

**Chicago's 1893 World's
Columbian Exposition**

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Research Paper

Junior Division

2,141 words

Thesis

Chicago's 1893 World's Columbian Exposition was a celebration of American culture, values, creativity, and opportunities. It gave the City of Chicago a tremendous economic impact, because it created a blueprint that helped make the city more modern at the time, and rebuild itself after it was destroyed by the Great Chicago Fire. As more people from all over the World heard rumors about the event being hosted in Chicago, because of how modern it had become, it attracted more people to the city. Despite the controversy in hosting the event, the Fair resulted in the building of the White City, and the Ferris Wheel, which brought more attention to the city of Chicago. Chicago prevailed the World by showing everyone how we never gave up and lost faith after our city collapsed.

Introducing the Fair to Chicago

During the late 1800s, Chicago experienced many horrific events, like the Great Chicago Fire, which caused people to steer away from the city.¹ Luckily, there was an opportunity for the city to rebuild itself. The World's Columbian Exposition, also known as the *World's Fair*,² needed a place to be held, since Philadelphia, the original home to the Fair, didn't work out because of financial issues. Civic leaders in St. Louis, New York City, Washington DC and Chicago showed an interest in hosting a fair to generate

¹ Thought Co. Beatrix Lockwood, "The Great Chicago Fire impacted Chicago tremendously because the damage to the city was nearly impossible to comprehend. Virtually all government buildings were burned to the ground, as were the newspapers, hotels, and any just about any major business."

² The World's Columbian Exposition was a world's fair held in Chicago in 1893 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the New World in 1492

profits, boost real estate values, and promote their cities. A few weeks later, Congress was called upon to decide the location. Chicagoans offered to finance a Chicago fair, but many people thought it was a bad idea because of the poor economy and wealth.³ Others argued that Chicago would be the perfect place, because of its open land and abundant supply of pure water.⁴ Finally, Congress decided to have the World's Columbian Exposition take place in Chicago, as long as construction started right away. Since the city needed money, banker Lyman Gage, raised several million additional dollars, plus many fundraisers were held. All the money that was raised, was donated for the construction and advertising of the Fair, due to all the rebuilding needed.

The White City

Since Chicago was now going to host the World's Columbian Exposition, the city was in need of huge remodeling. The Exposition Corporation and National Exposition Commission was located in Jackson Park, which is an area by the fair site. Chief architect Daniel Burnham was selected to be director of works, and George R. Davis as the director-general. Burnham encouraged sculpture and architecture as key to the fair and assembled the period's top talent to design the buildings and grounds.⁵ The

³ Chicagoans: Charles T. Yerkes, Marshall Field, Philip Armour, Gustavus Swift, and Cyrus McCormick

⁴ Thomas B. Bryan argued that the most important qualities for a world's fair were 'abundant supplies of good air and pure water,...ample space, accommodations and transportation for all exhibits and visitors...' He argued that New York had too many obstructions, and Chicago would be able to use large amounts of land around the city where there was "not a house to buy and not a rock to blast.." and that it would be so located that "the artisan and the farmer and the shopkeeper and the man of humble means" would be able to easily access the fair. Bryan continued to say that the fair was of 'vital interest' to the West, and that the West wanted the location to be Chicago.

⁵ For Burnham, architecture and sculpture would be to the Chicago fair what engineering had been to the Paris exposition. With the help of his partner, John W. Root, who died suddenly in 1891, Burnham

temporary buildings were designed in an elegant Neoclassical style, and painted white resulting in the fair site, which was referred to as the “White City”.⁶

Constructing the White City wasn’t an easy task. It took a lot of thinking and work in such a small amount of time. Since Daniel needed a little more help, he teamed up with his partner John Root to serve as the lead designers.⁷ The two men didn’t wait long to start working, but all of a sudden, while they were constructing, Root became very ill. Burnham then had to put a pause on construction, which really delayed their project. A few days later, Daniel was at Root's side when he passed away from pneumonia. Critics noticed Daniel’s mood saddened when he went back to working, so they began to suggest that he should just give up on the fair altogether. After hearing their feedback, Daniel changed his mood, continued to work and proved them wrong.

