

Select Ethnic Enclaves and their Cultural Indicators in Nashville, Tennessee: Nolensville
Road

by
Kelsey Massey

A thesis presented to the Honors College of Middle Tennessee State University in partial
fulfillment for graduation from the University Honors College
Spring 2017

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by
Kelsey Massey

APPROVED:

Dr. Doug Heffington
Global Studies and Human Geography Department, Chair

Dr. James Chaney
Global Studies and Human Geography Department, Professor

Dr. Philip E. Phillips
University Honors College Associate Dean

I would like to dedicate this work to immigrants, who are exceptional people in the face of stigmas and discrimination.

ABSTRACT

This project seeks to explain the cultural footprint of Nolensville Road in Nashville, Tennessee. It does so by documenting ethnic enclaves, which are specific areas where one or more particular ethnicities reside. Ines Miyares defines and explains ethnic enclaves through indicators such as language, script, toponyms, flags, and colors (49). This project frames and explains the ethnic landscape of Nolensville Road through these indicators. Nolensville Road possesses other important indicators such as religious structures, retail stores, and restaurants. The current ethnic indicators are documented below through a series of photographs. Geographer, Jim Chaney has also done significant work documenting migration within Nashville and subsequent settlement in the area. Dr. Chaney's research will serve as a large contributor to this project. As ethnic enclaves fluctuate and change as people migrate, it should be noted, this project provides a snapshot of the current ethnic neighborhoods and settlement tendencies in the area of study. Academics and researchers interested in immigration can utilize this study to understand the current landscape of the area of study or another ethnically diverse area. Research compiled also served to create a lesson plan designed for 9th-12th grade social studies classrooms to foster understanding and appreciation for diversity and cultural studies.

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INTRODUCTION

America is a country of immigrants. Individuals of many different ethnicities have flocked to America throughout its history, settling in different places. There are various approaches to studying immigration and ethnicity; this project specifically focuses on the study of ethnic enclaves and ethnic signatures. For many years, the idea of the “melting pot,” or assimilation, was prevalent. Assimilation assumes that immigrants “melt” into American culture and lose their homeland identity in favor of an American identity. In 1993, Roger Waldinger wrote, “Though it retains its defenders, assimilation theory no longer shapes the direction of current work on immigration to the United States. Researchers have little faith in either the predictive power or the desirability of the ‘straight-line’ trajectory of ethnic change inherent in the assimilationist view” (444).

The idea of a “salad bowl” has since arisen. This concept states that immigrants do not assimilate or lose their home culture; rather, the immigrants retain their home culture, or parts of it, thereby diversifying American culture (Waldinger 444). The concept of the ethnic enclave is better supported by the “salad bowl” concept than assimilation theory. Sociologist Alejandro Porte defined ethnic enclaves as “immigrant groups, which concentrate in a distinct spatial location and organize a variety of enterprises serving their own ethnic market and/or the general population,” (qtd. in Xie and Gough 290-291). These neighborhoods have a number of markers or indicators that declare their presence (Xie and Gough).

Neighborhoods are constantly changing. Immigrants and other peoples alike move around for a variety of reasons. First generation immigrants may settle collectively in a general area but their offspring often choose other locations to reside. This continuous

migration increases the diversity of cities and allows for the continuing diversification of a city (Hall 27). Nashville's Nolensville Road, for example, will most likely look vastly different in a decade. This project documents the cultural landscape of today with the knowledge that there is a constant morphology of diversity.

More recently, geographers have discovered that ethnic enclaves or neighborhoods have devolved into international corridors. Paul N. McDaniel and Anita I. Drever explain, "Immigrant entrepreneurs have... chosen to locate near other immigrant businesses rather than forming single ethnicity neighborhoods," (18). This change in structure and terminology does not change the indicators historically associated with ethnic enclaves. The same indicators exist however, in many cities, the indicators now exist for multiple nationalities within the area observed..

The evolution of Nolensville Road will likely be impacted by what Wilbur Zelinsky and Barrett Lee call "heterlocalism" (qtd. in Hardwick 213). Heterlocalism theory suggests that immigrants are no longer choosing to settle based upon community proximity or in downtown, low-rent apartment settings (Hardwick 213). This is a departure from what Dr. Susan Hardwick calls the "traditional Chicago School" style of immigrant settlement; instead of settling based on "land values, land use, and economic issues," immigrants often settle in suburban areas (Hardwick 215). The combined effects from ability to travel with relative ease and evolution of technology and social media have allowed for maintaining transnational relationships of immigrants with their home cultures (Hardwick 216). While it is difficult to predict what Nashville will look like in the future, the documentary nature of this project will allow for a visual benchmark in time of the current landscape of ethnicity.

This project focuses on Nashville, Tennessee's immigrant population. Historically, the American South and, more specifically, the Nashville area have not been an openly welcoming place for immigrants. However, for roughly the last thirty years, Tennessee has worked to remove that stigma towards immigrants and change policies to be more progressive (Hull 2015). Census data from 2010-2014 displays that just under 12% of Nashville residents being foreign born ("Quick Facts"). *The Tennessean* also reports that 30% of children in the metro school system live in homes where English is not the primary language used (Hull 2015).

These trends of Nashville becoming more welcoming and other historic movements within the city have set the scene for a large influx of Latino, Kurdish, and Somali people groups into the Greater Nashville Area. These two groups have an unmistakable presence along Nolensville Road that is documented within this body of work.

This thesis documents and defines ethnic enclaves based on their cultural landscapes. A body of photographic work is included that depicts visual evidence of ethnic enclaves in the Middle Tennessee area. In addition, a packet of instructional material is included that can be used to teach and explain ethnic diversity in a high school social studies classroom setting. The packet defines ethnic enclaves and explains how to recognize cultural indicators.

The idea for this project was derived from an MTSU education abroad course, Global Studies 3200, located in Toronto, Canada, one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the world. The primary purpose of the trip was to document visual evidence of ethnic enclaves within the city. Concepts learned in Toronto served as inspiration to duplicate

the study in Nashville, Tennessee. Understanding the importance, diversity, complexity, and beauty of the multicultural world in which we live aids in: understanding the world as a whole, encouraging global exploration, and educating a global citizenry.

