# **Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center**

## **Youth Communities of Interest Report**

Student analysis of Bay Area communities of interest for the 2021  
California redistricting cycle.

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*Acknowledgements*

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## **Abstract**

To ensure that communities are not negatively impacted by potential effects of redistricting, it is crucial that citizens speak up to influence the process wherever possible. This report provides analysis of nine communities of interest in California’s 13<sup>th</sup> congressional district and surrounding areas, to determine how redistricting could affect the area. Through conducting a survey, and studying data from Google, Google Maps, the U.S. Census, plus numerous other sources, this research evidences general trends regarding the types of goods and services people use throughout the district and neighboring cities. Results consistently showed that District 13 has greater diversity in resources, demographics, businesses, and community organizations than do surrounding cities in Congressional Districts 11 and 15. There were also common trends in the types of goods and services that were most prevalent within the district. More demographically diverse cities tended to have more communities of interest in common with the 13<sup>th</sup> district; our findings within the city of Richmond were the most comparable out of all the areas we researched. However, much of the time, trends inside the district did not match those outside. This evidence supports the argument that it would be in the best interest of the communities within California’s 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, for the district to maintain its’ current boundaries and not be separated.

## **Introduction**

From going door-to-door and encouraging residents of East and West Oakland to enroll at Merritt College, to getting regional parks renamed to honor Thurgood Marshall and Martin Luther King, the Freedom Center has a long history of outreach and advocacy throughout the East Bay Area. Thus, we were overjoyed with the opportunity to conduct this research report. Understanding and analyzing communities of interest is essential to navigating the needs of our rich and diverse Bay Area cities. On their site dedicated to redistricting education, scholars at the Loyola Law School define a community of interest as any community, or group of people, with common policy concerns that would benefit from remaining a part of the same congressional, senate, assembly, or other district. For this research report, we focused on communities of interest within California's 13<sup>th</sup> congressional district, and surrounding cities. This analysis is essential, as we are in the midst of the decennial redistricting process that has the potential to cause drastic changes for our communities. Gerrymandering – the manipulation of district boundaries to gain political advantage - has historically led to devastating voter suppression, particularly among communities of color. Moreover, splitting up communities of interest during the redistricting process can prevent citizens from being able to vote in their own interests. Though we are grateful to have an independent Citizen's Redistricting Commission responsible for redrawing our lines here in California, instead of politicians as is the case in many states, we still must hold the commission accountable. It is an honor to us young people, to have been given the opportunity to spend our summer asking questions, doing the research, and using our voices to ensure that our communities remain intact.

## **Methods**

We chose to study the following communities of interest: parks, ethnic/cultural businesses, religious institutions, schools, community/recreation centers, ethnic/cultural museums, cultural events, vocational training programs, and transportation access. For each of these, we primarily researched by inputting various search terms into Google and Google Maps, to determine locations and concentrations of these businesses and services. For example, to find community centers in Congressional Districts 13 or 15, we searched “community and recreation centers in Alameda County,” and recorded those that came up in the cities we are researching. To find those in Congressional District 11, we would search the same thing but use “Contra Costa County” instead.

We compared our findings from cities within Congressional District 13 (D-13), to our findings in neighboring cities in Congressional Districts 11 and 15 (D-11 & D-15). Our analysis of communities of interest in districts 11 and 15 did not extend beyond the areas of Richmond, Moraga, El Cerrito, Lafayette, Hayward, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Fairview, Ashland, San Pablo, Orinda, El Sobrante, Kensington and San Lorenzo. We also studied the demographics of these areas by utilizing data from the 2019 American Community Survey. Finally, we conducted a youth survey, to understand where young people in the Bay Area access the various types of goods, services, and institutions we chose to study.

### **COI #1 Parks**

We chose to look at parks because they provide numerous benefits to communities. Not only can they generate revenue and increase property value, they can also improve resident health as they encourage physical activity.<sup>1</sup> Youth and families constitute a large percentage of those who access parks. To determine concentrations and locations of parks across the cities in Districts 13, 11, and 15, we examined the Trust for Public Land’s ParkScore Index. The ParkScore Index measures park systems according to five categories: access, investment,

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<sup>1</sup> “Importance of Parks and Recreation,” Eastern Kentucky University Recreation and Park Administration, accessed August 4, 2021, <https://recreation.eku.edu/importance-parks-and-recreation>

amenities, acreage, and equity. Using this site, we could input every city we are researching, and see the percentage of residents living within a 10 minute walk of a park.

## **COI #2 Ethnic and Cultural Businesses**

For ethnic and cultural businesses, when we looked at restaurants we tended to exclude chains. Chain restaurants are more likely to be located away from ethnic and diverse communities, whereas independent and family owned ethnic restaurants are more often located within these communities.<sup>2</sup>

To analyze the prevalence of ethnic and cultural businesses connected to the Black community, we looked at hair salons, barbershops, beauty supply stores, and soul food restaurants that are owned or frequented by African-Americans. We chose to focus on these businesses because they have historically served as integral parts of Black culture. An article from the National Museum of African American History and Culture references how hair salons and barber shops often serve as “sanctuaries” for the Black community.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, a 2018 Nielsen survey showed that Black consumers spent over \$54 million on ethnic hair care and beauty products in 2017 alone, and the term soul food has been coined as a reference to African-American cuisine since the 1960s.<sup>4 5</sup> A Forbes article from 2020 highlighting 100 popular Black-owned businesses to support reinforced this: more than 70 percent of the businesses listed were in either fashion/retail, cosmetic/beauty care, or the food/beverage industry.<sup>6</sup>

For Latino businesses, we chose to focus on Latin restaurants/food vendors, grocery stores/supermarkets, cultural clothing stores, and legal service organizations offering services in Spanish, immigration services, or otherwise specialize in advocating for issues affecting Latino and Hispanic communities. We felt that these industries are crucial to the Latino community. Restaurants and supermarkets help to integrate the vibrant Latin food culture, immigration was one of the top twelve most important issues to Latino voters in the 2020 election, and nearly 30%

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<sup>2</sup> Mahesh Somashekhar, “Ethnic Economies in the Age of Retail Chains: Comparing the Presence of Chain-Affiliated and Independently Owned Ethnic Restaurants in Ethnic Neighbourhoods,” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 45, no.13 (2019): 2407-2429, doi: [10.1080/1369183X.2018.1458606](https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2018.1458606)

<sup>3</sup> “The Community Roles of the Barber Shop and Beauty Salon,” Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, accessed August 6, 2021, <https://nmaahc.si.edu/blog/community-roles-barber-shop-and-beauty-salon>.

