Designed to resemble an open book, Central Library is clad in limestone with impressive Art Deco detailing by sculptors Thomas Hudson Jones and Carl P. Jennewein. Perhaps the building's most striking feature is its 50-foot-high entry portico, set into a concave façade that reflects the elliptical configuration of Grand Army Plaza. The dramatic entrance is adorned by fifteen bronze sculptures of famous characters and personages from American literature, framed by columns with a series of gilded bas-reliefs depicting the evolution of art and science.

1. Hester Prynne from *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
2. Archy & Mehitabel from stories by Don Marquis
3. Meg from *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
4. Babe the Blue Ox from *The Legend of Paul Bunyan*
5. Hiawatha from the poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
7. Rip Van Winkle from the story by Washington Irving
8. Brer Rabbit from *Tales of Uncle Remus* by Joel Chandler Harris
9. Natty Bumppo from *Leatherstocking Tales* by James Fenimore Cooper
10. Moby Dick from the novel by Herman Melville
11. Walt Whitman
12. The Raven from the poem by Edgar Allen Poe
13. Tom Sawyer from the novels of Mark Twain
14. Wynken, Blynken and Nod from the poem by Eugene Fields
15. Richard Henry Dana, Jr., author of *Two Years Before the Mast*