

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER PRESENTS *LINCOLN: THE CONSTITUTION AND THE CIVIL WAR* EXHIBITION, SPONSORED BY LINCOLN FINANCIAL GROUP

PHILADELPHIA – The National Constitution Center will present its first traveling exhibition, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, from June 10 through November 4, 2005. The exhibition is being made possible by a \$1 million grant from Lincoln Financial Group as part of its 100th anniversary celebration.

The story of the country's darkest days is an amazing and largely unknown drama. *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War* will take visitors to the National Constitution Center along a tense, exciting reconstruction of just how Lincoln succeeded in saving the nation, while staying true to the Center's signature combination of fun interactive elements, artifacts, text, photographs, and more.

Developed in partnership with The Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and in cooperation with the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, is a 2,500-square-foot exhibition that highlights the three constitutional crises which Lincoln faced as President: **Secession, Slavery and Civil Liberties during the Civil War**. The exhibition explores how one individual, who was deeply committed to the belief that citizens can make a real difference, exercised leadership at a pivotal time of crisis for the nation, the Constitution, and the course of freedom worldwide. From families to Civil War buffs and history scholars, everyone is sure to be engaged by this exhibition.

As the first interactive museum on the Constitution's history and contemporary relevance, the National Constitution Center is uniquely positioned to present the story of Lincoln and the Constitution in a fresh

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and compelling way. *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War* will feature more than 100 images, historical documents and artifacts from the collections of The Lincoln Museum, and other nationally prominent institutions, incorporated into a variety of innovative and interactive exhibit formats. In addition, Lincoln's voice – in the form of excerpts from his writings and speeches – will enable visitors to hear first-hand his thoughts and views on issues such as equality, slavery, freedom, democracy, justice and the Constitution's rule of law.

The exhibition is organized into six main exhibit areas: **Secession Winter, Oath of Office, Crisis of Secession, Crisis of Slavery, Crisis of Civil Liberties**, and **Lincoln's Legacy: The Gettysburg Address In His Time and Ours**. Through the exhibit's media and interactive elements, visitors will be able to stand alongside of Lincoln as he is sworn in as President, view Civil War military conflicts and Lincoln portraits through a replicated 1860s box camera, play a genuine 1862 board game called "The Secession Game", use clues to solve an electronic jigsaw puzzle, experience a replicated jail cell for citizens arrested for dissent or disloyalty, and more!

"As Abraham Lincoln journeyed through life he realized that he was responsible for ensuring that the Constitution became the instrument for achieving freedom and equality for all," says Jon A. Boscia, chairman and chief executive officer of Lincoln Financial Group. "We are honored to sponsor this inaugural changing exhibit with the National Constitution Center, in partnership with The Lincoln Museum. The exhibit will reflect on Lincoln's life vis-à-vis the Constitution and challenge visitors to extend the principles of freedom and equality in all aspects of their lives."

"Abraham Lincoln's life is arguably a textbook study of how one person from humble beginnings accepted the obligations of citizenship and became a steward of our constitutional heritage," said National Constitution Center President and CEO Richard Stengel. "Through a career in public life, culminating in his years as president when he steered the nation through the Civil War – the biggest constitutional crisis in U.S. history – Lincoln struggled to move both the Constitution and the country closer to the Declaration of Independence's promises of freedom and equality."

An advisory committee of six leading Lincoln scholars is working on the exhibition content with the National Constitution Center. The committee includes: Lonnie Bunch, President of the Chicago Historical Society and a renowned curator; Daniel Farber, legal scholar and professor at University of

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California, Boalt Hall Law School; Joan Flinspach, President and CEO of The Lincoln Museum and secretary of the United States Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission; Allen Guelzo, historian and author of *Emancipation: Lincoln's Proclamation and the Future of Race in America*; Harold Holzer, one of the country's leading authorities on the political culture of the Civil War era and co-Chairman of the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission; and Mark Neely Jr., Pulitzer Prize-winning historian.

The exhibition is being designed by Krent Paffett Carney, a full-service exhibition planning and design firm based in Boston. For the Lincoln exhibition, Krent Paffett Carney will partner with The American History Workshop of Brooklyn, NY. Media and interactive elements are being designed by Hillman & Carr, a Washington D.C. based firm that is recognized as a leader in the industry.

To augment the exhibition, the Constitution Center's education and public programming staff in the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach will develop a variety of resource materials and special programs including lectures, panel discussions, family activities and online content on the Center's Web site at www.constitutioncenter.org.

One of the Center's key Lincoln-related education and outreach efforts is a partnership with the Mural Arts Program and Lincoln Financial Group Foundation's Lincoln Legacy Project, a fusion of civic education, community discussions and artwork centered around Lincoln's legacy and its relevance today. The Lincoln Legacy Project will join forces with the Constitution Center in a series of four Town Meetings open to the general public – the first of which kicks-off on Lincoln's birthday, February 12 at 2 p.m. In these meetings, anyone who wants to participate can join with community leaders and scholars to explore the themes of the exhibition. Also at the February 12 meeting, master muralist Josh Sarantitis will collect ideas from participants for designing the Lincoln Legacy Project's large, citywide mural, to be located in Center City, Philadelphia. After the discussion, participants are invited to work with artist Parris Stancell to create smaller murals called "Justice Squares" to be displayed throughout the city, as well as at the National Constitution Center in the space that leads visitors to the Lincoln exhibit.

Also supplementary to the exhibition and in keeping with the Center's mission to foster discussion and citizen engagement, a variety of adult programs featuring Lincoln experts discussing current and historical topics that relate to the exhibition are planned for the spring, summer and fall.

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After its inaugural showing at the National Constitution Center from June 10 through November 4, 2005, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War* will begin its national tour at The Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana from February to June 2006. It will then travel to Hartford, Connecticut, where it will be on display at the Connecticut Historical Society from July to December 2006. The National Constitution Center will work with historical societies in both cities to customize the exhibit to include artifacts that reflect local history as it relates to the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln and the Constitution. There is also the potential for additional showings in other cities.

The National Constitution Center is open seven days a week, and admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for seniors ages 62 and up, children ages 4-12, and active military personnel. Children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. (Prices are subject to change.)

About Lincoln Financial Group

Lincoln Financial Group is the marketing name for Lincoln National Corporation (NYSE:LNC) and its affiliates. With headquarters in Philadelphia, Lincoln Financial Group has consolidated assets of \$107 billion and had consolidated revenues of \$5.3 billion in 2003. Through its wealth accumulation and protection businesses, the company provides annuities, life insurance, 401(k) and 403(b) plans, mutual funds, managed accounts, institutional investment and financial planning and advisory services.

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 its relevance to Americans' daily lives. Opened on July 4, 2003, 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 and debates, and as a home for visiting scholars. Also, serving as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional debate, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contains diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6600 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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