THESIS STATEMENT

This thesis project defines ethnic enclaves and international corridors, why they are geographically significant, and how to identify associated ethnic indicators. This project includes a photographic body of work, capturing indicators of ethnicity within the cultural landscape. This project is accessible online at NashvilleEthnicEnclave.wordpress.com and will be displayed as a part of Hispanic Heritage Month 2017. A sample lesson plan is included to facilitate educational usage in a high school Social Studies classroom setting (see Appx. B). This research aims to increase awareness and foster appreciation of cultural diversity within the local and global human mosaic. It also specifically strives to increase Greater Nashville Area students' understanding of the diversity in and around their city.

HISTORY OF IMMIGRATION IN NASHVILLE

Nashville has historically been the home to numerous immigrant groups. One of the earliest groups were German people, who started settling in the area in the 1840s. The largest portion of the German population started settling in-between Jefferson Street, Hume Street, Eighth Avenue North, and Third Avenue North (Davis 16). Forming a more traditional enclave, the area is still referred to as "German Town" despite the enclave's disappearance in the beginning of the twentieth century (Davis 29).

Starting in 1970, Chaney explains that resettlement programs began assisting refugees by relocating them to the Nashville area (2013). These migration efforts have brought people from a variety of countries and furthered Nashville's diversity. Dr. Chaney mentions people groups from Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Burma. He also addresses Nashville's nickname, "Little Kurdistan." The largest population of Kurds outside of Kurdistan live in the Nashville area (Chaney 2013, p. 94).

The Latino presence in Nashville began after the refugee populations started growing. The first immigrants arrived in the 1990s (Chaney 2013, p. 94-45). Chaney's research documents their settlement and connections to the area. Latinos use a transnational social network when deciding where to resettle. They find jobs based on these social connections. Chaney writes,

"Latino subcontractors in Nashville and beyond rely on an informal network of friends, family, and acquaintances to recruit able-bodied workers. In like manner, Latino immigrants, both those already stateside and those planning to come, utilize their relationship with established subcontractors and contacts to acquire jobs in Nashville...." (Chaney 2013, p. 96).

This strategy has paid off and led to rapid settlement to the area. Latino populations have increased 700% in the last 20 years (Chaney 96).

The current and historical immigration to Nashville is interesting. Just outside the city, the Ku Klux Klan finds its home in Pulaski, TN. The Southern Poverty Law Center wrote in 2014 of the numerous white supremacist conferences that still occur in the state with no government interference (Smith). This contradiction between the increasing population of immigrants and the proximity of white supremacist movements could

perhaps be explained by Nashville's difference in political opinions from the rest of Tennessee. Whatever the reason, a 2009 vote solidified Nashville's opinion towards immigrants. In 2009, a referendum came for a vote, which would have English to be the only language spoken in city government transactions and by law enforcement. This referendum would not have allowed for translation services to be provided. Fortunately, the majority voted "no" to this legislation and set a precedent for future immigrant friendly policies (Fitzpatrick).

Former Mayor, Karl Dean, told CBC that the referendum vote was a turning point for Nashville. This turning point has been evident in the continuation of immigrant friendly policies that city has passed. The vote sent a message of encouragement to immigrants and the foreign-born residents has almost doubled in the last decade. *Welcoming America* released a report in 2015 which stated that 80% of "business and community leaders in Nashville feel that immigrants have helped local business reach a more global audience," and that it is important to continue supporting immigrant participation (Welcoming America).

The notion of the acceptance found in Tennessee may be threatened by recent legislation. In early March of 2017, Tennessee lawmakers filed a lawsuit against the government for the resettlement of refugees. The lawsuit focuses on the costs the state has incurred at the expense of the federal government's refugee resettlement policies (Ebert). *The Tennessean* spoke to multiple refugee organizations whom are extremely troubled by the state's lack of support for refugees. The suit was filed in West Tennessee and may not directly implicate the people who reside in Nashville (located in Middle Tennessee) however, the general message the suit gives is not a welcoming one (Ebert).

The possible difference in opinion could be explained by Nashville's diversity compared to the state as a whole. For example, 4.8% of Tennessee's population is foreign born. In Nashville alone, 12.1% of the population is foreign born ("Races in Nashville-Davidson, Tennessee"). Nashville is a particular area of Tennessee that reflects a pro-immigrant, pro-refugee stance that may not be shared by the rest of the state.

Jim Chaney is one of the few, or only, researcher(s) who has conducted significant research on Nolensville Road. In his work, "Forging New Paths: Examining the Transnational Social Networks behind Latino Migration in the American South," he explains that people commonly choose places to reside based upon interpersonal relationships, particularly when traveling without papers. Personal relationships affect the ability of migrant workers to find work (24). These personal relationships are strong within Tennessee as evidence by the growing population rates. Chaney explains, "Tennessee possessed the third fastest percentage growth rate of Latino population in the U.S. between 2000 and 2010" (25).

APPROACH/METHODS

This project compiles of data on the migration and settlement of immigrants in Nashville, Tennessee. The first and secondary sources include archival data, pedestrian surveys, and photographic documentation to locate indicators. Key terms are explained in a glossary section (see Appx. A). Collected data was used to develop lesson plans for high school Social Studies educators (see Appx. B). This teaching module deals with ethnicity and migration and is based upon the National Council for Geographic Education's standards ("Resources").

A collection of twenty-one photographs was taken depicting ethnic indicators within the international corridor in Nashville. The photographs are displayed at NashvilleEthnicEnclave.wordpress.com (and possibly in a public art exhibit in the Fall of 2017) (see Appx. C). These photos are broad in area, and seek to depict multiple ethnic groups in the local area, as well as interpreting the international influence in Nashville. Collectively, the photographs strive to provide a comprehensive look at the international corridor. Photos aim to do so by documenting specific ethnic indicators such as colors, text, toponyms, signs, symbols, language, and flags as defined by Miyares (49).

The presence of colors in ethnic neighborhoods can be broad in scope. Often times, ethnic groups use colors to indicate their presence. Examples include blue and white for a Greek presence or red, green, and white for a Mexican presence (Miyares 49). Toponyms describes the representation of “place names.” An example of this is the inclusion of, “Tokyo,” or, “Sicily,” in a business’ name. Signage and language are generally found together. Miyares describes language as an ethnic indicator as, “a strong indicator of the ethnic group residing in the neighborhood” (49). She attributes this claim to the presence of the economic community in the enclave. If residents are advertising in their native languages, then the intended buyers are also from their home country. This indicates a strong immigrant presence (49). Languages, and even flags, are generally found on signage around the enclave. Symbols are also important indicators. Examples of ethnic symbols might include a Vespa signifying an Italian presence or a dragon signifying a Chinese presence.