Since most of the buildings of the fair were designed in the Neoclassical architecture style, facades were made not of stone, but of a mixture of plaster, cement

assembled a stunning array of artistic and architectural talent to design the fair's main, palatial exhibition buildings on grounds that landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted envisioned becoming a public park that would rival Central Park in New York City. Major outdoor sculptures included works by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Frederick MacMonnies, and Daniel Chester French. The major buildings and their architects included Administration, by Richard Morris Hunt; Agriculture, by Charles McKim, William Mead, and Stanford White; Electricity, by Henry Van Brunt and Frank Howe; Horticulture, by William L. Jenney and William B. Mundie; Fisheries, by Henry Ives Cobb; Machinery Hall, by Robert Peabody and John Stearns; Manufactures and Liberal Arts, by George B. Post; Mines and Mining, by Solon Beman; and Transportation, by Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan.

⁶ “After experimenting, Millet settled on a mix of oil and white lead whitewash that could be applied using compressed air spray painting to the buildings, taking considerably less time than traditional brush painting. Joseph Binks, maintenance supervisor at Chicago's Marshall Field's Wholesale Store, who had been using this method to apply whitewash to the sub basement walls of the store, got the job to paint the Exposition buildings. Claims this was the first use of spray painting may be apocryphal since journals from that time note this form of painting had already been in use in the railroad industry from the early 1880s.”

⁷ “John Wellborn Root was an American architect who was based in Chicago with Daniel Burnham. He was one of the founders of the Chicago School style. Two of his buildings have been designated a National Historic Landmark; others have been designated Chicago landmarks and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.”

and jute fiber, which was painted white, to give the buildings their "shine". The buildings were clad in white stucco, and lights were added for night time.⁸

The process of this project was slow, which forced Burnham and the commission to push the opening day back from late 1892 to May, 1893. The date setback made people aggravated, because many had already planned the trip to Chicago, but that was what it was and they couldn't do anything about it. When the final days were figured out, and all the important aspects for building the White City were done, it was officially time to open up the fair.

George Ferris and His Idea

Ever since the word got out, about there being a World's Fair in Chicago, many inventors from around the world were brainstorming new inventions they could showcase. One inventor in particular, named George Ferris had one of the greatest inventions yet to come.⁹ His idea was to create something, that would challenge engineers and overpower the Eiffel Tower. The Eiffel Tower was France's latest invention that wowed anyone who saw it.¹⁰ But Ferris wanted something bigger than

⁸ "If evenings at the fair were seductive, the nights were ravishing. The lamps that laced every building and walkway produced the most elaborate demonstration of electric illumination ever attempted and the first large-scale test of alternating current. The fair alone consumed three times as much electricity as the entire city of Chicago. These were important engineering milestones, but what visitors adored was the sheer beauty of seeing so many lights ignited in one place, at one time. Every building, including the Manufactures and Liberal Arts Building, was outlined in white bulbs. Giant searchlights -- the largest ever made and said to be visible sixty miles away -- had been mounted on the Manufactures' roof and swept the grounds and surrounding neighborhoods. Large colored bulbs lit the hundred-foot plumes of water that burst from the MacMonnies Fountain." ... it "was like getting a sudden vision of Heaven." -- *The Devil in the White City*, by Erik Larson.

⁹ George Washington Gale Ferris Jr. was an American engineer born in Gettysburg, Illinois

¹⁰ Eiffel Tower was the great structure of the Paris International Exposition of 1889

that. Anytime George shared his ideas with his planners, they always suggested something “original, daring and unique”. Ferris responded with a suggested wheel from which visitors would be able to view the whole exhibition from above.¹¹The planners feared his design, because a rotating wheel towering over the grounds could not be safe, but Ferris persisted. He returned in a few weeks with several approved endorsements from established engineers. The committee then agreed to allow construction to start.