<sup>4</sup> “Back Impact: Consumer Categories Where African Americans Move Markets,” Nielsen, February 15, 2018, <https://www.nielsen.com/us/en/insights/article/2018/black-impact-consumer-categories-where-african-americans-move-markets/>.

<sup>5</sup> Anita Wolff, “Soul Food,” last modified October 1, 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/soul-food-cuisine>

<sup>6</sup> Elisabeth Brier, “100 Black-Owned Businesses to Support,” ed. Amy Feldman and Luisa Kroll, Forbes (Forbes Magazine, February 16, 2021), <https://www.forbes.com/sites/elisabethbrier/2020/06/05/100-black-owned-businesses-to-support/?sh=84ba3b93660d>.

of California's residents speak Spanish at home.<sup>7</sup> Moreover, a 2012 analysis of American Community Survey Data, conducted by the Fiscal Policy Institute, listed the top fifteen businesses owned by Latinos. Restaurants were the most common, while legal services and grocery stores were both on the list as well.<sup>8</sup>

For the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) ethnic and cultural businesses we again chose to look at ethnic restaurants/food vendors, markets/grocery stores as well as Asian tea houses/vendors. As written in a 2020 analysis of Asian-American tea and beverage culture, emphasizing the impact of the boba drink specifically, “the true power of boba culture stems from the rallying of Asian American youth around the beverage and boba spaces as sites of pan-ethnic Asian belonging... boba functions as an Asian American cultural symbol and fosters a pan-ethnic Asian community.”<sup>9</sup>

We were unable to find an abundance of information on the most common types of ethnic and cultural businesses within the Native American community. Based on the few businesses we discovered during our own research, we decided to focus on restaurants and stores selling cultural clothing, accessories, or other items.

### **COI #3 Religious institutions**

A 2015 survey by the Pew Research Center concluded that the majority of Americans, regardless of religious affiliation or lack thereof, felt that religious institutions fill important roles in society, from helping the poor, strengthening community bonds and bringing people together, to protecting morality.<sup>10</sup> Further data shows that 63% of Californians identify as Christian, 27% do not identify with any religion or belief and 9% identify with a non-Christian faith.<sup>11</sup>

In addition to searching via Google and Google Maps, we also used online web database Propublica.com to find general information on the prevalence of religious institutions by cities.

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<sup>7</sup> Jens Manuel Krogstad and Mark Hugo Lopez, “Hispanic Voters Say Economy, Health Care and COVID-19 Are Top Issues in 2020 Presidential Election,” Pew Research Center (Pew Research Center, October 1, 2020), <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/09/11/hispanic-voters-say-economy-health-care-and-covid-19-are-top-issues-in-2020-presidential-election/>.

<sup>8</sup> “Latino Small Business Owners in the United States,” Fiscal Policy Institute, June 2012, <https://fiscalpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/latino-small-business-owners-201206152.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> Talitha Angelica Trazo, “Wanna Get Boba? The Bond Between Boba and Asian American Youth in San José, California” (dissertation, ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2020), <https://www.proquest.com/docview/2423578043?fromopenview=true&pq-origsite=gscholar>.

<sup>10</sup> “U.S. Public Becoming Less Religious,” Pew Research Center, November 3, 2015, <https://www.pewforum.org/2015/11/03/u-s-public-becoming-less-religious/>.

<sup>11</sup> “Religion in America: U.S. Religious Data, Demographics and Statistics,” Pew Research Center's Religion & Public Life Project, September 9, 2020, <https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/state/california/>.

According to another study from Pew Research, nearly 80% of African-Americans identify as Christians, a higher percentage than any other ethnic group, and 70% of them are Protestant.<sup>12</sup> Black Christians are more likely to attend churches that either have predominantly Black congregations, or Black senior leadership. Black churchgoers also felt that Black churches have done more for racial equality and the overall Black community than have the federal government and predominantly White churches.<sup>13</sup> Responses to their survey also indicate that predominantly Black churches are more likely to discuss themes like race and politics, topics that are of high importance to African-Americans. In fact, racism was one of the two most important issues to Black voters in 2020.<sup>14</sup>

Pew data also shows that 62% of Latinos in the U.S. are Catholic, making up about a third of the country's Catholic population, and two-thirds of Latino Christians attend churches with predominantly Latino congregations, services in Spanish, and/or Latino clergy.<sup>15</sup><sup>16</sup> Though this trend is most common among foreign born Latinos and native Spanish speakers, it also applies to native-born and English-speaking Latinos. Similarly to results from the Black community, Latinos across all Christian denominations tended to agree that church services were appropriate places to discuss social and political issues.

Among Asian adults in the US, Christianity is the most common religious affiliation with 42% identifying as such. Following this are 26% who do not identify with a religion, 14% who identify as Buddhists, and 10% identifying as Hindus. Most Filipinos are Catholic, and most Korean-Americans are Protestant. Most Indian Americans are Hindu. Japanese-Americans are

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<sup>12</sup> David Masci, Besheer Mohamed, and Gregory A. Smith, "Black Americans Are More Likely than Overall Public to Be Christian, Protestant," Pew Research Center (Pew Research Center, August 18, 2020), <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/04/23/black-americans-are-more-likely-than-overall-public-to-be-christian-protestant/>.

