

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Philadelphia, PA (May 3, 2017) – The Pew Charitable Trusts announced that it will provide a \$500,000 grant, over a period of two years, to the [National Constitution Center](http://www.constitutioncenter.org) to support the creation of a permanent exhibit which will educate Americans about the constitutional legacy of the Civil War and the Reconstruction era Amendments.

“We are thrilled to receive this grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts to create America’s first gallery telling the constitutional story of the Civil War, the new birth of freedom represented by the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments,” said Jeffrey Rosen, President and CEO of the National Constitution Center. “At a time when we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of America’s Second Founding, represented by the Reconstruction Amendments to the Constitution, this new exhibit will be an invaluable opportunity to educate all Americans about the historical and constitutional struggles on behalf of equal protection for all. This new gallery exemplifies the National Constitution Center’s commitment to work with other institutions, such as the Gettysburg Foundation and the Civil War Museum of Philadelphia, to make the most significant documents in American constitutional history accessible to the American public.”

The historic partnership of the National Constitution Center, the Civil War Museum of Philadelphia, and the Gettysburg Foundation unites three Pennsylvania institutions with dovetailing missions, needs, and expertise for the greater good, enabling the Center to educate Americans about the most significant constitutional transformation since the Founding of America.

Since the late 1800s, the Civil War Museum of Philadelphia has been the repository of a significant collection of Civil War materials donated in the decades following the war. Since 2010, this collection has been housed by the Gettysburg Foundation. The new gallery will be a permanent addition to the National Constitution Center’s display of the most priceless and significant documents in American constitutional history including one of the twelve original copies of the Bill of Rights, displayed in collaboration with the New York Public Library, and James Wilson’s original draft of the Constitution, displayed in collaboration with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

## Artifact highlights include:

- Fragments of the flag Lincoln raised at Independence Hall on his way to his first inauguration
- A rare wanted poster for John Wilkes Booth
- General Ulysses Grant’s ceremonial sword

Once matching funds for the Pew grant are raised, the gallery will open to the public, with a target opening date of early 2019.

### **About the National Constitution Center**

The [National Constitution Center](https://www.constitutioncenter.org) in Philadelphia inspires 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 nonpartisan 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](https://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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