Constructing the wheel in time for the World's Fair was fairly difficult, but Ferris knew and believed that he could do it. With a group of intelligent engineers he could do the impossible. George and his team quickly started to draft out what the wheel should look like. After many unsuccessful attempts and several different designs, the designers finally accepted their idea of a great wheel.¹² The great wheel was supported by two 140 foot steel towers and a 45 foot axle. The wheel had a diameter of 250 feet, was 264 feet tall, and had 36 wooden carts.¹³ When the wheel was finished, it needed a name, since George thought “the great wheel” wasn’t anything special. Suddenly, one of his workers came up with the “Ferris Wheel”, in honor of George’s last name. It was finally decided that the Ferris Wheel would be presented at the World’s Columbian Exposition, two months after it opened.

¹¹ A wheel that would "Out-Eiffel Eiffel."

¹² Ferris' first three plans were rejected because they believed such an elaborate and complex wheel would create many dangers, not only for the people riding it, but also for the builders

¹³ Wilson, Steven. Ferris Wheels.Steven Wilson: Rides, Towers, and More 21 April 2003. 30

The Fair Opens

On May 1, 1893, The World's Columbian Exposition finally opened. Beautiful architecture and incredible new inventions flooded the city. Opening day was crowded with a bunch of people from all over the world, who came to see how much Chicago changed, since the Great Fire. Inventors displayed their new inventions, hoping to wow the judges and audience. The daily admission price was 50¢ (\$12 today), which was a reasonable amount of pay, since the construction costed a fortune. The fair received a lot of funds the first week, but then it started slowing down, which meant something needed to be changed. Many responses from the public said that the inventions were "cool, but not super exciting". Luckily, Chicago had its last chance to redeem itself, by bringing The Ferris Wheel. Rumors were told that the wheel was supposed to be "something impossible or one of a kind". Everyone hoped that it would live up to those standards, otherwise the fair would stop attracting people and probably shut down.

The Ferris Wheel, which was not finished until mid-June, six weeks into the fair¹⁴, proved to be a major attraction and helped save the fair from bankruptcy. It costed fifty cents to ride the Ferris Wheel, but people were willing to pay because the ride gave a magnificent view of the White City. Others on the other hand, still thought the cost was pricey and a risky thing to do. But George saw past that and kept the ride running. It carried 38,000 passengers daily, taking 20 minutes to complete two revolutions. It was definitely an eye grabber that you could see from far away. Some people thought it really outdid "Out-Eiffel Eiffel", because it wasn't a building, but an amusement ride, that

¹⁴ because it was approved so late due to indecisiveness of the board of directors

you could be a part of.¹⁵ Others said it was nonsense or unneeded, because it caused more chaos in the city. The Ferris Wheel operated from June 1895 until 1903, when it was again dismantled, then transported by rail to St. Louis for the 1904 World's Fair. Despite the disagreements, the wheel definitely helped Chicago grow as a city, because it brought tremendous attention and visitors. The more publicity the World's Fair and Chicago received, meant more jobs and opportunities for the people.¹⁶

Impact On Chicago

In conclusion, The World's Columbian Exposition proved to be a windfall for Chicago workers during the serious economic recession, that was sweeping the country. It gave people the chance to express their creativity that could someday make an impact on the World today. If the city let the people who didn't want to host the fair in Chicago win the conflict, Chicago would never be the same. The World's Columbian Exposition helped Chicago grow significantly in many different ways. After the fair ended, culture, technology, education, and architecture increased tremendously.

The cultural legacy of the fair is not quite as obvious, but still extremely important and effective. The World's Fair presented itself as a cultural event, and included music as an important element in that scheme. The Exposition gave the United States a new holiday- Columbus Day and a different method of inculcating patriotism in schools, the

¹⁵ Being apart of: riding it

¹⁶ *St. Johnsbury Caledonian*. [volume] (St. Johnsbury, Vt.), 05 Oct. 1893. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84023253/1893-10-05/ed-1/seq-6/>

I used this newspaper article to get more information about how the Fair effected Chicagoans lives.