<sup>13</sup> Jeff Diamant, "Three-Quarters of Black Americans Say Black Churches Have Helped Promote Racial Equality," Pew Research Center (Pew Research Center, February 19, 2021), <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/02/19/three-quarters-of-black-americans-say-black-churches-have-helped-promote-racial-equality/>.

<sup>14</sup> Dan Balz, Scott Clement, and Emily Guskin, "Black Americans Say Racism, Policing, Top Issues for November, Favor Biden by Huge Margin, Post-Ipsos Poll Finds," The Washington Post (WP Company, June 25, 2020), [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/black-americans-say-racism-policing-top-issues-for-november-favor-biden-by-huge-margin-post-ipsos-poll-finds/2020/06/24/9143b254-b645-11ea-aca5-ebb63d27e1ff\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/black-americans-say-racism-policing-top-issues-for-november-favor-biden-by-huge-margin-post-ipsos-poll-finds/2020/06/24/9143b254-b645-11ea-aca5-ebb63d27e1ff_story.html).

<sup>15</sup> Paul Taylor et al., "V. Politics, Values and Religion," Pew Research Center (Pew Research Center, December 30, 2019), <https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/2012/04/04/v-politics-values-and-religion/#:~:text=Among%20Latinos%2C%20most%20are%20Catholic,are%20unaffiliated%20with%20any%20religion.>

<sup>16</sup> "Changing Faiths: Latinos and the Transformation of American Religion," Pew Research Center (Pew Research Center, May 30, 2020), <https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/2007/04/25/changing-faiths-latinos-and-the-transformation-of-american-religion/>.

mostly divided between Christianity, Buddhism, or no affiliation, and about half of Chinese-Americans are unaffiliated. Most Vietnamese Americans are Buddhist.<sup>17</sup>

For the Native community, assessing religion is a bit more complex. Native Americans have faced a great deal of oppression regarding their spiritual expression. Discussing tribal religion was forbidden for many years, while Christian missions and Native American boarding schools - some of which still exist today - shaped Native religion by forcing assimilation to Christianity.<sup>18</sup> The federal government did not pass the American Indian Religious Freedom Resolution until 1978. Around this time, many existing Native churches began to combine their Christian teachings with traditional Indigenous teachings. Less than 1 percent of America's native population is estimated to still practice Native religions exclusively, while an estimated 70% practice Christianity.<sup>19</sup>

Based on the data above, we chose to focus on historically Black Christian churches or churches with Black clergy/leadership, Spanish-speaking Christian churches or churches offering services in Spanish, Christian churches with Asian clergy/leadership, as well as Buddhist and Hindu temples, and Native American Christian churches.

#### **COI #4: Schools**

To compare the diversity of K-12 schools across cities in the three congressional districts, we observed data from the Public School Review website. The site provides detailed racial and ethnic breakdowns of students in public school districts, and the districts themselves update this information regularly.<sup>20</sup> School diversity is an important community of interest, as studies have shown students work better and feel safer in schools with more diversity.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> "Chapter 7: Religious Affiliation, Beliefs and Practices," Pew Research Center (Pew Research Center, December 31, 2019), <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2012/06/19/chapter-7-religious-affiliation-beliefs-and-practices/>.

<sup>18</sup> Erin Blakemore, "A Century of Trauma at U.S. Boarding Schools for Native American Children," National Geographic (National Geographic, July 9, 2021), <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/a-century-of-trauma-at-boarding-schools-for-native-american-children-in-the-united-states#:~:text=It%20was%20the%20death%20knell,%2C%20Oregon%2C%20and%20South%20Dakota.>

<sup>19</sup> James T. Richardson, *Regulating Religion: Case Studies From Around the Globe* (Springer US, 2004), [https://www.google.com/books/edition/Regulating\\_Religion/U6opyVE\\_IYkC?hl=en&gbpv=0](https://www.google.com/books/edition/Regulating_Religion/U6opyVE_IYkC?hl=en&gbpv=0). & Manivong J. Ratts, "Counseling for Multiculturalism and Social Justice: Integration, Theory, and Application" (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, 2014), [https://www.google.com/books/editions/Counseling\\_for\\_Multiculturalism\\_and\\_Soci/\\_pTVBQAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0](https://www.google.com/books/editions/Counseling_for_Multiculturalism_and_Soci/_pTVBQAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0).

<sup>20</sup> "About Us," Private School Review, accessed September 3, 2021, <https://www.privateschoolreview.com/about-us>.

<sup>21</sup> "Benefits of Diversity in Schools: Queens University Online," Queens University of Charlotte Online, December 11, 2020, <https://online.queens.edu/resources/article/benefits-of-diversity-in-school/>.



## **COI #'s 5 – 9**

For the remaining communities of interest - community/recreation centers, ethnic/cultural museums, cultural events, vocational training programs, and transportation access - we continued to use Google and Google Maps to determine their prevalence across the three districts. We also looked closely at the individual websites, particularly for community/recreation centers, to determine the services they offer. For locating cultural events in larger cities like Oakland and Berkeley, we found local tourist websites - such as [visitoakland.com](http://visitoakland.com) - to be helpful, as they have long lists of local events to attend. For ethnic/cultural museums, we found the [countyoffice.org](http://countyoffice.org) website to be much more helpful than Google and Google Maps, as [countyoffice.org](http://countyoffice.org) had a more detailed list of the museums in each county. For community/recreation centers, after locating them via Google or Google Maps and reviewing their websites, we made phone calls to numerous centers, to get more detailed information on any unique or special services they provide to their communities. For vocational schools/ training programs, we looked at data from the National Center for Education Statistics, which directly showed the locations for these schools throughout the nation. Lastly, for transportation access, we examined bus routes in D-13, and whether or not they extend into the surrounding districts.

