

## "What have you been doing?"

We are often asked by our friends and colleagues about our projects. I typically reply with a short answer that hits a couple of high spots- but rarely share the depth of work, the impact on our clients' missions, what it means to our group, or ultimately the benefit to visitors. So... I decided to look at planning projects, museum exhibits and visitor centers that we have completed in the past few years and share them with you in stories and images. Let's get started.



*Curt Bowman*

## A Ball Park: The Heart of a Community

Nestled in an African-American neighborhood known as Durkeeville in Jacksonville, Florida sits a restored ball park. This was the site of baseball games reaching back to the early 20th century. As part of the restoration we transformed a dark storage room into a neighborhood museum. For years the area has struggled to regain its sense of pride in place and through the vision of local leaders, the ball park is contributing to that goal. The exhibit chronicles the early years of baseball in Jacksonville dating back to the 1880s, through the years of the Negro League games, to the local high school teams that continue to play there. Henry Aaron played on the field for the Jacksonville Braves before he went on to take the home run title.

The drop ceiling was removed, the interior was stripped back by the building contractor and all the surfaces refinished. The exhibit detailing and color choices were chosen to match the new park and to create a bright and inviting space. An innovative high-tension filament suspension system was utilized. The exhibits included newly researched stories, images dating back to the early 20th century, artifacts from the Stanton High School teams and their long-time coach and the park's namesake, J.P. Small, as well as interactives that engage young visitors. The opening brought out former Negro League players and the unveiling of a bronze commemorative statue outside the museum entrance.



A storage room...

to a concept...



to open interior architecture...



The finished educational exhibit



Former Negro Baseball League player signs balls



Batter Up!



Unveiling of commemorative sculpture

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