



NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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**GO BEHIND THE SCENES OF BEST OF PHILLY
DURING JULY'S "PHILADELPHIA TALKS"
AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER**

PHILADELPHIA, PA (July 10, 2006) – How does *Philadelphia Magazine* decide who the best politician in town is and where to get the best cheesesteak? Go behind the scenes of *Philadelphia Magazine's* annual best-selling issue "Best of Philly" at the National Constitution Center on Wednesday, July 26, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. Larry Platt, editor of *Philadelphia Magazine*, food editor April White, and staffers Tom McGrath and Jessica Blatt will discuss their decisions in creating the "Best of Philly" issue. Anthony Green, National Constitution Center Vice President for Programs and National Outreach and a former editor at *Philadelphia Magazine* when it was first launching the "Best Of" brand, will moderate. This is the second installment of "Philadelphia Talks", a series of unique discussions for Philadelphians about Philadelphia. Admission is free for members and K-12 teachers, and \$5 for non-members. Advance reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

In 1974, *Philadelphia Magazine* invented the "Best Of" series that has since been copied in other publications throughout the country. "Best Of" has been controversial for naming everything from the Best Politician and Best Newspaper Columnist to the Best Independent Film and Best Philadelphian. This issue also gives the guide to the best restaurants, beaches, and nightclubs throughout the region.

"The most frequent question I get from readers concerns how we decide upon Best of Philly entries, since, unlike our imitators, ours is not a readers' poll — it's a subjective, authoritative list. So this is a chance to explore our process and tell us where we were wrong and why — after all, disagreeing with Best of Philly is part of the fun of reading it," says *Philadelphia Magazine* Editor-in-Chief Larry Platt.

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ADD ONE/BEST OF PHILLY

“This event will not be all cheesesteaks and the best tapas,” said the Center’s Anthony Green. “We’ll be looking at how they make their more serious choices involving politics, which has always raised some controversy going back to the time when I worked at *Philadelphia Magazine*, and how democratic the process has become.”

One of the most distinguished metropolitan monthly publications in the country, *Philadelphia Magazine* was founded in 1908 as a quarterly illustrated magazine published by the Trades League of Philadelphia, and has been in continuous publication for more than 90 years. Bought in 1946 by S. Arthur Lipson, the magazine has remained in continuous operation by the Lipson family. Current Chairman D. Herbert Lipson took the helm as Publisher in 1961, and in 1986, the torch was passed to S. Arthur Lipson’s grandson, David H. Lipson, Jr., now President.

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. Opened on July 4, 2003, the Constitution Center is 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 and debates, and is a partner of NPR’s “Justice Talking,” a program of the Annenberg Public Policy Center. Also, serving 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 215.409.6600 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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