## **Survey**

In addition to our research work, we conducted a survey to identify the strength of connection D-13 residents have to various businesses and services located within the district boundary and surrounding cities. For this purpose, we selected various types of entities that provide goods and services, such as businesses, health institutions, youth organizations, recreation centers, cultural & religious institutions, museums and other entertainment services to identify which are used the most frequently, and where respondents indicate having a strong sense of community. The survey included a combination of both open-ended, multiple choice, Likert scale, and matrix style questions, inquiring about the type, location, and frequency at which respondents utilize certain benefits related to their community of interest.

The survey responses were obtained from 34 youth (high school to early college age) in the Bay Area. The racial makeup of respondents was as follows: Black/African American (44%); White (15%); Asian (12%); Hispanic/Latino (6%); Mixed (21%) and unknown/not response (2%). Most respondents reside in the bay area and among these about 80% of respondents live within the boundaries of the 13<sup>th</sup> congressional district. About 12% reside within D-15 (south of D-13) and the rest live in other districts.

## **Results**

### **Demographics of D-13**

According to data from the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS), D-13 had a population of 768,889 as of 2019. The district includes the cities of Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley, Alameda, San Leandro, and Piedmont, as well as the remainder of the Lake Chabot Regional Park area in Castro Valley, and small portions of Ashland's 94580 and 94578 zip

codes.<sup>22</sup> Oakland, Berkeley, and San Leandro are the largest cities, and their populations combined make up about 84% of the total district population.<sup>23</sup>

The ACS cites that Whites made up 34.3% of the D-13 population in 2019, Hispanic/Latinos of any race made up 22.3%, Asians were 20.5%, and Black/African-Americans were 17.1%, while American Indian/Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian /other Pacific Islanders each made up less than 1%. The median income across an estimated 294,896 households was \$91,514.<sup>24</sup> Educational services, healthcare, and social assistance, is the most common industry in the district.<sup>25</sup> 13.2% of all people and 8.2% of families had an income below the federal poverty level.<sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> 37.5% of residents spoke a language other than English at home, with Spanish and Asian/Pacific Islander languages as the two most common.<sup>28</sup>

### **Demographics of surrounding districts**

In D-11, the cities of Richmond, El Cerrito, Kensington, Orinda, Moraga, San Pablo, Lafayette, and El Sobrante all border D-13.<sup>29</sup> Across these cities, Richmond and El Sobrante were the only cities we found to be demographically compatible with our district. ACS data

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<sup>22</sup> “Overview of Congressional District 13, California,” Statistical Atlas, accessed August 6, 2021, <https://statisticalatlas.com/congressional-district/California/Congressional-District-13/Overview#nav-map/place>

<sup>23</sup> Retrieved from raw data at “Age and Sex – Berkeley city, California, Oakland city California, San Leandro city, California,” *American Community Survey*, United States Census Bureau, 2019, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=1600000US0606000,0653000,0668084&tid=ACSST1Y2019.S0101&hidePreview=true&moe=false>

<sup>24</sup> “Income in the Past 12 Months (In 2019 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) – Congressional District 13 (116<sup>th</sup> Congress), California,” *American Community Survey*, United States Census Bureau, 2019, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=&t=Income%20and%20Poverty&g=5001600US0613&tid=ACSST1Y2019.S1901>

<sup>25</sup> “Industry By Occupation for the Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over – Congressional District 13 (116<sup>th</sup> Congress), California,” *American Community Survey*, United States Census Bureau, 2019, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=&t=Industry%3AOccupation&g=5001600US0613&tid=ACSST1Y2019.S2405>

<sup>26</sup> “Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months – Congressional District 13 (116<sup>th</sup> Congress), California,” *American Community Survey*, United States Census Bureau, 2019, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=&t=Income%20and%20Poverty&g=5001600US0613&tid=ACSST1Y2019.S1701>

<sup>27</sup> “Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families – Congressional District 13 (116<sup>th</sup> Congress), California,” *American Community Survey*, United States Census Bureau, 2019, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Income%20and%20Poverty&g=5001600US0613&tid=ACSST1Y2019.S1702>

<sup>28</sup> “Language Spoken at Home – Congressional District 13 (116<sup>th</sup> Congress), California,” *American Community Survey*, United States Census Bureau, 2019, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=&t=Language%20Spoken%20at%20Home&g=5001600US0613&tid=ACSST1Y2019.S1601>

<sup>29</sup> “Overview of Congressional District 11, California,” Statistical Atlas, accessed July 8, 2021, <https://statisticalatlas.com/congressional-district/California/Congressional-District-11/Overview#nav-map/place>

shows Richmond's ethnic breakdown to be 17.8% White, 42.5% Hispanic/Latino, 15.4% Asian, 19.5% Black/African-American, and less than 1% for American Indian/Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islanders. El Sobrante was 35.4% White, 28.8% Hispanic/Latino, 17.2% Asian, 11.4% Black/African-American, 0.1% American Indian/Alaska Native, and 0.8% Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander.<sup>30</sup>

Educational services/health care/social assistance was the top industry in both cities.<sup>31</sup> Richmond's poverty rates were closest to D-13's at 14.7% for individuals and 11.7% for families.<sup>32 33</sup> Rates in El Sobrante were lower, at 8.20% and 6.10%.<sup>34 35</sup>

Spanish was the most common language other than English spoken at home in both cities. More than half of Richmond's residents, and nearly 40% of El Sobrante residents spoke a language other than English at home.<sup>36</sup> Though Richmond overall has a smaller percentage of Asian residents, and El Sobrante has fewer Black residents as well as lower poverty rates, these two cities are still very consistent with demographic trends in D-13.

