



## NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER HONORS THE ROLE OF FIRST LADY WITH SPECIAL PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

*In conjunction with First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image exhibit*

Philadelphia, PA – Visitors to the National Constitution Center will have the chance to learn more about the role first ladies have played throughout history during special public programming in conjunction with the *First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image* exhibition.

Guests can purchase a special *First Ladies* audio tour, created by the National Constitution Center, for a behind-the-scenes look at the lives of the presidential partner. Guests will be guided through the exhibit by curator Edith Mayo, who has spent years studying the role of first lady. The in-depth, 30 minute tour will examine the impact these remarkable women have had on the country, ranging from policy to fashion. The *First Ladies* audio tour costs \$2 for members and \$3 for non-members. The tour was created with the generous assistance of the Drexel University School of Education. The National Constitution Center's iPod audio tours are supported by the Kent Foundation.

In addition, the Center presents *Women of Power*, a daily interactive program inside the *First Ladies* exhibit. From Abigail Adams to Eleanor Roosevelt and Betty Ford, first ladies throughout history have impacted the world in which we live today. National Constitution Center demonstrators will teach guests about the role of first ladies in society and critical moments in history that have impacted women's rights.

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## ADD ONE/FIRST LADIES PUBLIC PROGRAMS

From October 5 through December 31, 2007 the National Constitution Center will host *First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image*. The exhibition features more than two centuries of elegant inaugural and evening gowns, clothing and jewelry, White House furnishings and china, photographs and portraits, and campaign and personal memorabilia. It examines the demanding duties of the presidential partner and national hostess, explores how her role has evolved from ceremonial colleague to one of international celebrity and recognized political power, and illustrates the importance of the first lady's public image to the success of a presidential administration.

Admission to *First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image* is \$15 for adults, \$14 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$9 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. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

*First Ladies* is based on one of the Smithsonian's most visited permanent exhibitions and contains artifacts from the rarely traveled first ladies collection of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, Behring Center. Organized by the National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), *First Ladies* is made possible by A&E Network. Macy's is the local presenting sponsor and NBC 10 is the official media partner for the Center's showing of *First Ladies*.

Funding for the National Constitution Center's changing exhibits program has been made possible through a \$1 million grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to

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## ADD TWO/FIRST LADIES PUBLIC PROGRAMS

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. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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