

Faces of History: 100 Years of our Founding Fathers

The portraits in the *Faces of History: 100 Years of our Founding Fathers* exhibit are part of the Chicago Public Schools art collection. They represent the founders of several of our schools.

Portraits are an expression of self but also can tell us about family and community. Many things can be learned from the subjects' point of view, clothing, mood, the composition and color of the painting. Portraiture has an interesting place in the history of art and artists.

The portraits in this exhibit represent 100 years of Chicago Public Schools history. By better understanding the past we can prepare for the future.

We would like to thank our schools for loaning their paintings and for the following schools for hosting the traveling portrait exhibit:

Region 1 – Carl Schurz High School
February – April 2000

Region 2 – Laughlin Falconer School
April – August 2000

Walter Payton College Prep High School
August – December 2000

Region 3 - Galileo Scholastic Academy
December 2000 – February 2001

Region 4 - Florence Nightingale School
February – April 2001

Region 5 - Bret Harte Elementary School
April – August 2001

Region 6 – John Marsh School
August – December 2001



John Peter Altgeld
Unknown
Oil on canvas
50" x 40"

John Peter Altgeld served as Governor of Illinois from 1893-1897. Early in his term as Governor, he was asked to review the sentences of surviving prisoners convicted after the Haymarket affair. He saw that a great injustice had been done and issued a pardon for the survivors. The next year, during the Pullman strike, Mr. Altgeld refused to send in troops against the striking railway workers and protested when President Cleveland defied his authority as Governor and broke the strike. Vilified and ridiculed at the time, Mr. Altgeld is now seen as one of Illinois' most upright and heroic politicians.



Mary McLeod Bethune
Rudolph Florence
Oil on wood panel
24" x 28"

Mary McLeod Bethune, an educator, devoted her life to the improvement of educational opportunities for African Americans. She was appointed to various governmental posts, but when she became Director of the Division of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration, she became the first African American woman to head a federal agency.



R. Nathaniel Dett
Ronald Groves
1978
Oil on canvas
23" x 29"

Robert Nathaniel Dett was a composer, pianist and conductor. As a director for the internationally renowned Hampton Institute Choir, he received numerous prizes and international acclaim. He was a protégé of E. Azalia Hackley who helped encourage his interest in Black Folk Music. His compositional works reflect the melodic and rhythmic sounds of Black Music.



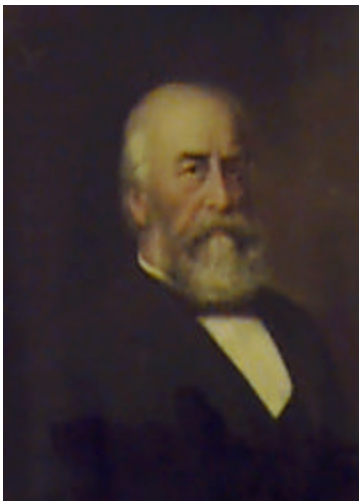
Frank Lehman Gillespie
William Edouard Scott
1925
Oil on canvas
60" x 71"

Frank Lehman Gillespie was a gifted entrepreneur in an era that did not promote African American businessmen. His remarkable success as the founder of the Liberty Life Insurance Company in 1919 enabled him to open the doors of opportunity to many Negro men and women. The Frank Lehman Gillespie School was built in 1935 and named in his honor.



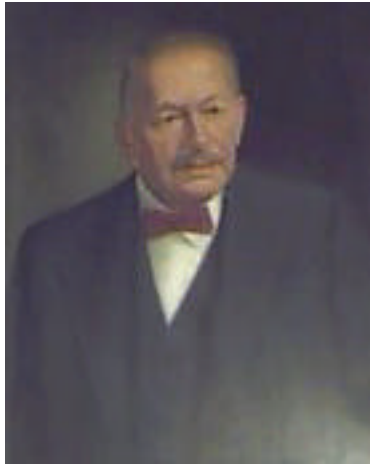
Dr. Frank W. Gunsaulus
Arvid Nyholm
Oil on canvas
40" x 40"

Dr. Frank W. Gunsaulus was a clergyman who began his religious career in the stockyard region of Chicago. He was very concerned about many defects in the educational system, which he believed could be corrected. He worked diligently on a sermon explaining how he would build a wonderful school of higher learning if he had a million dollars. When he finished, Philip D. Armour, moved by the sermon, approached him and offered Dr. Gunsaulus the million dollars to build his school. Together they established the Armour Institute of Technology, known today as the Illinois Institute of Technology.



