



Baseball and Opera – In a World Premiere!

The Summer King – The Josh Gibson Story

**Special Performance and Reception Benefitting
The Josh Gibson Foundation
Presenting Sponsor – Huntington Bank**

February 1st, 2017

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The very first world premiere in Pittsburgh Opera's distinguished 78 year history, *The Summer King* tells the story of Pittsburgh's own baseball legend Josh Gibson. To coincide with this unique occasion, the Josh Gibson Foundation is hosting a special matinee performance on May 7, 2017, followed by a reception to benefit the Foundation and its many support programs for at-risk youth. With our Honorary **Chairs, Franco Harris and Evan Frazier**, and Presenting Sponsor Huntington Bank, I am pleased to request your sponsorship which will include priority tickets for both the opera at the Benedum Center and reception at the August Wilson Center.

The May 7th opera performance will also feature appearances by **Al Oliver, Franco Harris, Sean Casey and Charlie Batch and other sports celebrities** – adding to the excitement for this once-in-a-lifetime event:

Opera Performance (Benedum)

3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Sung in English

Extraordinary Cast, with Denyce Graves

One Intermission

Josh Gibson Foundation Reception (AWC)

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Cocktails and Heavy Hors D'oeuvres

Celebrity Guests

Gibson Award and Scholarship Presentations

Josh went from the sandlots of Pittsburgh's North Side to the pinnacle of greatness in the Negro Leagues. Considered one of the greatest home run hitters, most feared sluggers of any era, and called by many "the Black Babe Ruth," Josh Gibson left an undeniable legacy of greatness and accomplishment. His playing career in Pittsburgh as a member of the Homestead Grays, the dominant team in the Negro Leagues, led to his induction in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown in 1972. The Foundation honors this legacy by providing a variety of academic and athletic programs for at-risk youth ages 7-13 that encourage the next Josh Gibson to reach his or her potential. The Foundation also provides scholarship support for youth entering college, and has developed a high school curriculum to encourage pursuit of off-field careers in the world of sports.

Please review the attached Sponsorship Opportunities information, and join us for this celebration.

Sincerely,

Sean Gibson
Executive Director