

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS: Denise Venuti Free
Director of Public Relations
215.409.6636
dvfree@constitutioncenter.org

Ashley Berke
Public Relations Coordinator
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WORKSHOP FOR LOCAL TEACHERS

PHILADELPHIA, PA (December 6, 2005) — One of the greatest minds of all time, Benjamin Franklin is known for prowess as an inventor and creator. The National Constitution Center, in conjunction with the opening of *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*, will present a teacher workshop, “Benjamin Franklin: Master Diplomat,” sponsored by PECO, an Exelon Company. On December 17, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., “Benjamin Franklin: Master Diplomat” will highlight three of Franklin’s most important roles: diplomat, politician and negotiator.

Franklin earned the title of Master Diplomat through his negotiations with the Native Americans of western Pennsylvania as well as his dealings with the rulers of England and France. Franklin used his powers of persuasion and the strategies of collaboration to form alliances that set the foundation for the future of America. Dr. Rosalind Remer, Executive Director of The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary will use artifacts and interactives from the exhibition to explore and explain Franklin’s role as statesman and Master Diplomat in the years leading up to the founding of the American Republic.

“Benjamin Franklin: Master Diplomat” is the first of four workshops being offered to teachers during the *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World* exhibition. “Who Was Benjamin Franklin” will be held on February 11, 2006; “Franklin & American Identity” will take place on March 11, 2006; and “The Spirit of Compromise and the Constitutional Convention” will occur on April 8, 2006. Each workshop is open to 50 teachers from the School District of Philadelphia and the tri-county area and will be held on Saturdays. These workshops are also supported by a grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services.

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ADD ONE/TEACHER WORKSHOP

Registration is \$20 for each workshop and includes admission to *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*, resources and materials, ACT48 Continuing Education Hours for those who qualify, and free admittance to the January 8th *Franklin Biographers: A Reunion* program and book signing, featuring Stacy Schiff, Gordon Wood, and Walter Isaacson. Each workshop centers on a different theme to help teachers use the exhibition to teach about Franklin as an exemplary citizen, constitutional signer, and international diplomat. To register, visit www.constitutioncenter.org to download the registration form or contact Stephanie McKissic at smckissic@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. Created by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, this exhibition is being hosted locally by CBS3. 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.constitutioncenter.org.

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".

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