

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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## **LINDA E. JOHNSON NAMED ACTING PRESIDENT AND CEO OF NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER** *Will Lead Center Through Transition*

Philadelphia, PA (January 13, 2009) – The National Constitution Center Board of Trustees announced today that Linda E. Johnson will serve as Acting President and Chief Executive Officer upon the departure of current President and CEO Joseph M. Torsella at the end of January.

A member of the Center's Board of Trustees since 1997, Ms. Johnson brings more than a decade of experience with the Center, and an integral understanding of its mission, to the executive position.

"I have a long and deep appreciation for Center's mission to promote a better understanding of the United States Constitution and the fundamental ideals of liberty that the Framers entreated to each of us as citizens," Johnson said. "It is this belief that led me to the NCC many years ago. I am honored to be able to help the Center continue this important work as the Board searches for a permanent chief executive."

Johnson most recently served as the CEO of the Free Library of Philadelphia Library Foundation. Previously, she led JCI Data Processing, Inc., a national information services business as president of the company from 1994 until it was sold in 2004. Prior to JCI, Johnson practiced environmental law in New Jersey. She serves as a trustee for a number of non-profit organizations, including the Free Library of Philadelphia, Hamilton College, The Museum of Arts and Designs, and the Albert Einstein Healthcare Network.

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## ADD ONE/ LINDA E. JOHNSON NAMED ACTING PRESIDENT AND CEO

“With her longstanding dedication to the Center, her considerable skills in fundraising, and her extensive experience in marketing, I know Linda will guide the Center with distinction,” said Torsella, who will step down at the end of January, following two terms – a total of 10 years – of service.

“We are extremely fortunate to have the benefit of Linda’s talent and experience during this transition,” said Lawrence J. Kent, Chairman of the Board of Trustee’s Executive Committee. “With her appointment we will not miss a beat in operating the Center as we transition to new leadership in the months ahead.”

Library Foundation Board Chair William R. Sasso added: “The Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation and I will greatly miss Linda, who has served as our CEO for the past two years. She leaves the Foundation in great shape with substantial funding in hand, and a brilliant design for the new Parkway Central building ready for groundbreaking as soon as the economic climate improves.”

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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