



Chicago Chopin Foundation
501(c) (3) nonprofit organization
All contributions are tax deductible

Mail contributions to:
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October 13, 2011

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT BOARD

Re: CHOPIN MONUMENT AND CHOPIN GARDEN IN GRANT PARK IN CHICAGO

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Chicago Chopin Foundation respectfully requests the Board of Directors of the Chicago Park District to officially grant permission and designate a site to construct a bronze sculpture of Frederic Chopin on a permanent base in Grant Park at 11th Street and Michigan Ave.

The Foundation also respectfully requests an additional area to be used as a permanent stage to perform classical music concerts at the foot of the monument to accommodate both the audience and artists during performances. The area could collectively be referred to as the "CHOPIN GARDEN".

We envision the monument as a bronze replica of the famous Art Nouveau sculpture of Chopin in Warsaw in 3/4 of the original size - 15' 9" tall on a 5' high stone base.

The Chopin Garden will be an excellent location for cultural events. This arrangement can also be seen as a great supplement to large scale music productions held at The Pritzker Pavilion.

We believe in creating a new cultural tradition in Chicago, where people can listen to Chopin's music outdoors during the summer months. Performers will deliver quality entertainment without the high budget costs or expense ordinarily associated with concerts of this caliber.

We have deemed this location to be the perfect site for the construction of the monument and concert area. Residents and visitors will find it a suitable place to listen to live music while enjoying the open air and sites of Chicago. The area is easily accessible by various modes of transportation.

Nearby music schools could provide access to young, talented musicians who can perform recitals, concerts, and pianists' competitions. The site will serve as a place where students from nearby Columbia School of Music and other musical schools will have the opportunity to present their talent directly to Grant Park public.

The Chopin monument along with the existing Agora sculptures will generate crowds and create a significant point of interest. The surrounding area will acquire a coherent architectural and cultural image that will be further integrated into an elegant part of southwest corner of Grant Park.

The Chopin concerts will also present economic benefits and numerous financial opportunities to the city. Locals, suburban residents, and tourists alike will come to enjoy Grant Park while participating in the musical performances at the Chopin Garden in a less formal environment.

The intention of the Chicago Chopin Foundation 501 (c) (3) is to raise funds from corporate donors, private donations, grants, and fund raisers. Our estimated budgeted goal is \$ 1.6 million. The Chopin Garden will be financed by the Foundation.

The Foundation as well as other designated entities will also organize concerts and performances that will run in close cooperation with the Grant Park program of summer events. The Foundation will adapt the existing site and the current layout of the area to the new function with no cost to the Chicago Park District. As soon as we receive your favorable response, the Chicago Chopin Foundation will respectfully ask the CPD Board for a determination letter for the project, confirming your support to construct the Chopin Garden at the designated site.

The construction of two brand new monuments of Chopin in Japan and in China is only the most recent testimony to the constantly growing popularity of Chopin's music worldwide. Only Warsaw and Chicago will have live performances. This project has popular support among many Chicagoans as well as Polish Americans from numerous cultural, social, educational, and international organizations in the US and from all over the world. A monument of Chopin could be a great tribute not only to this iconic composer, but to the arts of music and musician in general.

Attachments:

- Visual representation of the settings of the monument, integrated with the circular stage in the form of the piano keyboard and the surrounding listening area.
- Conceptual design from Chicago's architectural company Ridgeland Associates Inc. selected to design the future Chopin Garden in Grant Park.

The present proposal is the result of various changes and recommendations implemented after numerous consultations with the Planning Department and Department of Natural Resources of the Chicago Park District.

With Kindest Regards,

Respectfully Yours,

Voytek Putz, President
Chicago Chopin Foundation

cc: Mr. Bob O'Neill
Grant Park Conservancy