

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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## NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER SUMMER 2006 FEATURES **NEW SPORTS: BREAKING RECORDS, BREAKING BARRIERS EXHIBITION**

PHILADELPHIA – This summer, in addition to its award-winning main exhibition, the National Constitution Center will host ***Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers*** from May 26, 2006 through August 20, 2006. The exhibit also features an exclusive National Constitution Center created section, *Local Legends*, as a tribute to Philadelphia's own hometown heroes.

Developed by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), ***Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers*** focuses on 35 athletes and their performances in 17 different sports. Artifacts selected emphasize such issues as women's changing roles, racial and ethnic integration, the emergence of sports celebrities and superstars, nationalism, perceptions about human physical limitations, and technological breakthroughs that enhanced performance and participation. *Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers* reminds visitors of all these issues that athletes encounter and the effect their personal victories, both on and off the field, exert on the nation's consciousness.

The exhibition is divided into six main sections: Firsts, Olympians, Game Makers, More than Champions, Barrier Removers, and Superstars. Spotlighting the Smithsonian's sports collection, the exhibit includes artifacts and memorabilia from Jackie Robinson, Babe Ruth, Roberto Clemente, Gertrude Ederle, Michael Jordan, Billie Jean King, and the Miracle on Ice U.S. Hockey Team, among others.

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## ADD ONE/NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER SUMMER 2006 HIGHLIGHTS

To add some Philadelphia flavor, the National Constitution Center is supplementing the exhibit with a tribute to local sports heroes and record breakers, *Local Legends*. This special section will include a variety of artifacts, images, and memorabilia from some of the biggest names in Philadelphia sports history, including Wilt Chamberlain, Bobby Clarke, Vince Papale, Tug McGraw, and Joe Frazier. Visitors can also explore a display of legendary sports covers from the archives of the *Philadelphia Daily News*.

*Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers* at the National Constitution Center is sponsored in part by the *Philadelphia Daily News*, and is free with regular museum admission. Audi is the exclusive national sponsor of the exhibition.

Visitors can also enjoy the Center's main exhibition, which 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". In the main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, visitors have the opportunity to participate in some of the great rites of democracy. They can vote for their favorite President, serve on a jury, and even be sworn in as President of the United States. In addition, they can put on a judge's robe, sit at a replica of the Supreme Court bench, and decide landmark cases. Adjacent to the main exhibition, visitors can walk among the life-sized bronze statues of 42 men - the 39 delegates who signed the Constitution as well as the three that dissented - in *Signers' Hall*, a stylized evocation of the Assembly Room where the signers of the Constitution met on September 17, 1787.

In addition, the Swiss Federal Charter, known as the "Schweizer Bundesbrief," will be shown in its first-time-ever departure from Switzerland at the National Constitution Center in a 3-week exhibition, "Sister Republics", from June 10 through June 30. The 715-year-old Founding Federation Contract has been considered a precursor to the U.S. Declaration of Independence. "Sister Republics" will depict the bonds of democratic tradition between Switzerland and the United States.

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## ADD TWO/NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER SUMMER 2006 HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrate the history of our nation's birthday with the Independence Day Show at the National Constitution Center. Held daily from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. from May 29 through September 4, 2006, the Center will explore the history of the most American of holidays that started the original 13 colonies on the road to freedom as a sovereign nation. From protests to canons, flag waving to parades, and complete with explosive words and fiery demonstrations, the Center will take an in depth look at this exciting celebration by exploring it over time from the very first words of independence to present day.

Many special events are also held throughout the summer, including the "4<sup>th</sup> and Goal Festival" from June 30 through July 4. Children can create their own player trading cards and sports pennants, attempt to break a National Constitution Center record, and contribute their artistic skills to a huge rally banner. Other activities include inflatable games, temporary sports tattoos, and a chance to laugh at Sports Blooper videos. A calendar of events is available on the website at [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org). Participation in "4<sup>th</sup> and Goal" activities is free. Museum admission is not included.

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. The museum is open seven days a week, and admission is \$9 for adults and \$7 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. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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