



Bronzeville is a center of African-American life and culture in Chicago. In the early 1900s, the area around Bronzeville was often referred to as the “Black Belt” or “Black Metropolis” 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 when many southern African Americans found their way to the community during the Great Migration. It was also the birthplace of the Chicago Black Renaissance arts movement in the mid-1900s.

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. The area embraces its legacy as a mecca for civil rights, jazz, blues.

Population Demographics

- **Total Population: 56,837**
- **Median Age: 35.1**
- **Black: 87.0%**
- **Hispanic or Latinx: 3.0%**
- **Asian: 5.0%**
- **White: 6.0%**

Economic Profile

- **Owner Occupied: 25.8%**
- **Renter Occupied: 74.2%**
- **Median Household Income: \$35,993**

Education Statistics

- **No High School: 9.0%**
- **High School: 35.0%**
- **Associate’s Degree: 10.0%**
- **Bachelor’s Degree: 28.0%**
- **Graduate Degree: 18.0%**

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.

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.