Pledge of Allegiance. The Columbian Exposition was an outlet for the debut of consumer products, which are familiar today. That included: Cream of Wheat, Pabst Beer, Aunt Jemima syrup, Shredded Wheat, and Juicy Fruit gum. All these cultural ideas and processes evolved from the World's Fair, and made such a big difference in life today. Without them, people wouldn't have the same appreciation for America in schools, different popular foods and food names wouldn't be around, and their daily lives wouldn't be the same.

The World's Columbian Exposition showed the way to modern America through its emphasis on technology, specifically electricity. Electricity would become a highly significant part of business and consumption with a new identity. Technology was no longer to be the frightening or overpowering, sudden switch from an agrarian to an industrial nation, but an augury for a new age of American progress. Once most American's views on technology changed from frightening, to a path of hopes and dreams, they saw a reflection of their own progressive nature and bright future.¹⁷ The connection of electricity with progress in the fair showed visitors that technology was not a force to be feared, but celebrated. Technology at the World's Columbian Exposition set Americans on the path toward modernity in the twentieth century, which made a huge impact on the world today. Almost everything people use today is associated with technology, which was adapted from the fair.

Many visitors found some form of education on the grounds of the fair, which were not necessarily intended by the management. The idea that the fair was a great

¹⁷ "The medium of the fair clearly held grand potential for rendering America's civil religion of progress an international faith." (Rydell, 70)

place for learning and enrichment, was taken wholeheartedly by the public. That made Americans want to start learning more about other movements, like the Chautauqua lecture movement¹⁸. But it was decided by teachers and directors that Americans were not ready to learn about that yet. Students and parents argued that the Fair was a unique opportunity to do so. Officials' accounts and personal reactions found nearly every aspect of the Fair was some kind of "object-lesson"¹⁹ That's when it was decided that students could learn about different movements. Learning about other movements changed teaching, because students could explore more about other countries and cities.

Architecture was one of the most improved aspects that was adopted from the World's Fair. Before the fair, architecture wasn't nearly as advanced as it was after. When Daniel Burnham created the White City, it opened a door for way more improved and unimaginable construction. Nobody thought it was possible to create buildings that were so rustic and modern. Once more architects saw the White City, they expanded their creativity to build more advanced buildings, that modernized throughout time.²⁰

The World's Columbian Exposition may have not been the most attended or popular World's Fair (Appendix A), but it definitely made the biggest difference on Chicago and the World today. Chicago grew tremendously as a city when new

¹⁸ an adult education movement in the United States

¹⁹ Americans could become more knowledgeable and cultured

²⁰ Results included grand buildings and fountains built around Olmstedian parks, shallow pools of water on axis to central buildings, larger park systems, broad boulevards and parkways and, after the turn of the century, zoning laws and planned suburbs. Examples of the City Beautiful movement works include the City of Chicago, the Columbia University campus, and the National Mall in Washington D.C.

inventions and ideas were brought to the World's Fair. People took those inventions and ideas, and made them into something we use every day. Even if they were around before the fair, they wouldn't be as modern and helpful to people to live their daily lives. The ideas and inventions that sprouted from The World's Columbian Exposition left a legacy that can still be felt in all aspects of life.

Appendix A

(The World's Fairs)

