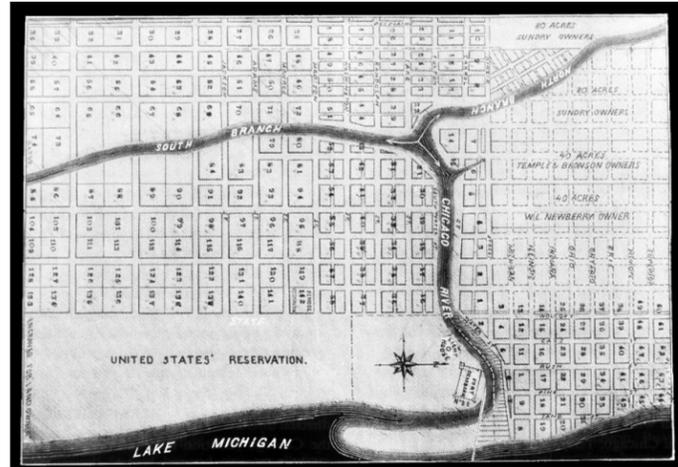


**Chicago's  
Front Yard  
Reimagined**

# Grand Park HISTORY



*“The City of Chicago is located on land that is and has long been a center for Native peoples. The area is the traditional home lands of the Anishinaabe, or the Council of the Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations.”<sup>9</sup>*



*The original 1830 subdivision by the Illinois and Michigan Canal Commissioners is the area South of Kinzie Street (2 blocks North the river). Map shows additions by 1835. This map was found among papers owned by John Kinzie and later published by Land Owner magazine.<sup>2</sup>*

The Illinois Central Railroad begins filling in the lake to accommodate its expanding network of tracks. It constructs a stone breakwater for Lake Park at Lake Michigan in exchange for offshore trestle.<sup>3</sup>



<sup>3</sup>

Debris from the Great Chicago Fire is used as landfill for Lake Park.<sup>3</sup>



<sup>4</sup>

Two armories in Lake Park are built by the federal government.<sup>3</sup>

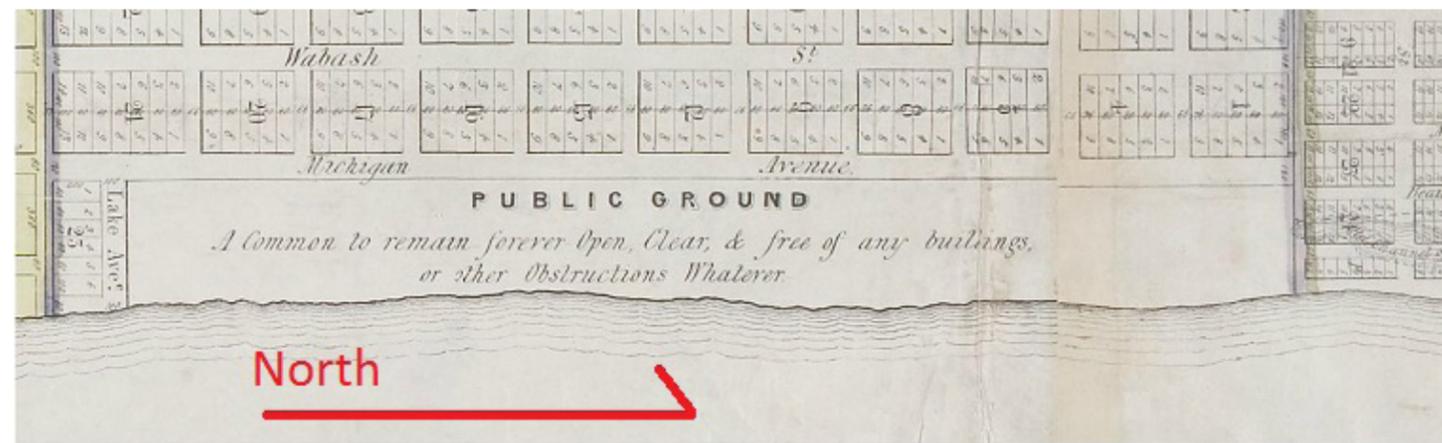
**1836                      1837                      1847                      1852                      1869                      1871                      1881**

**Illinois and Michigan Canal Commissioners platted land previously associated with Fort Dearborn, destined to become Grant Park, and declared it as “public ground forever to remain vacant of buildings.”<sup>3</sup>**

Chicago is incorporated while honoring the Illinois and Michigan Canal Commissioners 1836 declaration.<sup>3</sup>

The public ground adjacent the shoreline (no longer existing) is named Lake Park.<sup>3</sup>

The state passes an act giving the Illinois Central the right of way for tracks between the Chicago River & 11th Street and east to Lake Michigan.<sup>3</sup>



