



Media Advisory

For Immediate Release

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Chicago Celebrates Frederick Law Olmsted's 200th Birthday with Free Programs Launching on April 26, 2022

What: Launching April 26, 2022, the 200th birthday of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., *Olmsted in Chicago* is a series of free programs in Chicago celebrating the landscape architect and his core belief that parks are democratic spaces for all people. Olmsted was the founder of American landscape architecture and designer of such iconic greenspaces as New York's Central Park and the National Capitol Grounds in Washington DC. He created Chicago's 1871 South Park (now Jackson, Washington Parks and Midway Plaisance) and two decades later, transformed much of that site into the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition fairgrounds.

Who: The Hyde Park Historical Society (HPS) and Washington Park Camera Club (WPCC) have come together to sponsor *Olmsted in Chicago*. One of Chicagoland's oldest camera clubs, the WPCC is predominantly composed of African American members. *Olmsted in Chicago* is presented as part of [Art Design Chicago Now](#), an initiative of the Terra Foundation for American Art that amplifies the voices of Chicago's diverse creatives, past and present, and explores the essential role they play in shaping the now. These Chicago program are part of the nationwide Olmsted 200 celebration "[Parks for All People](#)."

When: The celebration begins on April 26, 2022 with *South Park Then and Now*, an on-line photo exhibit created by the WPCC. The free series of public programs includes summer walking tours led by park historian [Julia Bachrach](#) and a fall virtual program about the past, present, and future of Olmsted's parks in Chicago. [Jackson Park tours](#) will take place on June 25th and July 16th, [Washington Park tours](#) on July 16th and August 6th, and [Midway Plaisance tours](#) on June 25th and August 6th.

Why: [South Park Then and Now](#) weaves together historic and contemporary images of Jackson, Washington Parks and Midway Plaisance. With recent photography by 13 members of the WPCC, the project documents continuity and changes while highlighting the importance of Olmsted's landscapes in the past and the vital role they play in the lives of Chicagoans today.

Photo

Opps: Vintage and contemporary images of Jackson, Washington Parks and the Midway Plaisance and images of the WPCC taking photographs in the parks can be provided.

Additional Resources:

["The Olmsted Legacy in Chicago,"](#) by Julia Bachrach

[Hyde Park Historical Society](#)

[Washington Park Camera Club](#)

[Terra Foundation](#)