Other representations of diversity are also included. The changing “urban religious landscapes,” retail climate, and presence of food are examples of additional

ethnic indicators (Kaplan and Recoquillon 35). While religious landscapes are mentioned in Miyares' work it was not highlighted as an "indicator." The additional indicators were not mentioned in Miyares' work but are important to fully understand the landscape of Nashville. Urban religious landscapes in the American South are generally associated with Christianity. Along Nolensville Road, Catholic Church advertising in Spanish (see Fig. 19) and an Ethiopian place of worship were observed. The presence of religions, which specifically cater to ethnic groups, indicates their strong presence in the area. The retail climate is indicated by signage and language but should be included as an individual indicator. Within ethnic enclaves or international corridors, the retail climate is markedly different. For example, along Nolensville Road, stores selling dresses for quinceañera and fútbol (American soccer) are present. Lastly, the inclusion of food as an ethnic indicator is an important deviation from Miyares' list. The presence of local markets, restaurants, and food specific to other countries clearly indicates an ethnic presence. It also indicates the size of the community is large enough to support such businesses.

Field methodology for this project includes a pedestrian survey of specific blocks of ethnically diverse areas of Metropolitan Nashville. Research primarily focuses on the Hispanic imprint located on Nolensville Road in south Nashville. A map is included indicating where research was conducted along with location of ethnic indicators (see Fig. 22).

Photography was specifically chosen because, as Miyares says, "geography is a visual science" (48). Though the researcher for this project is not specifically a geographer, her previous experience is in photography. Ethnic enclaves and immigration

settlement is naturally a visual science and can best be explained through the use of photography. This body of work is specifically designed to be assessable to students beginning geography or cultural study. It is written to be understandable by laymen and the photographs serve to add addition explanation. The photos also serve to supplement the teaching material as visual explanations of key concepts. Geographic and cultural studies pair well with photojournalism concepts and those are evident within this work.

NASHVILLE ETHNIC LANDSCAPE AND INDICATORS

The Nashville ethnic landscape and cultural indicators are fascinating divergences from traditionally accepted indicators; while script, language, toponyms, and other previously mentioned ethnic indicators are present along Nolensville Road, other indicators are just as evident, if not more so. In addition to changing urban religious landscapes and retail climate; financial institutions, restaurants, and food options also serve as notable ethnic indicators.

Financial institutions are a particular informal ethnic indicator of Nolensville Road. These are not likely to be present in all enclaves and therefore should not formally be added to the list of ethnic indicators. Nonetheless, these indicators are important to the Nashville ethnic landscape. Multiple locations advertise their ability to send remittances. Remittances are the act of immigrants sending money to their home country, usually to support a family. These establishments specialize in sending money to a variety of countries and their presence clearly points to the working immigrant class within the area.

Restaurants and the presence of food are perhaps the most important additional indicators. Nolensville Road is littered with restaurants, giving evidence to a host of

different nationalities; Latin American, Middle Eastern, and Asian restaurants are particularly apparent. These restaurants feature traditional food such as shawarma, menus in native language, and are not designed for tourists. They exist to serve the local population by providing ethnic food. Additionally, local markets are also present. The Sulav International Market and K&S World Market are larger grocery stores selling specifically to immigrants. The Sulav International Market includes a restaurant that specializes in shawarma and contains a large display of hookahs. The items sold are multinational but are geared toward their Middle Eastern clientele. K&S World Market includes foods from numerous countries, rather than having a focus on a specific group of clientele. Often, at K&S World Market, the same product is sold in multiple forms marketed at various people groups. Shoppers of a variety of people groups were observed, including: West African, East Asian, Southwest Asian, and Hispanic.

The inclusion of these indicators also helps to further indicate the presence of an ethnic enclave. Miyares identifies enclaves as different from ethnic neighborhoods in that they address not only social needs but also economic (49). Retail stores, markets, restaurants, and financial establishments point to a clear “entrepreneurial class” (49).

Nolensville Road is decidedly different than Toronto, the city which inspired this study. No portion of the enclave could be described as “Chinatown” or “Little Italy,” for example. Rather, this enclave is an enclave of all immigrants.

THE HISPANIC IMPRINT ALONG NOLENSVILLE ROAD

The Hispanic presence in Nashville is notably larger than other immigrant groups. 5.1% of Tennessee's population is Hispanic (see Fig. 2) and 10.3% of Nashville's (see Fig. 3). Their presence is especially vivid on Nolensville Road. Numerous businesses, such as car repair shops, retail stores, and restaurants were observed which contained indicators such as colors, language, script, and food. Their presence is specifically documented in Figures 16, 18, 20, and 23. Multiple other Hispanic indicators are not pictured due to artistic relevance however, a Spanish bakery, Hispanic food truck, car repair shops with Spanish script, and multiple other indicators were observed. While the pedestrian survey was being conducted, Spanish was the most common language heard besides English. The clear majority of Hispanic people live in the international corridor studied which lies between Murfreesboro Pike and Nolensville Road (see fig. 1).