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<sup>30</sup> Retrieved from raw data at "Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race – El Sobrante CDP (Contra Costa County), California," *American Community Survey*, United States Census Bureau, 2019, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=&t=Hispanic%20or%20Latino&g=1600000US0622454&tid=ACSST5Y2019.B03002>

<sup>31</sup> Retrieved from raw data at "Industry by Occupation... - El Sobrante CDP (Contra Costa County), California, Richmond city, California," *American Community Survey*, (2019), <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=El%20Sobrante%20CDP%20%28Contra%20Costa%20County%29,%20California&t=Industry%3AOccupation&g=1600000US0660620&tid=ACSST5Y2019.C24050>

<sup>32</sup> "Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months – Richmond city, California," *American Community Survey*, (2019), <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Richmond%20city,%20California&tid=ACSST5Y2019.S1701>

<sup>33</sup> "Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families – Richmond city, California," *American Community Survey*, (2019), <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Richmond%20city,%20California&tid=ACSST5Y2019.S1702>

<sup>34</sup> "Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months – El Sobrante CDP (Contra Costa County), California," *American Community Survey*, (2019), <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=&t=Income%20and%20Poverty&g=1600000US0622454&tid=ACSST5Y2019.S1701>

<sup>35</sup> Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families - El Sobrante CDP (Contra Costa County), California," *American Community Survey*, (2019), <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=&t=Income%20and%20Poverty&g=1600000US0622454&tid=ACSST5Y2019.S1702>

<sup>36</sup> "Language Spoken at Home – El Sobrante CDP (Contra Costa County), California, Richmond city, California," *American Community Survey*, (2019), <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=&t=Language%20Spoken%20at%20Home&g=1600000US0622454,0660620&tid=ACSST5Y2019.S1601>

All of the other cities we studied in D-11 had significantly smaller Black populations, and/or significantly larger White populations than D-13.<sup>37</sup> Kensington, Orinda, Lafayette, and Moraga also had much higher median incomes than the median for D-13.<sup>38</sup>

In D-15, Hayward, San Lorenzo, Cherryland, Fairview, and the rest of Castro Valley and Ashland border the southern part of D-13.<sup>39</sup> Of these six cities, Hayward, San Lorenzo, and Ashland have populations most similar to the 13th district. The three cities had average demographics of 17.1% White, 42% Hispanic/Latino, 26.3% Asian, 8.6% Black/African-American, 0.3% American Indian/Alaska Native, and 1.5% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander.<sup>40</sup> Educational services/health care/social assistance was the top industry in all three cities, the average poverty rate for individuals was 9.3%, and for families the average rate was 6.6%.<sup>41 42 43</sup> Around 56.5% of residents spoke a language other than English at home in the three cities; Spanish being the most common once again.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Retrieved from raw data at “Hispanic or Latino Origin... - El Cerrito city, California, Kensington CDP, California, Lafayette city, California, Moraga town, California, Orinda city, California, San Pablo city, California,” *American Community Survey*, (2019), [https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=&t=Hispanic%20or%20Latino&g=1600000US0621796\\_0638086\\_0639122\\_0649187\\_0654232\\_0668294&tid=ACSST5Y2019.B03002](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=&t=Hispanic%20or%20Latino&g=1600000US0621796_0638086_0639122_0649187_0654232_0668294&tid=ACSST5Y2019.B03002)

<sup>38</sup> “Income in the Past 12 Months... - Kensington CDP, California, Lafayette city, California, Moraga town, California, Orinda city, California,” *American Community Survey*, (2019), [https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=&t=Income%20and%20Poverty&g=1600000US0638086\\_0639122\\_0649187\\_0654232&tid=ACSST5Y2019.S1901](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=&t=Income%20and%20Poverty&g=1600000US0638086_0639122_0649187_0654232&tid=ACSST5Y2019.S1901)

<sup>39</sup> “Overview of Congressional District 15, California,” Statistical Atlas, accessed August 2, 2021, <https://statisticalatlas.com/congressional-district/California/Congressional-District-15/Overview#nav-map/place>

<sup>40</sup> Retrieved from raw data at “Hispanic or Latino Origin... - Ashland CDP, California, Hayward city, California, San Lorenzo CDP, California,” *American Community Survey*, (2019), [https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=&t=Hispanic%20or%20Latino&g=1600000US0602980\\_0633000\\_0668112&tid=ACSST5Y2019.B03002](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=&t=Hispanic%20or%20Latino&g=1600000US0602980_0633000_0668112&tid=ACSST5Y2019.B03002)

<sup>41</sup> “Industry by Occupation... - Ashland CDP, California, Hayward city, California, San Lorenzo CDP, California,” *American Community Survey*, (2019), [https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=&g=1600000US0602980\\_0633000\\_0668112&tid=ACSST5Y2019.S2405](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=&g=1600000US0602980_0633000_0668112&tid=ACSST5Y2019.S2405)

<sup>42</sup> “Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months – Ashland CDP, California, Hayward city, California, San Lorenzo CDP, California,” *American Community Survey*, (2019), [https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=&g=1600000US0602980\\_0633000\\_0668112&tid=ACSST5Y2019.S1701&hidePreview=true&moe=false](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=&g=1600000US0602980_0633000_0668112&tid=ACSST5Y2019.S1701&hidePreview=true&moe=false)

<sup>43</sup> “Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families – Ashland CDP, California, Hayward city, California, San Lorenzo CDP, California,” *American Community Survey*, (2019), [https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Income%20and%20Poverty&g=1600000US0602980\\_0633000\\_0668112&tid=ACSST5Y2019.S1702&hidePreview=true&moe=false](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Income%20and%20Poverty&g=1600000US0602980_0633000_0668112&tid=ACSST5Y2019.S1702&hidePreview=true&moe=false)

