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## **Smithsonian Photography Exhibit Makes its Only Michigan Stop at Lansing Mall**

LANSING, Mich. – The new Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit, “Major League/Minor League: Photographs of America’s Baseball Stadiums by Jim Dow,” makes its only Michigan stop of a two-year nationwide tour, March 1-31 at the Lansing Mall.

Among the 65 color photographs in the free exhibit are 40 multiple-image panoramas, some as wide as six feet. Teamed with single image photos, they reflect the architectural beauty of baseball stadiums and the character of the sport.

“The bigger, fancier stadiums are the places where the dreamers gather to watch their fantasies played out in front of them. The little ones are where the dreamers gather to play,” said the internationally renowned Dow. Time-honored major league parks such as Wrigley Field in Chicago, Boston’s Fenway Park, and Michigan’s own Tiger Stadium are balanced in the exhibit by minor league parks like the worn and rickety Sam Lynn Field in Bakersfield, California.

“I have an old-fashioned, romantic approach to picture-taking and architecture,” says Dow. “It’s an illusionistic set of pictures. But I’m not interested in making specimens. I’m interested in synthesizing an experience.” Using a tripod-mounted 8X10 inch view camera, Dow sets his exposure time for each image from at least one second to as long as half an hour, capturing vivid colors and details.

“This is a phenomenal exhibit that almost defies description,” says Lansing Mall Manager Kevin Green. “Standing before one of these panoramas is a sensuous experience. You feel as if you’re in the ballpark. It’s a not-to-be-missed opportunity not only for sports fans and photography aficionados, but history buffs, architecture students and art lovers in general. We’re very fortunate to make it available.” There is no cost to attend the exhibition.

An exhibit backdrop of authentic baseball sounds enhances the sense that visitors have indeed gone “out to the ball game.” The National Baseball Hall of Fame made the exclusive soundtrack available, and was so impressed with the Lansing Mall’s enthusiastic promotion of baseball they waived their rule that the tape only be used by non-profit organizations.

“Major League/Minor League: Photographs of America’s Baseball Stadiums by Jim Dow” was organized by the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery, University of Maryland Baltimore County, and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services (SITES) and travels under the auspices of SITES. It was designed, edited and produced by the Smithsonian’s Office of Exhibits Central.

Lansing Mall plans a month’s worth of programming, culminating with Women in Baseball, March 23 and 24. Special appearances by former players of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, made famous by the movie *A League of Their Own*, and a unique girls-only sports clinic highlight the weekend’s events. Also planned for March: a visit from Detroit Tiger legend Jim Northrup on March 2, fashion shows, a sports card show, and a special retail area featuring baseball movies, books and one-of-a-kind gifts.

Lansing Mall shines the spotlight on baseball in anticipation of the premiere season of mid-Michigan’s own minor league baseball team, the Lansing Lugnuts. The Lugnuts make their debut at the brand new Oldsmobile Park on April 5 in downtown Lansing.

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