| <u>City</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>Attendance</u> |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
| London | 1851 | 26 | \$1,775,000 | 6,039,105 |
| New York | 1853 | 13 | \$640,000 | 1,250,000 |
| Paris | 1855 | 24 ½ | £1,000,000 | 5,162,330 |
| London | 1862 | 25 | £460,000 | 6,211,103 |
| Paris | 1867 | 41 | £800,000 | 6,805,969 |
| Vienna | 1873 | 40 | 2,200,000 | 6,740,000 |
| Philadelphia | 1876 | 236 | \$8,980,000 | 8,004,274 |
| Paris | 1878 | 66 | f55,400,000 | 16,032,725 |
| Sydney | 1879 | 15 | £313,987 | 1,117,536 |
| Melbourne | 1880 | 20 | £330,330 | 1,330,279 |
| London | 1886 | 13 | £215,218 | 5,550,745 |
| Paris | 1889 | 72 | f44,000,000 | 32,350,297 |
| Chicago | 1893 | 686 | \$28,340,700 | 21,477,212 |
| Paris | 1900 | 336 | £4,660,000 | 39,000,000 |
| Buffalo | 1901 | 350 | \$8,860,757 | 8,304,073 |
| St. Louis | 1904 | 1,240 | \$26,564,000 | 12,804,000 |
| London | 1908 | 140 | £783,521 | 8,396,673 |
| Brussels | 1910 | 200 | £702,933 | 4,196,930 |
| San Francisco | 1915 | 635 | \$24,690,770 | 13,127,103 |
| Wembley | 1924-1925 | 200 | £4,396,840 | 27,102,498 |
| Philadelphia | 1926 | 450 | \$26,000,000 | 5,852,783 |
| Paris | 1931 | 500 | f225,000,000 | 33,500,000 |
| Chicago | 1933-1934 | 424 | \$42,900,989 | 39,052,236 |
| Brussels | 1935 | 375 | ----- | 26,000,000 |
| Paris | 1937 | 250 | f17,000,000 | 34,000,000 |
| New York | 1939-1940 | 1,217 | \$67,010,989 | 44,932,978 |
| London | 1951 | ----- | £11,500,000 | 18,000,000 |
| Brussels | 1958 | 500 | \$400,000,000 | 41,454,412 |
| Seattle | 1962 | 74 | \$100,000,000 | 9,639,969 |
| New York | 1965 | 646 | \$150,000,000 | 51,607,548 |
| Montreal | 1967 | 1,000 | \$300,000,000 | 50,306,648 |
| San Antonio | 1968 | 93 | ----- | 6,400,000 |
| Osaka | 1970 | 815 | \$220,000,000 | 64,218,770 |

Appendix A shows all the World's Fairs from the late 1850s-1970s. This chart provides important details, which makes all the fairs unique.

Frederick P. Pittera, *Fairs of the World* (unpublished) Reprinted permission of *The Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc, 1973 Edition*.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Letters:

"Atherton Loring Wrote a Letter Informing That His Friends Would Be Attending the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition." Letter to John Glidden. 1893

Atherton Loring wrote the letter to inform John Glidden that his friends would be attending the Fair. The letter helped me realize how much the World's Columbian Exposition meant to people. It wasn't something you could miss. It seemed to be that if you attended, you felt the need to tell everyone.

"Petition Signed by Thomas A. Edison for Sunday Openings at the World's Columbian Exposition." Letter. 4 Jan. 1893

<https://www.archives.gov/files/education/lessons/edison-petition/images/cover-letter.gif>

This letter repealed the Act that stated the Fair was closed on Sundays. That act contributed a big change to the overall attendance of the fair. Without it, less people would have volunteered to work the fair, but attendance started going down for a while. As a result of the Act, it brought the fair some more attention, but also didn't satisfy a majority of people.

Maps:

"All the World's a Fair: Visions of Empire at American International Expositions." Studebaker Map of World's Columbian Fairgrounds, 1893. Harris, Neil, Wim De Wit, James Gilbert, and Robert Rydell, 1893. Web. 29 Nov. 2017.

<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/1386.html>

This map was of the World's Columbian Fairgrounds in 1893. The map showed exactly where everything was placed, and how it was constructed. By looking at this map, it helped me write an accurate statement about Burnham's construction plans.

Newspapers:

St. Johnsbury Caledonian. [volume] (St. Johnsbury, Vt.), 05 Oct. 1893. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.

<<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84023253/1893-10-05/ed-1/seq-6/>>

I used this newspaper article to get more information about how the Fair effected Chicagoans lives. Within this article were job sign up sheets, which gave more people opportunities to work for a period of time. I used all this information as feedback from locals on how they felt about The World's Columbian Exposition being in Chicago. The article made it easy to see why some people wanted the Fair hosted Chicago, but also why some didn't.

