



The Beauty of The World Lies in the Diversity of It's People

A Librarian's Guide

The Mark Chester Diversity Project and *The Bay State: A Multicultural Landscape – Photographs of New Americans*

The Exhibit:

The Bay State: A Multicultural Landscape – Photographs of New Americans

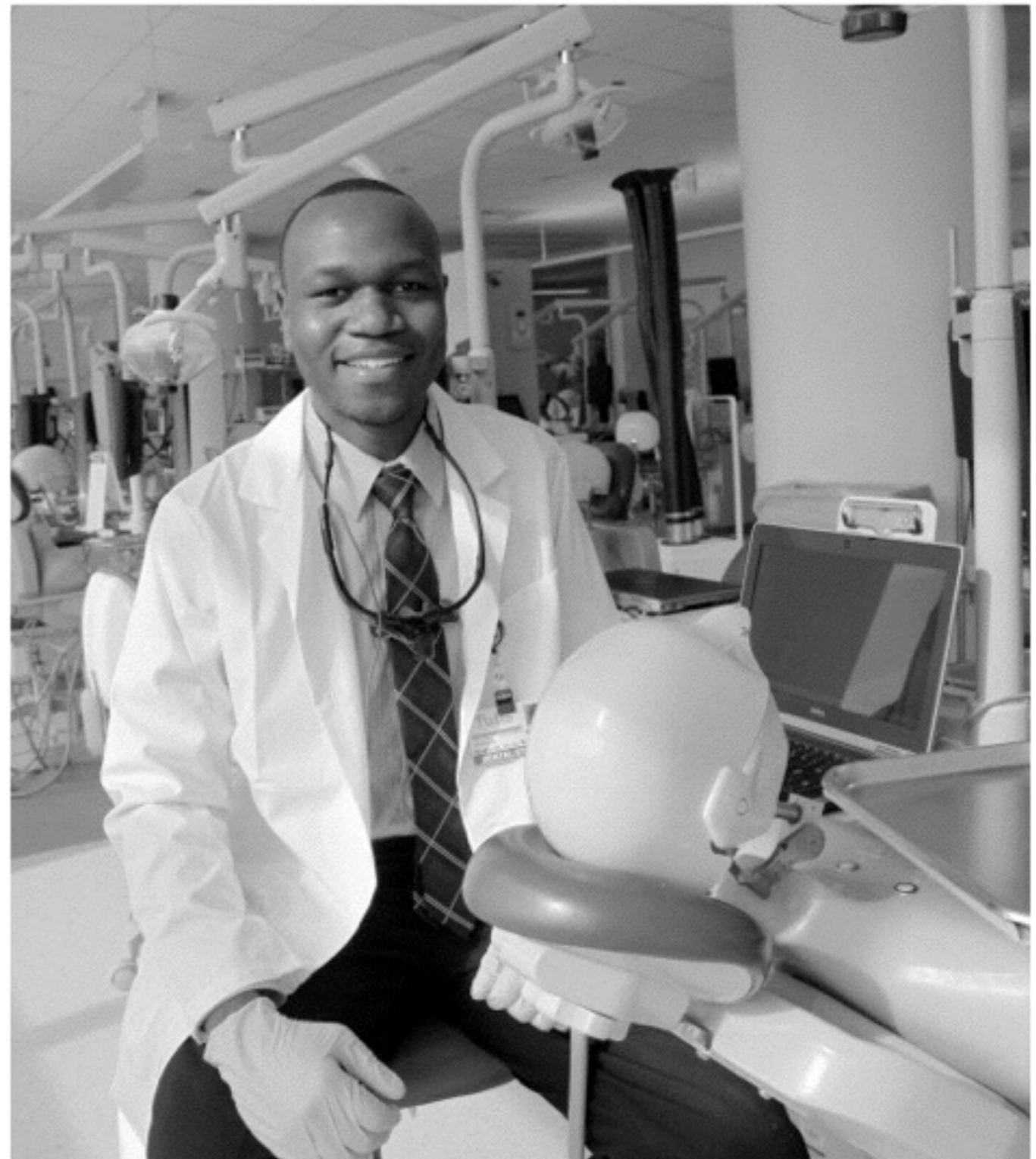
As the son of an immigrant, professional photographer Mark Chester developed a curiosity about the new Americans who were becoming citizens of Massachusetts. He attended dozens of naturalization ceremonies throughout the state and spoke with our new residents.