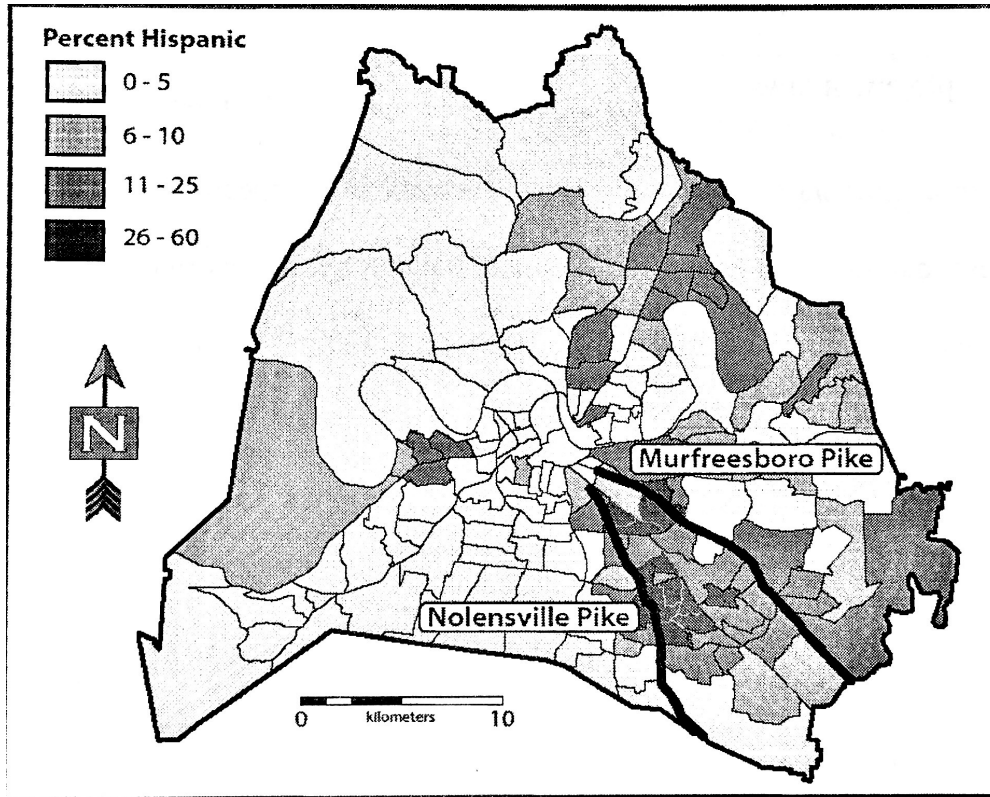


Fig. 1. Map of residential distribution of Hispanics (or Latino) in Davidson County at the 2010 census tract level, 2010, map by James Chaney.

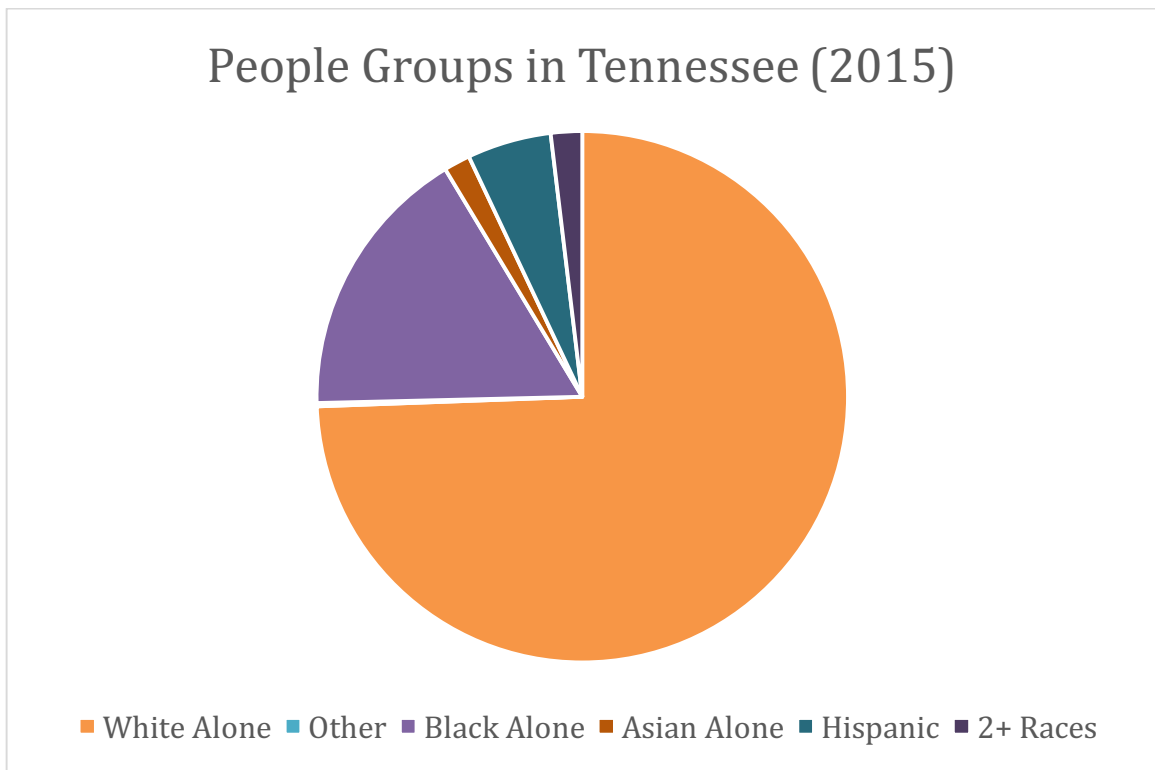


Fig. 2. *People Groups in Tennessee (2015)*, 2015. Information provided by City-Data.com.

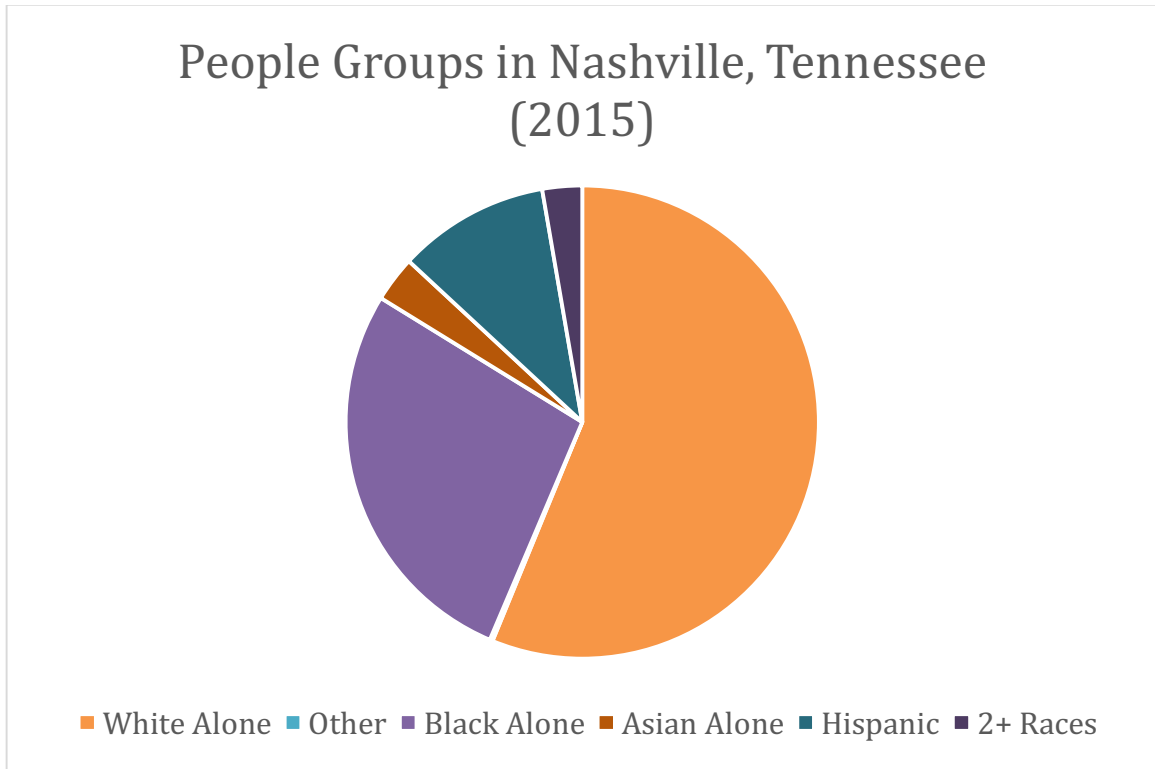


Fig. 3. *People Groups in Nashville-Davidson, TN (2015)*. 2015, Information provided by City-Data.com.

EVIDENCES OF DIVERSITY



Fig. 4. *Laotian Dancer Poses with Young Girl.* 2016. Digital Image. Photo by Kelsey Massey.

These photos were taken at Celebrate Nashville, a cultural festival. The women pictured are from Laos and performed a traditional dance (see Fig. 4, 5, and 6). While not specific to an enclave, these images exhibit the diversity Nashville holds. Larger immigrant groups are more visible along Nolensville Road as they own restaurants or stores. Smaller people groups may not be as easily seen but are present nonetheless. As of 2010, Census data shows that 3.1% of Nashville's population is Asian (Census Bureau).



Fig. 5. *Laotian Dancer and a Young Girl pt. 2.* 2016. Digital Image. Photo by Kelsey Massey.



Fig. 6. *Young Girl at Nashville International Festival.* 2016. Digital Image. Photo by Kelsey Massey.



Fig. 7. *Dragon Dancing*. 2016. Digital Image. Photo by Kelsey Massey.

The “Dragon Dancing,” series was also captured at the Nashville International Festival (see Fig. 7, 8, 9, and 10). These photos captured a part of a performance organized by the Chinese Arts Alliance of Nashville. Designed to celebrate Chinese culture, the show also included live music and a Tai Chi exercise. Though there is a large Asian population in Nashville, Chinese culture is less evident along Nolensville Road; it is much more common to see a Thai restaurant than any other Asian establishment. However, the existence of the Chinese Art Alliance itself gives evidence of the Chinese people living in the area.



Fig. 8. *Dragon Dancing Pt. 2*. 2016. Digital Image. Photo by Kelsey Massey.



Fig. 9. *Dragon Dancing Pt. 3*. 2016.
Digital Image. Photo by Kelsey Massey.



Fig. 10. *Dragon Dancing Pt. 4*. 2016.
Digital Image. Photo by Kelsey
Massey.

ETHNIC INDICATORS ALONG NOLENSVILLE ROAD



Fig. 11. *Nepalese Bakery*. 2017. Digital Image. Photo by Kelsey Massey.

The Nepalese bakery is an interesting addition to Nolensville Road (see Fig. 11). Many refugee organizations within the Nashville area report a growing Nepalese population, resulting from the conflict within Bhutan. Many of the recent Nepalese immigrants came from Bhutan because they were unable to return to Nepal (Nashville International). This signage presents indicators such as script, toponym, and food.



Fig. 12. *Urdu Script*. 2017. Digital Image. Photo by Kelsey Massey.



Fig. 13. *Hindi Script*. 2017. Digital Image. Photo by Kelsey Massey.

This sign is an example of a traditional ethnic indicator: script (see Fig. 12). One language present, Urdu, is most commonly spoken in Pakistan but is

also the official language of multiple Indian states. Spanish, Hindi, and English are also present

pointing to the multinational clientele. These indicators evidence the mix of ethnicities and cultures within the enclave; Nolensville Road does not include a single ethnicity rather, all immigrants of a variety of nationalities.



Fig. 14. *Sheep Heads in Local Market*. 2017. Digital Image. Photo by Kelsey Massey.

Inside the local Sulav International Market and Restaurant, there was plentiful evidence for the diverse cultural landscape of the enclave (see Fig. 14 and 15). Food plays a vital part in the Nolensville Road enclave. Unique food products, such as whole sheep heads, directly point to the local population's needs. Sulav International Market even contains a restaurant, which specializes in shawarma. The market also has a full wall of hookahs. Adding food to the criteria for ethnic enclaves is an important step in validating the existing community in Nashville.



Fig. 15. *Inside Local Market*. 2017. Digital Image.
Photo by Kelsey Massey.

The K&S World Market on Nolensville Road is perhaps the most well-known location in this area (see Fig. 16, 17, and 18). It is visited not only by immigrants but the entire community. The store is comparable in size to many American based grocery stores but sells very different products. Fruits and vegetables from around the world fill the doorway. The meat and fish section is a mixture of precut options and live tanks full of crabs, various kinds of fish, and octopuses. Each aisle contains like products, similar to an American

based grocery store. However, unlike other grocers, nearly each product has multiple versions with different script, colors, and advertisements



Fig. 18. *Live Crabs at K&S World Market. 2017. Digital Image. Photo by Kelsey Massey.*

specific to different countries. Figure 13 shows this as Cheetos are sold in a variety of colors and languages. Further down the aisle, Cheetos were also being sold in other languages not pictured.

