

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER HOSTS SUSTAINABILITY TOUR AS PART OF *INTO THE OPEN* EXHIBITION

Philadelphia, PA (July 23, 2009) – The National Constitution Center, in partnership with the Slought Foundation and the Community Design Collaborative, will host a special “Sustainability Tour” of several sites in Philadelphia on Thursday, August 13, 2009, at 1:00 p.m., to illustrate how “We the People” are responsible for participating in all aspects of our environmental stewardship, from development to preservation. Tickets for the tour cost \$35. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Inspired by the work presented in the *Into the Open* exhibition, including that of Alice Waters and the Yale Sustainable Food Project, as well as the Center for Land Use Interpretation, the tour will make stops at **Blue Mountain Recycling**, **The Mill Creek Farm**, and the **Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center**, as it traces the path of waste and sustainability in our city. The tour concludes at the National Constitution Center, where guests can view *Into the Open*.

Blue Mountain Recycling, located at 2904 Ellsworth St., was founded in 1999 as a material recycling facility in Philadelphia. The company has dedicated itself to long-term recycling solutions, and is currently the sole processor of material collected in Philadelphia's residential curbside single-stream recycling program. In 2005, Blue Mountain was acquired by Casella Waste Systems, Inc., a regional solid waste services company headquartered in Vermont. Today, Casella is leading the industry with investments in recycling infrastructure, research, and development that are driving the next generation of recycling technologies and innovative recycling programs.

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ADD ONE/SUSTAINABILITY TOUR

The Blue Mountain facility is not open to the public, but participants on the “Sustainability Tour” will receive a special tour and explanation of the processing of materials from Shannon Detweiler, head of Business Development, whose industry experience includes a background in both recycling and solid waste management.

The Mill Creek Farm located at 4901 Brown Street, in the Mill Creek Neighborhood of West Philadelphia, is an educational urban farm dedicated to improving local access to fresh produce, building a healthy community and environment, and promoting a just and sustainable food system. The Farm fulfills its mission through farm-based learning programs, cultivating and distributing fresh produce, and demonstrating ecological technologies to provide for basic needs. The Farm believes everyone has a right to affordable, healthy, quality and culturally-appropriate food obtained in ways that are environmentally sustainable and socially just. Jade Walker and Johanna Rosen co-founded the Mill Creek Farm in 2005 after working with students in the West Philadelphia public schools. Both have worked in the food justice movement for more than 12 years.

The historic Fairmount Water Works stopped pumping water in 1909, but now houses the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center. The Interpretive Center, located at 640 Waterworks Drive, on the banks of the Schuylkill River, offers exhibits and educational programs explaining the problem of water pollution, and provides a broad view of pollution and the Schuylkill River over the past 100 years. Visitors learn that all human can be traced in the health of our rivers, and they learn that rivers tell the truth about our stewardship of the environment. Educators Megan Malloy and Ellen Schultz will lead the Water Works tour.

From July 15 to September 7, 2009, the National Constitution Center is hosting *Into the Open*, an innovative exhibition featuring the work of 16 architectural groups. Through vibrant installations and displays, *Into the Open* explores the original ways architects are collaborating to foster civic engagement and build better communities. Immersive, bold, and interactive, the exhibition aims to inform, as well as encourage discussion and participation.

ADD TWO/SUSTAINABILITY TOUR

Into the Open debuted at the Venice Biennale in 2008 as the official United States representation, where it offered international audiences insight into the ways America's architects are reinventing public space. The exhibition is organized by William Menking, Editor-in-Chief of *The Architect's Newspaper*, Aaron Levy, Executive Director and Senior Curator of the Slought Foundation, and Andrew Sturm, former Director of Architecture for the PARC Foundation. It was conceived in collaboration with architects Teddy Cruz and Deborah Gans.

The projects featured in the exhibition are showcased at the National Constitution Center and the Slought Foundation on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania. The model garden project on the front lawn of the Center is sponsored by the Philadelphia Eagles Go Green Initiative. Admission to *Into the Open* is FREE with regular museum admission to the National Constitution Center and FREE at the Slought Foundation. iPod audio tours cost \$4. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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. 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.