NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER ANNOUNCES PRESIDENTS DAY AND VALENTINE'S DAY WEEKEND PROGRAMS

Philadelphia (February 13, 2015) – This Presidents Day, the National Constitution Center invites visitors of all ages to celebrate their love of presidential history with several different special events, including those for Valentine's Day and African American History Month. Kids and parents can experience a special Kids Town Hall program with presidential reenactors, moderated by Good Day Philadelphia's Alex Holley, Co-host, FOX 29 News. In honor of African American History Month and Presidents Day, admission to the National Constitution Center is **FREE** on Monday, February 16, courtesy of TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank[®].

On Presidents Day, kids ages 12 and under are eligible to participate in the Center's Presidential Costume Contest. The most original costume, as judged by a panel of presidential reenactors, will be awarded a family membership. Fox29 News co-host Alex Holley will announce the winner at the **Kids Town Hall: Meet the Presidents** program, which begins at 12 p.m. in the Kirby Auditorium and features talks from reenactors portraying famous guests: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt. Additionally on Monday, there will be a **Story Corner** where guests can hear classic tales from African American history. The **Giant Game Board Activity**, designed to test guests' knowledge of African American history, will be part of the Center's interactive daily programming throughout the month.

Other ongoing activities celebrating African American History Month include **Breaking Barriers**, a show that examines the lives of Thurgood Marshall, Bessie Coleman, Jackie Robinson, and other groundbreaking African Americans throughout American history, and the **African American History Self-Guided Tour.** The tour highlights important moments in African American history and features: the rare, signed copy of the Emancipation Proclamation; President Obama's inauguration artifacts; the American National Tree showcasing stories about influential African Americans including Paul Robeson, Fannie Lou Hamer, Ward Connerly, 2012 Liberty Medal winner Muhammad Ali; a pen President Johnson used to sign the Voting Rights Act; and an original printing of the Supreme Court's controversial Dred Scott decision.

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Daily programs will also take place during the weekend and include: *Hail to the Chief* Quiz Game where visitors can learn about the role of the president and the history of the executive branch; the *Growing Up: President Style* show where guests dress up as their favorite American president and discover what it was like growing up, president-style; *Presidential Leadership* **Tours,** themed tours of the main exhibition led by the Center's education staff and highlighting the leadership styles of American presidents including George Washington, Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, and Ronald Reagan; and the *Decoding the Document: Emancipation Proclamation* Document Workshop where guests are invited to take a closer look at the museum's rare printing of the Emancipation Proclamation to learn more about its history, the history of the Civil War, and the background of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments.

Visitors can also view the Center's latest exhibits, including: *Creating Camelot: The Kennedy Photography of Jacques Lowe*, a traveling exhibit from the Newseum showcasing unforgettable images of public and private moments taken by John F. Kennedy's personal photographer, Jacques Lowe; and a rare exhibition of the 13th Amendment, made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities: Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence. Both exhibits are **FREE** on Presidents Day, courtesy of TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank[®].

The National Constitution Center is located at 525 Arch Street on Philadelphia's Independence Mall. The Center is open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, until 6 p.m. on Saturday and from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Special winter admission pricing, which continues through March 31, 2015, is \$10. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit <u>constitutioncenter.org</u>.

About the National Constitution Center

The <u>National Constitution Center</u> in Philadelphia is the Museum of We the People, America's Town Hall, and a Headquarters for Civic Education. As the **Museum of We the People**, the National Constitution Center brings the United States Constitution to life for visitors of all ages and inspires active citizenship by celebrating the American constitutional tradition. The museum features interactive exhibitions, engaging theatrical performances, and original documents of freedom. As the only institution established by Congress to "disseminate information about the United States Constitution on a non-partisan basis," the National Constitution Center serves as a **Headquarters for Civic Education**—offering cutting-edge learning resources including the premier online Interactive Constitution. As **America's Town Hall**, the National Constitution Center hosts timely constitutional conversations uniting distinguished leaders, scholars, authors, and journalists from across the political spectrum. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit <u>constitutioncenter.org</u>.

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