"The Evening World." *The Evening World* [(New York, N.Y.)] 21 Oct. 1892, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress

<<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030193/1892-10-21/ed-3/seq-1/>>

This newspaper article gave me first hand information about the Fair's inventions and inventors. It included images and interviews about the inventions and buildings. This really helped me understand the view of The World's Fair from the Inventors perspective.

Photographs:

Charles J. Johnson and Marianne Mather. "Take a 'walking Tour' of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition - the 'White City'." *Chicagotribune.com*. Chicago Tribune, 04 May 2017. Web.

<<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/history/ct-the-white-city-20170503-htmllstory.html>>

I used this website's pictures to view every single building in the White City. It helped me see how modern Chicago became and what effect it had on the people who came to visit. Surrounding the modern buildings were tourists from around the world. By looking deeply at what the people looked like, it helped me define which Countries and States most people came from. That information was helpful for when I sorted out Appendix A.

Official Views Of The World's Columbian Exposition: *The Midway, From Ferris Wheel, Looking East, 1893*; Source: the Project Gutenberg EBook of Official views Of The World's Columbian Exposition; Author: C. D. Arnold (1844-1927); H. D. Higinbotham

By looking at this photo, it showed me a detailed overview of the World's Fair, from the Ferris Wheel's viewpoint, looking east. It was very helpful because by looking at this picture, I could understand why people kept returning to the wheel. The wheel had become a very popular way to see the whole fair from uptop at different angles. It provided the full view of all the buildings and statues.

Stanley Appelbaum, *The Chicago World's Fair of 1893: A Photographic Record*

This photographic record visually explained to me what the Ferris Wheel looked like in huge detail and how it compares to the other inventions. The photos helped me decide if the Ferris Wheel was the centerpiece of The World's Columbian Exposition, or not. I did that by using details from the photos to see where the wheel was placed and the population of people around it.

Speeches:

"Voices From The 1893 Chicago World's Fair." *Voices From The 1893 Chicago World's Fair*. Fair Director General Davis, 1 May 1893.

<https://park.org/Guests/WWWvoice/1893chi.html>

During this speech, General Davis explains how this fair made a huge impact on the world. He quotes, "It is the grandest conception of all the minds and best obtainable results of all the efforts put forth by the people."

General Davis's speech changed most of the bad the opinions on the World's Fair. After he spoke, some people started to realize how much of an impact the fair brought to Chicago. I contributed that information in my last paragraph to give a strong statement on why afterall it was a fantastic idea Chicago hosted The World's Columbian Exposition.

"Voices From The 1893 Chicago World's Fair." *Voices From The 1893 Chicago World's Fair*. Novelist Hamlin Garland to his parents.
1893.<<https://park.org/Guests/WWWvoice/1893chi.html>>

Novelist Hamlin Garland quoted, "Sell the cook the stove if necessary and come. You must see the fair."

Garland wanted to express that The World's Columbian Exposition was a once in a lifetime experience, and you wouldn't want to miss it. When he said, "Sell the cook the stove if necessary and come.", he was trying to inform everyone that no matter what you had to give up or miss to see the fair, it was totally worth it.

Secondary Sources

Articles:

Bunner, H. C "Making of the White City." *Scribner's Monthly* 12 (October 1892) [New York : Scribner's, 1892] Lawrence J. Gutter Collection of Chicagoans Detached from: Scribner's magazine, v. 12, 1892.

This magazine article provided information on the making of the White City and how it affected Chicago. The magazine gave clear, true facts about how the White City was made and what legacy it brought. I used this information for my conclusion to give a final point on how the World's Columbian Exposition effected Chicago.

St. Johnsbury Caledonian. [volume] (St. Johnsbury, Vt.), 05 Oct. 1893. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress.
<<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84023253/1893-10-05/ed-1/seq-6/>>

I used this newspaper article to get more information about how the Fair effected Chicagoans lives. Within this article were job sign up sheets, which gave more people opportunities to work for a period of time. I used all this information as feedback from locals on how they felt about The World's Columbian Exposition being in Chicago. The article made it easy to see why some people wanted the Fair hosted Chicago, but also why some didn't.

