

On the Greenway

I spy with my little eye...

Chinatown kids



(1) ...shapes! Standing in front of the big Old Gate, look down at your feet. In Chinese culture, squares inside circles symbolize heaven and earth. Can you find these shapes?



(2) ...the "New Gate". What does this gate look like to you?

(2)

(3) ...red. In Chinese culture, the color red symbolizes good luck and happiness. Make a list of everything red in the park.

(3)

(4) ...special pavers. What do they look like to you?



(4)

(5) ...bamboo. Bamboo is a grass that comes all the way from China! What does it feel like to you?



(5)



- (1) This traditional Chinatown gate (paifong) was a gift from the city of Taipei to the city of Boston. It serves as a physical entryway for guests visiting the park and a symbolic entryway for immigrants still settling in Chinatown.



- (2) The contemporary red steel gateway symbolizes celebration and good fortune. It is shaped as a sail to commemorate the passage of the Chinese to Boston.



- (3) Designed by Carol R. Johnson Associates, Inc., Chinatown Park interprets traditional elements in a contemporary fashion. Similar to the Wharf District Parks, reclaimed seawall stones line the park and honor Boston's immigrant history.



- (4) Chinatown Park boasts more hardscape than landscape to accommodate the many festivals important to the surrounding community. The pavement includes cultural traditions and symbols, such as the Chinese chessboard. Some say that the "pavers" look like dragon scales, fans or even the leaves of the nearby Ginkgo tree.



- (5) Bamboo is a Chinese symbol for longevity because of its durability, flexibility and resilience. Other plants that represent the natural landscape of Asia include rhododendrons, cherry trees, and chrysanthemum.