Mark Chester's powerful photographs create a visual archive that celebrates the broad diversity of Massachusetts' citizens, who hail from most of the 195 countries and territories around the globe. The photographs of these New Americans enrich the viewer by sharing the vast cultural resources and rich ethnic heritage of the Bay State's 351 towns and cities. Chester's photographs tell the story of who they are and how they have successfully assimilated and transformed the culture of the Bay State.

Endorsed by the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, *The Bay State: A Multicultural Landscape – Photographs of New Americans* had been greeting visitors to the Skywalk at Boston's Prudential Center and is being featured throughout the state with exhibits scheduled through 2022.

“Chester captures the heart and soul of Massachusetts in his exquisite photographs. The state is showcased through his photography as a hugely diversified people who have not only come to work and live here but to become citizens. It all comes together to show us a real sense of multiculturalism and unity in our community ... through Mark Chester's eyes.”

*Kathy Andrews, Former Coordinator, Multicultural Festival
Cape Cod Community College, West Barnstable, Massachusetts*



An Overview: Mark Chester Diversity Project

We live in a world which is becoming increasingly more diverse. However, nightly, we see messages on TV, in the news, and in all facets of our daily lives that show diversity isn't celebrated by everyone. The reality is that even though the world is more diverse — racism, intolerance and a strong fear of differences still exist.

The Mark Chester Diversity Project is offering librarians throughout the Commonwealth the opportunity to host, without cost, *The Bay State: A Multicultural Landscape – Photographs of New Americans* by Mark Chester. This visual archive showcases the broad diversity of Massachusetts' citizens, who hail from most of the 195 countries and territories around the globe. In Chester's words, "With the current backlash against immigration, it was easy for me to see the opportunity to use my exhibit to not only celebrate diversity and, hopefully, help to ease the integration of our new citizens, but to also develop a culturally responsive educational component." Endorsed by the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, the exhibit has been traveling the state since 2015, and is booked in numerous venues through 2022 with an emphasis on libraries.

In an increasingly global world, we all need both education and ongoing reminders to accept that everyone deserves to enjoy the same economic, political and social rights, regardless of race, socioeconomic status, gender or other characteristics. This is an important distinction, in a state like Massachusetts, where 16.9 percent of the Bay State's population of more than 6.6 million is foreign-born.

Libraries can help all Bay Staters to become responsible global citizens in the 21st century. An educational component can be developed along with the viewing of the exhibit to inspire a multi-faceted approach to culturally diverse school age education. Guides for parents and librarians are being provided to aid libraries in engaging in activities which encourage an understanding of diversity and help parents to engage in conversations with their children. Chester is also providing a copy his book, containing the complete collection of his photographs, to participating libraries as funding allows. In this turbulent time, it is important for us to celebrate the vast melting pot of ethnicities that is our state's most precious heritage.



“These photographs of citizens of various ethnic heritage will offer an insightful and educational overview; not only to all other citizens, but also the images will bring attention in promoting and enhancing immigrants’ integration.”

— Eva Millona, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition)

Using The Exhibit to Help Children Be Responsible Global Citizens

For elementary-school age children, 7 to 11, external messages play an enormous role in how they view others and their willingness to be tolerant of them. Their impressions are acquired by absorbing societal messages from the media, literature, toys and their surroundings. By this time, children also have generally an emerging grasp of their own racial, ethnic and cultural identity.

Showing kids everyday photographs of people of different ethnicities, shapes, sizes, and garb gives them the opportunity to see people that look very different from themselves and their family engaging in the same types of activities that they and their family participate in. This activity can help to humanize types of people that a student has never had an opportunity to interact personally with.

According to Matthew Lynch, Ed.D, “Most students are comfortable interacting with people, behaviors, and ideas that they are familiar with but react with fear and apprehension when faced with the unfamiliar. The best way to combat this tendency is to provide students with ample evidence that people that don’t look like them are, at the core, people just like them. Such a viewpoint can be taught by promoting a culture of learning from one another rather than a culture of passing judgment on differences in values and beliefs.”

When we put ourselves in another person’s shoes, we are often more empathetic to what that person is experiencing and are less likely to tease or bully them. Success in today's world — and tomorrow's — depends on being able to understand, appreciate, and work with others as a global citizen.



About Mark Chester

Mark Chester has been a professional photographer from 1972 to present. He was director of photography and staff photographer at ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers), in New York City, prior to relocating in 1975 to California. Chester became a permanent Cape Cod resident, settling in Woods Hole in 2002.

