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**ON DECK AT LOUISVILLE SLUGGER MUSEUM & FACTORY:  
*The Story of Negro League Baseball***

(Louisville, KY) March 12, 2010 – Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory is proud to announce a poignant exhibition about gifted athletes, discrimination and fortunes won and lost. Award-winning artist and author Kadir Nelson's book *WE ARE THE SHIP: The Story of Negro League Baseball*, is the basis for this stunning show, a one-of-a-kind collection of paintings and sketches. In addition to the artwork, the exhibition will include artifacts from Negro League players such as Satchel Paige, Roy Campanella and Willie Mays. The exhibit runs from April 25 – September 6, 2010.

*"The Story of Negro League Baseball* is a moving and brilliant tribute to the contribution of African-Americans to the game and our nation's culture," says Anne Jewell, Executive Director of Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory. "We believe our visitors will be inspired by Kadir Nelson's exquisite storytelling, and the additional artifacts are rare, historic pieces, some of them never before displayed publically," adds Jewell.

Nelson travelled the country interviewing Negro League players and examining old photographs, equipment and uniforms. The New York Times Book Review called Nelson's visual narrative in *WE ARE THE SHIP: The Story of Negro League Baseball* "nothing short of magnificent" and named it one of the Best Illustrated children's books of 2008. Nelson was also given the 2009 Coretta Scott King Book Award.

Kadir Nelson pays meticulous attention to detail in his depiction of life in the Negro Baseball Leagues. The paintings in the exhibit include portraits of baseball greats such as Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson. The artist's use of colors and replication of uniform styles, depictions of pre and post Depression era city streets, sandlots and baseball fields, big cities and small southern towns have also won critical acclaim. Artifacts slated to be on display include a trophy from the 1924 Negro Leagues World Series, a glove used by Satchel Paige, Roy Campanella's 1955 Most Valuable Player Award, Jackie Robinson's last game-used bat, and more.

The tour for *WE ARE THE SHIP: The Story of Negro League Baseball*, Original Paintings by Kadir Nelson, was developed and managed by Smith Kramer Fine Art Services.

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**About Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory:**

*Experience history-in-the-making as you stroll through the factory where world-famous Louisville Slugger bats are created. Award-winning factory tour, interactive exhibits, historic memorabilia, the World's Biggest Bat, and more. Create a Louisville Slugger bat with your very own name on it, just like the pros. Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory, 800 West Main Street, is open Monday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sundays 12 noon – 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors (60+), \$5 children (6-12), and free for children 5 and under. For more information, log on to [www.sluggermuseum.com](http://www.sluggermuseum.com) or call 502-588-7228.*

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