The extremely large quantity of products that K&S sells is enlightening as to just how many immigrants have found their home in the area. While in the store, shoppers of various ethnicities were observed ranging from East African to Southeast Asian to

European. Among the mix, an American family was observed strolling the store. The parents were discussing diversity with two young children.



Fig. 19. *Spanish Script and Mexican Colors Displayed.* 2017. Digital Image. Photo by Kelsey Massey.

Don Juan Taqueria shows numerous ethnic indicators: script, color, and food (see Fig. 19). These are indicative of the large Hispanic population in this enclave.



Fig. 20. *Dunya Kabob*. 2017. Digital Image. Photo by Kelsey Massey.

The *Dunya Kabob* storefront has language, script, and food indicators (see Fig. 20). Arabic script is present as is a large advertisement for gyros. They describe themselves as “Persian and American Cuisine,” indicating the mixing of cultures.



Fig. 21. *Hispanic Church*. 2017. Digital Image. Photo by Kelsey Massey.

Churches also present a previously unrecognized ethnic indicator. This Catholic Church includes Spanish script, which clearly indicates the Hispanic imprint along Nolensville Road (see Fig. 21).



Fig. 22. *Toponym and Superdiversity along Nolensville Road*. 2017. Digital Image. Photo by Kelsey Massey.

Directly to the right of Inglesia Christiana is the “Istanbul Restaurant.” The name of this establishment is an excellent example of a toponym, which points to Istanbul, Turkey (see Fig. 22). Its location also shows the superdiversity present on Nolensville Road (see Appx. A). Its juxtaposition next to a Hispanic Church shows the various people groups represented within the enclave.



Fig. 23. *Hispanic Establishment on Nolensville Road.*” 2017. Digital Image. Photo by Kelsey Massey.

Captured just off Nolensville Road, the sign for “Tacos Y Mariscos,” is a excellent representation of Spanish script (see Fig. 23).



Fig. 24. *Evidence of Travel and Migration*. 2017. Digital Image. Photo by Kelsey Massey.

The Tornado Bus Company is an interesting addition to ethnic indicators (see Fig. 24). This billboard advertises multiple destinations within Mexico, which helps explain travel routes and provide an example of contemporary migration.



Fig. 25. *Nashville Ethnic Enclave Indicators*. 2016. Map created at mapquest.com.

The Nolensville Road international corridor extends from Haywood lane to Peachtree Street (see Fig. 25). Though mainly located just along the road, immigrant housing and additional indicators can also be seen within a few blocks in either direction. This further signifies the diversity of this area. Immigrants are not separated by ethnicity or region but rather; live together in the corridor The specific indicators documented in this study are marked by pinpoints on Fig. 25. The enclave itself falls within the shaded area noted on Fig. 25.

PURPOSE OF CREATIVE

This project was specifically designed with a creative mindset. This was done to provide a visual representation of ethnicity within Nashville, Tennessee. It was also done to serve as a visual introduction into the study of ethnicity, immigration, and immigrant settlement. The documentary approach and nature could not have been completed successfully without the inclusion of photographs. This addition is an important tool within the study of human geography.

CONCLUSION

As stated above, the ethnic enclave of Nashville, located along Nolensville Road, is a diverse and interesting addition to Nashville's cultural landscape. Nashville exists as a cultural hub for immigrants and refugees within a historically white dominated state. The immigrant presence along Nolensville Road is distinctly marked by a number of cultural indicators such as colors, script, toponyms, language, signage, and flags (Miyares 49). In addition, the religious landscape, financial establishments, retail landscape, and food indicate the ethnic presence within the enclave. These additional indicators should be added to the list of expected cultural indicators in order to fully understand the changing nature of ethnic enclaves.

Nashville is an excellent example of how many ethnic enclaves are transitioning into international corridors. No longer a home for a single people group, Nolensville Road contains multiple immigrant groups. The ethnic indicators are primarily displayed through various businesses that cater to multiple ethnic groups.

The photojournalism aspect of this creative work serves as inspiration for high school level Social Studies class as they begin their geography or cultural studies. The photographs also serve to provide a visual benchmark in time, documenting the landscape of Nolensville Road in the 2016-2017 years. The photos are important visual examples to add to the understanding of immigrant settlement patterns. Future geographers or geography students can use the above work to fuel future studies and/or use this study as a template to document the ethnic landscapes around them. Teachers may also use the lesson plan found in Appendix B to educate their students and conduct a smaller version of this study within their classrooms.

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APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY

Colors (as ethnic indicators): The presence of various colors can indicate various ethnicities present in an enclave. For example, the presence of white and light blue might indicate a Greek presence.

Ethnic Enclave: Immigrant groups in a specific area with stores, markets, and resources for their community (Xie and Gough 290-291).

Ethnic Indicators: These signal the presence of an ethnic group, or multiple groups. Examples include, colors, flags, language, script, and toponyms (Miyares 1997, p. 49).

Heterlocalism: Immigrants no longer settle based on community proximity or in downtown, low-rent apartments. Instead, they are moving out to the suburbs (Hardwick 213, 215).

Immigrant: “Someone who chooses to reside in another country,” (Martinez and Marquez 2014).

International Corridor: Similar to an Ethnic Enclave, but these spaces include multiple groups of nationalities rather than one. This term describes an area where multiple immigrant groups chose to settle.

Refugee: “(S)omeone who has been forced to flee his or her home country,” (Martinez and Marquez 2014).

Remittances: The act of an immigrant sending money to another country, typically to family members.

Script: An ethnic indicator of a foreign language or writing.

Superdiversity: A term coined by Steve Vertovec that helps describe the increasing diversity of cities beyond what was previously classified as “diverse,” (Crul 2015)

Toponyms: These are “place names,” or signs that include the names of cities, countries, or areas in another nation.

APPENDIX B: LESSON PLAN

Cultural Geography

9th-12th grades

Exploring Ethnic Enclaves

Overview

This lesson plan will help explain ethnic enclaves to students and start their studies of cultural geography.

