

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ashley Berke
Senior Public Relations Manager
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER PRESENTS SPECIAL PUBLIC PROGRAMS IN CONJUNCTION WITH *NAPOLÉON* EXHIBITION

Philadelphia, PA – Visitors to the National Constitution Center will have the chance to learn more about the two revolutions that changed the world – the American Revolution and the French Revolution – during special public programs held in conjunction with the *NAPOLÉON* exhibition. Events include:

A Summer with Napoléon

Saturday, May 30 – Monday, September 7

Activities will take place daily; visitors should check the programs sheet upon arrival for details

FREE with museum admission

It's a Napoléonic summer of festivities at the National Constitution Center. Through craft activities and demonstrations all summer long, visitors can learn about the American and French Revolutions, the Louisiana Purchase, and the roles of the Founding Fathers in France.

Vive la Révolution

Saturday, May 30, 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. & Sunday, May 31, 12:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

FREE with museum admission

Guests can celebrate the opening of the *NAPOLÉON* exhibition by exploring the history of America's founding and the French Revolution through interactive demonstrations, workshops, and craft activities, including the chance to create a version of Napoléon's iconic hat. Visitors will learn about the Founding Fathers' experiences in France, and how they affected the birth of our nation, during a special tour of *Signers' Hall* at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Guests will discover why bronze statues of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams are not featured in *Signers' Hall*, which Founder was almost killed during the onset of the French Revolution, and how Benjamin Franklin became the envy of many men in France.

Célèbre: The French Quarter

Saturday, June 13, 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

FREE with museum admission

Visitors can learn about France's influence on American culture by celebrating a "family-friendly" version of *Mardi Gras*, French for "Fat Tuesday." Guests will learn about the festival's roots, which date back to the 14th and 15th centuries. The infusion of

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French culture in the American South catapulted this holiday into popular culture and created the Mardi Gras we know today. Guests can enjoy an authentic New Orleans Brass Band at 1:00 p.m. and participate in craft activities throughout the day, including the chance to make a Mardi Gras mask. Visitors will also learn about the Creole culture, the New Orleans French Quarter, and the history behind Mardi Gras beads. Cajun food will be available for lunch in Delegates' Café.

Bastille Day

Saturday, July 11 – Tuesday, July 14, 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

FREE with museum admission

Visitors can celebrate Bastille Day, the French equivalent of Independence Day, as the Center explores the American and French Revolutions. Guests will learn how the American Revolution led to the creation of the U.S. Constitution, and how the French Revolution led to the rise of Napoléon, during an interactive presentation at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. daily. Tours of the exhibition will also be given at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Founding Principles: The French Connection

Monday, July 20, 6:30 p.m.

FREE; Reservations required at 215-409-6700

A.E. Dick Howard, the National Constitution Center's 2009 Visiting Scholar, will address the influence of the U.S. constitutional experience during the debates on France's own Constitution in 1791. Widely acknowledged as an expert in the fields of constitutional law, comparative constitutionalism, and the Supreme Court, Howard is the White Burkett Miller Professor of Law and Public Affairs at the University of Virginia.

From Washington to Waterloo

Saturday, September 5 – Monday, September 7, 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

FREE with museum admission

Visitors can explore the reasons why the French and American Revolutions ended so differently. Guests will learn about Thomas Jefferson's election in 1800, the purchase of the Louisiana Territory in 1803, and Napoléon's rise and fall.

From May 29 through September 7, 2009, the National Constitution Center will host *NAPOLÉON*, an exhibition offering visitors a rare opportunity to explore the private life of the Emperor of France and to see beyond the legend to gain an understanding of this complex political leader whose actions reshaped the landscape of Europe and America.

Created from the extraordinary collection of First Empire authority and author, Pierre-Jean Chalençon, the exhibition showcases rare, personal belongings of Napoléon I, as well as some of the most famous depictions of him by important artists of the time. The Constitution Center is the sixth stop on the *NAPOLÉON* exhibition's first North American Tour. The exhibition marks the first time a number of items from the Chalençon

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Collection have ever been on display to the general public. *NAPOLÉON* is a 6,000 square foot international traveling exhibition distributed by Exhibits Development Group in cooperation with Cultural Arts Entertainment Group.

Admission to *NAPOLÉON* is \$17.50 for adults, \$16.50 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$13.50 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. Admission to the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, including the award-winning theater production "Freedom Rising", is included. iPod audio tours cost an additional \$4. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

Shire Pharmaceuticals is the local presenting sponsor of the Center's showing of *NAPOLÉON* and CBS 3 is the official media partner. CBS 3 (KYW-TV) and The CW Philly 57 (WPSG-TV) are part of CBS Television Stations, a division of CBS Corporation.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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