

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CRAFTS, STORYTELLING, AND SERVICE MARK MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (December 20, 2005) – In honor of the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., the National Constitution Center will participate in a city-wide celebration on Monday, January 16. From 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Constitution Center visitors of all ages will be able to enjoy activities in the museum, including crafts, storytelling sessions, and musical and dramatic performances. In the spirit of Dr. King, visitors can also participate in a service project focusing on the plight of homelessness.

The Center will be collecting items for the Stenton Manor Homeless Shelter in Philadelphia. Special needs include baby formula, diapers, canned goods, coats, and sheets. Visitors who bring an item on January 16 will receive a coupon for \$1 off regular museum admission. Visitors can also lend a helping hand by sewing blankets for the homeless in the National Constitution Center's Freedom Classroom. Guests will also have the opportunity to learn more about civic engagement throughout the day.

All guests are encouraged to participate in the American Red Cross Blood Drive from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the Stars and Stripes Lunchroom. To register, call Karen Fink at 215-409-6761 or visit www.pleasegiveblood.org/sponsor.html?sponsorcode=iv94.

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.

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ADD ONE/MLK DAY

The performance will focus on themes relating to Martin Luther King, Jr. – diversity and conflict resolution – through songs, puppets, movement, and stories, all with an emphasis on interaction and participation.

Other dramatic performances will occur at 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m., when students from local colleges will read aloud Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech in the Grand Hall Lobby.

Families are also invited to create make-and-take crafts, including "I Have a Dream" mobiles and Benjamin Franklin masks in honor of the Center's new blockbuster exhibition *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*.

Young visitors won't want to miss a special story time in the Annenberg Lobby from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Children can listen to stories about Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement, read by notable figures from the Philadelphia community and Center staff.

All day, there will also be a special "Talkback" board in the Grand Hall Lobby for visitors to post their responses to questions relating to Martin Luther King, Jr., diversity, and citizenship.

Located at 525 Arch Street on Philadelphia's historic Independence Mall, the National Constitution Center 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". For more information, visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World, a blockbuster exhibition celebrating Franklin's 300th birthday, makes its world premiere at the National Constitution Center from December 15, 2005, through April 30, 2006.

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ADD TWO/MLK DAY

Created by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, this exhibition is being hosted locally by CBS 3. Tickets for the exhibition, which also include regular museum admission, are \$14 for adults; \$12 for children ages 4-12, seniors, and college students; and \$8.50 for groups of 20 or more. For advance tickets, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.gophila.com/ben.

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