*Illinois and Michigan Canal Commissioner 1836 map. Source: Encyclopedia of Chicago<sup>5</sup>*

**Chicago's  
Front Yard  
Reimagined**



1890 1890 1892 1893 1894 1897 1901

Montgomery Ward approves the World's Congresses Building, now the Art Institute building.<sup>3</sup>

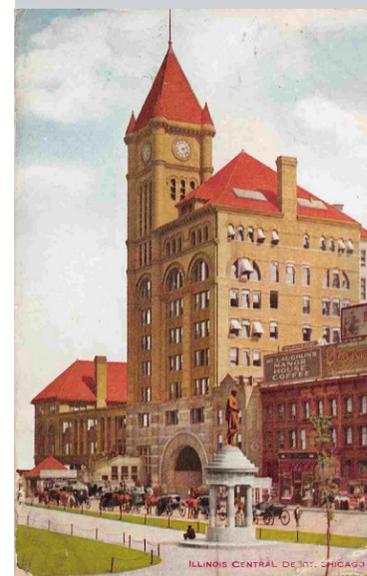
First Montgomery Ward suit brought against the City results in the City ordering all Lake Park buildings removed with the exception of the federal armories.<sup>3</sup>

Allerton Building of the Art Institute, designed by Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge is constructed.<sup>3</sup>



8

Rosenberg Fountain installation - Franz Machtl, sculptor.<sup>1</sup>



9

Bronze Lions are installed at the Art Institute's main entrance on Michigan Avenue - Edward Kemeys, sculptor.<sup>3</sup> The Lions were restored in 2022.



10

General John Logan Memorial installation - Augustus Saint-Gaudens & Alexander Phimister Protor, sculptors,<sup>1</sup> Stanford White, architect.



11

**South Park Commission officially changes Lake Park name to Grant Park.<sup>3</sup>**



Grant Park looking north from Central Station (12th Street) in the late 1890s. Visible is General Logan at 9th Street. In the background can be seen the lakefill in progress. There are tracks for dumping fill, and boats at both the old and new shoreline. Source Library of Congress<sup>12</sup>

# Chicago's Front Yard Reimagined



“Chicago Yacht Club clubhouse built at Monroe and Lake Michigan.”<sup>3</sup>

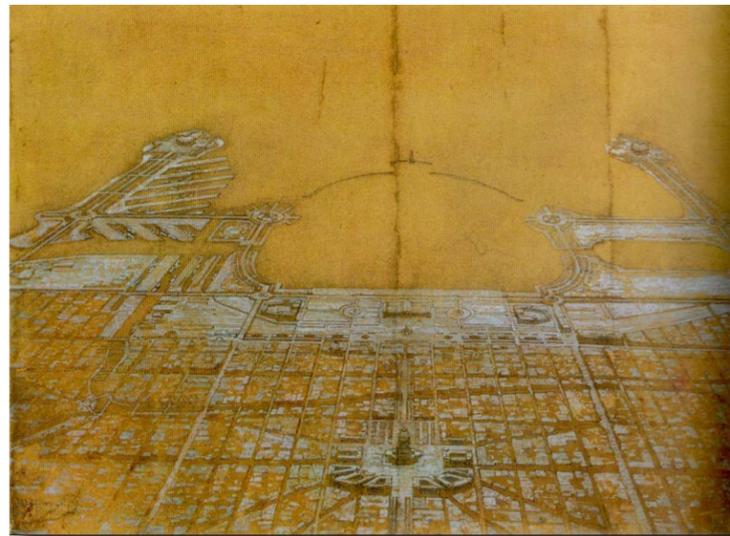


Illustration of proposed Chicago Grand Axis II including Grant Park attributed to Burnham's and/or Bennit's Office.<sup>13</sup>

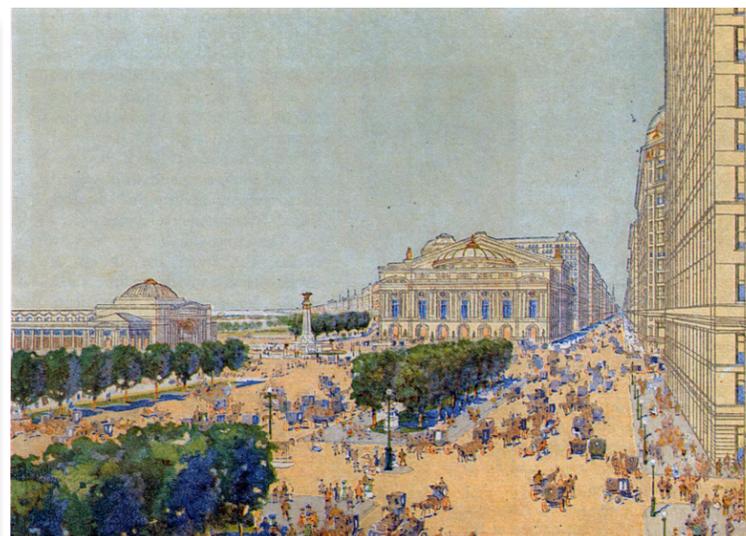


Illustration of proposed Chicago Grand Axis II including Grant Park attributed to Burnham's and/or Bennit's Office.<sup>14</sup>

