

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

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CONTACT: Ashley Berke
Senior Public Relations Manager
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

TAVIS SMILEY TO HOST TOWN HALL MEETING ABOUT HOLDING AMERICA ACCOUNTABLE AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (February 17, 2009) – As part of the National Constitution Center’s special programming in conjunction with the world debut of the **America I AM: *The African American Imprint*** exhibition, broadcaster and *America I AM* presenter **Tavis Smiley** will conduct a town hall meeting focusing on how we, as individuals and as a community, can implement national and local solutions to crucial issues – including health care, education, the economy, justice, and the environment – and how we can hold elected officials accountable to those issues, as outlined in his new book, *Accountable: Making America As Good As Its Promise*. The event will take place on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Accountable: Making America As Good As Its Promise serves as a tool to evaluate whether America’s goals have been realized and how politicians and citizens have lived up to their promises and responsibilities. By examining the issues of utmost importance to Americans, *Accountable* acknowledges the mistakes of the past while offering hope and inspiration for a better future.

A nationally respected broadcaster, author, advocate, and philanthropist, Tavis Smiley continues to be an American voice for change. Smiley started his career as an aide to the late Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley. In 1996, he became the resident social and political commentator on the *Tom Joyner Morning Show*, a post he held for 12 years.

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Currently, Smiley hosts the late night television talk show *Tavis Smiley* on PBS and *The Tavis Smiley Show* distributed by Public Radio International (PRI). In addition to his radio and television work, Smiley has authored eleven books. His memoir, *What I Know For Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America*, became a *New York Times* bestseller.

A book sale and signing will follow the program, courtesy of Joseph Fox Bookshop.

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.

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