His photographs and/or feature stories have been published in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *San Francisco Chronicle/Examiner*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *Kansas City Star*, *Denver Post*, *Prime Time Magazine*, and *Cape Cod Times*, among others.

Chester created, produced and photographed the book, *No In America* (Taylor, 1986), a tongue-in-cheek collection of photographs of “no” signs. Previously, he photographed Charles Kuralt’s book, *Dateline America* (HBJ, 1979). *Twosomes* (Un-Gyve Press, 2011) is his newest book.

In 1987, Chester created and produced the traveling exhibition and catalog, *Shanghai: In Black and White*, in commemoration of San Francisco’s “sister city,” as part of the San Francisco-Shanghai Cultural Exchange Program. The photographs were displayed at the San Francisco Main Library, the Museum of Art in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, The Kogod Arts Center of the Sidwell Friends School in Washington, D.C. and other venues.

Chester’s photographs are in permanent museum collections, including Baltimore, Brooklyn, Corcoran, Denver, Portland (Maine), San Francisco, and other institutions. His images have been exhibited nationwide in galleries, including O.K. Harris (New York City), Camera Obscura (Colorado), and San Francisco International Airport as well as in galleries in Japan, Vietnam, London and alternative exhibition spaces.

Born in Baltimore, Chester grew up in Massachusetts and graduated from the University of Arizona (1967) with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He is a former member of the Copley Society of Art, Boston, and was an adjunct instructor at Cape Cod Community College, and a photography instructor at the Falmouth Artists Guild, Cape Cod Art Association and Lesley University Seminars. Chester wrote and illustrated with photography a newspaper column, “In My Mind’s Eye,” from 2008 to 2010 for Gatehouse Media, serving the Cape’s 15 villages and towns.

He continues to freelance features and photographs to various publications, and to Gatehouse Media, including his monthly column, “Photographer’s Notes.”

Immigrants enrich our Commonwealth

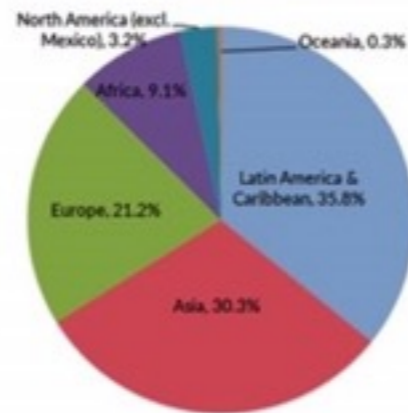


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Immigrants are our Commonwealth

The world comes to Massachusetts¹

- More than one-sixth of Massachusetts residents are foreign-born; almost 1.2 million people, or 16.9% of the population; another one-seventh are U.S.-born but have at least one foreign-born parent.
- 53.3% of our state's immigrants and refugees have arrived since 2000 – and 28.2% since 2010.
- More than half (52.4%) are naturalized U.S. citizens. Of those who aren't, almost a third (173,000) are undocumented.
- 29.3% of children in Massachusetts have at least one immigrant parent, and 84% of children of immigrants under 18 are U.S.-born.
- Massachusetts' foreign-born population is particularly diverse, with no nationality making up even 10% of the total. The top countries of origin for immigrants here include China, India, Brazil, Portugal, Haiti, Cape Verde, the Dominican Republic, Vietnam, El Salvador and Canada.
- The most immigrant-rich communities in Massachusetts are Chelsea (44%), Malden (43%), Everett (41%), Lawrence (37%), Revere (35%), Lynn (32%), and Randolph (30%).



Immigrants and refugees strengthen our economy²

- Immigrants and refugees in Massachusetts are likelier to be of working age than U.S.-born residents – 80% vs. 64%.
- They're a significant part of our workforce: 1 in 5 workers in the Commonwealth was born in another country.
- Immigrants and refugees living in Massachusetts have over \$31 billion in spending power each year.
- Mass. immigrant and refugee households earn \$42.9 billion a year and pay \$8.4 billion in federal and \$3.5 billion in local and state taxes, plus Social Security and Medicare.
- 68,700 entrepreneurs in Massachusetts, or one-fifth of the total, are foreign-born; they employ over 134,000 people and generate \$1.9 billion in business income. In addition, 58% of Massachusetts-based Fortune 500 businesses were founded by immigrants or their children.
- 28% of science, technology, engineering and medicine (STEM) jobs in Massachusetts are held by immigrants; in addition, 33% of STEM master's students and 36% of STEM Ph.D. students are foreign nationals.
- Immigrants play a key role in a wide range of occupations: they're 59% of medical and life scientists, 49% of cooks, and 48% of nursing, psychiatric and home health aides.

