In the early 1900s, the area around Bronzeville was often referred to as the “Black Belt” or “Black Ghetto” by Chicagoans. Realizing that this didn't sit well with most residents, James Gentry, an editor at the Chicago Bee, proposed that the term “Bronzeville” be used to identify the neighborhood feeling that it “more accurately described the skin tone of most of its inhabitants.” The population of Bronzeville greatly increased during this period when many southern African Americans found their way to the community while in search of jobs during the Great Migration.

The neighborhood was home to or served as the launching pad for numerous African Americans, including Gwendolyn Brooks, Louis Armstrong, Muddy Waters, Ida B. Wells, Lorraine Hansberry, and Bessie Coleman, among others. Because of the contributions of these people, Bronzeville is one of the nation’s most significant landmarks of African-American urban history.

**Demographic Data**
- Total Population: 56,837
- Median Age: 35.08

**Ethnic Demographic**
- African American: 87%
- White: 6%
- Asian: 5%
- Hispanic: 3%

**Economic Profile**
- Owner Occupied: 25.8%
- Renter Occupied: 74.2%
- Median Household Income: $35,993
- Average People per Household: 2.05

**Education Statistics**
- No High School: 9%
- High School: 35%
- Associate’s Degree: 10%
- Bachelor’s Degree: 28%
- Graduate Degree: 18%

**STEPHEN DOUGLAS**
The Democratic Senator donated parts of Bronzeville’s original land to the city.

**OLD UCHICAGO**
Established from 1857 to 1886, the original University of Chicago was located in the neighborhood.

**2016 OLYMPICS**
Chicago’s 2016 bid for the Olympic Games called for the construction of the Olympic Village to be in the area.

**IIT**
In 2014, Illinois Institute of Technology was ranked the 4th best university in the Chicago metropolitan area.

**WABASH YMCA**
Considered the first African-American Y in the United States, it is still open to this day due to the community’s support.