



February 27-March 4, 2008

## Around Town

### Re: building year

Museums are set to open (and reopen) all over town this year—if everything goes according to plan, that is.

#### SPORTS MUSEUM OF AMERICA

For a nation obsessed with sports, it's odd that there's never been a museum dedicated to America's various athletic pastimes. That'll change this spring when the Sports Museum of America opens at 26 Broadway (across from [Bowling Green](#), the city's first sports park). With more than 28,000 square feet of exhibit space, the three-story building will have room for some 600-plus bats, balls, skates, uniforms and other memorabilia, as well as more than 1,000 iconic photos. (It'll also be the new site of the Heisman Trophy ceremony and the Women's Sports Hall of Fame.) Among museum cofounder Philip Schwalb's favorite displays are Jesse Owens's diary from the 1936 Berlin Olympics; "Goalie's Nightmare," a virtual simulator that sends a 120mph slap shot racing toward your face; and "Dreaming Big," which glimpses today's sports stars when they were young. "It's really inspirational," Schwalb says. "We've got Jeff Gordon's go-kart trophy from when he was nine, Billie Jean King's report card and a letter Whitey Ford wrote to his folks when he was in the minors. It reminds you that the great ones got into it for the sheer love of the game." [sportsmuseum.com](http://sportsmuseum.com)

**Cost:** \$100 million

**Status:** Construction is ahead of schedule despite some rather unique obstacles. "We got the car Jimmie Johnson drove to win the 2006 NASCAR Championship," says Schwalb. "But to fit it in, we have to break it down into fifths and reassemble it inside."

**Opening:** May 7, 2008