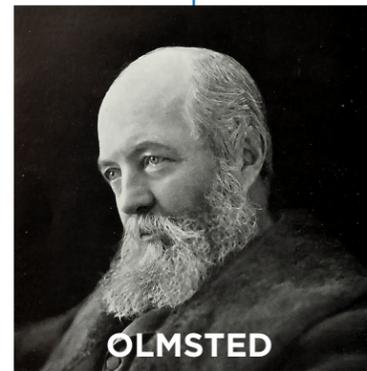
11th Place Viaduct is constructed.<sup>1</sup>

Burnham designs the Field Museum.<sup>3</sup>

1902 1903 1903 1907 1909 1910 1911

Field Museum planning begins.<sup>3</sup>

Field Museum site in Grant Park is selected and allowed by State legislation. Ward sues Field Museum with the goal of keeping it out of Grant Park. Crerar Library is also planned for Grant Park.<sup>3</sup>



**Olmsted Brothers, sons and successor firm of Frederick Law Olmsted are commissioned for the planning of Grant Park. Burnham designs Field Museum, and Olmsted Brothers include it as the centerpiece of Grant Park between Jackson and Balbo.<sup>3</sup>**

16



Olmsted Brothers' Versailles-inspired plan for Grant Park is published.<sup>3</sup>

17



“Daniel Burnham and Edward Bennett's Plan of Chicago leads to more Beaux Arts treatment for Grant Park.”<sup>3</sup>

18

Plan of Chicago is officially adopted; Grant Park plans are not implemented while the constraints on building in the park remain indeterminant.<sup>3</sup>

**Ward wins fourth and final lawsuit to restrict building in the park. Perhaps ironically, public opinion is against him at this point since his actions have slowed the development of Grant Park.<sup>3</sup>**

**Chicago's  
Front Yard  
Reimagined**

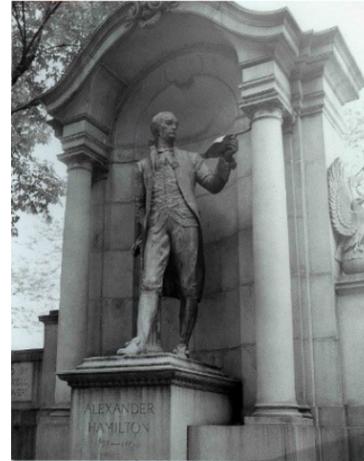


Field Museum undergoes construction.<sup>3</sup> D.H. Burnham & Co. along with Graham, Anderson, Probst & White, architects.<sup>1</sup>



20

Alexander Hamilton Memorial and Paviliao installation - Bela Lyons Pratt, sculptor.<sup>1</sup>



21

McKinlock Jr. Court is added to Art Institute near railroad tracks.<sup>3</sup>



22

Lower Hutchinson Field, designed by Bennett, Parsons, Frost and Thomas per the direction of the South Park Commission is constructed.<sup>1</sup>

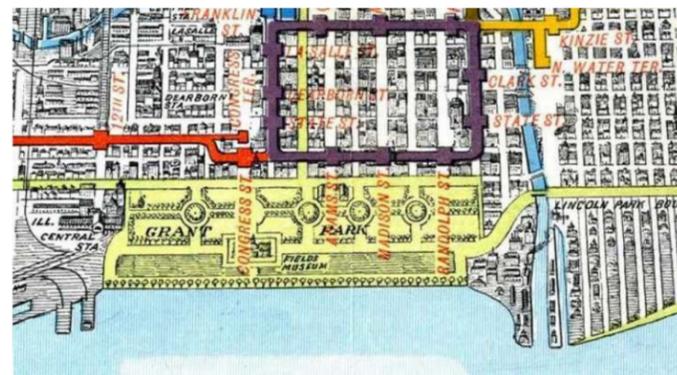


23

1911                      1915                      1915                      1918                      1923                      1924                      1925

The Illinois Central Railroad surrenders to the City, its rights to the submerged land south of 12th Street, for the purpose of accommodating the Field Museum (its current site today) in exchange for a right of way extension south of Roosevelt Road.<sup>3</sup>

