



SEPTEMBER 17, 2008 to JANUARY 20, 2009



Headed to the White House **Exhibit Walkthrough**

Visitors can follow the path to the presidency with the ***Headed to the White House*** exhibition, developed by the National Constitution Center to engage students and families with the excitement, pageantry, and importance of presidential elections.

The ***Headed to the White House*** exhibition is divided into three sections. First, an **Orientation** area features a surround audio experience that works with lighting effects and large-scale graphic images to introduce visitors to the remarkable political process that brings citizens together every four years to elect the one official who represents all Americans. Images of people from all walks of life throughout American history evoke the pageantry and excitement of presidential elections.

In the second exhibition section – **You're in the Race!** – visitors move through a series of role-playing areas that introduce them to the electoral process. Each area features a mix of multimedia experiences, hands-on games, and computer interactives. In the “Be a Candidate” role-playing area, visitors are able to imagine the challenges and opportunities of running for president. Activity stations where visitors can choose a political party, create a campaign logo, and deliver a speech challenge these “presidential hopefuls” to articulate a vision for the country’s future. In the next role-playing area – “Getting the Message Out” – visitors experience the electoral process from the points of view campaign staff and political reporters. Interactive exhibits allow visitors to create a news story and plot a campaign strategy. “Active Citizens!,” the final role-playing area, engages students and families with the various ways they can become actively involved in the presidential contest, from choosing a candidate, to volunteering as a campaign worker, to voting.

In the third exhibition section, visitors embark on the **Path to the White House**, from the primaries and caucuses, to the national party conventions, to the inauguration. Multimedia exhibits, featuring documentary footage, special effects, and games, bring the political process to life. Continuing along the presidential path, visitors experience the general-election campaign, election night, and the inauguration of a new president. A programming space in this section permits visitors to interact with museum educators. Finally, visitors arrive at the White House, where a mock-up of the Oval Office is an opportunity to have their picture taken with the newly elected president.

Headed to the White House is being designed by Krent/Paffett/Carney Inc., a museum master-planning and exhibition design firm based in Boston. The project team includes museum consultant Janet Kamien, the exhibit developer; Dr. Steve Frank, Vice President of Education and Exhibits at the National Constitution Center; Stephanie Reyer, Director of Exhibitions at the National Constitution Center; Melissa Carruth, Exhibitions Manager at the National Constitution Center; and Sarah Winski, Education and Exhibitions Special Project Coordinator at the National Constitution Center.