



# Bosteens

A zine about the  
influence of  
immigration on  
art and social  
change

# A B O U T U S

Neha Chava

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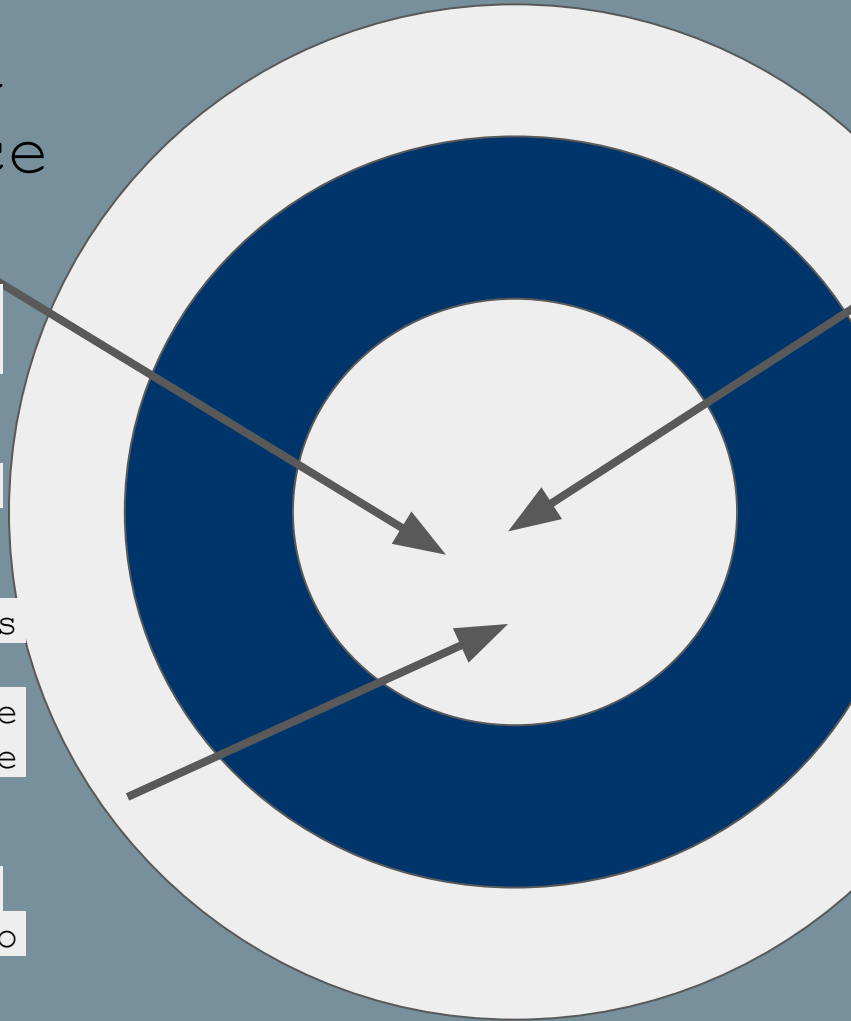
We are a group of freshmen in college, who all have personal experiences with immigration. We want to enlighten other college students on how immigration is beautiful and how it can affect art. These stories all have meaning that are powerful.

Anusha Ramkissoon

Katerina Georgiopoulos

# Target Audience

Art is a way that we can understand the topic of immigration and our multicultural society. People are able to explain themselves using art and immigrants can use art to explain the things they went through, which people can relate to as they move to college, since it's a fresh



Our goal is to reach out to incoming freshman in Boston. In a way, they share some similarities with immigrants, in the sense that students travel from all over the world, but share the same end destination: Suffolk University, along with the many other Boston colleges. Though they all may differ drastically, they are connected by the fact that they are all starting a new chapter in their lives, and that is what creates a strong community in Boston.



# An Immigrant's Perspective:

Get a look into what it is like  
being an immigrant moving to the  
U.S.

Vijay Chava



Hyderabad, India

How did moving to America affect your identity? Were you ever homesick?

I felt as if I had to work ten times harder than all of the people around me just to prove that I was good enough to be in my position, even though we had the same skill set. I sometimes felt singled out and it impacted my personal identity, as I felt inferior at times, but I learned to overcome that. I definitely felt a lot of homesickness.