**Edward Bennett is hired to design Grant Park and construction is permitted to commence.<sup>3</sup>**



Section of Birds Eye View of Chicago showing the Elevated 1913<sup>24</sup>



25

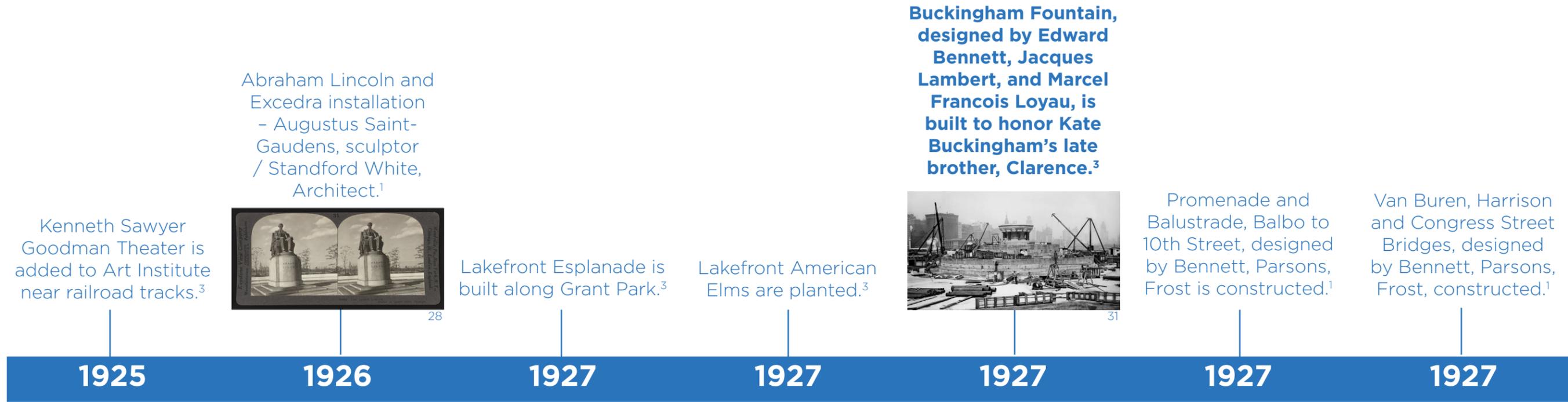
An underground garage on the site of Grant Park is first proposed by Eiel Saarinen as part of his lake front plan.<sup>1</sup>

The South Park Commission adopts a more comprehensive plan for Grant Park.<sup>3</sup>



Grant Park looking South, circa 1915, from Smoke Abatement in Chicago

# Chicago's Front Yard Reimagined



The Seated Lincoln' monument during winter at Grant Park, circa Feb. 12, 1931, Chicago Tribune historical photo<sup>34</sup>



SKYLINE FROM GRANT PARK, SHOWING BAND SHELL. CHICAGO. 1092-72

# Chicago's Front Yard Reimagined



The Bowman and The Spearman installation at Congress Plaza - Ivan Mestrovic, sculptor.<sup>1</sup>



37

John G. Shedd Aquarium, designed by Graham Anderson Probst and White, is built.<sup>3</sup>



38

*Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum, designed by Ernest Grunsfeld, Jr., is built on Northerly Island.<sup>3</sup> The planetarium is not within the boundary of Grant Park, then or now.*

Eagles and Fountains installation at Congress Plaza - Frederick Hibbard, sculptor.<sup>1</sup>



39

Band shell, modeled after the Hollywood Bowl, is constructed in Grant Park.<sup>3</sup>



