

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER TO DEBUT UPDATES TO MAIN EXHIBITION ON 100TH DAY OF OBAMA'S PRESIDENCY

Philadelphia, PA (April 14, 2009) – The story of our nation is constantly being written by the day-to-day actions of the American people. To share with visitors the historic events of the past six years, the National Constitution Center on Thursday, April 30, 2009, will debut the first updates to its main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, since opening in 2003. The debut coincides with President Obama's first 100 days in office, a milestone in our national journey.

The Story of We the People dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photography, text, sculpture, and artifacts. The exhibit experience begins with "Freedom Rising," a state-of-the-art multimedia theater experience designed to connect visitors with the story of the U.S. Constitution. Images and headlines about major issues and events of the last six years, including same-sex marriage, abortion, taxes, the economic crisis, Hurricane Katrina and the inauguration of Barack Obama, will be added to the production.

The story continues in the main exhibition, where the outside chronological wall, comprised of story panels, artifacts, computer interactives, and video and audio segments, offers a panorama of American history through the lens of the Constitution. The last case of the chronological wall will be updated with a new graphic panel

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ADD ONE/EXHIBIT UPDATES

featuring a photo of Barack Obama at Grant Park after his election as President of the United States. Updates to the reader rail include the addition of landmark events such as Hurricane Katrina and the devastation of New Orleans (2005), the Congressional stalemate over immigration reform (2007), California's vote on Proposition 8 (2008), and the economic crisis (2009). New artifacts will include a signed copy of Barack Obama's Race Speech at the Constitution Center and an invitation, ticket and program from his inauguration. New Supreme Court cases will also be added, including *Rasul v. Bush* (2004), where the Supreme Court ruled that Guantanamo Bay Prisoners were entitled to the right of Habeas Corpus; *Roper v. Simmons* (2005), in which the Court ruled that Juveniles could not receive the death penalty; and the *District of Columbia v. Keller* (2008), where the Court ruled that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to own firearms. These artifacts and information panels will continue to be updated over time with additional events that are an important part of our current constitutional story.

One of the most popular stops in the exhibition is the Oath of Office, where visitors are sworn in as president. Here, guests can also watch footage of past presidential inaugurations. This video segment will be updated to include footage from President Obama's inauguration, and the backdrop to the presidential podium will feature an image from his inauguration ceremony.

The last section of the main exhibition hall gives visitors the chance to voice their opinions on current issues by adding Post-It notes to Town Hall Wall question boards. These Town Hall Walls will be updated to address questions about immigration reform, gay marriage, and the regulation of private industries by the government.

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

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ADD TWO/EXHIBIT UPDATES

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.

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