<sup>44</sup> “Language Spoken at Home – Ashland CDP, California, Hayward city, California, San Lorenzo CDP, California,” *American Community Survey*, (2019), [https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Language%20Spoken%20at%20Home&g=1600000US0602980\\_0633000\\_0668112&tid=ACSST5Y2019.S1601&hidePreview=true&moe=false](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Language%20Spoken%20at%20Home&g=1600000US0602980_0633000_0668112&tid=ACSST5Y2019.S1601&hidePreview=true&moe=false)

## **COI #1: Parks**

An analysis of data from the ParkScore index indicates that D-13 has a total of 273 parks. In each of the cities, more than half of residents live within a 10 minute walk from a park: 100% of residents in Albany, 96% in Piedmont, 95% in Berkeley, and Emeryville, 91% in Alameda, 89% in Oakland, and 62% in San Leandro.<sup>45</sup>

In D-11, only the cities of Richmond, El Cerrito, and San Pablo have more than 50% of their residents living within a 10 minute walk from a park. El Cerrito has the most at 93% of residents, followed by Richmond with 79%.<sup>46</sup> In D-15, Castro Valley was the only city with less than 50% of residents living 10 minutes from a park.<sup>47</sup> Ashland had the most at 91% of residents, followed by Hayward at 79%.<sup>48</sup>

These findings match our survey data, as the majority of respondents cited accessing parks in CD-13, mostly between the cities of Oakland, San Leandro, Alameda, and Berkeley. Smaller percentages of respondents cited visiting parks in Hayward (21%), Castro Valley (12%), and Richmond (6%).

## **COI #2: Ethnic/Cultural businesses**

We found significantly higher numbers of hair salons, barbershops, beauty supply stores and soul food places catering to or owned by African-Americans in District 13 than in the other two districts. Within D-13, we found the most hair salons, beauty supply stores, and soul food vendors in Oakland, and the most barbershops in San Leandro. We did not find any of the four types of Black businesses in the cities of Piedmont or Albany. We found multiple of at least one business type in all of the other D-13 cities, including some in our portion of Ashland's 94578 zip code.

In D-11, we found the majority of all four businesses in Richmond. We did not discover any of these businesses in Kensington, Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette, or El Sobrante, and found very few in San Pablo and El Cerrito.

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<sup>45</sup> "Albany, CA," The Trust for Public Land, accessed August 4, 2021, <https://www.tpl.org/city/albany-california>; "Piedmont, CA," <https://www.tpl.org/city/piedmont-california>; "Berkeley, CA," <https://www.tpl.org/city/berkeley-california>; "Emeryville, CA," <https://www.tpl.org/city/emeryville-california>; "Alameda, CA," <https://www.tpl.org/city/alameda-california>; "Oakland, CA," <https://www.tpl.org/city/oakland-california>; "San Leandro, CA," <https://www.tpl.org/city/san-leandro-california>

<sup>46</sup> "El Cerrito, CA," The Trust for Public Land, accessed August 4, 2021, <https://www.tpl.org/city/el-cerrito-california>; "Richmond, CA," <https://www.tpl.org/city/richmond-california>

<sup>47</sup> "Castro Valley, CA," The Trust for Public Land, accessed August 4, 2021, <https://www.tpl.org/city/castro-valley-california>

<sup>48</sup> "Ashland, CA," The Trust for Public Land, accessed August 4, 2021, <https://www.tpl.org/city/ashland-california>; "Hayward, CA," <https://www.tpl.org/city/hayward-california>

In D-15, we only found all four types of businesses in the city of Hayward. We discovered one ethnic hair salon in Castro Valley, and two in Cherryland. We did not find any businesses in San Lorenzo, Ashland, or Fairview.

Nearly all of our survey respondents who identified as Black or African American cited using beauty supply stores, and the majority of them do so at a frequency of around once a month. More than half of those living in D-13, as well as half of the residents living in D-11 and D-15, reported using beauty supplies within D-13. Of the Black respondents who use barbershops, most do so rarely, however nearly 80% of D-13 residents and nearly 70% of D-11 and D-15 residents use shops in D-13. Of the 60% that reported using hair salons, most lived in D-13 and utilized salons within the district. Finally, all of our Black respondents said they used soul food restaurants/vendors at some frequency. Most of them lived in D-13 and exclusively patronized soul food restaurants/vendors within the district. The majority of D-11 and D-15 respondents frequent D-13 soul food vendors, as well as those in their own district. These results reinforce our findings that the majority of these types of businesses are in D-13.

Of all four business types we researched for the Latino community, we found the most in D-13. We found Latin restaurants in all the D-13 cities except for Piedmont and Albany. We found a small number of cultural clothing stores in Oakland as well as one in San Leandro, and found Latin grocery stores/supermarkets in Oakland, San Leandro, and Berkeley. Finally, we found several legal service organizations offering immigration, Spanish, or otherwise Latino-focused services in Oakland and one in San Leandro as well. Oakland and Berkeley were the only cities where we found each of the four business types, and Oakland had the vast majority across all three districts.

We found the majority of D-11's businesses in the city of Richmond, as it had the most Latin restaurants and groceries, as well as the only cultural clothing store we could find. We found Latin restaurants in every other D-11 area except for Kensington and Moraga, but we only found two additional Latin grocery stores in the city of San Pablo. For D-15, Our team located at least one Latin restaurant in all of the areas except for Cherryland and Fairview. There were also numerous Latin grocery stores and supermarkets in Hayward, but we only found one additional store in Castro Valley. We did not find any Latin clothing stores or legal services based in this district.