40

Columbus Statue installation - Carl Brioschi, sculptor.<sup>3</sup>



41

Fountain Table Elms placed by the South Park Commission.<sup>1</sup>

1928

1928

1929

1930

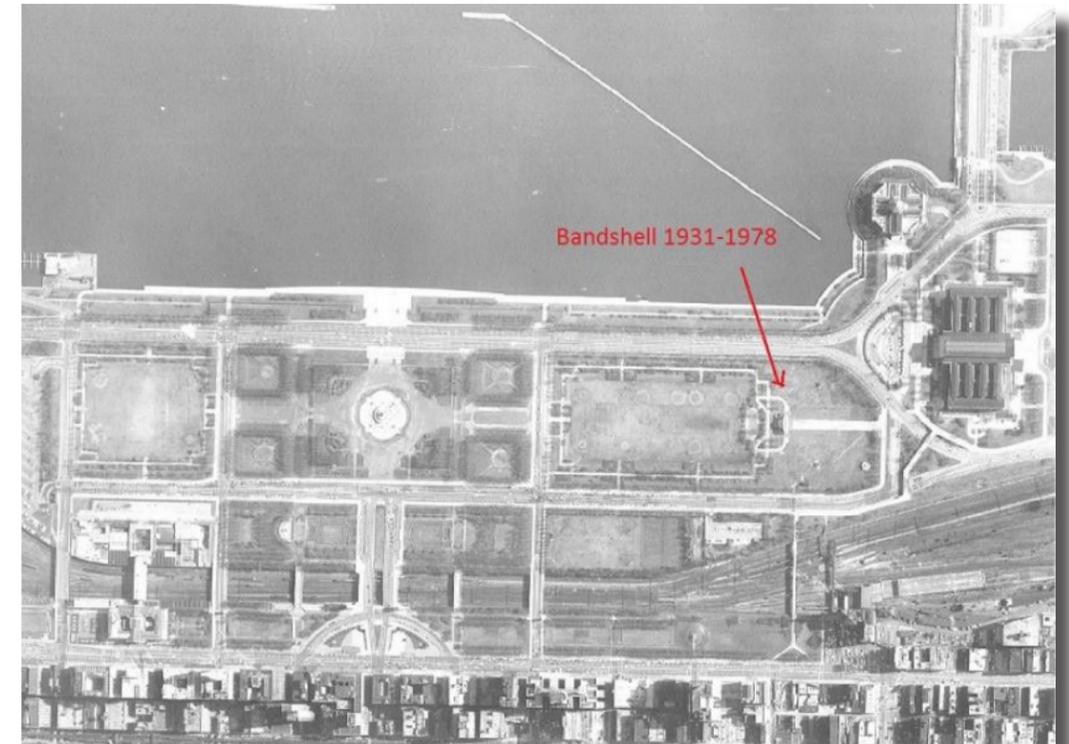
1931

1933

1933

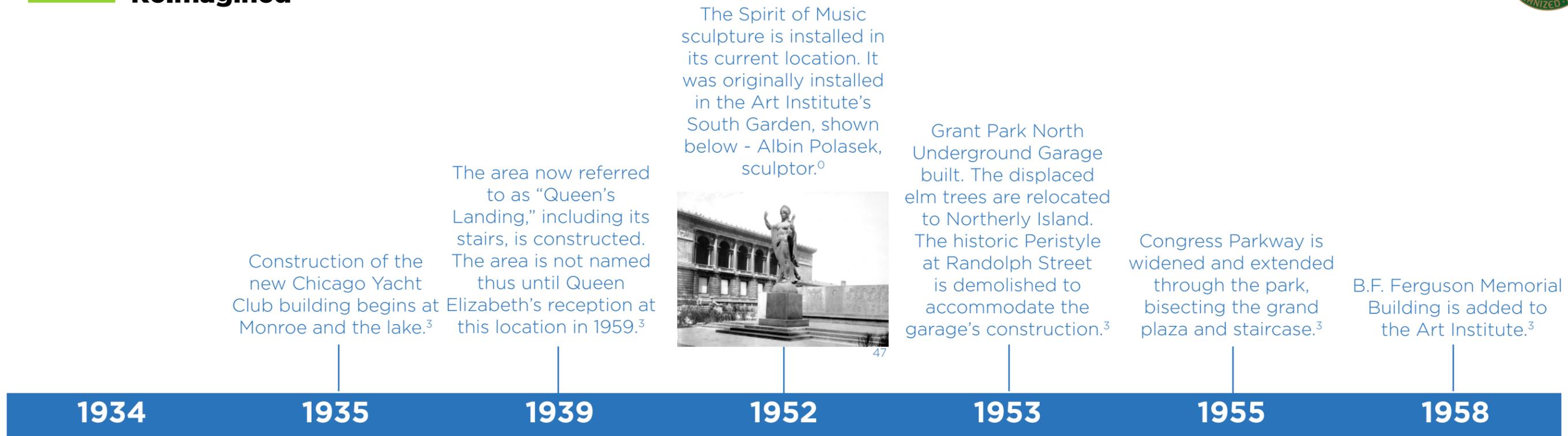


*Graf Zeppelin over Buckingham Fountain, August 28, 1929.<sup>43</sup>*



*Chicago Aerial Photograph: 1960<sup>44</sup>*

**Chicago's  
Front Yard  
Reimagined**



South Park Commission becomes Chicago Park District, consolidating 22 park systems. WPA funds are used for Grant Park.<sup>3</sup>



Grant Park, circa 1927



Congress Plaza: Equestrian Indians Flanking Congress Plaza, ca. 1940 <sup>51</sup>

# Chicago's Front Yard Reimagined



South Underground Garage is built south of Jackson Blvd. on Michigan Avenue.<sup>3</sup>



52

"Stanley McCormick Memorial Court South - Art Institute's South Garden designed by Dan Kiley."<sup>3</sup>