Books:

Miller, Donald L. *City of the Century: The Epic of Chicago and the Making of America*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2003. Print.

This book gave me information on Chicago's growth as the "White City". It also provided drawings of the fair as well. I used the information about Chicago's growth when I talked about how the city became more modern.

Muccigrosso, Robert. *Celebrating the New World: Chicago's Columbian Exposition of 1893*. Chicago: I.R. Dee, 1993. Print.

This book contained facts about how the Great Fair showed great American values. I used that information to help me argue that Chicago was impacted successfully from World's Columbian Exposition. Drawings in the book made it easier to visualize everything and put my thoughts together.

Films/Videos:

Chicago City of the Century. Dir. Austin Hoyt. Perf. David Ogden Stiers. American Experience, 1988. DVD.

This set of films helped me visualize the White City in great detail, because it included all the buildings and inventions from every possible angle. As the buildings and inventions were being shown, a historian would voiceover the most important facts about what was showed. That was a great way to learn more about specific parts of The White City.

World Columbian Exposition Fair of 1893 (UCLA 3D Recreation). *World Columbian Exposition Fair of 1893 (UCLA 3D Recreation)*. UCLA Berkeley, 1893. Web. 10 Nov. 2010. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=182&v=CSDusnazo8s>.

I used this video to view an in depth 3D presentation of the World's Fair. It showed the whole fairgrounds and everything around it. It was different from all the other models of the World's Fair, because provided trees, lakes, and an inside look of every building.

Websites:

"Chicago's Ferris Wheel Story." *Chicago Architecture Foundation - CAF*. Marko Dumlija, n.d. Web

<<http://www.architecture.org/architecture-chicago/topics-news/evolving-chicago/chicago-s-ferris-wheel-story/>>.

This website provided information on how the Ferris Wheel made an impact on the World today, and how the same concepts are used now.

Ho, Violette HP. "The Ferris Wheel, the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, and the Display of American Superiority." *Inquiries Journal/Student Pulse* 8.04 (2016).

<<http://www.inquiriesjournal.com/a?id=1391>>

This website gave me loads of information on the Ferris Wheel and it's background. The information from this website was different from the others, because it gave very descriptive information from start to finish about the Ferris Wheel.

Tarantola, Andrew. "The Life and Explosive Death of the World's First Ferris Wheel." *Gizmodo*. Gizmodo.com, 28 Feb. 2013. Web.

<https://gizmodo.com/5987466/the-life-and-explosive-death-of-the-worlds-first-ferris-wheel>

The website gave me tons of information about the birth of The Ferris Wheel and the legacy it brought to today's world. This information helped me write about George Ferris's idea and how he started working on the wheel. The website also stated the legacy the wheel left on Chicago. I used that information to help me argue why the Ferris Wheel was an amazing invention.

Leslie Maryann Neal on January 13, 2017. "What Remains Of The 1893 Chicago World's Fair." *All That Is Interesting*. N.p., 13 Jan. 2017. Web.

<<http://all-that-is-interesting.com/1893-chicago-fair>>.

This website has articles within it about what's left of the fair. Some things stayed brand new, while others didn't. That information helped me come together with a great conclusion.

CHICAGO METRO HISTORY FAIR 2018 SUMMARY STATEMENT

Student name(s) Jenna Battista

Title: Chicago's 1893 World's Columbian Exposition

Project Category: Junior Division

Research Paper

Word Count: 2, 141

1. THESIS STATEMENT

Present the project's argument or interpretation in two sentences. If you are using NHD theme, you might want to make it evident in your thesis statement.

Chicago's 1893 World's Columbian Exposition was a celebration of American culture, values, creativity, and opportunities. It gave the City of Chicago a tremendous economic impact, because it created a blueprint that helped make the city more modern at the time, and rebuild itself after it was destroyed by the Great Chicago Fire. As more people from all over the World heard rumors about the event being hosted in Chicago, because of how modern it had become, it attracted more people to the city. Despite the controversy in hosting the event, the Fair resulted in the building of the White City, and the Ferris Wheel, which brought more attention to the city of Chicago. Chicago prevailed the World by showing everyone how we never gave up and lost faith after our city collapsed.