Results from our survey align with these findings, as the majority of respondents that utilize Latin restaurants/food vendors and ethnic supermarkets/grocery stores do so within D-13, primarily in Oakland, San Leandro, Berkeley, and/or Alameda. Some students reported using some of these businesses in Richmond, Hayward, Castro Valley, and San Lorenzo as well.

For the three types of AAPI cultural businesses, we found the majority in D-13, with multiple of each kind in every city except for Emeryville, Piedmont, and Albany. We only came across some restaurants/food vendors in Emeryville and Albany, while we could not find any of

the business types in Piedmont (though there were numerous close by on Piedmont Avenue in Oakland). In D-11 we located at least one Asian or Polynesian restaurant in every area except for Kensington, Asian or Polynesian markets in Richmond, El Cerrito, San Pablo, and El Sobrante, and at least one Asian tea house in El Cerrito, Moraga, and San Pablo. In D-15, we only found one of each business type in Castro Valley, while there were restaurants and markets in Hayward and San Lorenzo. We did not find any businesses in Cherryland, Ashland, or Fairview. Once again, Oakland had the most business across all of the districts.

Survey results for patronage of Asian restaurants were similar to those for ethnic supermarkets/grocery stores as discussed previously.

In all three districts, we found very few of the two selected business types for the Native American community. We discovered the most in D-13, with Berkeley, Oakland, and Albany having at least one cultural store - though Albany's had to close after nearly 30 years of business due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and currently operates online - and one restaurant in Berkeley. We did not discover these businesses in any of the other cities in the other districts. However, there is a rancheria in San Pablo for the Lytton tribe, where they operate the San Pablo Lytton Casino. This land has been designated for use by the Lytton tribe since 2000. Additionally, the indigenous community also has a rich history in the city of Oakland, as it is home to all three of the American Indian Model Schools. The first of the three schools, American Indian Public Charter School, was started in the 1990s by Native American parents who wanted to incorporate cultural connection into their children's education. The school has since expanded to include students of all races and ethnic backgrounds.

### **Community of interest #3: Religious institutions**

We found the most African-American, Asian, Hispanic, and Native American Christian Churches in District 13. Oakland had the most of every church type, and the only American Indian Christian church we could find across all three districts. Aside from Oakland, Richmond had the second highest number of Hispanic churches, Richmond and Berkeley had sizable numbers of African-American churches, and San Leandro had about the same number of Asian churches as Oakland.

Kensington in District 11 was the only area where we did not find any of the above religious institutions, but there were very few in Piedmont (d-13), Orinda and Moraga (d-11), and Lafayette (d-15).

For Buddhist and Hindu temples, results followed mostly similar trends, with some differences. Oakland still had the most Buddhist places of worship across all three districts, followed by Berkeley, and Richmond. However, Berkeley had the most Hindu temples, followed by Oakland and Castro Valley. We could only find both types of temples in the D-13 cities of Oakland and Berkeley, as well as in Castro Valley and Hayward in D-15.



Over 90% of our survey respondents who reported utilizing religious institutions do so in District 13, mostly in Oakland (63.64%), Berkeley (18.18%), or San Leandro (9.09%), which matches our results.

#### **Community of Interest #4: Schools**

Based on our analysis of Public School Review, we found the best diversity scores to be in D-13 school districts, as well as school districts in our cities of interest in D-15. Every D-15 school district except for Hayward Unified, and every D-13 school district except for Piedmont Unified, had a diversity score above the state average (0.64).<sup>49</sup> The West Contra Costa Unified School District, which encompasses Richmond, El Cerrito, San Pablo, El Sobrante, Kensington, and a few other cities, was the only school district in our D-11 cities of interest with a diversity score above the state average.<sup>50</sup>

D-13 school districts had the highest overall Black enrollment rates across cities in all three districts. The Emery Unified School District in Emeryville had the highest Black student enrollment rate at 44%, followed by Oakland Unified at 24%.<sup>51</sup> School districts in our D-11 cities had the highest overall White enrollment; Lafayette Elementary School District, Moraga Elementary School District, Orinda Union Elementary School District, and the Acalanes Union High School District (corresponding to Moraga, Lafayette, Orinda, and other cities), were all at least 60% White.<sup>52</sup> Our D-15 cities had the highest overall Asian and Hispanic student enrollment. Castro Valley Unified had the highest Asian enrollment at 31%, while Hayward Unified had the highest Hispanic enrollment at 64%.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> “Hayward Unified School District,” Public School Review, 2021, <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/hayward-unified-school-district/616740-school-district>; “Piedmont City Unified...,” <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/piedmont-city-unified-school-district/630330-school-district>

<sup>50</sup> “West Contra Costa Unified School District,” Public School Review, 2021, <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/west-contra-costa-unified-school-district/632550-school-district>

<sup>51</sup> “Emery Unified School District,” Public School Review, 2021,” <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/emery-unified-school-district/612630-school-district>; “Oakland Unified...,” <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/oakland-unified-school-district/628050-school-district>

<sup>52</sup> “Lafayette Elementary School District,” Public School Review, 2021, <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/lafayette-elementary-school-district/620310-school-district>; “Moraga Elementary School District,” <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/moraga-elementary-school-district/625740-school-district>; “Orinda Union Elementary School District,” <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/orinda-union-elementary-school-district/628860-school-district>; “Acalanes Union High School District,” <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/acalanes-union-high-school-district/601650-school-district>

<sup>53</sup> “Castro Valley Unified School District,” Public School Review, 2021, <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/castro-valley-unified-school-district/607800-school-district>; “Hayward Unified...,” <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/hayward-unified-school-district/616740-school-district>

Oakland Unified, San Leandro Unified, Emery Unified, Alameda Unified, West Contra Costa Unified, and San Lorenzo Unified were the only school districts meeting the 1% average enrollment rate for Hawaiian students.<sup>54</sup> Hayward Unified was the only school district to exceed the average, with a rate of 3%.<sup>55</sup> Every school district we studied, across all three congressional districts, had American Indian student enrollment rates below the state average of 1%.