54

Daley Bicentennial Plaza, designed by C.F. Murphy and Associates, is built.<sup>3</sup> This photo was taken in 2012 as construction began on its replacement, Maggie Daley Park.<sup>10</sup>



56

"Morton Wing added to Art Institute."<sup>3</sup>

Addition to the Chicago Yacht Club constructed.<sup>3</sup>

1959 1961 1962 1962 1963 1973 1976

1959

1961

1962

1962

1963

1973

1976

57



Queen Elizabeth II Royal Yacht Britannia lands at Buckingham Fountain. Area of the shore she steps upon across from Buckingham Fountain is named Queen's Landing.<sup>3</sup>



Protesters at the General John Logan Memorial during the 1968 Democratic National Convention<sup>58</sup>

"City of Chicago adopted the Lake Michigan and Lakefront Protection Ordinance. Any physical change or disposition of property is to be reviewed by the Chicago Plan Commission."<sup>3</sup>

**Chicago's  
Front Yard  
Reimagined**



Timeline header with years: 1977 / 1978, 1979, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991

"Band shell taken down and Petrillo Band Shell built."<sup>3</sup>

"S-curve" removed and Lake Shore Drive realigned north of Monroe and new esplanade added north of Monroe Street to Chicago River."<sup>3</sup>



"Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Building addition to Art Institute."<sup>3</sup>

Oceanarium addition to Shedd Aquarium, designed by Lohan Associates, is constructed.<sup>3</sup>



The City of Chicago's first modern-era Marathon is established. The race starts at Daley Plaza with its Picasso sculpture and finishes in Grant Park at Buckingham Fountain.<sup>11</sup>



Pope John Paul II celebrates mass before a crowd of over 100,000 in Grant Park.<sup>3</sup>

"Grant Park Advisory Council is formed."<sup>3</sup>

"New Dutch-elm-disease-resistant elm trees are introduced into Grant Park."<sup>3</sup>



1960 Aerial Photograph of Northern Grant Park showing a number of features that no longer exist including the S Curve, the Illinois Central freight yards, the Monroe Street parking lot, the Naval Reserve Armory and the immobile submarine USS Silversides.<sup>64</sup>



1985 Aerial Photograph of Northern Grant Park showing Daley Bicentennial Plaza over the Monroe Street Garage, the new Columbus Drive and the almost completed replacement for the Lakeshore Drive S Curve.<sup>65</sup>

# Chicago's Front Yard Reimagined

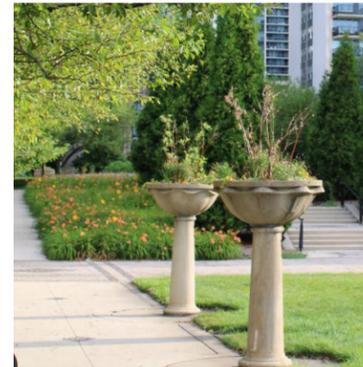


“57 acre - Museum Campus built with relocation of Lake Shore Drive to the west of Soldier Field and the Field Museum.”<sup>3</sup>



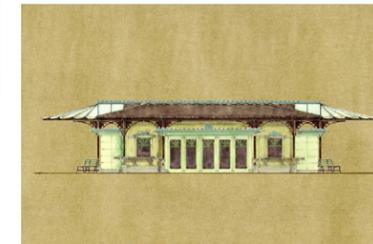
66

Cancer Survivors Garden opens thanks to the donation from Richard and Annette Bloch (H&R Block Company) on the site of the recently relocated Lake Shore Drive right of way.<sup>3</sup>



67

Buckingham Fountain Table Pavilions (four total), design by David Woodhouse, are opened.<sup>3</sup>



68

McCormick Tribune Plaza and Ice Rink open at Millennium Park.<sup>3</sup>

1991



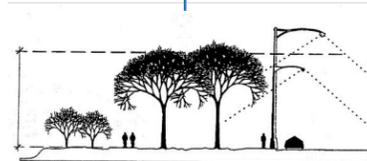
70

Six Chicago Bulls championship rallies are held in Grant Park.<sup>3</sup>

1992

Grant Park Design Guidelines (GPDG) completed by Chicago Park District's Office of Research and Planning.<sup>3</sup>

1992



71

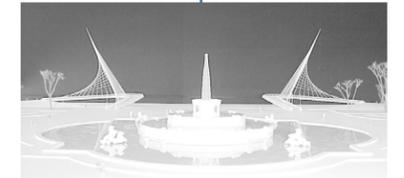
The 1992 GPDG designate the 50' canopy height of the existing American Elms, typical, as the height limit for future structures constructed in Grant Park. The typical canopy height is now some 60 feet.<sup>3</sup>

1995

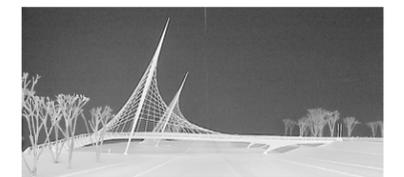
1995

1997

2001



72



Grade Separated Crossing at Queen's Landing proposed by Epstein & Santiago Calatrava as part of the Queen's Landing Pedestrian Access Improvement Project for the Chicago Department of Transportation.

