A Century of Progress

Chicago 1933 World’s Fair
A CENTURY ago Chicago was a log-built settlement of 350 people huddled on the sandy shores of Lake Michigan. Today it is a world-known metropolis with a population of 3,500,000.

A century ago man moved on the surface of the earth only as fast as his own feet, the feet of animals or sails could carry him; communication was possible only by messengers and depended on the speed of their legs; people lit their homes with candles; open fire-places provided warmth. Today travel has been revolutionized on the earth and man now invades the realm of the air and the depths of the sea; communication is practically instantaneous throughout the world by radio, telephone or telegraph; electricity lights the nation’s homes; radiators and furnaces heat our homes and a thousand and one other comforts undreamed of 100 years ago are now available.

The transformation of the past century that has made Chicago the second largest city in the Western Hemisphere and improved mankind’s conditions of living to an amazing degree will be celebrated in A Century of Progress Exposition—Chicago’s 1933 World’s Fair. The Exposition will be an interpretation in terms that people of all ages and education can understand of man’s advancement in this period due to his mastery over the forces of nature.

The site of this Exposition is a beautiful stretch of shore land extending from Twelfth Place to Thirty-ninth Street along Lake Michigan, within walking distance of the heart of Chicago. At its very gates or within the grounds are great permanent exposition buildings including the Adler Planetarium, Soldier Field Stadium, the Field Museum of Natural History and the John G. Shedd Aquarium.

Vast exposition buildings, picturesquely colored and of modern architecture will be filled with interesting exhibits. The foremost industries of the United States have mobilized their forces to tell the story of progress in transportation, communication, manufacturing of all kinds and the beneficial results to humanity from their development. Great scientific institutions and associations are yielding the results of research for interesting exhibits. One year before the opening nearly 200 great corporations have contracted for $3,500,000 of exhibit space and reservations by other firms amount to millions of dollars more. Forty-four states of the Union have either appropriated money for exhibits, or appointed official commissions. Congress has passed a bill and President Hoover has signed it, authorizing an appropriation of $1,000,000 for a Federal building and exhibit. Numerous foreign nations are preparing extensive plans for participation.

The Exposition’s advance financing was assured through a $10,000,000 bond issue underwritten by leading Chicagoans. This is the first international exposition that has not depended on the taxpayers for financing.

Features of amusement and entertainment will make the Exposition a delightful place to visit again and again. Great programs of sports and athletic events will be held. Thrilling new amusement devices on land, water and in the air will catch the fancy of millions of visitors. Each night the buildings will be alive in moving illumination, with ever-shifting colors presenting a scene of rare beauty. Water displays and fireworks will add color and life. Replicas of ancient temples, historic shrines hallowed in the hearts of Americans, and quaint scenes from foreign lands will provide visitors with diverting experiences.

Forty years after the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893 and one hundred years after its incorporation as a city, Chicago will be host to millions of visitors who will come to see the fascinating sights and to hear the story of man’s ever-growing mastery over the forces of nature.
JOHN G. S H E D D A Q U A R I U M  O N  E X P O S I T I O N  G R O U N D S
SOLDIER FIELD AND FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY ON THE EXPOSITION GROUNDS

REPLICA OF OLD FORT DEARBORN - A CENTURY OF PROGRESS - CHICAGO 1933 WORLD'S FAIR
ARCHITECT’S CONCEPTION, ELECTRICAL GROUP CONTAINING EXHIBITS OF RADIO, ELECTRICITY, TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT BUILDINGS FOR TRANSPORTATION EXHIBITS, A CENTURY OF PROGRESS
INNER COURT, REPLICA OF OLD FORT DEARBORN, AT CHICAGO 1933 WORLD'S FAIR