Alameda Unified School District in D-13 had the highest overall diversity score at 0.77, followed closely by Castro Valley Unified School District at 0.76, as well as Berkeley and Albany City Unified School Districts at 0.75.<sup>56</sup> However, Albany, Castro Valley, and Alameda Unified school districts all had low Black student enrollment rates.

### COI #'s 5 - 9

The remaining six communities of interest followed similar trends. We found the greatest number of community/recreation centers and cultural events, in District 13, specifically in the city of Oakland. Berkeley and Richmond frequently had the highest numbers after Oakland's for these communities of interest. Additionally we found the most community/recreation centers with an emphasis on multicultural resources in Oakland. Such resources ranged from Arabic language and ESL programs, to bilingual and multilingual staff. The Intertribal Friendship house, established in 1955 as one of the first Indigenous community centers nationwide, is also housed in Oakland.

The vast majority of ethnic/cultural museums we found were in Berkeley and Oakland. We only found one in D-15 (in Hayward), and none in D-11.

There was some data that strayed from the norms. We did not discover any vocational schools in D-13, nor in our cities of interest in CD-11. However, we did locate one in Hayward.

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<sup>54</sup> "Oakland Unified School District," Public School Review, 2021, <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/oakland-unified-school-district/628050-school-district>; "San Leandro Unified...", <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/san-leandro-unified-school-district/634680-school-district>; "Emery Unified...", <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/emery-unified-school-district/612630-school-district>; "Alameda Unified...", <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/alameda-unified-school-district/601770-school-district>; "West Contra Costa Unified...", <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/west-contra-costa-unified-school-district/632550-school-district>; "San Lorenzo Unified...", <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/san-lorenzo-unified-school-district/634710-school-district>

<sup>55</sup> "Hayward Unified School District," Public School Review, 2021, <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/hayward-unified-school-district/616740-school-district>

<sup>56</sup> "Alameda Unified School District", Public School Review, 2021, <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/alameda-unified-school-district/601770-school-district>; "Castro Valley Unified...", <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/castro-valley-unified-school-district/607800-school-district>; "Berkeley Unified...", <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/berkeley-unified-school-district/604740-school-district>; "Albany City Unified...", <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/albany-city-unified-school-district/601860-school-district>

For transportation access, we found that bus routes in D-13 extend into El Cerrito and Richmond in D-11, but many of them end in San Leandro and become more scarce as you move southward into D-15.

## **Discussion**

### **Conclusion**

Overall, our results from the community of interest data tended to match up with our demographic data. We found that Richmond in D-11, and Hayward, San Lorenzo, and Ashland in D-15, were the most similar to D-13 based on race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic factors. Likewise, we saw similarities between D-13 cities and Richmond for seven out of the nine communities of interest. We found similarities between D-13 cities and Hayward in four out of the nine. However, given that one of the requirements for redistricting is contiguity, Hayward would not work as well for expansion. San Lorenzo, Ashland, Cherryland, and part of Castro Valley all stand in between the southern end of D-13, and the beginning of Hayward. Therefore, to expand into Hayward, all or part of these areas would have to be included, which we do not feel would benefit our district.

Therefore, if expansion of D-13 becomes necessary, due to the loss of a congressional seat in our state, Richmond would be the most ideal location. In the city of Richmond, we noticed that a large number of the communities of interest we discovered were concentrated in one area: the 94804 zip code. From community/recreation centers, to ethnic/cultural businesses, a significant number of what we discovered in the city of Richmond were concentrated in this zip

code. We concluded that if expansion became necessary, this portion of Richmond should definitely be included into our district.

However, contiguity becomes an issue again, as extending the current D-13 boundary would likely result in expansion to not only Richmond, but El Cerrito and Kensington as well. Though there were some instances where El Cerrito had communities of interest in common with D-13 cities, Kensington was one of the least compatible areas with our district. Consequently, our ultimate conclusion is that it would be best for D-13 to maintain its' current boundaries and not expand. The cities in our district mesh well together. The cities of Oakland, Berkeley, San Leandro, and Alameda, which combined comprise over 90% of the overall district population, had consistently comparable community of interest results. From consistently higher-than-average diversity scores in schools, to greater diversity of religious institutions, D-13 is a portrait of California's vast array of culture. We cannot afford to split these communities up, and hinder residents from voting in the interest of the businesses and services they depend on. This is why we advocate for D-13 to maintain its' current boundaries.

### **Research Limitations**

Given that Google and Google Maps are not guaranteed to list every type of business or service in a given area, and results on these search engines can vary drastically with slight alterations of search terms, getting reliable numbers was difficult at times. In spite of this, drawing our conclusions was less difficult, as there were typically significant disparities. For example, if we found 30 Latin restaurants in Oakland, and zero in Moraga, even if there were some in either of these cities that were missed or over-counted, it is still most likely that there were a significantly larger number of Latin restaurants in Oakland than in Moraga.

In looking at ethnic/cultural businesses for the Native community, it can be difficult to assess Native entrepreneurship, as data for businesses owned and operated on reservations is not always readily available.<sup>57</sup>

We also did not conduct in depth research on the religious and spiritual characteristics of Polynesian-Americans, which would be a good community of interest for future research to examine.

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<sup>57</sup> Chris Farrell, "Ways Native American Entrepreneurship Is Expanding," *Forbes* (Forbes Magazine, November 22, 2019), <https://www.forbes.com/sites/nextavenue/2019/11/22/ways-native-american-entrepreneurship-is-expanding/?sh=7659d4077c52>.

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