

## NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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### **NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER INVITES GUESTS TO CELEBRATE THE DIVERSITY OF AMERICAN CULTURE**

Philadelphia, PA (December 4, 2008) – In anticipation of the upcoming *America I AM: The African American Imprint* exhibition, visitors are invited to join the National Constitution Center for “Celebrating Our Imprint: The Mosaic of American Culture,” a series of events that celebrates the diversity of American culture through the crafts, customs, and celebrations of its people. Guests will have the chance to explore traditions from around the world and create their own “We the People” tile as part of a special mosaic. These activities will take place daily from Friday, December 26 through Wednesday, December 31, 2008, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Throughout the week, visitors can make traditional African crafts and learn African-American ring and clapping games that children played in the 1800s. While learning about Asian customs, guests will have the chance to write a constitutional haiku and make dragon kites. Families can also learn Native American ritual dances that are performed during the winter solstice. For more wintry traditions, visitors can explore the culture of the coolest place on earth, Antarctica. Environmentally conscious citizens will have the opportunity to start their own Polar Plunge in their communities in order to save polar bears. Latin American holiday traditions will help visitors warm up after learning about these chilly customs. Guests can make Mexican hot chocolate while listening to Samba music. For a tasty treat, they will also have the chance to design their own gingerbread houses, a German custom, while snacking on European holiday crackers.

Visitors can also celebrate the diversity of our country by designing their own tiles to be added to a mosaic representing the broad scope of “We the People.”

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## ADD ONE/CELEBRATING OUR IMPRINT

From January 15 through May 3, 2009, the National Constitution Center will host the world debut of *America I AM: The African American Imprint*, celebrating 400 years of African American contributions to this country. The exhibition will present a historical continuum of pivotal moments in courage, conviction and creativity that solidifies the undeniable imprint of African Americans across the nation and around the world. Featuring more than 300 artifacts culled from every period of U.S. history, the exhibit will include objects, texts, religion, music, narration and media. An interactive component of the exhibition will allow visitors to leave their own video "imprints," and this collection will grow throughout the life of the exhibit to become the largest recorded oral history project in U.S. history.

Admission to *America I AM* is \$17.50 for adults, \$15.50 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$9 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. Admission to the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, including the award-winning theater production "Freedom Rising", is included. iPod audio tours are also available and cost \$2 for members and \$3 for non-members. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

The exhibition is developed in partnership with The Smiley Group, Inc., and organized by Cincinnati Museum Center and Arts and Exhibitions International (AEI). *America I AM* is made possible by Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., which serves as its presenting sponsor. CBS 3 is the official media partner for the Center's showing of *America I AM*.

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. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).