Give one example of a big shock of the American culture compared to your home country.

Something that really shocked me when I came to America was the amount of options they had for coffee. There were so many sizes, flavors, milk types, add-ons, etc. In India I was so used to just going to a coffee shop and the worker would ask "coffee or tea today?" and that was it. So it was interesting to see how many options they had at places like Dunkins and Starbucks.



What forms of American art/media such as music, movies etc. impacted you?

My all time favorite film series were Indiana Jones and James Bond, and I had been watching them throughout my whole childhood in India, so when I came to America, it was so cool to see that so many more people around me actually knew and talked about these movies, because they are American films. They were not common in India at the time.

When you moved here did you change your cultural style to fit the American style?

I adapted and adjusted small things such as pronouncations of certain words/phrases and dialect to fit into the American work style.

How did literature change when you came to America and how did it differ from home?

All throughout my childhood in India, I was raised with material and literature that all came from America, which ended up helping me a lot because when I came here, the literature did not change at all and I had no trouble understanding it.





Shelly Ann Mahabir



Lengua, Trinidad.



**How did moving to America affect your personal identity?  
Did you ever feel homesick?**

Moving to America was hard because it meant that I had to leave behind everything that I knew at a tender age of 16. This was especially difficult as I would be moving away from my parents. I came to America with my niece and moved into my brother's house. For about the first month was when I felt homesick the most. I missed the people and community I left behind.

**Give one example of a big shock or change in American culture compared to your home country?**

I first experienced cultural shock when I went to high school. At Quincy High School there weren't many kids who looked like me or understood me. There was only one other girl who attended that was from Trinidad as well.



colour		color
aeroplane		airplane
programme		program
behaviour		behavior
humour		humor



**What forms of American art/media such as movies, music etc. impacted you?**

It was hard having an accent, some people wouldn't understand me or misheard what I said. I eventually developed an American accent over time. I continued to watch shows, such as the news and other forms of media. As I started interacting and talking to new people, the language barrier eventually crossed over.

**When you moved here did you change your cultural style to fit the American style?**

The culture was dramatically different from what I knew. I came from a small village, so this meant everyone knew each other and were all connected. Coming to the city meant there were always new faces and somewhere new to get perspective on.

**How did the literature change when you came to America and how did it differ from home?**

Having to learn the language system in America was troublesome as I knew the imperial system. Spelling the simplest of words such as "colour" was one of many slip ups and struggles that I faced. One of the biggest changes was the city, it was bigger than I could have imagined and took some time to get used to. The food was definitely different from the cultural caribbean food I would have every day.

JayYoung Kim



Seoul, South Korea

How did moving to America affect your identity? Were you ever homesick?



The idea of moving to the United States did not scare me or alter my personal identity. I had some experience living abroad and I was fluent in English just like my mother language: Korean. I have always imagined myself spending my high school years in a foreign country so in a way it was a dream come true. However, after my first few months in America, my perspective changed. I knew that there were inevitable cultural and linguistic differences between me and my peers. I learned to grasp tight to my personal identity and value my culture, religion, and background. I did feel homesick, which was surprising because I did not expect so. I missed the familiar air of being in my cozy home instead of a dorm, the Korean holidays that would just be a regular day in America, and my closest friends and families who would always greet me with a smile.

Give one example of a big shock of the American culture compared to your home country.



There are lots of cultural differences such as saying bless you when someone sneezes, which isn't a practice done in Korea. The biggest cultural shock was how students in American schools were very comfortable with their teachers and how the class environment was so drastically different. Students often gathered circles, seated in desks of groups, and crowded around corners of the room to discuss. This was not the case in Korea where rectangular desks would be perfectly situated so that students could be parallel to each other and not be seated directly next to each other.

What forms of American art/media such as music, movies etc. impacted you?



I took an art history class in my sophomore year of high school and I learned a lot of not just European artworks but American and Canadian art. One of the most interesting artworks were from the Hudson River School painters. Eminent artists such as Thomas Cole did a beautiful job of expressing the Wild West and showing the Manifest Destiny. It was intriguing to see how many notable American paintings and artists there were. I realized I had a myopic of the art world and realized that there was far more talent beyond the Impressionist painters of Europe. I liked the Hudson River School paintings because the beautiful American landscape scenery reminded me of how vast and diverse America is.

