

**RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF JOLLIET AND MARQUETTE'S 1673 EXPEDITION**

**WHEREAS**, 2023 marks the 350th anniversary of the historic expedition of two canoes – led by Louis Jolliet and Pere Jacques Marquette – through the Great Lakes region, before traveling down the Mississippi River, up the Illinois River, and ultimately crossing the Chicago Portage and following the Chicago River to its mouth at Lake Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, Escorted by a Kaskaskia guide, the expedition spent several days surveying the land that would become Chicago, where Marquette charted a map of the area and Jolliet noted two portages – one connecting to the Des Plaines River and one connecting directly to Lake Michigan; and

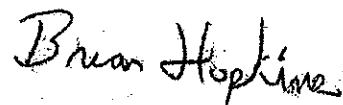
**WHEREAS**, Jolliet would be the first person to recognize the profound implication for this site if a direct maritime link were developed between the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Gulf of Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1848, Jolliet's vision was realized with the completion of the Illinois and Michigan Canal, shifting the center of North American trade to the City of Chicago, a mere six decades after its settlement by Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable, and only 11 years after the City's incorporation; and

**WHEREAS**, The 1673 Expedition led by Jolliet and Marquette laid the groundwork for not only du Sable's settlement a century later, but the vision and conditions that would turn this "Paris on the Prairie" into a key crossroads of travel, commerce, and exchange; now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago do hereby designate 2023 as a year of commemoration of the 1673 Expedition, and honor Louis Jolliet and Pere Jacques Marquette, whose innovative, open and dynamic vision played an integral part of the history of our great City; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the French Heritage Society in commemoration of the 350th anniversary of the 1673 Expedition led by Louis Jolliet and Pere Jacques Marquette.



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BRIAN HOPKINS  
Alderman, 2nd Ward