

GRANT PARK

Christopher Columbus

LOCATION: East of S. Columbus Drive and north of E. Roosevelt Road

INSTALLED: 1933

SCULPTOR: Carl Brioschi

ARCHITECT: Clarence H. Johnston

Chicagoans of Italian descent donated Grant Park's *Christopher Columbus* monument, which they dedicated on Italian Day in 1933 at *A Century of Progress*, Chicago's second World's Fair. During the ceremony—attended by tens of thousands—Bishop Bernard J. Shiel blessed the monument. The Depression Era monument not only commemorated the arrival of Christopher Columbus (1451–1506) to the New World, but also conveyed the spirit of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal.

Carl Brioschi (1879–1941) produced the bronze figurative sculpture of Columbus. Born in Milan, Brioschi received artistic training in Italy before immigrating to New York at the turn of the century. He eventually settled in Minnesota, where he produced a sculptural bas-relief for interior of the State Capitol Building. Brioschi collaborated with St. Paul architect Clarence H. Johnston on the design of the *Christopher Columbus* monument's pedestal and setting. The Art Deco style granite base features carved depictions of the *Santa Maria*, one of the three ships that sailed to the New World from Spain; Paolo Toscanelli, the famous astronomer and mathematician who charted the course of the journey; Columbus' tutor Amerigo Vespucci, who theorized that the world was round and for whom America was named; and the city seal of Genoa, Columbus' birthplace. On the four corners of the base, sculptural busts represent Faith, Courage, Freedom, and Strength.



The *Christopher Columbus* statue stands on an ornately carved pedestal with a circular plaza and curved bench, CPD Special Collections, ca. 1940.



.View of sculpture from S. Columbus Drive looking east, 2010.