



Smithsonian  
Institution



March 16, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **The Smithsonian Returns to Georgia with Sports-Themed Exhibition**

(Atlanta, GA)—Georgia Humanities, in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution, is pleased to present *Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America*, a traveling exhibition that explores how sports have reflected the trials and triumphs of the American experience and have helped to shape our national character. In Georgia, *Hometown Teams* will travel from March 19, 2016 through October 28, 2017, stopping for six weeks each in Swainsboro, Fort Oglethorpe, Jonesboro, Nashville, Kingsland, Carrollton, Jefferson, Fort Valley, Moultrie, Forsyth, Cartersville, and Monroe. Legendary football coach Bill Curry and his wife, historian and author Carolyn Curry, are the honorary co-chairs of the tour.

A grand opening ceremony will take place on March 19, 2016, at 10 a.m. at East Georgia College's Luck Flanders Gambrell Center in Swainsboro. Following the ceremony, a tailgating party will commence.

Local host communities will offer companion programs to accompany the Smithsonian exhibition. Among the events on offer are a one-pitch softball tournament, moonlight paddling, sports film series, photography exhibitions, teacher workshops on sports and economics, and vintage baseball games. For additional information on *Hometown Teams* in Georgia visit <http://www.georgiahumanities.org>. For more information on events scheduled in Swainsboro and surrounding Emanuel County, visit <http://www.ega.edu/hometownteamsec>.

"Allowing all of our state's residents to have access to the cultural resources of our nation's premier museum is a priority of Georgia Humanities," says Jamil Zainaldin, president of Georgia Humanities.

Carol Harsh, director of the Smithsonian Institution Museum on Main Street program adds, "Our traveling exhibitions provide resources for small communities; they become part of a national effort. It's not just about hosting a Smithsonian exhibit, but using it as a platform to spotlight local history."

Previous Smithsonian traveling exhibits have had a significant impact on the state of Georgia. In 2012-13, a Museum on Main Street tour in the state generated more than \$3 million in tourist spending, attracted 102,000 visitors statewide, and partnered nearly 200 organizations and sponsors with host sites.

*Hometown Teams* is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and state humanities councils nationwide. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress.

The Georgia tour of *Hometown Teams* has been made possible by Georgia Humanities in partnership with the University of West Georgia.

Georgia programming is supported by The Coca-Cola Company (Presenting Sponsor), Georgia Department of Economic Development, Mary Gambrell Rolinson (in memory of Luck Flanders Gambrell), Atlanta History Center, Robert W. Woodruff Library of Atlanta University Center, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, University of West Georgia College of Arts and Humanities, and the American School of Protocol.

Additional support has been provided by the Center for Public History at the University of West Georgia; Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta; Georgia Council on Economic Education; Georgia EMC and *GEORGIA* Magazine; Georgia Public Library Service; Georgia Sports Hall of Fame; New Georgia Encyclopedia; Sports Radio 680 "The Fan"; the Sports, Society, and Technology Program in the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Institute of Technology; and Trucks Inc.

**DETAILS: *Hometown Teams* in Swainsboro, March 19-April 30, 2016**

East Georgia College, Luck Flanders Gambrell Center, 131 College Circle, Swainsboro, GA 30401

Grand opening for Georgia Tour of *Hometown Teams*: March 19, 10 a.m.

Exhibition hours: Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Sat., 9:00 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Sun., 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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**About Georgia Humanities**

In a spirit of collaboration, Georgia Humanities gathers, preserves, and shares our state's distinctive stories through a range of cultural and educational programs and resources. As the only statewide organization supporting and promoting the humanities, Georgia Humanities partners with scholars and educators across the state to bring people together in learning and conversation. Our work nurtures Georgians' understanding of themselves and of our state's place in history and in the world.

**About Museum on Main Street and Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service**

Museum on Main Street is a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils across the nation, and local host institutions. To learn more about *Hometown Teams* and other Museum on Main Street exhibitions, visit [www.museumonmainstreet.org](http://www.museumonmainstreet.org).

SITES has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, D.C., for more than 60 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science, and history, which are shown wherever people live, work and play. For exhibition description and tour schedules, visit [www.sites.si.edu](http://www.sites.si.edu).