

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER FACTS

The National Constitution Center was created by the Constitution Heritage Act in 1988. The Center is America's first and only nonprofit, nonpartisan institution devoted to the U.S. Constitution. As a cutting-edge museum, national town hall, and civic education hub, the Center illuminates constitutional ideals and inspires acts of citizenship through must-see multimedia exhibitions, live performances, timely public programs, and dynamic educational resources.

On September 17, 2000, the Center broke ground at 525 Arch St. in Philadelphia's Independence National Historical Park – America's most historic square mile – 213 years to the day the U.S. Constitution was signed.

The National Constitution Center is both a museum that attracted one million visitors in its first 15 months of operation and an engine of civic and constitutional education for children and adults.

About the Museum

The architectural firm of Pei Cobb Freed & Partners designed the National Constitution Center. The firm is responsible for the expansion of the Louvre and the East Building of the National Gallery of Art. Ralph Appelbaum Associates designed the Center's visitor experiences and exhibition hall. Appelbaum also created the visitor experiences and exhibition halls at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Newseum, and the Rose Planetarium.

The project cost of the National Constitution Center was \$185 million, which included construction, exhibition design, and fabrication, as well as a \$40 million endowment.

The total square footage of public space is 160,000 square feet, including galleries.

The Center contains 75,785 square feet of exhibition space that includes:

- The Story of We the People – the permanent exhibition in DeVos Hall which includes:
 - The Kimmel Theater, a 350-seat star-shaped theater featuring *Freedom Rising*, a multimedia production combining film, a live actor, and video projection on a 360 screen.
 - *The American Experience*, which includes a history of the Constitution as well as more than 100 interactive and multimedia exhibitions for all ages.
 - *Signers' Hall*, containing 42 life-size bronze statues of the 39 men who signed the Constitution, as well as the three who dissented.

The Freedom Exhibition Gallery, which opened in June 2005, featuring changing exhibitions, including:

- The Center's own *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*

- The Ben Franklin 300th anniversary exhibition, *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*
- Sports: *Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers* from the Smithsonian Institution
- *9/11: A Nation Remembers*
- *Eyewitness: American Originals from the National Archives*
- *First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image* from the Smithsonian Institution
- *Baseball As America* from The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, NY
- *Headed to the White House*
- *America I AM: The African American Imprint*
- *Napoléon*
- *Diana: A Celebration*
- *Ancient Rome & America*
- *Art of the American Soldier*
- *Spies, Traitors, and Saboteurs: Fear and Freedom in America* from the International Spy Museum in Washington, DC
- *Discover the Real George Washington: New Views from Mount Vernon*
- *Fighting for Democracy: Who is the “We” in “We the People”?* from the Japanese American National Museum
- *From Asbury Park to the Promised Land: The Life and Music of Bruce Springsteen* from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum
- The Center’s world premiere exhibition *American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*.

Admission is \$14.50 for adults, \$13 for seniors ages 65 and up, \$8 for children ages 4-12, and \$7.50 for groups of 20 or more. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Additional charges for traveling exhibitions may apply.

Convenient parking is available at the National Constitution Center's garage. Enter on Race Street between 5th and 6th streets.

Visitor amenities include The Delegates’ Cafe, a 225-seat, glass-enclosed restaurant overlooking Independence Mall, as well as a Museum Store, operated by Aramark, offering a wide range of gifts, books, apparel, jewelry, and toys.

The National Constitution Center offers a variety of spaces for Facility Rentals, including the Grand Hall Overlook, which can accommodate 650 people for a sit down dinner and features an incredible view of Independence Hall. In addition, the John C. Bogle Chairman’s Room, named for the Center’s former Board Chairman, is a state-of-the art meeting facility ideal for corporate meetings and social engagements. The exclusive caterer is Brûlée Catering.

The Center is made of the following American products including:

- 85,000 square feet of Indiana limestone

- 2.6 million pounds of steel
- A half-million cubic feet of concrete

About Our Civic and Constitutional Education

Through the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, the Constitution Center offers educational programming, a study center that develops and distributes teaching tools such as lesson plans and lectures, a Visiting Scholars program, as well as resources through the Center's website – constitutioncenter.org.

Thanks to a generous grant from The Annenberg Foundation, the Center is a key national resource for Constitution Day activities through its website, constitutioncenter.org/constitutionday.

In September 2006, the Center helped launch Constitution High School, a history and civics themed Philadelphia School District magnet school created in partnership with the National Constitution Center and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

About The Liberty Medal

In 2006 the Center became the home of the Liberty Medal, an annual award established in 1988 to recognize those who have devoted their lives to pursuing liberty and promoting freedom throughout the world.

- In 2006, the Medal was presented to Presidents George H.W. Bush and William J. Clinton for their historic partnership to raise awareness and funds for victims of Hurricane Katrina and the tsunami in Southeast Asia.
- The 2007 Liberty Medal was awarded to Bono, U2 lead singer and activist, and DATA (Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa), the advocacy organization he co-founded to combat poverty and disease in Africa.
- In 2008, the Medal was presented to former Soviet leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Mikhail Gorbachev for his courageous role in ending the dangerous, decades-long Cold War.
- The 2009 Liberty Medal was awarded to filmmaker and humanitarian Steven Spielberg for his artistic and personal commitment to the preservation of human rights.
- In 2010, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair was selected as the Medal recipient for his steadfast commitment to conflict resolution.
- The 2011 Liberty Medal was awarded to former U.S. Secretary of Defense Dr. Robert M. Gates for his help transforming U.S. intelligence and military operations to meet emerging realities, and advances in the safety and empowerment of American servicemen and women.
- The 2012 Liberty Medal honored champion of freedom Muhammad Ali who embodies everything the award was established to honor: *individuals of courage and conviction who strive to secure the blessings of liberty to people around the globe.*



- The 2013 Liberty Medal was awarded to Hillary Rodham Clinton in recognition of her life-long career in public service and her ongoing advocacy efforts on behalf of women and girls around the globe.
- The 2014 Liberty Medal was awarded to Nobel Peace Prize recipient Malala Yousafzai, in honor of her bravery in the pursuit of education. Malala, age 17, was the youngest recipient of this award.