

Counterpoints
40°39'43"N 73°58'10"W
Prospect Park

What's in a monument? Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word as "a lasting evidence, reminder, or example of someone or something notable or great". Brooklyn's Prospect Park contains more than 40 monuments and statues that have been added to the park since its opening in 1867. Some monuments have different interpretations in the present-day than when they were first erected, while other notable events and people within the Brooklyn community do not yet have any representation at all. In this way, Prospect Park itself is a monument to Brooklyn, a reflection of the local community's spirit, strength, and values- changing through time.

As of October 2021, the timeline for Prospect Park's newest proposed statue of Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman to become a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, is still unclear.

This movement of *Counterpoints* explores the idea of monuments as they are built and evolve over time. Just as a statue can be a representation or reminder of a notable event or figure, a written musical score can also be seen as a monument, a memory of sound.

The table below summarizes the most popular materials used to build monuments in Prospect Park. Explore the materials below to “build” musical monuments as you witness the park changing over time. How can we use these raw materials to create meaning and significance? How do different performers interpret these building blocks, and the value derived from them? How do our representations and interpretations of monuments change through time?

Material	Frequency
Bronze	35
Granite	12
Limestone	4
Indiana Limestone	4
Marble	3
Milford Pink Granite	5
Barre Granite	2
Concrete	2

Sources:

<https://www.gothamgazette.com/city/10851-mayor-timeline-brooklyn-shirley-cisholm-statue-2020-unclear>

<https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Recreation/NYC-Parks-Monuments/6rrm-vxj9>