Objectives

Skills Summary: This lesson plan seeks to grow student's critical thinking skills, geographic skills, and technology skills. Students will:

- Research census data to understand the cultures in their area
- Conduct a pedestrian survey of an area, looking for ethnic indicators and documenting them photographically
- Gain an understanding of human diversity and appreciation for the cultural landscape present in their community

Activities

Activity 1:

- Have a group discussion defining key terms and introducing concepts
- Explain cultural concepts and background
- Introduce examples and previously completed studies
- Have students begin research in their area to provide a background for their studies

Teaching Approach

- Learning-for-use

Teaching Methods

- Cooperative learning
- Group Discussion
- Hands-on learning
- Research
- Observation techniques

Preparation

- Internet Access for census data
- Handouts and Worksheets
- Transportation to ethnically rich area
- Small groups to work together while documenting ethnic indicators
- Vocabulary sheets

Activity 2:

- Go to a culturally rich area of your area and begin the pedestrian survey
- Document ethnic indicators. Depending on the size of your area of study chose different ethnicities to focus upon.
- Have students present their findings and explain their implications.

Key Terms:

- **Ethnic Enclaves:** Immigrant groups in a specific area with stores, markets, and resources for their community (Xie and Gough 290-291).
- **Heterolocalism:** Immigrants no longer settle based on community proximity or in downtown, low-rent apartments. Instead, they are moving out to the suburbs (Hardwick 213, 215).
- **Immigrant:** “Someone who chooses to reside in another country,” (Martinez and Marquez 2014).
- **International Corridor:** Similar to an Ethnic Enclave, but these spaces include multiple groups of nationalities rather than one. This term describes an area where multiple immigrant groups chose to settle.
- **Melting Pot:** The idea that peoples of different cultures assimilate to their new country after immigrating.
- **Refugee:** “(S)omeone who has been forced to flee his or her home country,” (Martinez and Marquez 2014).

- **Salad Bowl:** The more modern concept that immigrants do not lose their home culture but rather, enrich their new environment by adding to its diversity (Waldinger 1993).

Background:

America is a country of immigrants. Peoples of many different ethnicities have flocked to America throughout its history, each settling in different places. There are various approaches to studying immigration and ethnicity, and this project specifically focuses on ethnic enclaves and ethnic signatures. For many years, the idea of the “melting pot,” or assimilation, was prevalent. This idea assumed that immigrants “melted” into American culture and lost their homeland identity in favor of an American identity. In 1993 Roger Waldinger wrote, “Though it retains its defenders, assimilation theory no longer shapes the direction of current work on immigration to the United States. Researchers have little faith in either the predictive power or the desirability of the ‘straight-line’ trajectory of ethnic change inherent in the assimilationist view” (Waldinger 1993).

The idea of a “salad bowl” has since arisen. This concept states that immigrants do not assimilate or lose their home culture but rather retain it, or parts of it, therefore diversifying American culture (Waldinger 1993). This supports the concept of the ethnic enclave. Sociologist Alejandro Porté defined ethnic enclaves as “immigrant groups, which concentrate in a distinct spatial location and organize a variety of enterprises serving their own ethnic market and/or the general population,” (qtd. in Xie and Gough

290-291). These neighborhoods have a number of markers or indicators that declare their presence (Xie and Gough 2011).

Neighborhoods are constantly changing. Immigrants and other peoples alike, move around for a variety of reasons. First generation immigrants may settle collectively in a general area but their offspring often choose other locations to reside. This increases the diversity of cities and also allows for the continuing diversification of a city (Hall 27). The students will be documenting a specific moment in time in the ethnic landscape of their area. The evolution of the study area will most likely be impacted by what Wilbur Zelinsky and Barrett Lee call “heterolocalism.” This theory suggests that immigrants are no longer choosing to settle based upon community proximity or in downtown, low-rent apartment settings (Hardwick 213). This is a variation from what Dr. Susan Hardwick calls the “traditional Chicago School” style of immigrant settlement. Instead of settling based on “land values, land use, and economic issues” immigrants often settle in suburban areas (Hardwick 215). The greater ability to travel with ease, evolution of technology and social media have allowed for maintaining transnational relationships of immigrants and their home cultures (Hardwick 216).

Teaching Methods:

Start this lesson by opening up a group discussion. Individual students may have vastly different ideas and opinions on immigration. The purpose of this lesson is to open the eyes of students to the diversity around them and correct any false information they may have believed. It will be helpful for you to understand the terminology but allow the students to express their ideas before giving them a textbook answer. This part of the lesson will be classroom bound and should be

factually full. Including census statistics from your area will further their understanding. The US census website (census.gov) will be extremely helpful in understanding the local landscape. The website allows you to break down populations by ethnicity, race, and economic levels. Students should familiarize themselves with this data. Local libraries and organizations may have further information that can aid them but that varies depending on the size of your study area.

Next, hand out the indicators worksheet. Students can work alone or in small groups to complete this project. Encourage them to walk around an ethnically diverse area of your city and document indicators through photographs. If your city is large enough to have distinctive enclaves, allow students to specialize in a few specific ethnicities. Students should also craft a map (hand-drawn or computerized) to show where each photo was taken. This will allow students to visually understand ethnicity. Entering shops or restaurants will heighten their understanding and experience. This portion of the lesson should be entirely hands-on discovery.

The final part of this lesson will be a presentation of the student's research. There should be an academic, statistics portion as well as a creative portion. Each photograph shown should be accompanied by a map of where it was taken and a descriptor to explain what the audience is seeing.

Indicators Worksheet

Instructions: Go to the ethnic area as instructed by your teacher. Look for the various ethnic indicators listed and photograph them. Make sure to document the location to help you create a map of the indicators.

Toponym: A “place name,” or a place of business that bears the name of a city or area from another country. For example, “Tokyo Café.”

Language or Script: Look for signs in different languages or native scripts.

Colors: Many restaurants or stores will be painted (or have signs) in colors that represent the immigrant’s home country. i.e. A store owned by a Greek immigrant may have white and blue present.

Flag: Look for flags from immigrants’ home countries.

Religious Landscape: Observe the religious landscape. You might see a Catholic church with Spanish signs or churches advertising the language that is spoken during services.

Restaurants and Food: Look for international markets, restaurants featuring home country foods, or bakeries.

Financial Establishments: Does the enclave in your area have any unique banking establishments? Some enclaves may include businesses that specialize in remittances. A remittance is a term that refers to immigrants sending their earnings across borders to their family in their home country.

