

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REAL AMERICAN IDOLS **NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER** **REVEALS THE MAKING OF SIGNERS' HALL**

Philadelphia, PA (February 3, 2005) – In Signers' Hall, one of the most popular exhibits at the National Constitution Center, 42 life-sized bronze statues of the men present at the signing of the Constitution stand poised throughout the room, as if captured in time. How were these Founding Fathers, who met in Philadelphia more than 200 years ago, made to look so real? Find out during "Real American Idols: The Making of Signers' Hall," a FREE program at the Constitution Center at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 5 in the Kirby Auditorium of the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach.

The project's historical consultant, Raymond Smock, will host the program, which gives visitors a "sneak peek" at the creation of the statues, focusing on the creative process, research, historic detail and the Signers themselves. In addition to researching physical characteristics, Smock and the designers drew from historical letters and written descriptions to assess the personality of each delegate, and how they might have been situated in the room.

Raymond W. Smock is director of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies at Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, West Virginia. He is the former Historian of the U. S. House of Representatives (1983-95). Smock is a graduate of Roosevelt University in Chicago and holds the Ph.D. in history from the University of Maryland at College Park.

The Signers' Hall statues were created by StudioEIS, a Brooklyn-based sculpture and design studio.

Admission to the National Constitution Center is \$7 for adults and \$5 for seniors ages 62 and up, children ages 4-12, and active military personnel. Group rates are also available.

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ADD ONE/REAL AMERICAN IDOLS

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". Also, serving as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional debate, 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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