Carter Harrison, Sr.
Hermann Schultz
Oil on canvas
27" x 33"

Carter Harrison, Sr. was Mayor of Chicago from 1879 to 1893. He was assassinated while in office. The historical Colombian Exposition of 1893, a phenomenal international event, unfolded under his leadership. It is interesting to note that his son, Carter Harrison, Jr., was also the Mayor of Chicago.



Oscar F. Mayer
Julin Ducturo
Oil on canvas
32" x 37"

Oscar Mayer came to the United States at the age of 14 and settled in Chicago's near north side German neighborhood in the 1880's. His retail meat market was a huge success and grew to one of the best known in the country. Their innovative marketing set new standards for the food industry. The Oscar Mayer company sponsored children's shows such as "The Wonderful World of Disney."



Donald L. Morrill
D.D. Coombs
1926
Oil on canvas
38" x 47"

Judge Donald L. Morrill began his career in Chicago as a principal at the Von Humboldt School, Anderson and Douglas Schools. Early in his educational career he became convinced of the necessity of night schools to educate the large number of immigrants coming into the United States. A system of night schools was established in the City of Chicago in 1887, and he was the first Superintendent. In 1891 he became the President of the Board of Education. He later became the attorney for the Board. In 1899, he resigned as Board attorney to enter a private practice.



Jane A. Neil
Ivy Babitt
Photograph
20" x 23"

The Jane Neil School was named for this Chicago teacher, Principal and District Superintendent. She was a pioneer in the field of educating the physically disabled. Neil School was originally opened in 1953. Students unable to attend classes for medical reasons were offered a home-bound instruction program. Through her efforts, Ms. Neil elevated awareness of the educational needs of disabled children and young adults.



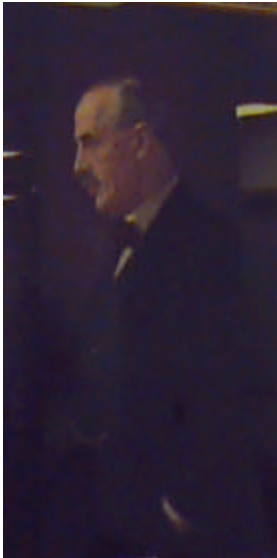
Helen C. Peirce
Walter Brownson
Oil on canvas
35" x 29"

Helen Peirce was a humanitarian who worked tirelessly to improve the lives and education of children, particularly children who were disadvantaged. The founding president of the Lake View Woman's Club, she is remembered for her dedication to the children of Chicago.



Charles Proteus Steinmetz
H. M. Molt Smith
Oil on canvas
33" x 41"

Charles Proteus Steinmetz was an electrical engineer who devised the method of solving circuit problems using complex notation. He also discovered the Law of Hysteresis and studied the properties of lighting. He made many brilliant discoveries and is credited with over 200 patents. In the many photographs and paintings of Mr. Steinmetz, he is always seen with his cigar.



Edward Tilden
Unknown
Oil on canvas
36" x 46"

A small suburban school began to serve Lake Township in 1861. In 1905, after Lake Township was annexed to Chicago, the growing institution assumed a secondary school status and renamed Edward Tilden High School. Mr. Tilden was a distinguished Chicago industrialist, one time member and President of the Chicago Board of Education, 1905-1906.



Carter G. Woodson
Donnie R. Carter
1970
Oil on canvas
37" x 47"

Carter Woodson was a renowned author and activist. He had a passion for the promotion and preservation of Black history and culture. In addition to being the founder of many organizations and writer of numerous books, he founded Black History Week, which is now Black History Month.