



## Josh Gibson Heritage Park

Pittsburgh is often called the City of Champions, referring to the World Series, Super Bowl and Stanley Cup championships won by the Pirates, Steelers and Penguins. But few fans know that there was another championship team in Pittsburgh – the Homestead Grays - who won the Negro League World Series three times in 1943, 1944 and 1948. Of course, the Grays had 10 opportunities to play in the Negro League World Series from 1937 to 1948 as they dominated the Negro National League by winning the pennant 10 times during that 12-season stretch. It's no surprise that Pittsburgh was the center of Negro League activity for decades, and home to its greatest stars, including Josh Gibson.

These facts are just a few elements of the exciting history, tradition and legacy of Negro League Baseball that the Josh Gibson Heritage Park brings to residents of the Pittsburgh region and visitors from across the country.

With Josh Gibson widely recognized as the most talented and accomplished athlete ever to play in the Negro League, it is only fitting that the Park will bear his name. For a number of years, the Josh Gibson family, the Josh Gibson Foundation and several dedicated volunteers have worked to bring this concept to reality. Now with a title sponsorship from FedEx Ground, and a venue donated by Forest City Development, Josh Gibson Heritage Park will be located at Station Square in Pittsburgh's South Side neighborhood. The Park will face PNC Park across the river, where tens of thousands of young fans are excited about the sport of baseball each year.

Now those young fans, along with their parents and grandparents, will be able to learn and appreciate the true measure of baseball history in Pittsburgh. Josh Gibson Heritage Park will provide educational and cultural context to the Negro League's significant presence in the Pittsburgh region. The Park will feature historical information about two of the most successful teams in the League's history – the Homestead Grays and the Pittsburgh Crawfords. Individual monuments, designed by noted sports artist, Dino Guarino, will feature tributes to League icons including Josh Gibson, Oscar Charleston, Satchel Paige, Buck Leonard, Cool Papa Bell, Cumberland Posey, Judy Johnson and Vic Harris.

The Josh Gibson Foundation and its mission to educate children in this region will be on display with unique educational opportunities at the Park enabling visitors – especially children – to explore the many elements of the game of baseball including statistics, decision-making, teamwork and more. The Foundation expects that the Park will work closely with school districts in southwestern Pennsylvania to schedule tours for students. In addition, the Park will join with Visit Pittsburgh, the Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh Tours and other civic organizations to make Josh Gibson Heritage Park a must-see venue for people of all ages.

Groundbreaking for Josh Gibson Heritage Park is scheduled for the summer of 2016, with availability to the public targeted for Opening Day of the 2017 major league baseball season. Artist renderings, created by Astorino-Cannon Design, reflect an inviting and respectful presentation of the Negro League's history in Pittsburgh. A history truly worthy of the City of Champions.