When you moved here did you change your cultural style to fit the American style?



I think I changed my cultural style to fit the American culture but not at its core. I changed the small things like manners and etiquette or the way I dress in a more casual manner. However, my core cultural values and identity are still with me and I was always comfortable to say that I am an international student. Therefore, I was able to hold onto my cultures and appreciate them.

How did literature change when you came to America and how did it differ from home?



Though I went to a boarding school, I was one of the only Korean students there. Due to this, I rarely spoke Korean during my time in America. This helped me advance my English, especially my communication skills outside of the classroom. I differed from home because most of my friends were bilingual just like me so we took classes in English and spoke Korean outside of school. Yet, I was able to work on my casual conversational English by coming to America.





Reem Abraham Georgiopoulos



Beirut, Lebanon

How did moving to America affect your identity? Were you ever homesick?



I was never really homesick seeing as my parents and siblings moved to the U.S with me. I did however miss my other relatives. I did not really see much of a change in my personal identity because I was a kid and was still finding myself.

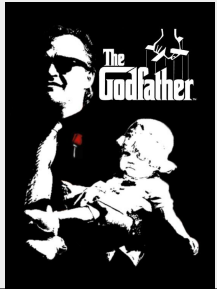
Give one example of a big shock of the American culture compared to your home country.



One big shock of the American culture was the Healthcare system. In my country they did not care about your health if you did not have insurance you would not get any help however it was and is different in the U.S if you do not have insurance you are still seen.

What forms of American art/media such as music, movies etc. impacted you?

I have always loved movies and being young when moving left not much to else to watch apart from the movies my parents would watch. I loved seeing the Godfather because of how well it was created and how quickly I could understand the history.

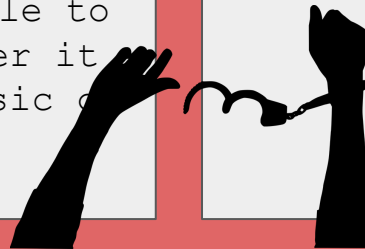


When you moved here did you change your cultural style to fit the American style?

I did not change my cultural style to an American one because I am proud of my culture and I felt as if <sup>1</sup>changing that would not show everyone where I came from. I did change a bit of how I spoke since it did not make sense to many people. To this day I am sure to introduce people to my culture whether it be by cooking, music or dance.

How did literature change when you came to America and how did it differ from home?

Literature was a big difference, in the literatures back home we were not allowed to share our opinions or ideas. Coming to the U.S and seeing people put their opinions in literature was confusing until I understood that people had freedom of speech and were allowed to do so.



## Differences

All of the answers have a personal touch to them we noticed that the answers varied most when it came to how moving affected their personal identity. These answers vary because it is based on a personal experience.