2. SUMMARY OF PROJECT

Briefly explain your project and its conclusion. Include: How and Why did change happen and what was the impact? Why is it historically significant? What historical meaning or importance can we learn from your findings?

My research paper was on the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition hosted in Chicago. This World's Fair made a tremendous impact on Chicago, because it modernized the city and it gave more Chicagoans job opportunities. Inventors took the opportunity to put forth their new ideas into something real, which could influence many people in the future. Inventions like: zippers, spray paint, and dishwashers, helped staple Chicago into our modern culture. The World's Columbian Exposition is historically significant, because if we didn't recognize it, we wouldn't know where most of our daily uses came from.

3. Required for projects using the National History Day theme only.

Explain how this project integrates the NHD theme “Conflict and Compromise in (Chicago/Illinois) History” into this argument.

The World’s Columbian Exposition ties in with the NHD theme, “Conflict and Compromise in (Chicago/Illinois) History”, because the fair faced many problems, which eventually got solved. Many people thought that if Chicago hosted the World’s Fair, the city wouldn’t benefit from it, but lose population. Others argued that it was an opportunity for Chicago to rebuild itself, after the tragedy of the Chicago Fire. In the end, Chicagoans compromised a solution that they would try hosting the event in Chicago, which came out as a great success. Another conflict was the George Ferris’s idea of the Ferris Wheel. People feared a giant wheel towering over Chicago, because it could cause accidents. Others took the risk and thought it would become a great part of the city.

4. PROCESS

- What historical question did you start off with and how did it change once you began doing your research?

I started off with the question, “What impact did the World’s Columbian Exposition made on Chicago and how did it affect the people who lived there?”

After I did a little more research, I discovered that the World’s Columbian Exposition made an impact on Chicago by modernizing it, which gave Chicagoans better job opportunities. After tying all that information together, I came up with a new question. “In what ways did Chicago benefit from World’s Columbian Exposition making Chicago modern and what impact did it have on Chicagoans jobs?”

I changed my question, because I wanted to focus more on Chicago becoming modern and how that benefited the city.

- What kind of sources did you use as evidence to develop your argument (for example, letters, photographs, government documents, interviews, etc.)?

I used a variety of sources to help me complete my argument and make it strong. Many photographs such as, “Stanley Appelbaum, *The Chicago World's Fair of 1893: A Photographic Record*”, which helped me visualize how modern Chicago looked. I could

easily see what looked new and advanced, because it stood out. Many people who lived through the fair also saw changes in their daily lives. *Chicago City of the Century DVD* showed me the impact on Chicagoans lives, while explaining to me the ways it influenced job opportunities. Another example would be a speech I found of General Davis saying how this fair made a huge impact on the World. He quotes, *“It is the grandest conception of all the minds and best obtainable results of all the efforts put forth by the people.”*

- Select one piece of evidence that you used and explain how it influenced your argument.

The World’s Columbian Exposition was the birthplace of all the new inventions that flooded Chicago. An invention that I found modernized the city and gave more job opportunities, was the Ferris Wheel. George Ferris built the wheel hoping to bring something impossible and unheard of to Chicago. Luckily, his plan worked, offering an advance in technology and engineering. The Ferris Wheel modernized Chicago by proving to the World that we can test our limits with constructing. Now that people knew it was possible to create something so advanced, people took more risks and started improving their building skills. The Ferris Wheel offered Chicagoans job opportunities, like operating the wheel or repairing it. It also became a travel destination for many visitors. The Ferris Wheel influenced my argument, because it perfectly shows that no matter how many conflicts and setbacks you endure along the way, believing in yourself and following your vision should never stop you from making it a reality.

- List libraries (other than school), museums, and other institutions that you visited to do your research.

- ❖ LaGrange Public Library
- ❖ Chicago History Museum