



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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“AMERICA’S BROADCASTING PIONEER: WGPR-TV 62” TO OPEN SATURDAY, JANUARY 23 AT THE DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

DETROIT- When WGPR-TV Channel 62 went on the air in Detroit on September 20, 1975, it became the first African American-owned and operated television station in the United States. Explore the station’s headline-making history in **“America’s Broadcasting Pioneer: WGPR-TV 62”** set to open on **Saturday, January 23, 2016** in the Detroit Historical Museum’s Community Gallery.

Artifacts, videos, pictures and graphic images will showcase the people and history of both TV 62 and 107.5 FM, the radio station that operated concurrently at the studios of 3146 East Jefferson. Visitors will see displays featuring “The Scene”—a popular dance show hosted by Nat Morris—and discover the influence that legendary DJ the Electrifying Mojo had with recording artists from Prince to George Clinton.

“America’s Broadcasting Pioneer: WGPR-TV 62” centers around several key themes: The Founding Pioneers, Original Programming, Career Springboard, National Success Stories and a Historical Timeline. It will explore how Dr. William V. Banks, a prominent Detroit businessman, lawyer and ordained minister, made his broadcasting dreams real by founding both 107.5 FM and TV 62.

Visitors will also see a replica of the Historical Marker that was dedicated by the WGPR-TV Historical Society on January 18, 2016 at the station’s 3146 East Jefferson location. This significant chapter in Detroit’s broadcast history will be on display through April 3, 2016.

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 for all, all the time. Parking in the Museum’s lot is \$7 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 check out our website at detroithistorical.org.

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