

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER EXAMINES BASEBALL'S DEFINING IMPACT ON SOCIETY

Philadelphia, PA (April 8, 2008) – In conjunction with the *Baseball As America* exhibition, the National Constitution Center will present “Baseball: The Melting Pot,” a conversation about the ways in which the game of baseball has served as a reflection of our social tensions and ideals, and our struggle to become a more inclusive society. This program will take place on Monday, April 28, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. Participants include **Sean Gibson, Danny Martinez, Kerry Yo Nakagawa, and moderator Jayson Stark**. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Sean Gibson is the grandson of Hall of Fame baseball player Josh Gibson, a man that many regard as the greatest Negro League baseball player. Gibson serves as Executive Director of the Josh Gibson Foundation, a history and learning center in Homestead, PA that seeks to teach people about the history and impact of the Negro Leagues.

Danny Martinez came to the United States at the age of 14. He was signed as a free agent by the Philadelphia Phillies, and played minor league baseball as a shortstop for three years until being released due to a serious leg injury. Since 2005, Martinez has served as the Spanish language play-by-play broadcaster for the Phillies. He has appeared on ESPN's “Outside the Lines” and PBS documentaries concerning Cuban defecators.

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ADD ONE/BASEBALL: THE MELTING POT

Kerry Yo Nakagawa is the author of *Through a Diamond: 100 Years of Japanese American Baseball*, and founder and director for the non-profit Nisei Baseball Research Project (NBRP). Nakagawa was the curator of the *Diamonds in the Rough: Japanese Americans in Baseball* exhibition, and served as a consultant to the *Baseball As America* exhibition.

Moderating this discussion is Jayson Stark, a senior baseball writer for ESPN.com, who writes several columns a week, including Friday's "Week in Review" and Saturday's "Rumblings and Grumbings." He also appears as an analyst for ESPN's Baseball Tonight and ESPN Radio.

From February 15 through May 11, 2008, the National Constitution Center is hosting *Baseball As America*, the first major exhibition to examine the relationship between baseball and American culture. The 6,000-square-foot exhibition is organized by The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York, and marks the first time the treasures of the Hall of Fame have left their legendary home to tour the country. The national tour of *Baseball As America* is sponsored by Ernst & Young LLP. The exhibition is presented locally by Chevrolet. CBS 3 is the official media partner for the Center's showing of *Baseball As America* and the Philadelphia Phillies are a promotional partner for the exhibition.

Admission to *Baseball As America* is \$15 for adults, \$14 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$9 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. Admission to the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, including the award-winning theater production "Freedom Rising", is included. iPod audio tours are also available and cost \$2 for members and \$3 for non-members. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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ADD TWO/BASEBALL: THE MELTING POT

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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