

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## WINNER OF ADDRESS AMERICA CONTEST SELECTED AMONG THOUSANDS OF ENTRIES SUGGESTING SIX WORDS FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT OBAMA'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Philadelphia, PA (January 13, 2009) – When President-Elect Obama gives his Inaugural Address on January 20, 2009, millions of Americans will be watching, anxiously anticipating his inspiring words. Through a unique project from the National Constitution Center and SMITH Magazine, people from across the country were given the opportunity to have their say about what they thought those inspiring words should be. **ADDRESS AMERICA: Six Words to Inspire a Nation** gave the public the chance to suggest the half-dozen words they hoped to hear in President-Elect Obama's Inaugural speech by submitting entries at [www.constitutioncenter.org/addressamerica](http://www.constitutioncenter.org/addressamerica). The winning entry, submitted by Donna Formica-Wilsey of Philadelphia, PA was **“Divided by fear, united in hope.”**

Writers of the top six entries (see list below) will each receive a six-word memoir book from SMITH Magazine and a year's membership to the National Constitution Center. As the grand prize winner, Formica-Wilsey will receive these prizes, as well as a leather bound volume of the Constitution.

- **“Divided by fear, united in hope.”** – Submitted by Donna Formica-Wilsey of Philadelphia, PA
- **“Shared dream. Shared destiny. Shared duty.”** – Submitted by Charlene Ann McGrady of West Chester, PA
- **“Together we can change tomorrow, today.”** – Submitted by Casey Oehler.

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## ADD ONE/ADDRESS AMERICA WINNERS

- **“America’s story is still being written.”** – Submitted by Renée Hope Guillory of Phoenix, AZ
- **“Complacency undermines us, change redeems us.”** – Submitted by Tiffany Roget of Los Angeles, CA
- **“These are testing times, study hard.”** – Submitted by Dyan Titchnell of Jenkintown, PA

“The founders intended each of us to stand as the sentinels of our own liberty,” said National Constitution Center President and CEO Joseph M. Torsella. “The President is elected by the people, and therefore, his words are our words, and this unique contest allows ‘We the People’ to engage directly in one of the most historic inaugurations in a generation. Walt Whitman once said, ‘The powerful play goes on and you will contribute a verse,’ which speaks to what this project is all about.”

"I'm delighted at how the crowd responded to the ‘Six Words to Inspire a Nation’ challenge,” said Larry Smith, founder of SMITH Magazine and co-editor of the six-word memoir book series. "People who never thought of themselves as 'writers' are inspired to contribute to SMITH Magazine's storytelling projects, time and again. Working with the Constitution Center, it's been invigorating to see the results when a people-powered project has the loftiest of goals: to set the agenda for our nation. That thousands did so in six well-chosen words speaks volumes about where this country is headed."

The winners were chosen by a distinguished panel of judges, including **Farai Chideya**, multimedia journalist, author and former host of NPR's *News & Notes*, a daily program about African-American and African diaspora issues that airs nationwide; **Stephen J. Dubner**, award-winning journalist and co-author of the international best-seller *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*; **David Kusnet**, Visiting Fellow at the Economic Policy Institute and former chief speech writer for President William J. Clinton; **Jim McGrath**, President of CEO Communications and current speech writer for President George H. W. Bush; **SuChin Pak**, reporter and television news correspondent for MTV News; and **Michael Smerconish**, *Philadelphia Inquirer* columnist, cable news commentator, and host of the nationally syndicated Michael Smerconish show on CBS Radio's The Big Talker 1210 AM, WPHT.

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## ADD TWO/ADDRESS AMERICA WINNERS

### **About SMITH Magazine**

SMITH Magazine, smithmag.net, is a home for storytelling of all forms and kinds, with a focus on personal narrative, and has been hailed as "the 21st Century writing community." Its recently released book, NOT QUITE WHAT I WAS PLANNING: Six-Word Memoirs By Writers Famous & Obscure (Harper Perennial), is a *New York Times* bestseller, and the first in a four-book six-word memoir series. For more information, visit smithmag.net.

### **About the National Constitution Center**

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](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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