Hyde Park was founded in the 1850s by Paul Cornell, a real estate speculator, when he purchased 300 acres of property along the shores of Lake Michigan. While the area was already a popular place to live and visit, two events that took place less than 40 years after its founding helped shape the area into what it is today.

The University of Chicago opened in 1890 and ushered in a new era for the neighborhood. Catapulting the city and neighborhood into prominence on a worldwide stage, the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition was also seen as a major driver that helped stimulate the growth of Hyde Park.

Along with the famed “White City,” hundreds of residential and commercial buildings were built for the fair. Many of the structures that were built during this time are no longer standing. The Palace of Fine Arts, which is now home to the Museum of Science and Industry, is the only building that remains from the fair.

### Population Demographic
- Total Population: 18,756
- Median Age: 32.08

### Ethnic Demographic
- White: 47%
- African American: 30%
- Asian: 12%
- Hispanic: 6%

### Economic Profile
- Owner Occupied: 35%
- Renter Occupied: 65%
- Median Household Income: $33,199
- Average People per Household: 2.12

### Education Statistics
- No High School: 2%
- High School: 13%
- Associate’s Degree: 5%
- Bachelor’s Degree: 35%
- Graduate Degree: 45%

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**FUN FACTS**

**ROBIE HOUSE**
- Designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright, the building was included on the first National Register of Historic Places in 1966.

**MUHAMMAD ALI**
- The boxing legend once called the 4900 block of Woodlawn Avenue his home.

**CHICAGO PILE-1**
- The site of the world’s first artificial nuclear reactor that initiated the first human-made self-sustaining.

**BARACK OBAMA**
- Before becoming president, Obama represented different South Side communities, including Hyde Park, in the Illinois Senate.

**U-505**
- The German submarine—which was 1 of 6 U-boats captured by the Allied during WWII—is on display at the Museum of Science and Industry.