# Chicago's Front Yard Reimagined



Peristyle and Wrigley Square open at Millennium Park.<sup>3</sup>



73

Newly renovated Soldier Field opens with acres of new parkland - North Burnham Park.<sup>3</sup> The development is not within the boundary of Grant Park.

"Meigs Field is closed."<sup>3</sup>

Harris Theater opens at Millennium Park.<sup>3</sup>



74

"11th Street Pedestrian Bridge and Columbus Drive Underpass Project opens."<sup>3</sup>

2002 2002 2002 2003 2003 2003 2003

"Grant Park Conservancy is formed."<sup>3</sup>

76



**The Grant Park Framework Plan, a plan for the restoration and development of the park is published by the Chicago Park District's Grant Park Steering Committee.<sup>2</sup>**

77



"Grant Park Conservancy begins a complete, multi-year reforestation plan with Chicago Park District for Grant Park."<sup>3</sup>

78



Millennium Park Site, circa 1984<sup>79</sup>

# Chicago's Front Yard Reimagined



Millennium Park opens officially as a whole entity including the Pritzker Music Pavilion, Harris Theater, Peristyle, Park Grill, Crown Fountain, Cloud Gate, and Bike Station.<sup>3</sup>



81

2004

“Addition to Art Institute, designed by Renzo Piano, begins construction.”<sup>3</sup>



82

2005

Grant Park Dog Park opens through a collaborative effort by Chicago Park District, South Loop Dog PAC, Grant Park Conservancy, and Advisory Council.<sup>3</sup>



83

2006

Construction of new 12th Street Metra Station begins.<sup>3</sup>

2006

Chicago Park District, Grant Park Conservancy and Advisory Council, and Lollapalooza work together for a complete restoration of Hutchinson Field with thousands of new lilac, crab apple, and hackberry trees planted. The first time in many decades the trees were replaced.<sup>3</sup>

2007



86

“Lollapalooza begins in Grant Park.”<sup>3</sup>

2005

“Grant Park Conservancy begins reforestation program with Lollapalooza to plant hundreds of new trees in Grant Park.”<sup>3</sup>

“Grant Park Conservancy begins reforestation program with Lollapalooza to plant hundreds of new trees in Grant Park.”<sup>3</sup>

“Chicago Park District and Grant Park Conservancy/Advisory Council begin planning for what will eventually be named Maggie Daley Park.”<sup>3</sup>

Grant Park Conservancy’s plan begun with Chicago Park District and EDAW and Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture for SW corner of Grant Park at railroad beds.<sup>3</sup>

2008

**Chicago's  
Front Yard  
Reimagined**



Sir Georg Solti Garden opens in Grant Park just south of the Art Institute on Michigan Avenue. This is a Chicago Park District/Grant Park Conservancy project.<sup>3</sup>

Addition to Art Institute, designed by Renzo Piano, opens.<sup>3</sup>



88



89

Construction of Maggie Daley Park begins.<sup>3</sup>



90

GPC/GPAC and the Chopin Foundation announced the creation of the Chopin Monument at 11th Street and Michigan Avenue. This will also be a performance area for music and dance.<sup>3</sup>



91

2008      2009      2009      2012      2012      2013      2013

92



President Obama gives his victory speech in Grant Park's (Lower) Hutchinson Field to a crowd estimated at 150,000.<sup>3</sup>



View of the artist, Magdalena Abakanowicz, installing the work at Chicago's Grant Park, 2007.<sup>93</sup>

94



"Chicago Blackhawks Stanley Cup championship rally draws over 2 million to Grant Park and downtown."<sup>3</sup>

Grant Park Conservancy/Grant Park Advisory Council and the Chopin Foundation announce the creation of a new, 3-acre, world-class skate park for the south end of Grant Park. GPC/GPAC forms a committee of skateboarders and BMX riders to help design the skate elements.<sup>3</sup>

# Chicago's Front Yard Reimagined

The GPC/GPAC, Chicago Park District, Bloomberg Foundation, and Steinunn Thórarinsdóttir install Borders sculptures in Solti Garden along Michigan Avenue at Jackson.<sup>3</sup>



95

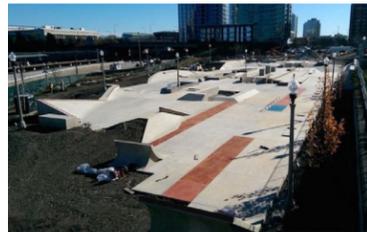
GPC/GPAC announces plans to make Agora and the SW corner of Grant Park more pedestrian-friendly with new sidewalks and pathways leading to the Metra Station.<sup>3</sup>