The world's inventors thrive in Mass.

MIT (the Massachusetts Institute of Technology) leads the U.S. in patents, with 168 in 2011 alone – and 72% of those were by foreign-born inventors.

Immigrants and refugees strengthen our society

Even as the U.S. population ages, immigrants are keeping Boston and Massachusetts young and growing. The median age in Boston is only 32, compared with 38 for the U.S. and 39 for Massachusetts.³

Three quarters (76%) of the state's net population growth in 2000–2016 was due to foreign-born people.⁴ Immigrants and refugees also keep our knowledge-based economy thriving; without them, there would be an ever bigger shortage of STEM and healthcare professionals in the Commonwealth.⁵

Undocumented immigrants are a vital part of our economy⁶

Most undocumented immigrants are in the U.S. to work and support their families. They very often pay taxes, but are barred from obtaining public benefits such as Social Security and Medicare.

Undocumented immigrants work throughout our economic sectors, including high-skilled and STEM jobs, and own thousands of businesses in our state. If all unauthorized immigrants went away, our economy would lose \$9 billion, or 2% of our GDP, and about 55,000 jobs.

Immigrants with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) are integral parts of our economy. Nearly 20,000 Massachusetts residents stand to lose their work permits and face deportation with the end of DACA and TPS.

Undocumented immigrants pay state and local taxes

Along with federal taxes, in 2015, undocumented immigrants in Massachusetts paid an estimated \$81.8 million in sales and excise taxes, \$42.5 million in personal income tax, and \$60.3 million in local property taxes.

Immigrants are law-abiding people

Several studies have shown that immigration is associated with lower crime rates in major U.S. cities.⁷

Immigrants also have significantly lower rates of incarceration than U.S. citizens: 0.47% for documented immigrants vs. 1.53% for U.S. citizens; the rate for undocumented immigrants is 0.85%, or 0.5% if immigration-related detentions are excluded.⁸

Immigrants make our Commonwealth stronger!

Note: This factsheet was last updated on January 17, 2018.

¹ Most data here are taken from the Migration Policy Institute, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/demographics/MA>, supplemented by the American Immigration Council, <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/immigrants-in-massachusetts>, and city-by-city data from the U.S. Census Bureau, https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml.

² The Partnership for a New American Economy, 2018, <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/locations/massachusetts/>. Source for box: Mass. Technology Leadership Council, <http://www.masstlc.org/immigration>.

³ The Importance of Immigrants to Boston's Continued Prosperity, presentation by Alvaro Lima, Director of Research, Boston Planning & Development Agency, at a Boston Foundation forum, April 2017, <https://www.tbdf.org/-/media/tbdforg/images/video-stills/forum-files/alvaro-lima-slide-on-importance-of-immigrants.pdf>.

⁴ Migration Policy Institute, <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/demographics/MA>.

⁵ The Partnership for a New American Economy, 2018, <http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/locations/massachusetts/>.

⁶ Center for American Progress, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2016/09/21/143408/removingunauthorized-workers-harms-states-and-industries-across-the-country/>; Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy, http://tep.org/tep_reports/2017/03/undocumented-immigrants-state-local-tax-contributions-2.php#WNqAyG_yvGg. DACA and TPS data based on U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) statistics showing 5,900 DACA recipients and 12,326 TPS holders as of fall 2017.

⁷ See <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/fact-check-immigration-doesnt-bring-crime-u-s-data-say/>.

⁸ Cato Institute, 2017, <https://www.cato.org/blog/immigration-myths-crime-number-illegal-immigrants>.

Find more facts about immigrants and refugees in Massachusetts:

www.miracoalition.org/facts

Artist's Statement:

“What Does a Person from Madagascar Look Like?”

“I started photographing participants in 2011. I never predicted nor even thought that immigration would be such an embroiled topic in the 2016 election and beyond. One who is a citizen of the United States has equal human rights regardless of his or her country of birth. Any kind of discrimination is abhorrent to me. Once, I was the only Jew in my classroom. The Golden Rule is my mantra. By sharing our differences and our cultures, we learn from others. We develop a human kindness and soul. I hope that this collection of photographs of new Americans in my home state of Massachusetts instills an empathy for and curiosity about our neighbors, and a caring for others, regardless of our differences.” — *Mark Chester*



For More Information

For more information
visit MarkChesterPhotography.com,
or contact Mark Chester
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The Bay State: A Multicultural Landscape

Photographs of New Americans
Mark Chester