

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Vulcan Celebrates 100 Years
of America's Favorite Pastime
from a Distinctly Birmingham Perspective

From Factory to Field: The Dream of Baseball in Birmingham
On View April 1 - October 3, 2010

Linn-Henley Gallery, Vulcan Park and Museum
Entrance included with admission to Vulcan Park and Museum.

Birmingham, AL - In celebration of Rickwood Field's 100th Anniversary, Vulcan Park and Museum is proud to present *From Factory to Field: The Dream of Baseball in Birmingham*. This fascinating exhibition, which recounts the rise of baseball in Birmingham's sandlots and company towns and takes visitors through the heyday of professional baseball with the Barons and Black Barons, will be on view from April 1 - October 3, 2010, in Linn-Henley Gallery located inside Vulcan Center Museum. Entrance is included with general admission to Vulcan Park and Museum. Adults \$6 (plus tax); Seniors \$5 (plus tax); Children 5 - 12 \$4 (plus tax); under 4 free.

From Factory to Field features rarely seen archival photos that will introduce visitors to unknown industrial and Negro league players and Birmingham's baseball luminaries. Highlights include an autographed photo of baseball legend Willie Mays and a 1915 TCI League Championship team photo that hung in the breezeway at Rickwood Field for decades and was salvaged after the 1961 season.

Vintage equipment, uniforms and souvenir promotional materials from the private collections of Joe Holley, Lamar Smith, Clarence Watkins, and others are also on view. Featured items include a 1960 Rickwood Field 50th Anniversary Souvenir Scorecard, a Birmingham Black Barons fans cap, an early 1900s Reach "Burley" bat, and a 1920s Industrial League team jersey.

Baseball has been a presence in Birmingham almost since the city's founding in 1871. In the last decades of the 1800s, as the iron industry fueled the building of early Birmingham, amateur teams dotted the city and sporadic attempts to field a professional team were made. In 1906 - the year the city's icon, Vulcan, was placed at the Alabama State Fairgrounds - the Birmingham Vulcanites captured its first Southern League pennant. The year 1910 marked milestones for both the city and the sport: Birmingham's annexation of eight incorporated cities and ten unincorporated towns secured its identity as an industrial metropolis and the construction of Rickwood Field gave professional baseball a home to rival parks in other major cities. *From Factory to Field: The Dream of Baseball in Birmingham* tells the story of a city through its relationship with the national pastime.

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From Factory to Field: The Dream of Baseball in Birmingham is organized by Vulcan Park and Museum and sponsored in part by the Alabama Humanities Foundation.

Vulcan® Park and Museum

See the Magic City through Vulcan's eyes! As the world's largest cast iron statue, perched atop Red Mountain on a 124-foot pedestal, Vulcan overlooks Alabama's largest city offering breathtaking panoramic views of downtown Birmingham and the surrounding areas. Visit Vulcan Park and Museum's tourist information center and explore indoor and outdoor exhibits that recount the region's history as well as the story of the iconic 56-foot tall statue that has become the beloved symbol of Birmingham. Open 7 days a week. For information, call 205.933.1409 x30 or log on to www.visitvulcan.com.

Rickwood Field: America's Oldest Baseball Park

Rickwood Field, located in Birmingham, Alabama, is the oldest surviving professional baseball park in the United States. It was built for the Birmingham Barons in 1910 by industrialist and team-owner Rick Woodward and has served as the home park for the Birmingham Barons and the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro Leagues. Though the Barons have moved their home games to the suburbs, Rickwood Field has been preserved and is undergoing gradual restoration as a "working museum" where baseball's history can be experienced. Rickwood Field is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For more information, call 1.800.rickwood or log on to www.rickwoodfield.com.

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