

# CHICAGO 92

Age of Discovery



## 1992 CHICAGO WORLD'S FAIR FACT SHEET

**PURPOSE:** To commemorate the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of the New World and the 100th anniversary of Chicago's 1893 World's Columbian Exposition.

**THEME:** "The Age of Discovery" -- All nations join hands in celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Discovery of the Americas and the great world-wide discoveries in all fields since then and to come.

**PROJECTED ATTENDANCE AND DATES:** 55 - 65 million persons, May 1 - October 31, 1992

**PLANNED SITE:** The approved location is the city's southcentral lakefront, between Balbo Drive and 31st Street, east of Lake Shore Drive. The 600-acre site will encompass exhibit areas, plazas, gardens and lagoons, and will include about 180 acres of new landfill.

**CATEGORY:** The 1992 World's Fair will be a major international exposition, designated as a universal category fair by the Paris-based Bureau of International Expositions (BIE), the body which approves and regulates all official world's fairs. The last universal category exposition held was in Osaka, Japan in 1970. The last on the North American continent was Expo '67 in Montreal. The Knoxville Fair in 1982 and the Louisiana World Exposition planned for 1984 are special category fairs, which have narrowly defined themes and usually comprise one-fifth the size of universal category expositions.

**CURRENT STATUS:** The Chicago World's Fair - 1992 Corporation received approval for a universal category fair from the U.S. Department of Commerce on November 25, 1981. In 1982, the BIE voted on June 24 to grant Chicago a provisional date reservation. After a mandatory 120-day waiting period, President Reagan formally requested final federal recognition and BIE registration of the Chicago '92 exposition on November 11. The BIE granted a final date reservation for the 1992 Chicago - Seville (Spain) Universal Exposition on December 8. Date registration -- the final international approval -- was received at the BIE's June 15, 1983 General Assembly meeting.

**THE 1992 CORPORATION:** The Chicago World's Fair - 1992 Corporation is a not-for-profit corporation comprised of more than 50 civic, labor, cultural, educational, ethnic and community leaders who are volunteering their time and expertise to bring the world's fair to Chicago in 1992. The Corporation's offices are at One First National Plaza, Chicago, IL 60603, 444-1992.