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CELEBRATING SPORTS FOR ALL AGES with SMITHSONIAN'S MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET

Arts Clayton is celebrating 30 years of successful community programs 1986-2016, and is proud that this 30th anniversary is being celebrated through sports -- with special Gallery exhibits, sports-themed summer art camps, and events showcasing team spirit and community pride.

Planning the focus on sports started when Georgia Humanities selected Arts Clayton as one of 12 locations to host the Smithsonian Institution's newest traveling exhibit "**Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America.**" This interactive exhibit is touring Georgia as part of the State and National Museum on Main Street Program, which is a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and Georgia Humanities with support from the U.S. Congress.

The "**Hometown Teams**" exhibit opens July 5-August 5 at the Arts Clayton Gallery. The Gallery is open free to the public on Tuesday-Friday from 9 am to 5 pm and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm. Groups are encouraged to experience this special exhibit by calling 770-473-5410 to make advance reservations.

"**Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America**" is a specially designed traveling exhibit that consists of seven sections with panels, banners and interactive elements. The exhibit revolves around sports and teams in America--an integral part of culture and community in towns all over the country. Sports reflect the American experience and have helped to shape our national character. The exhibit's photographs, artifacts and memorabilia are presented in a fun, quality educational manner to appeal to visitors of all ages.

Coach Bill Curry is the Honorary Chairperson for the "**Hometown Teams**" tour in Georgia, and he chose Arts Clayton as one of three communities to visit and share his personal sports stories. Coach Curry was an NFL Super Bowl Champion, an elite college head football coach at Georgia Tech, Alabama, Kentucky, and Georgia State University, and he is best known nationally as an ESPN sports analyst.

The year-long celebration of sports launched with the Gallery's exhibit in March with sports-oriented art created by students from Pointe South, M.D. Roberts, and Adamson Middle Schools. In addition to the "**Hometown Teams**" traveling exhibit, Arts Clayton is planning a series of sports-related programs and events throughout the spring and summer in partnership with the Clayton County Board of Commissioners, City of Jonesboro, Clayton County Access Television - 23/99, Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Parks & Recreation Department – all are focused on celebrating teams, athletes, and the colorful sports history of the southern crescent area.

- **June 6-17 Arts Clayton's Kaleidoscope and Young Teen summer art camps** will utilize "High School Musical" and "Darn Braves" in sports-themed musicals for the finale productions – as campers experience the true connections of art and sports.
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- **June 28 is the annual Allan Vigil Golf Classic** to support education initiatives through Arts Clayton, and this year will recognize the strong impact of sports in developing civic, business, and elected leadership.
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- **Saturday July 16 is "Kids Sports Day" at the Gallery** with special sports and art activities to compliment the "**Hometown Teams**" exhibit and Olympics display. For information, check the website www.artsclayton.org and call 770-473-5826 for registration.
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- **July 23 the City of Jonesboro is hosting a "Tailgate Party"** in the new Lee Street Park with athletes of all ages, cheerleaders, bands, alumni of Jonesboro High School, their families and friends.

Clayton County joins the celebration on the 20th anniversary of the Centennial Olympic Games, when the world literally came to Clayton County International Park for the inaugural beach volleyball competition. The Arts Clayton Gallery is collecting local artifacts from the 1996 Olympics for a unique display during the "**Hometown Teams**" exhibit. Contact the Arts Clayton Gallery via email at claytonolympics@gmail.com or call 770-473-5826 about sharing your personal Olympic items for this unique display.

In addition to the Arts Clayton Gallery's unique display of 1996 Olympics artifacts, look for more sports promotions throughout the community to include sports teams and fans of all ages:

- Clayton County Parks & Recreation's classes and youth sport leagues
- Outdoor movies in Clayton County neighborhood parks
- Library's summer reading program
- Clayton County Access Television - 23/99 stories of prominent sports heroes.

Don't miss this opportunity to see a world-class exhibit from the Smithsonian in your own backyard. Stay up to date on "**Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America**" events on Facebook at #ArtsClayton, #HometownTeams, and the Gallery's website www.artsclayton.org.

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