

## Essential Sculpture

- Palm House: *Garden Figure*. Frederick Hibbard created a plaster version for an exhibit in 1930. After seeing it, Robert Dunham, President of the Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners, agreed to personally pay \$2,000 to create a marble version. Completed in 1937, the intention was to display it in Jackson Park but, due to construction delays, the Chicago Park District installed it in the Lincoln Park Conservatory instead in 1940.
- Orchid House: *Goddess of Youth*. This concrete sculptural fountain depicts Hebe, the Greek goddess of youth. The original sculpture was made by Danish artist Bertel Thorvaldsen in the early 1800s. Its popularity was such that by the mid-to-late 20th century, replicas of the sculpture were mass produced and widely distributed. This copy likely dates to the 1930s or 1940s. It was installed in the Garfield Park Conservatory sometime in the 1960s and moved to the Lincoln Park Conservatory before 1980.
- Formal Garden: the *Bates Fountain*, also known as *Storks at Play*. Installed in 1887, the bronze elements in the fountain, composed of birds, fish, and childlike half-boy, half-fish creatures, were created by Augustus Saint-Gaudens and Frederick MacMonnies. Eli Bates, a pioneer in the lumber business died in 1881 and left \$25,000 for the Lincoln statue in the southern end of the Park and \$10,000 for an ornamental fountain. Saint-Gaudens was commissioned as sculptor for both. Architects McKim, Mead, & White designed the circular base of the fountain. Restored by the Lincoln Park Conservancy.
- Formal Garden (south end): the *Friedrich Schiller Monument*. Installed in 1886 and paid for by the Chicago Citizens of German Descent, this monument is an exact replica of a Schiller statue in Stuttgart, Germany. It was sculpted by Ernst Rau and features a traditional base, a very high and decorative pedestal.
- Grandmother's Garden: the *William Shakespeare Monument*. The monument, purchased by a bequest from real estate and railroad tycoon Samuel Johnston, was sculpted by William Ordway Partridge, and installed in 1894. Partridge, who was a graduate student at the time, won a competition to create the monument. Since no one knows exactly what Shakespeare looked like, Partridge studied over 100 portraits of the famous playwright, visited London and Stratford-on-Avon, and consulted with Shakespearian actors in an effort to make the statue as accurate as possible. A plaster model of the monument was displayed at the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. Partridge had the work cast in bronze in Paris and shipped to Chicago. This monument exemplifies the naturalistic style of sculpture popular in the 1890s and early 20th century. The Shakespeare monument was restored by the Lincoln Park Conservancy.
- Lincoln Park (south end): *Couch Tomb*. The *Couch Tomb* is the last above-ground reminder of Lincoln Park's earlier history as a public cemetery. It was designed by John M. Van Osdel, the city's first professional architect. It is not entirely clear why it was left behind when the cemetery became a park. By 1899, the Lincoln Park Commissioners asserted that "...it would be impossible to remove the vault, except at great expense, and the Commissioners preferred to allow it to remain as an interesting reminder of the Park's origin." In 1999, the Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust donated approximately \$100,000 to clean and tuck-point the tomb, recreate its original ornamental fencing, and install lighting for nighttime illumination.