



## NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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### **NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER TO HOST *THE KENNEDYS: PORTRAIT OF A FAMILY* PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICHARD AVEDON**

#### ***Images on Public Display for First Time***

Philadelphia, PA – From October 5 through December 2, 2007, the National Constitution Center will host ***The Kennedys: Portrait of a Family Photographs by Richard Avedon***. Acclaimed photographer Richard Avedon's never before displayed photographs of John and Jacqueline Kennedy and their two children combine politics, style, and photographic history to provide a compelling glimpse of these American icons. *The Kennedys: Portrait of a Family* will be on display inside the Center's main exhibition, and is free with regular museum admission. This exhibit coincides with the Center's showing of the *First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image* exhibition.

In 1961, world-renowned photographer Richard Avedon took intimate and illuminating images of the Kennedy family on the eve of John F. Kennedy's inauguration. The full set of 217 black and white photographs from the National Museum of American History will be on public display for the first time at the National Constitution Center. The photographs of John, Jacqueline, Caroline, and John Jr. provide a powerful view of one of America's most enduring political dynasties and share the story of a first family on the brink of history.

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ADD ONE/AVEDON EXHIBIT

***The Kennedys: Portrait of a Family*** Photographs by Richard Avedon has been organized and developed by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, Kenneth E. Behring Center. The exhibit has been made possible with the support of Collins Design, *An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers* and The Rudolf Eickemeyer, Jr. Fund.

From October 5 through December 31, 2007 the National Constitution Center will host *First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image*. The exhibition features more than two centuries of elegant inaugural and evening gowns, clothing and jewelry, White House furnishings and china, photographs and portraits, and campaign and personal memorabilia. It examines the demanding duties of the presidential partner and national hostess, explores how her role has evolved from ceremonial colleague to one of international celebrity and recognized political power, and illustrates the importance of the first lady's public image to the success of a presidential administration.

Admission to *First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image* 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. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

*First Ladies* is based on one of the Smithsonian's most visited permanent exhibitions and contains artifacts from the rarely traveled first ladies collection of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, Behring Center. Organized by the National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), *First Ladies* is made possible by A&E Network. Macy's is the local presenting sponsor and NBC 10 is the official media partner for the Center's showing of *First Ladies*.

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## ADD TWO/AVEDON EXHIBIT

Funding for the National Constitution Center's changing exhibits program has been made possible through a \$1 million grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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