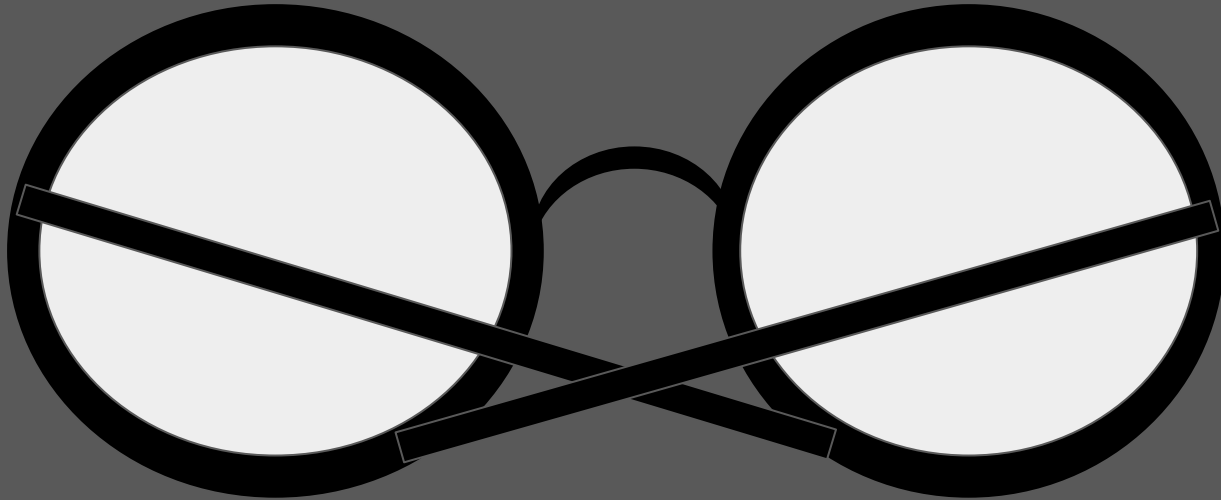
## Similarities

There were some similarities when it came to the question about changing their cultures to fit the American one. All of the people interviewed said that they did not change their culture they were more focused on changing their "languages" to fit the American one and not sound too different.

## Overall

These stories all talk about moving away to somewhere unknown, which is similar to moving away to college. All of these stories demonstrated people adapting to their new environment which we all will do in college. As people, we need to be able to support each other as we travel to different places.

# Academic Standpoint



Getting an look into the  
diversity and influences on  
academic pieces.

# The true meaning of "An Intruder";

## An immigrant's story

The poem titled "An Intruder" by Yaritza Santana within the Persistence and Creativity community literacy journal is a poem about immigration while highlighting their personal experiences with it. A poem in this case, is a piece of art that let her explain her story as she moved to the United States and began her new journey. Despite it bringing cultures from around the globe, Immigration is something that is frowned upon by many people. The poem by Yaritza highlights that she came to this country at the age of 2 years old for the education that is given here. Being an immigrant she felt like she had to change who she was, even if she did not mean to, it was a result of how immigrants are treated in this country; they are judged and controlled by the rules of others. Immigrants are treated very differently than others, despite those others loving the food, music, and language of that culture, so rather than understanding their culture and people, they just admire the things about it. This is similar to people from around the world attending college their first year, they may try to fit into what they see, but instead they should embrace their culture because all cultures are different, yet beautiful. This art showed the beauty of immigration in her personal experience, and it also let everyone who read her poem understand an immigrants stance on moving into the United States.



See how art was  
influenced by  
immigration, in  
the U.S. and  
other Countries.

