

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ashley Berke
Senior Public Relations Manager
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

POST-ELECTION UPDATE

VISITORS TO THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER CAN SEE PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA'S SIGNED COPY OF HISTORIC RACE SPEECH

Updates to be made to Headed to the White House exhibition

Philadelphia, PA (November 6, 2008) – It has been called a pivotal moment of the 2008 presidential campaign: Barack Obama's Race Speech at the Constitution Center. Already considered one of the most stirring examples of American political rhetoric, the original signed copy of the speech – which was delivered from the Center's Kirby Auditorium on March 18, 2008 – is on display in the Center's latest exhibition, *Headed to the White House*, which is now being updated to reflect the results of Tuesday's seminal election.

"The choice to deliver such a speech here at the Center testifies to the enduring importance of the Constitution," said National Constitution Center President and CEO Joseph M. Torsella. "We are proud to share this historic document with our visitors."

The Race Speech at the Constitution Center stands alongside other unforgettable campaign speeches, such as Lincoln's Cooper Union address and Kennedy's speech on religion. In the *New York Review of Books*, historian Gary Wills compared the Race Speech at the Constitution Center to Lincoln's Cooper Union address, stating, "Each decided to address them openly in a prominent national venue, well before their parties' nominating conventions – Lincoln at the Cooper Union in New York, Obama at the Constitution Center in Philadelphia."

-MORE-

ADD ONE/RACE SPEECH AT THE CONSTITUTION CENTER

MSNBC's Chris Matthews called the Race Speech at the Constitution Center the "best speech ever given on race in this country," and said, "This is the kind of speech I think first graders should see, people in the last year of college should see before they go out in the world. This should be, to me, an American tract."

In light of Tuesday's election results, updates are also being made to the *Headed to the White House* exhibition. Visitors will have the chance to stand for a photo op with a cutout of the President-Elect in the Oval Office section of the exhibition, and they can view official election results on an Election Big Board. The "When Can You Vote" wheel will be updated to reflect that first-time voters in 2008 participated in the election won by Obama. In addition, visitors can stand at the podium where Senator Obama stood during the Pennsylvania Democratic primary debate at the Center on April 16, 2008.

Visitors will have the opportunity to view the Race Speech at the Constitution Center following the run of *Headed to the White House*, as it will become a part of the Center's permanent collection.

Through December 14, 2008, the National Constitution Center is debuting *Headed to the White House*. Developed by the Center, *Headed to the White House* is the only exhibition of its kind, uniquely created for students, teachers, and families during the height of the election season. The 3,000 square foot exhibition connects visitors with the excitement, pageantry, and importance of presidential elections through role-playing opportunities and interactive experiences.

Headed to the White House was made possible through the generous support of The Annenberg Foundation, The Pew Charitable Trusts, and The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and is sponsored locally by Pennoni Associates and Beneficial Bank.

CBS 3 is the official media partner for the exhibition. CBS 3 (KYW-TV) and The CW Philly 57 (WPSG-TV) are part of CBS Television Stations, a division of CBS Corporation.

-MORE-

ADD TWO/RACE SPEECH AT THE CONSTITUTION CENTER

Admission to *Headed to the White House* is \$15 for adults, \$14 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$9 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. 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. For ticket 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.

###