

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER CELEBRATES EDIBLE EDUCATION WITH A VEGETABLE PARTY

*In conjunction with the *Into the Open* exhibition*

Philadelphia, PA (July 20, 2009) - The public is invited to join the National Constitution Center for a celebration of edible education on Friday, August 7, 2009, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Visitors will learn about the origins of the food Americans consume, and the principles of modern ecology, as the Center showcases the efforts of local urban farmers, chefs, and activists who are working to inform the public about what we eat and where it comes from. Admission is free.

Participants include the Agatston Urban Nutrition Initiative at the University of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Community Design Collaborative, The Pedal Co-Op, the Philadelphia Water Department, Slow Food USA, The Food Trust, The Philadelphia Orchard Project, Fairmount Water Works and Metro Farming.

The event is inspired by the work of Alice Waters and the Yale Sustainable Food Project. Waters, a renowned chef, created the project in response to the lack of nutritious food served in California public schools. As part of the *Into the Open* exhibition, a model garden, located in front of the National Constitution Center, features local seasonal vegetables and flowers. The garden is sponsored by the Philadelphia Eagles. Campers attending the Center's American Adventure Summer Camp will help tend the garden throughout the summer.

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ADD ONE/VEGETABLE PARTY 2009

At the Vegetable Party, visitors will have the opportunity to participate in family-friendly activities and craft projects both inside and outside the Center. Families can learn about paper making, and the process of recycling, in a special presentation between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on the Center's front lawn. They can also participate in recycling craft activities, turning water bottles into art by transforming them into glowing fireflies, mini oceans-in-a-bottle, and other creations.

Guests can also learn more about the influence the government and the food industry have had on our eating habits in a special presentation, "Food and Government: Sometimes a Sticky Situation," in the Grand Hall Lobby at 12:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.

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.

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.

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.

ADD TWO/ VEGETABLE PARTY 2009

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.

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