

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER CELEBRATES THE LIFE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WITH ACTIVITIES FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

Including World Debut of America I AM: The African American Imprint Exhibition

Philadelphia, PA (December 19, 2008) –

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.

On Monday, January 19, 2009, the National Constitution Center will celebrate the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., and will recall these words, uttered on August 28, 1963, that changed our nation forever. From 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., visitors of all ages will be able to enjoy activities in the museum, including musical and dramatic performances, crafts, talkback boards, and a quilting service project focusing on the plight of homelessness. All of the day's activities are free, but do not include museum admission.

From 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., visitors will have the opportunity to sew pillows, quilts, and blankets on the Grand Hall Overlook as they lend a helping hand to volunteers from colleges, quilting groups, costume shops, and local shelters. This special opportunity will bring visitors together in civic service to help the less fortunate and to continue the great legacy of Dr. King.

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ADD ONE/MLK DAY 2009

At 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in the Kirby Auditorium, visitors can take part in a sing-along concert with "Two of a Kind," an award-winning, nationally touring, husband-wife duo who specialize in interactive musical programs for children. The performance will focus on themes related to Martin Luther King, Jr., including freedom, equality, and justice, through songs, puppets, movement, and stories, all with an emphasis on interaction and participation.

In addition, students from local colleges and young local actors will read aloud Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech in the Kirby Auditorium at 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. A musical performance by a local African American choir will take place at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., and local actors will read aloud quotes from Civil Rights leaders at 3:00 p.m.

Visitors can also be among the first to view the world debut of the **America I AM: *The African American Imprint*** exhibition, celebrating nearly 500 years of African American contributions to this country. The exhibition will open on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birth date on January 15, 2009 and run until May 3, 2009, before continuing its national tour.

America I AM will present a historical continuum of pivotal moments in courage, conviction, and creativity that solidifies the undeniable imprint of African Americans across the nation and around the world. Featuring more than 200 artifacts culled from every period of U.S. history, the exhibit will include objects, texts, religion, music, narration, and media. An interactive component of the exhibition will allow visitors to leave their own video "imprints," and this collection will grow throughout the life of the exhibition with the potential to become the largest recorded oral history project in U.S. history.

Admission to **America I AM** is \$17.50 for adults, \$15.50 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$9 for children ages 4-12. 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. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. There is no upcharge for school groups to tour **America I AM**. iPod audio tours are also available and cost \$2 for members and \$3 for non-members. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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ADD TWO/MLK DAY 2009

The exhibition is developed in partnership with Tavis Smiley, and organized by Cincinnati Museum Center and Arts and Exhibitions International (AEI). **America I AM** is made possible by Walmart Stores, Inc., which serves as its presenting sponsor. The exhibition is presented locally by Coca-Cola, and CBS 3 is the official media partner for the Center's showing of **America I AM**.

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. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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