SOCIAL NARRATIVE

An introduction to the Jackie Robinson Museum for guests who are autistic, neurodivergent, or visiting for the first time
We are going to the Jackie Robinson Museum!
The Museum is about the life and legacy of Jackie Robinson, the first Black player to join modern Major League Baseball and a dedicated civil rights activist.

Jackie Robinson in his Brooklyn Dodgers uniform at Ebbets Field, 1950

Jackie Robinson with his son, David, and fellow activists at the March on Washington, 1963
The Museum entrance is located at **75 Varick Street** in Lower Manhattan. The intersection at Canal and Varick Streets may be busy and loud with cars, bikes, and people. If it is overwhelming, we can bring headphones or take some time in the Museum before starting our visit.
When we enter, we will see a gift shop called Shop42 to our right. We can visit the shop before, during, or at the end of our visit.
We will go through a second set of doors to the lobby and be greeted by a security guard. They will scan us with a metal detector wand, check our bags, and go over Museum rules with us.

We may see more security guards around the Museum. They will be wearing blue and have name badges on. They are here to help keep us and the Museum objects safe!
This is a map of the Museum. We can also pick up a copy of this map in our Visitor Guide when we arrive at the Museum.

First, let’s go over what to expect in the lobby, which is highlighted on the map.

Use the icons below to learn more about what to expect in each part of the Museum.

Exhibits with video
Exhibits with audio

Blue sentences give us tips about sensory experiences in each space.
First, we will head over to the Ticketing desk to check in (if we pre-purchased tickets online) or to buy them in-person with a Museum staff member. Sometimes there is a line so we might have to wait for a few minutes.

These individuals at the desk are very friendly. We can say “Hello” and if we have questions, we can ask them!
The staff member will place admission bracelets on our wrists and provide us with Visitor Guides.
There are Scavenger Hunts we can do too!
If we complete one, we can return to the Ticketing desk to get a special prize.
We can borrow a sensory bag at the Ticketing desk any time during our visit. The bags includes items like headphones and fidget tools to help us reduce anxiety, stay focused, and have fun on our visit overall!
If we have coats, large bags, or any other items we don’t want to carry during our visit, we can give them to a staff member at Coat Check for free.

The staff member there will give us a plastic tag with a number on it. We will keep it safe and return it when we are ready to pick up our belongings.
As we prepare to begin our self-guided visit, we should keep these museum rules in mind:

1. We will throw away all food, drinks, and gum before entering the galleries.
2. We will be aware of our bodies and how we move in the museum to protect each other and the objects.
3. We will use our inside voices and be respectful of other visitors.
4. We will remember to not touch the glass cases, walls, or objects like the radios and TV on the Timeline.
5. We can touch the media screens around the Museum. Since only one person at a time can touch the screen, I will remember to wait my turn.
6. While we work on the scavenger hunt, we will remember to not lean on the walls and keep our pencil on the paper only.
We can begin our visit in the lobby by looking at the Man of Action wall. This wall has six small cases with objects that will introduce us to different aspects of Robinson’s life.

We can also catch glimpses of Robinson on the large lobby screen slideshow.
Next, let’s learn about what to expect in the Main Gallery, which is highlighted on the map.

We can explore the Museum at our own pace and take breaks anytime. There is no right or wrong way to experience a Museum.
The Main Gallery includes multiple exhibitions in one large space. We can feel free to navigate through the space how we would like.

This gallery’s exhibitions include multiple video displays, audio experiences, and interactive touch screens. Sometimes, these might be playing at once so it can be a little loud.

If it’s overstimulating, we can use items from our sensory bag, step out of the gallery, or ask the Museum staff for help.
The introduction video, "Life Is Not A Spectator Sport," provides an overview about Jackie Robinson and the themes covered in the Museum. It is about five minutes long.
The Partnership: Robinson and Rickey

Learn about Robinson’s relationship with Brooklyn Dodgers manager, Branch Rickey through contracts, letters, and photos.

Crossing the Color Line

Watch a short video about Jackie and Rachel Robinson’s experience as they traveled to Florida for spring training with the Montreal Royals.

This is a dark space with large slideshow-style moving images and voiceover narration.
Supports and Challenges

We can learn about people who supported Jackie Robinson as he broke the color barrier in baseball, as well as challenging individuals and events that made it harder for Robinson to succeed.

The Dugout

Learn about Robinson’s successful 1947 season through fan letters, artifacts from Jackie Robinson Day, and his Rookie of the Year award.

This area of the gallery is by large windows to the street. We’ll see people and cars outside. Sometimes, the sun makes this area brighter than the rest of the gallery.
In the center of the gallery are Story Towers that highlight different themes of Jackie Robinson's life. These columns have objects, information, and interactive touch screens we can use to learn more.

Video and audio are only on the media screens and do not play automatically. We can select which ones we want to play.
On the back wall of the gallery, we see a timeline of events that happened during Jackie Robinson’s lifetime. There are four interactive touch screens on this wall where I can learn more about these events.

The large screen above the timeline has large moving images and text.

The radios and TV on the timeline each have audio that plays on a loop.

The screens have audio and video clips, but they do not play automatically. We can select which ones we want to play.
The Living Legacy exhibit has videos of public figures, from athletes to politicians, reflecting on Jackie Robinson's legacy today.
Next, let’s learn about what to expect in the Sports Gallery, which is highlighted on the map.

Remember, we can explore the Museum at our own pace and take breaks anytime.
Near the stairs, we will see Speak Out, Stand Up. We can set a goal for how we want to make a change in the world today and be leaders just like Jackie Robinson was.
Next we can visit the Sports Gallery which is all about Jackie Robinson's athletic career. Like the Main Gallery, it has a Timeline and Story Towers.

Sports Gallery Timeline
Explore Robinson’s athletic achievements spanning forty years.

Sports Gallery Story Towers
We can learn more about Robinson’s experience in the Negro Leagues and on the Montreal Royals.

Video and audio are only on the touch screens and do not play automatically.
In the center of the Sports Gallery, we can check out Game Day, an interactive model of Ebbets Field with a large screen against the wall behind it.

There are videos that play when selected on the touch screen. They can be large, bright, and loud. When the videos are off, the screen shows a view of Ebbets Field that includes subtle animation and low volume ambient city sounds.
The last space in the Museum is the Pop Culture exhibit, which is highlighted on the map.
In the Pop Culture exhibit, we can see examples of movies, magazines, and more featuring Jackie Robinson. This is also the area with restrooms and water fountains.

The wallpaper is very colorful and busy, but there is no video or audio in this space.
When we are ready to leave the Museum, we will exit through the same front doors we entered. Knowing what to expect made it fun and easy!
Links included in the story. Scan the QR codes to learn more.

To visit the museum website:

To buy tickets:

To read about Jackie Robinson: