

the Constitution should continue ment its prefound impact on the development of this Nation, and on; and nail Park System preserve and interpret document the history of the origins, t, and effects of the United States Con-

nd an archives for, programs on or related to nnial of the United States Constitution; and n of the United States Constitution at those nal Park System particularly relevant to its

March 9, 1998

Celebrating the NCC's Inspiring Mission



1997 Joe Torsella

Named President

After slow-moving progress over the prior decade, Philadelphia Mayor Edward G. Rendell steps in as board chair and appoints deputy mayor Joe Torsella as president. This "dream team" breathes new life into the project and reinvigorates enthusiasm for construction of the Center.

Funding Secured

The Senate Appropriations Department of Interior subcommittee holds a rare on-site hearing to listen to testimony requesting federal funding for construction of the Center. Over the following weeks, Pennsylvania Senators Rick Santorum and Arlen Specter together with Senator Slade Gordon of Washington rally lawmakers to

secure federal funding for construction.

September 17, 2000 Construction of the Center Begins

The Constitution Heritage Act of 1988, which establishes the National Constitution Center,

is signed into law by President Ronald Reagan.

The Center breaks ground and construction begins. The Center's 525 Arch Street address is specifically chosen because May 25 is the date that the Constitutional Convention began in Philadelphia in 1787. President Bill Clinton attends the groundbreaking ceremony.



July 4, 2003 **Center Opens to the Public**

The National Constitution Center opens its doors to the public. The day's celebration included performances by Wynton Marsalis and Ray Charles, a military jet flyover, and Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is awarded the Liberty Medal.



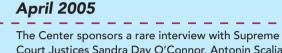
Named President Joe Torsella steps down as Center president and veteran TIME journalist Richard

Richard Stengel

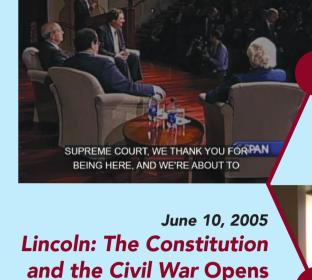
March 2004

20 04

Stengel takes the helm.



Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia, and Stephen G. Breyer, conducted by Tim Russert of NBC News at the National Archives, raising the Center's profile as a national leader in civic engagement.



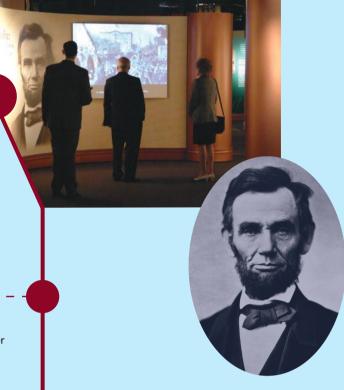
The Constitution and the Civil War, exploring the issues of presidential power in wartime by telling the story of Lincoln's struggle to save the Union and erase slavery from the Constitution. The critically acclaimed exhibit draws more than 190,000 visitors during its five-month run. The exhibit traveled to seven venues across the country and a panel show based on the

The Center presents its first temporary feature gallery, Lincoln:

exhibit traveled to hundreds of libraries and National Park sites.

November 2005

The Center debuts its own podcast with educational programming and content on the iTunes music store, becoming a national leader in the use of state-of-the-art internet broadcasting. Within the first four weeks, over 19,000 National Constitution Center podcasts are downloaded across the country. This podcast is a precursor to the Center's popular We the People podcast. Hosted by Jeffrey Rosen, We the People has 100,000



monthly downloads and allows listeners to hear the best arguments on all sides of the constitutional issues at the center of American life.

Benjamin Franklin: In Search

of a Better World Opens The world premiere of Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World opens, coinciding with the 300th anniversary of Franklin's birthday. The exhibit explores Franklin's background, self-education, and the effects of his philosophical and religious beliefs on his work

December 15, 2005

and life, and is the centerpiece of the citywide Ben Franklin 300 Philadelphia. Constitution High School



February 2006

2006 **Summer Teacher** Institutes Launch

Constitution High Established

The Center bolsters its education initiatives, including establishing Constitution High School, a magnet school within the School District of Philadelphia dedicated to empowering students through active citizenship.

educators from across the country to work with content experts to deepen their knowledge of constitutional topics and their historical contexts and modern understandings.

Summer Teacher Institutes program launches, allowing

Center Takes Over

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Liberty Medal

June 2006

2006

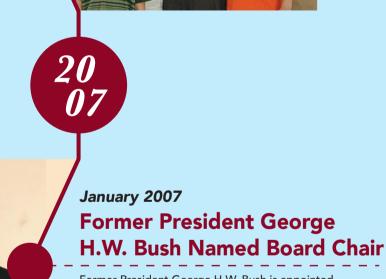
The Center officially assumes responsibility for selecting and awarding the Liberty Medal from the Philadelphia Foundation. The date of the annual event is moved closer to September 17—Constitution Day. Notable recipients over the years include Congressman John Lewis and Senator John McCain, Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Anthony M. Kennedy, Malala Yousafzai, the Dalai Lama, and most recently

Joe Torsella returns to the Center as

interim president and CEO.



EL'MATIONS



March-April 2008 **Center Plays Key Role in** 2008 Presidential Election The Center plays a key role in the 2008 presidential election as a venue for debates, speeches, and rallies. In April, the Center hosts the final and most-watched debate between the two Democratic

Student Ideas Launches The Exchange: A Marketplace of Student Ideas launches at the Center, allowing students across the country to engage in real-time conversations about constitutional issues and deliberate how the next president of the United States should address issues

May 2008

The Exchange:

A Marketplace of

Party candidates, Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama, in the Kimmel Theater. The Center also serves as a campaign stop for two town hall rallies for Senator John McCain and was selected by Obama to be the site of his seminal speech on race in America, cementing the Center's position as America's Town Hall.

important to America's youth. Students representing urban, suburban, and rural communities from six states participate in the conferences, and a DVD of The Exchange was distributed to 2,000 additional schools in November, reaching almost a half-million high school students. September 17, 2008 **Center Hosts First Annual**

Headed to the White House, an original, in-house exhibit premieres, teaching the presidential election process to students and families. This exhibit offers

Program Launches on Human Rights Day, dedicated to promoting constitutional

principles in emerging democracies through the educational and civic learning programs developed in the United States. These initiatives are implemented both domestically and abroad, with a particular focus on the development of democracy in Afghanistan.

Former President George H.W. Bush is appointed chairman of the National Constitution Center Board of Trustees, a role he serves for two years.



Naturalization Ceremony Together with the District Court for the Eastern Districts of Pennsylvania, the Center hosts its first

beginning what remains an annual tradition. At the request of First Lady Laura Bush, Freedom Rising is performed at the White House in honor of Constitution Day.

role-playing opportunities and uses multimedia and

excitement of America's greatest democratic rite.

interactive experiences to convey the importance and

naturalization ceremony for 77 new American citizens,

December 2008 **International Engagement**

The Center's International Engagement Program launches

October 2008

Program in 2022.

The formation of a new Corporate Council is

announced, comprised of advocates who advance

the mission of the Center by cultivating awareness of its educational programs, exhibitions, and overall activities within the corporate community. This was

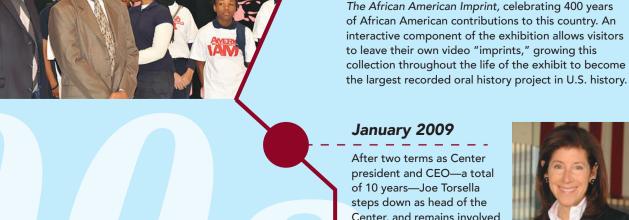
a precursor to the relaunched Corporate Partners

January 15, 2009

America I AM: The African

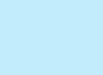
The Center hosts the world premiere of America I AM:

American Imprint Opens





Center, and remains involved in the transition process and search for a successor.



Former President Bill Clinton



IONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Longtime board member Linda Johnson is named acting president and CEO. January 2009

> Named Board Chair The Center welcomes former President Bill Clinton as chairman of the Board of Trustees.

July 2009 Being We the People: Afghanistan, America and the **Minority Imprint Opens** Two groups of students from Constitution High School in

Philadelphia and Marefat High School in Kabul, Afghanistan, begin working together to explore how minorities in different democracies define the concept of citizenship. Over the course of seven months, the students ventured into their communities, capturing images of freedom, religious expression, protest, and more—all the while sharing photographs and ideas online. The resulting exhibition of this collaboration, Being We the People: Afghanistan, America and the Minority Imprint, debuts simultaneously at the Center and the National Museum in Kabul in May 2010.



November 2009 David Eisner Named President

David Eisner, former CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, is announced as the new president and CEO of the Center.



A new exhibition three years in the making, Ancient Rome & America, makes its world debut at the Center showcasing the

February 19, 2010

cultural, political, and social connections between the lost world of ancient Rome and modern America. The exhibit features a unique and unprecedented collection of rare artifacts and artwork, in partnership with Contemporanea Progetti of Florence, Italy, in collaboration with the Ministero per i Beni e

Ancient Rome & America Opens

Le Attività Culturali, Rome, Italy. May 2010 A Secret Delegate

On May 25, the date the Constitutional Convention began, the Center captures the attention of the Twitter community with the introduction

of a secret delegate reporting "live" from the Convention in 1787. Imaginative dispatches offered insights into the Founders' disagreements and compromises, and the public was challenged to guess the identity of this mystery tweeter. The Twitter Convention concluded on Constitution Day—the anniversary of the Constitution's signing—when the secret delegate, Jacob Broom, was revealed.



Constitution High School celebrates a milestone with the graduation of its first senior class, 99 percent of whom were accepted into college. The graduation ceremony is held on the Center's Front Lawn.

First Constitution High School Class Graduat

September 2010 **Constitutional Hall Pass**

The Center launches a new web-based video learning series, Constitutional Hall Pass, in partnership with Channel One News. It debuts on Constitution Day and reaches over 6 million student viewers. This first installment features Justice Sandra

June 16, 2010

Day O'Connor sharing her perspective on the Constitution as a retired Supreme Court justice, and teaches students about the importance of the U.S. Constitution, while escorting them on a staff-led virtual tour of the Center's Signers' Hall.

of them capturing scenes of combat witnessed firsthand—from World War I through the present day.

January 2011

Art of the American Soldier Opens

In partnership with the U.S. Army Center of Military History, the Center premieres Art of the American Soldier. It's fourth major in-house exhibit, this groundbreaking exhibition presents rarely seen paintings and drawings created by American soldiers—many

December 2010 The Center partners with the National Conference on Citizenship on Pennsylvania's first-ever Civic Health Index. This assessment provides an annual measure of civic habits including voting, volunteering, and neighbor-to-neighbor connectedness, which are thought to predict and explain levels of participation in our democracy.



The Center is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. AAM accreditation is the field's primary vehicle for quality assurance, self-regulation, and public

Accreditation

accountability, reflecting a museum's commitment to excellence on all levels. In its accreditation report, AAM cited the Constitution Center as "an outstanding example of an institution that uses a wide variety of tools... to expand its audience."

Center Receives American

Alliance of Museums

September 24, 2010



offers smart commentary and conversation about contemporary constitutional issues and highlights constitutional components of current events unfolding in real time. Today, the blog has more than 500,000 monthly views.

Driven by an opportunity for deliberate experimentation, the Center presents the Japanese American National Museum's Fighting for Democracy: Who is the "We" in "We the People." Anchored by an original 30-minute multimedia production, Fighting for Democracy gave voice to its subject matter by interweaving performance and narration with three live actors

in seven roles, creating an innovative exhibit-theater visitor experience.

October 14, 2011 Fighting for Democracy: Who is the "We" in "We the People" Opens



and Fall of Prohibition Opens American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition opens, the

the country. A smaller version created with the National Endowment for the Humanities on the Road program called Spirited: Prohibition in America traveled to 36 historic sites, cultural centers, and history museums in small and mid-sized cities across the country.



October 19, 2012

December 2012

Former Florida Governer

Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush is elected chairman of the Center's Board of Trustees.

Jeb Bush Named Board Chair



joins the Center as president and CEO, a post

he holds to this day.

August 2013 The 1968 Exhibit Opens In conjunction with the traveling exhibition created by the Minnesota History Center, The 1968 Exhibit

February 2014 The Center is chosen as one of 20 prestigious nonprofit and government organizations to serve as a host organization for the American Council of Learned Societies Public Fellows Program. The program is intended to provide career opportunities in administration management and public

social sciences fields for a period of two years.

premieres, looking back on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and the iconic "I Have a Dream" Speech.

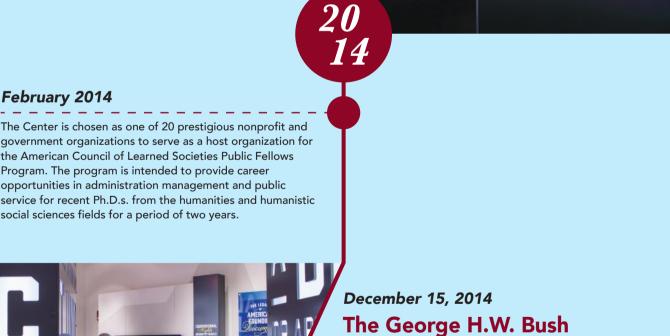
The National Constitution Center celebrates its 10th anniversary of the museum with a day

July 4, 2013

of patriotic celebrations. NONVIOLENCE...OUR

10th Anniversary of Museum

Museum of "We the People"



Bill of Rights Gallery Opens

The George H.W. Bush Bill of Rights Gallery opens, the first addition to the permanent exhibitions since the Center opened in 2003. The gallery is home to Constituting Liberty: From the Declaration to the Bill of Rights, an exhibit featuring one of the 12 surviving copies of the Bill of Rights signed by Vice President John Adams, alongside a first-edition Stone engraving of the Declaration of Independence from the Pennsylvania Packet, and a rare copy of the first public

Center Celebrates Freedom Day

The Center celebrates its inaugural Freedom Day event, convening the top thought leaders from across the political spectrum to discuss the state and future of American freedom. The program culminated in an inspiring keynote conversation with Mike Bezos and Walter Isaacson about freedom and the immigrant experience, and the

entire day of conversation is broadcast on C-SPAN.

INTERACTIVE

September 2015

Launches

and nonpartisan way.

Interactive Constitution

The Interactive Constitution launches, a free innovative tool designed to be the world's leading nonpartisan online platform for constitutional education. Through state-of-the-art technology and responsive web-based and mobile platforms, the Interactive Constitution transforms the U.S. Constitution into a 21st century educational experience, ensuring that all citizens can access materials explaining the roots, structure, and significance of the Constitution in an easy-to-understand

Constitution

April 2015

of Freedom Award The Center's Coalition of Freedom award debuts to increase awareness of the rights set forth in the U.S. Constitution and other founding documents through

printing of the U.S. Constitution.

Debut of Coalition

December 2014

Speaking Out for Equality:

Speaking Out for Equality: The Constitution, Gay Rights, and the Supreme Court premieres, a new exhibit created in partnership with the William Way

The Constitution, Gay Rights,

and the Supreme Court Opens

an online interactive Constitution; playwriting, short-story and essay contests for students; a schedule of on-site and traveling Town Hall debates; and a contest that challenges public and independent school teachers to create plans to increase constitutional literacy in their schools.

LGBT Community Center to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first Annual Reminder March. The exhibit highlights the evolution on gay rights in the courts, utilizing pivotal court cases, artifacts, and personal stories to chronicle the decades-long debate over gay rights. The exhibit opens just weeks before the Supreme Court handed down its landmark decision establishing marriage equality.

July 1, 2015

September 2015 Landmark Cases Premieres Landmark Cases, a new television series collaboration between the National Constitution Center and C-SPAN, premieres. It explores the

The 13th Amendment

Turns 150

Joined by the African American Museum in Philadelphia and other neighboring Historic District museums, the Center celebrates the 150th anniversary of the 13th Amendment

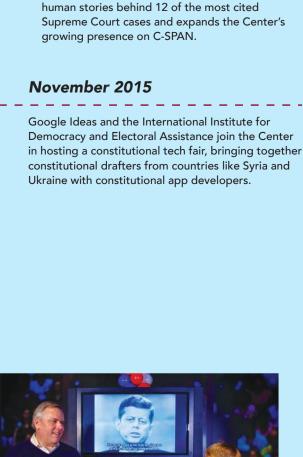
December 2015

ratification with special programming and the opportunity to view a rare original copy of the 13th Amendment signed by Abraham Lincoln. February 12, 2016

United States history and the presidential election season, held by the host committee for the Democratic National Convention, which is held this year in Philadelphia.

White House Opens As the presidential election approaches, the Center opens Headed to the White House, an expansion of the 2008 version of the exhibit includes artifacts, interactives, hands-on activities, and multimedia to guide visitors along the campaign trail to the Oval Office. The exhibit also serves as the hub for PoliticalFest, this summer's citywide nonpartisan celebration of

Headed to the





December 2016 Interactive Constitution Serves as Nonpartisan Source in Polarizing Times

In the weeks following a polarizing Election Day, more than 1.8 million people use the Center's online resources to seek information about the Constitution and topics including the Electoral College, the Supreme Court's rulings on flag-burning protests, the emoluments clause, and others. The Center's Interactive Constitution alone saw a traffic increase of more than 900,000 unique views, demonstrating America's hunger for trusted, nonpartisan content.

The Center introduces a free mobile app version of its acclaimed Interactive Constitution, presenting the full text of the Constitution alongside clickable essays that explain its roots, structure, and significance written by leading legal scholars in America. The app allows students, educators, and citizens everywhere to access the Interactive Constitution's content anytime, anywhere.

January 2017 WeLoveTheConstitution.com Launches

The Center partners with iCivics to launch WeLoveTheConstitution.com, a digital site where Americans can share their thoughts about the Constitution and what they most value about the document. Videos include those from Supreme Court justices, members of Congress, and other national figures, including Tom Brokaw, Ken Burns, and National Constitution Center President and CEO Jeffrey Rosen. Members of the public upload their own videos, sparking a national dialogue about our founding document and what it means to its citizens.

Board Chair

Former Vice President Joe Biden is elected chair of the Center's Board of Trustees.



May 25, 2017

February 2017

Joe Biden Named

May 4, 2017 American Treasures: Documenting the Nation's Founding Opens

In partnership with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Center premieres American Treasures: Documenting the Nation's Founding, an exhibit illuminating the founding era through priceless drafts of the U.S. Constitution, including the very first handwritten drafts by Pennsylvania delegate James Wilson. The exhibit also features an interactive component that allows visitors to compare the evolving texts of the earliest drafts of the Constitution in the gallery and online.

Statesman, Chief Justice Opens The new exhibit John Marshall: Patriot, Statesman, Chief Justice, premieres, celebrating the life and influential career of Chief Justice John Marshall in partnership with The John Marshall Foundation. The exhibit focuses on Marshall's early career as a leading lawyer in Virginia, his tenure in the House of Representatives and service as President John Adams's secretary of state, and his constitutional legacy as our nation's fourth chief justice, including landmark decisions such as

John Marshall: Patriot,

Marbury v. Madison and McCulloch v. Maryland. 2018 **Teacher Advisory**



Board Launches The Center's Teacher Advisory Board launches. A collaboration of skilled educators from across the country, the Teacher Advisory Board is responsible for supporting the Center's education team in development and evaluation of

educational materials, as well as presenting content created to support students.



Constitutional Clashes

That Shaped a Nation Opens

The Center unveils a new exhibit highlighting the competing

ideas of Alexander Hamilton and his legendary rivals. Hamilton: The Constitutional Clashes That Shaped a Nation explores Hamilton's fraught relationships with James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Aaron Burr and the constitutional debates that shaped America. **July 2018 Center Celebrates**



The Battle for Freedom and **Equality Opens** Civil War and Reconstruction: The Battle for Freedom and Equality opens to the public. It is the first exhibit in America devoted to exploring the constitutional debates from the Civil War and

Reconstruction, allowing visitors of all ages to learn how the equality promised in the Declaration of Independence was finally inscribed in

Civil War and Reconstruction:



the 14th Amendment

On the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the 14th Amendment, the Center unveils a series of initiatives to commemorate the Reconstruction-era amendment that guaranteed equal protection to all persons, highlighted





With a new design and enhanced functionality, the Interactive Constitution: Classroom Edition launches on Constitution Day, giving the Center a robust platform to support remote online learning. The Classroom Edition adds educational materials to the Interactive Constitution as well as new Classroom Exchanges, a unique new platform for uniting classrooms from across the country for civil dialogue

Interactive Constitution:

Classroom Edition Launches

September 17, 2019

about the Constitution.

September 2019

students to the Center for a new and immersive experience in constitutional education, aiming to inspire students of diverse backgrounds to be ambassadors for constitutional

The Battle for the **Constitution Launches** With America's constitutional system being tested in real time with a presidential impeachment inquiry in the U.S. House of Representatives, The Atlantic partners with the Center to launch The Battle for the Constitution. This new project covers issues from a constitutional rather than a

its doors and schools nationwide to teach remotely, the Center launches new online learning initiatives, making free, interactive classes about the Constitution available to middle, high school, and college students across the country. The 30-minute classes, presented live through Zoom and YouTube, combine lively lecture and dialogue, allowing students to ask questions, respond to

prompts, and share resources in real time.

Wake of COVID-19 Shutdowns

A week after the COVID-19 shutdown forced the museum to close

Pivot to Online Learning in

March 2020

August 2020 **Center Reopens After** Pandemic Shutdown The Center reopens to the public, welcoming visitors back with free admission all month long.

surrounding the Constitution, and answer many of the fundamental questions now being asked about our system.

political perspective—convening leading scholars and a diversity of voices to explore the issues and controversies

principles and civil dialogue.



November 2020 Teacher Advisory Council Launches The Center welcomes the first cohort of the Teacher Advisory Council, created to help increase understanding of the Constitution for students across the country. The

The 19th Amendment: How Women Won the

Commemorating the centennial anniversary of voting rights for women, the Center opens its newest exhibit The 19th Amendment: How Women Won the Vote. This exhibit traces the triumphs and struggles that led to the ratification of the 19th Amendment and highlights some of the many women

Vote Exhibit Opens

who transformed constitutional history.

August 26, 2020

and assists in creating programs to support classroom instruction on constitutional fundamentals.

After a second pandemic-related shutdown, the Center announces it will reopen to the public on Presidents Day weekend with increased health and safety protocols in compliance with local health agencies and the CDC.

clause in Article II.

March 2021

Record Visits to Center Website

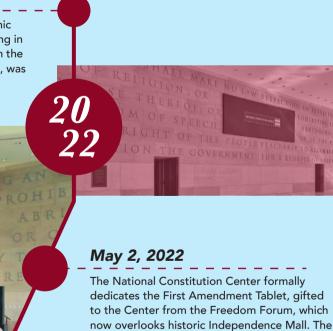
In the month following the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, more than 5 million people visited the Interactive Constitution to seek nonpartisan information on the Constitution on topics including the 25th Amendment and the impeachment

Center is the New Home for the First Amendment Tablet The Center announces it will be the new home for the iconic First Amendment Tablet from the former Newseum building in Washington, D.C. The 50-ton marble tablet, engraved with the 45 words of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, was previously displayed on the four-story-high, 74-foot-tall Pennsylvania Avenue façade of the Newseum.

February 2021

Second Reopening

August 2022



August 2022 Constitution 101 Launches

Restoring the Guardrails of Democracy Reports

electoral reforms, and voting rights.

The Center publishes the reports of its Restoring the Guardrails of Democracy initiative. This project brings together America's leading constitutional scholars and thought leaders of diverse perspectives to identify reforms that could preserve the institutional guardrails on which democracy depends. Programming includes a Town Hall series addressing election integrity, proposed

Justice Stephen Breyer Named

Honorary Board Co-Chair

The Center announces the launch of Constitution 101, a free, nonpartisan online curriculum for high school students on the U.S. Constitution and the practice of civil dialogue. Constitution 101

Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer joins Justice Neil Gorsuch as honorary co-chair of the National Constitution Center.

July 2022

is an asynchronous, semester-long course designed to provide learners with a basic understanding of constitutional text, history, structure, and interpretation over time. In addition, a new Founders' Library of primary texts serve as the foundation for the Center's expanding catalog of courses on the Constitution.

dedication ceremony includes scholarly speeches and debates from a variety of luminaries.

September 2022

Amendments

November 2022

Partnership with Khan Academy

The Center announces a new partnership with Khan Academy. The two trusted educational organizations will offer a free, semester-long online Constitution 101 course, providing high school students the opportunity to learn about the core principles of the Constitution.

The Constitution Drafting Project, bringing together three teams of leading constitutional libertarian, progressive, and conservative scholars, announces the proposed constitutional amendments they debated and agreed upon during a virtual constitutional convention held in summer 2021. At an event hosted by the Center, the three team leaders discuss their amendments, which include granting veto abilities to Congress, changing the impeachment process, and imposing term limits for Supreme Court justices.

The Constitution Drafting

Project and Five New

Construction begins on major refresh of Center's core exhibit. In fall 2023, the National Constitution Center will open its newest gallery, The First Amendment. Protecting some of our most cherished freedoms—religious liberty, free speech, a free press, the freedom of assembly, and the right to petition—the First Amendment is a pillar of

The First Amendment Exhibit

and Core Gallery Refresh

March 2023

democracy and the American way. The gallery will offer a fresh perspective on the history of the First Amendment and how it impacts us today.

CONSTITUTION

FIRST

July 4, 2023 **Center Celebrates 20 Years**

20 years since the museum's opening with

of the Museum

In the years ahead, the National Constitution Center will continue its mission to serve as America's leading

platform for constitutional education and debate, inspiring future generations to learn about the U.S. Constitution. Please consider <u>making a special donation</u> to honor the community

we've built together and to continue reaching new lifelong learners.