Analyzing

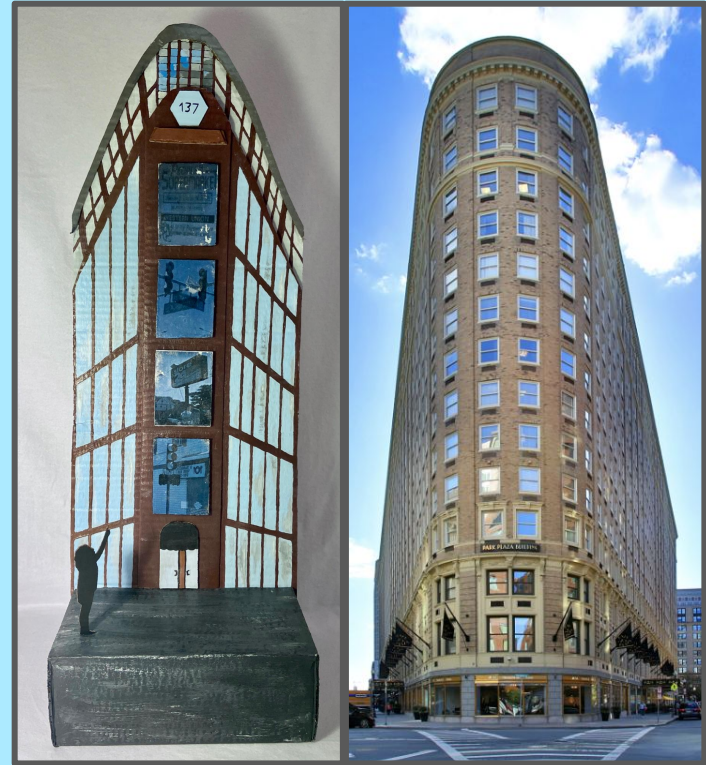


Art

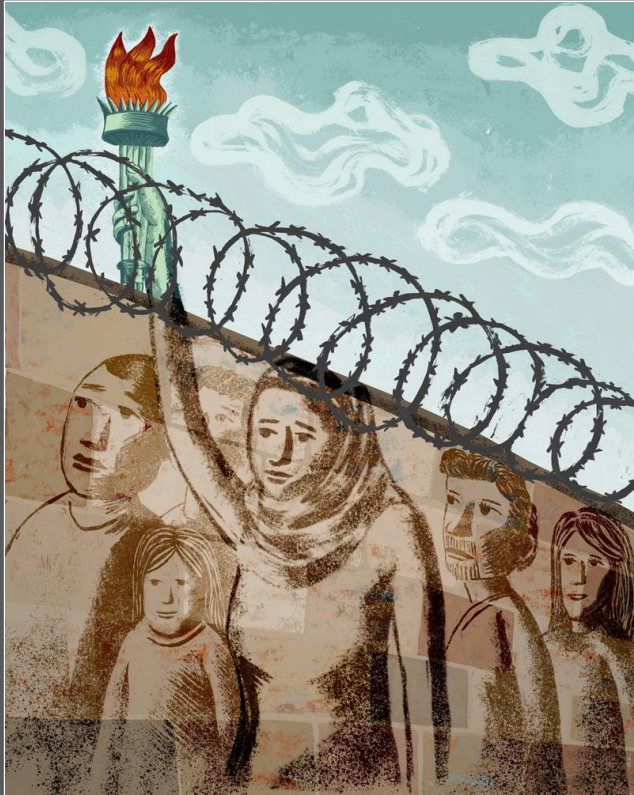
# A Personal Perspective of Boston

Growing up in Boston meant that I watched the city grow and fight for what it stands. In the city, it is likely to have witnessed at least one of the many murals. These images often depict the faces of different backgrounds, usually to illustrate the minorities of citizens. Boston has a tight community and stands with the public. Whether it be to aid the Black Lives Matter Movement or LGBTQ+ community, the support is towards a strive that can be embraced through different pieces of art.

In my own personal artwork, I like to represent who I am and where I'm from. For this reason, I've used the city of Boston as part of my inspiration. For example I've made my own representation of The Saunders Building, made in 1966, from a child's perspective. In the windows of the front of the building, I included images that recapture memorable locations that I've seen around the city. This building is like a landmark and serves as a reminder of my upbringing. To encounter the city's influence meant that I was able to see the city prosper. Boston is a city that I'm proud of as it is a community that back up its own and continues to flourish.



## Santiago Uceda's "Immigration," 2019



This digital piece of art by Santiago was created following the announcement of Trump's immigration plans if he were to get reelected. This piece shows the xenophobic view that some people have in this country, despite it being the land of the free. The most powerful part of this piece is that the woman's arm from outside the wall perfectly lines up with the statue of liberty (which represents freedom), but they are still disconnected from the freedom they have a right to. This relates to how many students from around the world, come to the United States for education, but their freedoms may be restricted in other ways. All in all, this digital piece shows how immigrants are united with the country, but also disconnected.

## Analyzation

In this piece by Banksy who is an anonymous artist depicts how immigrants are welcomed when they arrive in a new country it might not be all of the times but it is most of the times they are told to go back and not welcomed how they should be. Immigration brings in beautiful cultures just like how the tropical bird is mean to symbolize.

## Takeaways

This can be compared to how new college students can feel, they are bringing in new ideas and cultures. They are new and want to be accepted, this is the same feelings that the immigrants have.



Banksy "Immigration Birds" 2014



## Edel Rodriguez's "Strangers,"



The painting "Strangers" by Edel Rodriguez (2018) shows a boat filled with various different characters that display a large variety of features. They are different shapes, sizes, colors, etc. and they all seem to display their own individual story. The purpose of this piece of art was to show how immigrants who come from all over the world are "strangers" (like the title of the painting) to each other. They know nothing about each other, or the new world and life they are going to discover when they come to America. They share different backgrounds, experiences, cultures, and more. However, in the end, they all have the same destination on that boat, and that is something that will always bring them together.

# *Letter to the Readers*



Dear readers,

We want to thank you for joining us on this wonderful journey through the exploration of immigration, art, social change, and how all of these elements are connected to each other in more ways than we can imagine. We hope that we were able to inform you and help you better understand our intentions of the zine.



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