

F Ballpark

OVERVIEW

Baseball grew up in America's cities and early parks were embedded in urban neighborhoods and districts. In the 1950s, 60s and 70s, nearly all Major League ballparks across the country, including Kansas City's Kauffman Stadium, followed customers out to the suburbs. This trend started to reverse toward the turn of the 20th century, sparked by the opening of Baltimore's Camden Yards in 1992, which was a milestone in modern urban ballpark design. Camden Yards and the downtown ballparks that followed helped to leverage the renaissance of cities and downtowns and became a beloved part of the urban fabric.

Cities that have developed Downtown ballparks have experienced substantial secondary economic development. These unique assets have a multiplier effect in an urban context, and Kansas City has an opportunity to build a state-of-the-art urban ballpark in Downtown with new and enthusiastic owners who value the urban experience. This effort should build on Kansas City's rich baseball heritage with the Negro Baseball Museum and the Urban Youth Academy. The Downtown community will need to work with team ownership and other partners to develop an innovative, premier baseball facility that will be a source of pride for Kansas City and establish a thriving partnership with its neighborhood and community.

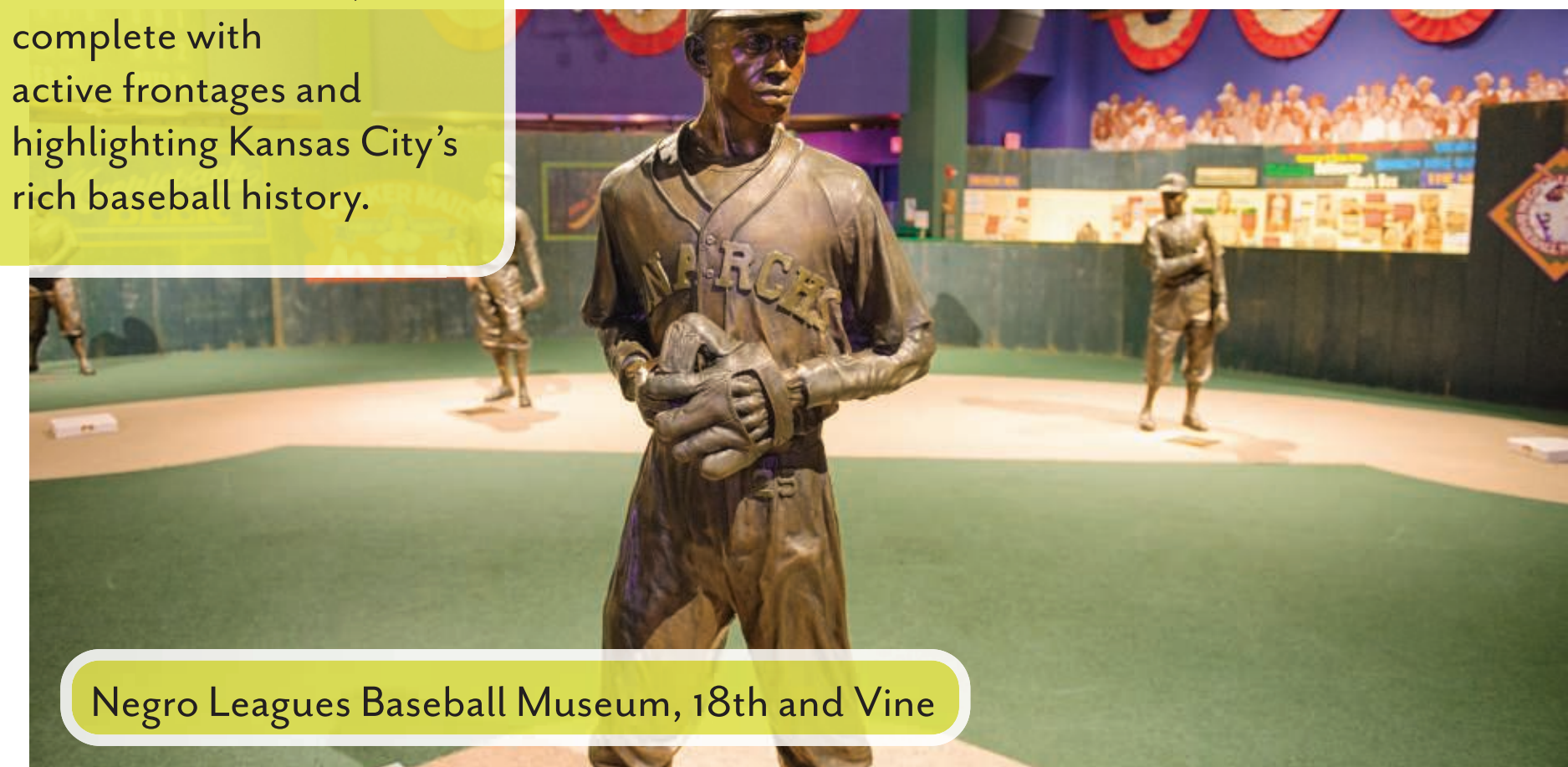
TO MOVE THIS PROJECT FORWARD

F1a. Support community economic development goals

- i. Develop a best-in-class job training and entrepreneur program at the new Ballpark, actively seeking and supporting local businesses and local hires, especially from African-American and other communities that are underrepresented in the economy.
- ii. Require a strong Women and Minority Owned Business Enterprise (W/MBE) and local hire program for Ballpark construction and procurement.
- iii. Establish a strong contractor and construction worker training program.
- iv. Develop strategies to address increasing property values and to prevent displacement in the surrounding neighborhood.
- v. Consider a strong component of mixed-use development, such as hotel, office and residential, as part of or directly adjacent to the stadium.



A vision for a Downtown KC ballpark: embedded in an urban context, complete with active frontages and highlighting Kansas City's rich baseball history.



Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, 18th and Vine



Ballpark

F1b. Integrate the new Ballpark seamlessly into its neighborhood, respecting the surrounding urban form.

- Ensure that all sides of the facility are welcoming and have a vibrant street presence with no blank walls.
- Ensure that the stadium design weaves into the fabric of Downtown and surrounding neighborhoods, with active edges and plazas.
- Design for multi-modal stadium access, ensuring that baseball fans have many choices on how to get to the stadium.

F1c. Highlight and support Kansas City's rich sports history in the stadium and with community investments.

- Highlight Kansas City's baseball heritage and the history of the Negro Baseball leagues at the new stadium. The history of the Negro Leagues should become an important part of the brand and identity for the new Ballpark, and the new stadium should support this important cultural icon.
- Improve Vine Street to enhance connections to the Negro Baseball Museum and the Major League Baseball academy.
- Leverage sports tourism opportunities, attracting visitors to Downtown's sports attractions including the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum and the College Basketball Experience.

