

Chinatown debuts in North Austin

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A retail center that seeks to capitalize on the area's growing Asian population is opening this month in North Austin.

The 180,000-square-foot **Chinatown Center** is anchored by a 68,000-square-foot Asian grocery store called MT Oriental Market. More than 40 other retailers include several Asian-themed restaurants, clothing stores and service-oriented shops. Construction on the center, located at 10901 N. Lamar Blvd., began in March 2005.

A grand opening slated for the weekend of Sept. 30 will feature live music, martial arts demonstrations and a performance by Austin's Dragon Dance.

"Before Austin's Chinatown Center, people had to travel to Houston or Dallas for a true Asian experience, whether they were looking for dining, shopping or entertainment," says Alex Tan, the developer of Chinatown. "This is also a great addition to Austin for the economy. We will soon have over 300 people employed at the center."