APPENDIX C: PROJECT WEBSITE

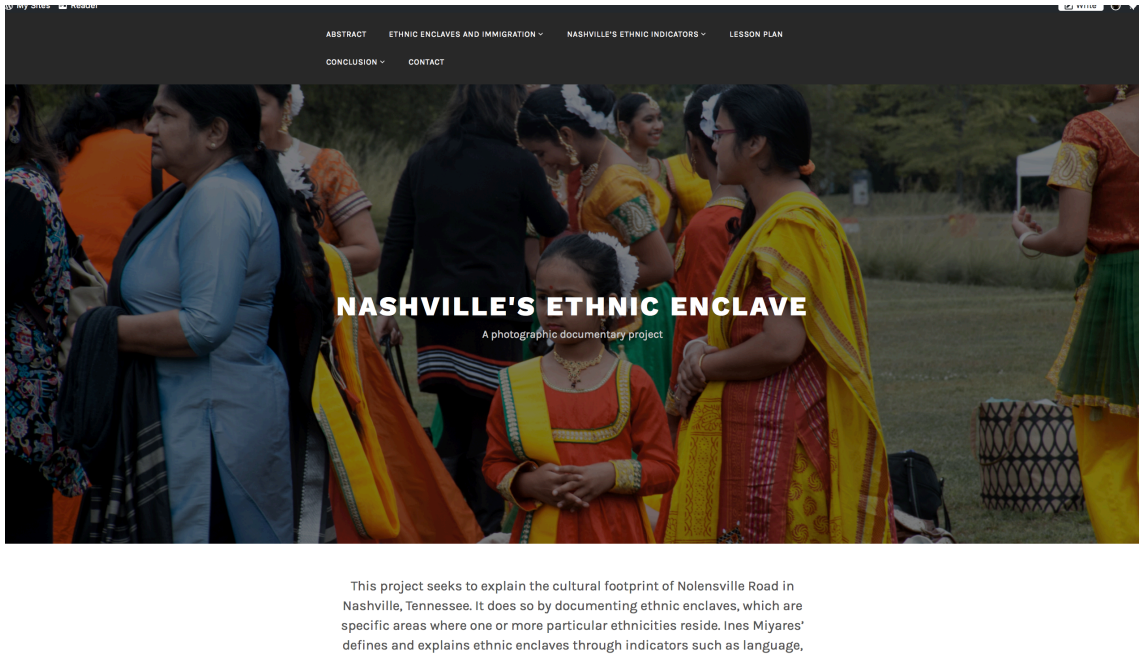


Fig. 26. *NashvilleEthnicEnclave.Wordpress.com*. 2017. Digital Screenshot. Website by Kelsey Massey.

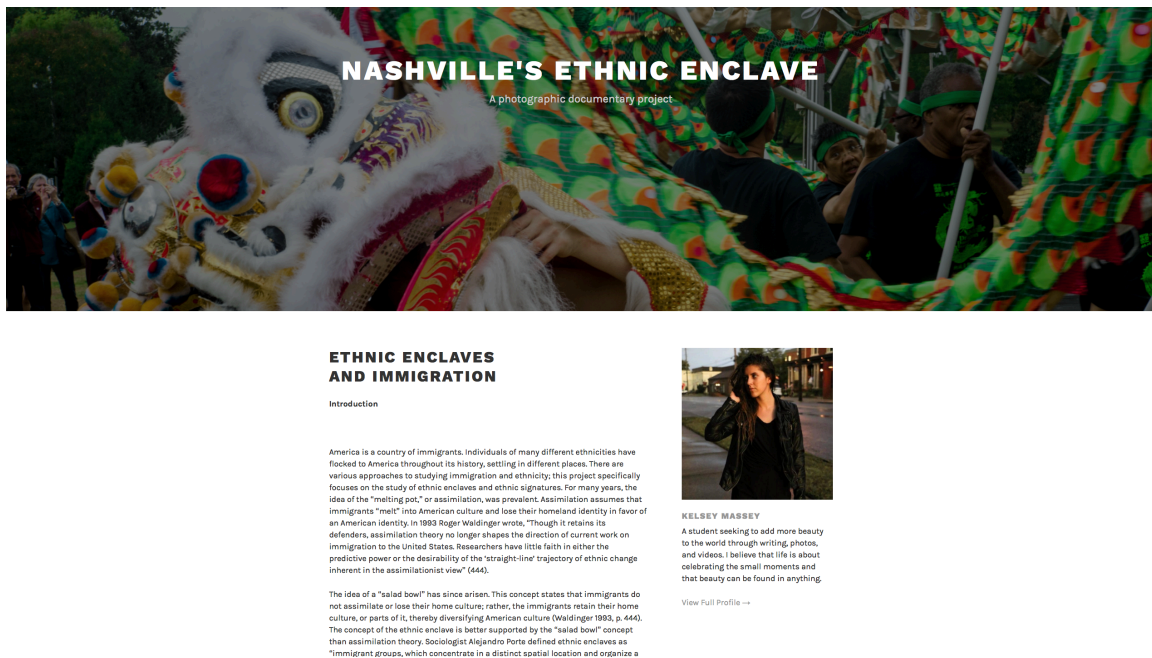


Fig. 27. *NashvilleEthnicEnclave.Wordpress.com pt. 2*. 2017. Digital Screenshot. Website by Kelsey Massey.



Fig. 5. Young Girl at Nashville International Festival. 2016. Digital Image. Photo by Kelsey Massey.

✕ Customize ✎ Edit 📊 Stats ⋮

Fig. 28. *NashvilleEthnicEnclave.Wordpress.com pt. 3*. 2017. Digital Screenshot. Website by Kelsey Massey.



Fig. 5. Young Girl at Nashville International Festival. 2016. Digital Image. Photo by Kelsey Massey.

These photos were taken at Celebrate Nashville, a cultural festival. The women pictured are from Lao and performed a traditional dance (see Fig. 3,4, and 5). While not specific to an enclave, these images exhibit the diversity Nashville holds. Larger immigrant groups are more visible along Nolensville Road as they own restaurants or stores. Smaller people groups may not be as easily seen but are still present nonetheless. As of 2010, Census data shows that 3.1% of Nashville's population is Asian (Census Bureau).

Fig. 29. *NashvilleEthnicEnclave.Wordpress.com pt. 4*. 2017. Digital Screenshot. Website by Kelsey Massey.