96

"Second and final phase of Maggie Daley Park commences."<sup>3</sup>

Grant Skate Park opens.<sup>4</sup>



97

Maggie Daley Park opens.<sup>5</sup>



98

2013

2013

2013

2014

2015

2016

Roosevelt Road plans are announced to create a pedestrian- and bike-friendly street between Columbus Dr. and State Street along Grant Park. This will be a two-way bike lane separated by trees along Grant Park as well as wider sidewalks and other landscaping to make the area more attractive to pedestrians and bike riders.<sup>3</sup>



View of Grant Park looking south with Maggie Daley Park in foreground, circa 2020<sup>99</sup>



100

Chicago Cubs World Series victory celebration draws an estimated 2+ million to Grant Park.<sup>6</sup>



**Chicago's  
Front Yard  
Reimagined**



Statue of Christopher Columbus gets vandalized during protest and is taken down and placed in storage.<sup>7</sup>



101



Grove #4, north of Lincoln Statue, 2022<sup>102</sup>

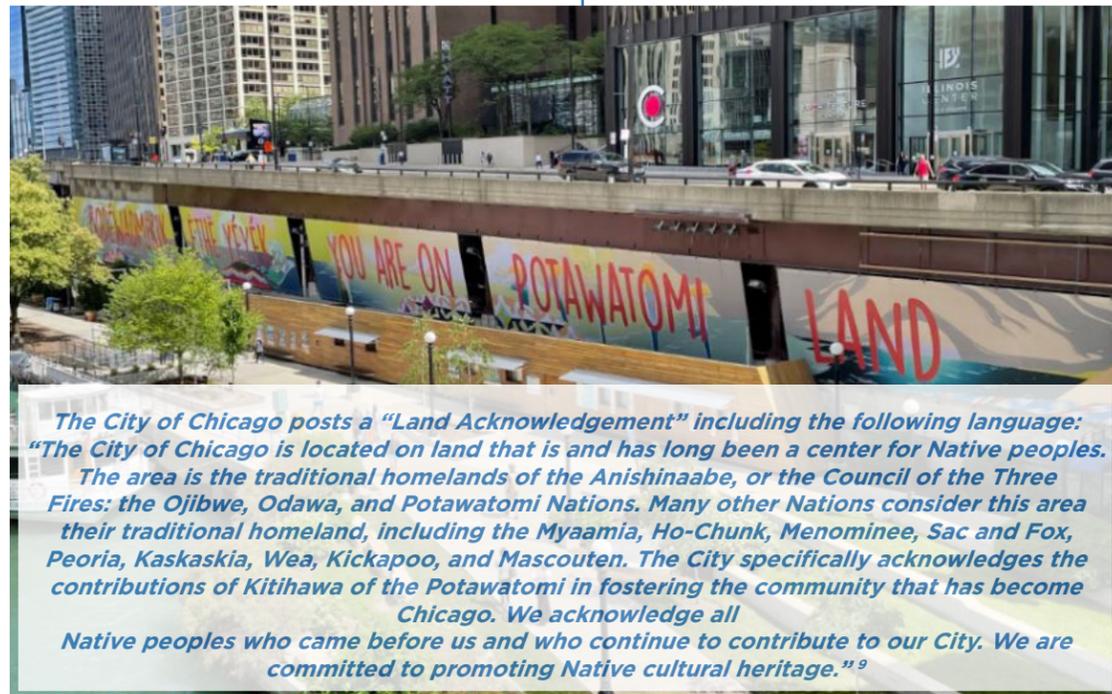
2020

2021

2022

2022

2022



105

*The City of Chicago posts a "Land Acknowledgement" including the following language: "The City of Chicago is located on land that is and has long been a center for Native peoples. The area is the traditional homelands of the Anishinaabe, or the Council of the Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations. Many other Nations consider this area their traditional homeland, including the Myaamia, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac and Fox, Peoria, Kaskaskia, Wea, Kickapoo, and Mascouten. The City specifically acknowledges the contributions of Kitiyawa of the Potawatomi in fostering the community that has become Chicago. We acknowledge all Native peoples who came before us and who continue to contribute to our City. We are committed to promoting Native cultural heritage."<sup>9</sup>*



103

The City of Chicago announces that the city will host a NASCAR street race to be held in Grant Park in 2023.<sup>8</sup>

Chicago Monuments Project report was released providing recommendations for the current and future collections.

Where Worlds Connection, A Vision for a Reimagined Museum Campus was published by the Museum Campus Working Group.