

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jenny Parker McCloskey, 215-409-6616

jparker@constitutioncenter.org

Merissa Blum, 215-409-6645 mblum@constitutioncenter.org

DISCOUNTED ADMISSION, SERVICE PROJECTS AND SPECIAL PERFORMANCES TO CELEBRATE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY, JANUARY 18, 2016, AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

The Center will host service projects, dramatic readings of the "I Have A Dream" speech by local actors and students, craft activities and more

Philadelphia (January 13, 2016) – The National Constitution Center will honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on **January 18, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** with community service projects, special performances and fun for the whole family. In addition, the Center is serving as a drop-off location for donations of school supplies for Philadelphia school students. Items can be dropped off at the Center's box office.

The Center will again join with the <u>Global Citizen's Greater Philadelphia Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service</u> for a daylong commemoration of King's lifelong dedication to justice, equality, and service to the greater good.

Admission will be \$5, courtesy of Macy's and includes all programming and service projects such as a book and school supplies drive for Philadelphia school students and quilt and pillow making projects to benefit Women Against Abuse, a local nonprofit.

Donations of school supplies such as pens, pencils, crayons, copy papers, hand sanitizer and folders will be welcomed at the Center's box office through January 18, 2016.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day will also be the last day to see *Freedom Rising*, the Center's award-winning, multimedia theatrical production, before it closes for renovation. The renovation and upgrade to the Sidney Kimmel Theater and the live production of *Freedom Rising* mas been made possible by a generous \$2 million contribution from the Sidney Kimmel Foundation.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Programs

Service Projects

Book Drive and Student Care Packages

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Grand Hall Overlook

Visitors will be invited to help museum staff sort through books and school supplies donated throughout December and January in preparation for delivery to Philadelphia schools and other facilities.



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Pillow Making Project

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Grand Hall Overlook

The museum will also host a project that benefits Women Against Abuse, a local nonprofit that provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, legal services, behavioral healthcare, advocacy, and education to victims of domestic violence. Visitors are invited to sew pillows for the shelter.

Quilt Making Project

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

School Lunch Room

The museum will serve as the host location for a quilting and sewing service project that also benefits Women Against Abuse.

*This activity is only available to participants who have pre-registered—all 2016 spots are currently filled.

Special Performances

Two of a Kind

11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Kirby Auditorium

Children and their families can sing along with "Two of a Kind," an award-winning, nationally touring, husband-wife duo, during an interactive musical program. Focusing on themes related to Dr. King, the performance will encourage audience participation through songs, sign language, movement, and stories

"I Have A Dream" Speech

12 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Kirby Auditorium

A diverse ensemble of local actors will join students from local colleges to perform a passionate reading of the "I Have A Dream" speech.

Sister Cities Girlchoir

Immediately following the 2 p.m. speech

Kirby Auditorium

Following the 2 p.m. reading of the "I Have A Dream" speech, members of the <u>Sister Cities</u> <u>Girlchoir</u> will join the actors on stage for a performance of "We Shall Overcome." The choir will also perform several select songs from their repertoire.

Educational Programs and Activities

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and His Legacy

In this engaging show, visitors can learn about Dr. King's vision of himself as an agent of service, how that understanding led him to the use of nonviolence, and how other leaders from around the world were influenced by his legacy. Visitors will also discover ways they can serve their own communities.

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Craft Activity Tables

Visitors can create "I Have A Dream..." mobiles and express their dreams for their communities, the country and the world.

Day of Service Story Corner

At the National Constitution Center's Story Corner, museum staff will engage the youngest visitors. The Center's staff will read beloved books about Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, like *Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen* by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan.

About the National Constitution Center

The <u>National Constitution Center</u> in Philadelphia inspires active citizenship as the only place where people across America and around the world can come together to learn about, debate, and celebrate the greatest vision of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution. A private, nonprofit organization, the Center serves as America's leading platform for constitutional education and debate, fulfilling its Congressional charter "to disseminate information about the U.S. Constitution on a non-partisan basis." As the **Museum of We the People**, the Center brings the Constitution to life for visitors of all ages through interactive programs and exhibits. As **America's Town Hall**, the Center brings the leading conservative and liberal thought leaders together to debate the Constitution on all media platforms. As a center for **Civic Education**, the Center delivers the best educational programs and online resources that inspire, excite, and engage citizens about the U.S. Constitution. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit constitutioncenter.org.

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