MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Darice Nagy
darice@coldspark.com
814.771.0923

Creating tomorrow's legends today

# Josh Gibson Foundation Announces 2020 Negro League Centennial Celebration Events

**PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA** – Josh Gibson Foundation will host a press conference to announce the events surrounding the 2020 Negro League Centennial Celebration.

**Who:** Celebrating the legacy of Josh Gibson — considered one of the greatest home run hitters, most feared sluggers of any era, and called by many "the Black Babe Ruth" — the Josh Gibson Foundation was created to provide the type of access that he never enjoyed with the creation of facilities and baseball fields dedicated to the youth of the Pittsburgh community. To celebrate the 2020 Negro League Centennial, the foundation will host multiple events throughout 2020 to raise awareness and garner continued support to achieve its goals.

**When:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019
**2:00 pm** Introduction by emcee Rob Ruck, noted author, and University of Pittsburgh History Professor. Brief remarks and introduction of Honorary Chair Kevin McClatchy by Sean Gibson, Executive Director of Josh Gibson Foundation, Duquesne University President Ken Gormley, and Chief Community Affairs Officer of Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh, Michelle Sandidge.

**2:30 pm** Unveiling of 2020 Negro League Centennial logo and event lineup

**3:00 pm** Individuals available for interviews

**Where:** Heinz History Center (Sports Museum Entrance, Floor 2), 1212 Smallman St., Pittsburgh, PA 15222

**What:** The event will feature brief remarks from Sean Gibson, Executive Director of Josh Gibson Foundation, Duquesne University President Ken Gormley, and Honorary Chair Kevin McClatchy. In addition, the event will unveil the 2020 Negro League Centennial and its major events. Individuals will be available for interviews following the presentation.

Individuals Available for Interviews

- Sean Gibson, Executive Director of Josh Gibson Foundation
- Rob Ruck, Negro Leagues Baseball Historian, noted author, and University of Pittsburgh History Professor
- Kevin McClatchy, Honorary Chair of 2020 Negro League Centennial
- Ken Gormley, Duquesne University President
- Michelle Sandidge , Chief Community Affairs Officer of Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh

**Why:** On February 13, 1920, Andrew “Rube” Foster led eight independent Black Baseball team owners into a meeting held at the Paseo YMCA in Kansas City, MO. Out of that meeting came the birth of the Negro National League, the first successful, organized professional Black Baseball League that provided a playing field for African-American and Hispanic baseball players to showcase their world-class baseball abilities. The Negro Leagues would operate for 40 years becoming a catalyst for economic growth in African-American communities across the country and helped spark social change in America. Pittsburgh alone had two Negro League franchises, the Homestead Grays and the Pittsburgh Crawfords. Together these two clubs won over a dozen Negro League titles. In 2020, the Josh Gibson Foundation will celebrate the Negro League Centennial to honor Pittsburgh’s rich black baseball history.

###