



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CELEBRATE THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE DETROIT STARS WITH NEW EXHIBITION AT THE DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

DETROIT- Before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1947, so-called “organized” baseball was a segregated sport that banned African American players. During this era of discrimination, major league baseball stadiums were often off-limits to Negro League teams as well. Locally, the Detroit Stars played at Mack Park on the city’s east side from 1919 to 1929, before moving in 1930 to Hamtramck Stadium, one of the few remaining major Negro League ballparks in America today.

The new exhibition ***Detroit Stars & The Negro Leagues***, organized by the Detroit Historical Society’s Black Historic Sites Committee in partnership with the Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium, marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Detroit Stars and showcases the remarkable saga of Detroit’s Black baseball history. **It opens on June 15, 2019** at the Detroit Historical Museum. Admission is free.

About the exhibition: Negro League teams and their legendary players, including the Stars’ Hall of Fame outfielder Norman “Turkey” Stearnes. will be featured in rich, graphic display panels, including a life-sized painting of Stearnes by acclaimed Negro Leagues artist Phil Dewey. Upon entering the gallery, visitors will see a display dedicated to the history of women in Black Baseball. The exhibition will also include artifacts, memorabilia and a historic timeline of Black baseball in Detroit. **It will be on display through September 29, 2019.**

Celebrate the *Detroit Stars & The Negro Leagues* with an opening reception on Saturday, June 15 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Detroit Historical Museum, complete with hot dogs and refreshments. That evening, the Detroit Tigers will host the Cleveland Indians at Comerica Park, making this the perfect tailgate-style pregame party.

The reception will kick off with opening remarks from members of the Black Historic Sites Committee, followed by Turkey Stearnes’ daughter Joyce Stearnes Thompson and Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium founder Gary Gillette.

The event is free and open to the public.

More information: <https://detroithistorical.org/detroit-historical-museum/events-calendar/events-listing/negro-leagues-exhibition-opening-reception>

The Detroit Historical Society’s Black Historic Sites Committee is committed to discovering, documenting and marking the numerous sites associated with the people and the events significant to the history of Detroit and its African American community. The Committee

was formed in 1971 in response to a suggestion by former Detroit City Councilman Ernest C. Browne Jr.

The Detroit Historical Museum, located at 5401 Woodward Ave. (NW corner of Kirby) in Midtown Detroit, is open to the public Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. Parking in the Museum's lot is \$9 at all times. Group tour pricing and information is available by calling 313.833.7979. Permanent exhibits include the famous *Streets of Old Detroit*, the *Allesee Gallery of Culture*, *Kid Rock Music Lab*, *Doorway to Freedom: Detroit and the Underground Railroad*, *Detroit: The "Arsenal of Democracy,"* the *Gallery of Innovation*, *Frontiers to Factories*, *America's Motor City*, and *The Glancy Trains*. For more information, call the museum at 313.833.1805 or visit our website at detroithistorical.org.

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