

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER HOSTS SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS HIGHLIGHTING THE LASTING IMPACT OF PROHIBITION

Philadelphia, PA – In connection with the world-premiere exhibition *American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*, visitors of all ages can discover what made the '20s roar with a variety of interactive programs and special events at the National Constitution Center.

### Special Events

#### ***Bootleggers Ball***

**Thursday, October 18, 2012, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**\$40 for non-members, \$35 for members; includes exclusive advanced access to *American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*, as well as food and drinks**

**Ages 21+**

**Reservations Required: 215.409.6700**

Calling all guys and dolls! Put on your best Roaring '20s attire (if you please) and kick up your heels to kick off the National Constitution Center's dazzling, world-premiere exhibition *American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*. The Center will transform into a swinging speakeasy, complete with Jazz Age music by the Ben Mauger Orchestra, Lindy Hop and Charleston lessons, and themed photo opportunities. Guests will enjoy authentic cuisine and a variety of whiskey cocktails as well as Batch 19 lager inspired by the last batches of beer brewed before Prohibition.

#### ***Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony***

**Friday, October 19, 2012, 9:45 a.m.**

Commemorate the official opening of *American Spirits* with a public ribbon-cutting ceremony featuring exhibition curator and Pulitzer Prize finalist Daniel Okrent. In addition, guests will be treated to a special dance performance by Mixed Pickles Vintage Dance Company, featuring music from the era.

#### ***Opening Weekend Celebration***

**Friday, October 19 – Sunday, October 21, 2012, regular museum hours**

**FREE with admission**

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## ADD ONE/PROHIBITION PROGRAMMING

During the “Roaring ’20s Show,” visitors will learn about music, movies, literature, and politics of the Prohibition era. Guests will have an opportunity to try on period clothing, learn steps to the most popular dances of the ’20s, and more! Children and their families also can play popular games, explore other fads from the era, and create their own mahjong tiles – a game that was all the rage in the ’20s!

### ***Free Admission Sundays***

**Sundays beginning October 21, 2012 through April 28, 2013**

Admission to *American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition* is FREE on Sundays throughout the run of the exhibition.

### ***Echoes of Prohibition: Today’s War on Drugs with Daniel Okrent***

**Thursday, November 15, 2012, 6:00 p.m.**

**\$10 for non-members; \$7 for members, students & teachers; FREE for 1787 members**

**Reservations Required: 215.409.6700 or [constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org)**

In 17 states and the District of Columbia, medical marijuana is legal – and some states will soon be voting on ballot measures to legalize it for non-medical uses. Are there lessons from Prohibition and its repeal that can help us understand what’s at stake in marijuana legalization and today’s “war on drugs?” How does the Prohibition era inform contemporary debates about the federal government’s role in our daily lives? Daniel Okrent, bestselling author and curator of the Center’s world-premiere exhibition *American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*, will join Christopher Bracey, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at George Washington University Law School, to discuss the legacy of Prohibition in relation to the nation’s evolving drug policies.

### ***Philly Beer Week’s Bathtub Beer Fest***

**Thursday, November 15, 2012, 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

**\$45; includes access to *American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition***

**Tickets can be purchased at [phillybeerweek.org](http://phillybeerweek.org)**

Top craft brewers will come together at the National Constitution Center for Bathtub Beer Fest, a Prohibition-era event and fundraiser for Philly Beer Week 2013. Guests will enjoy old fashioned styles and new varieties of beer from over 20 different breweries, access to *American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*, as well as the special opportunity to chat with exhibition curator Daniel Okrent, Pulitzer Prize finalist and author of *Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*.

### ***Repeal Day Programming***

**Wednesday, December 5, 2012, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**FREE with admission**

Celebrate Repeal Day – the anniversary of the ratification of the 21st Amendment, which repealed Prohibition – with special programming at the National Constitution Center!

Throughout the day, museum guests can enjoy special gallery talks inside the *American Spirits* exhibition. During “Decoding the Document” talkbacks, museum staff will interpret the meaning behind the text of the 21st Amendment for visitors.

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## ADD TWO/PROHIBITION PROGRAMMING

### ***18th Amendment Anniversary Programming***

**Wednesday, January 16, 2013, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**FREE with admission**

Throughout the day, museum guests can enjoy special gallery talks inside the *American Spirits* exhibition, as well as learn about Carry Nation and Wayne Wheeler, organizations like the Anti-Saloon League, and other historical events that led to the ratification of the 18th Amendment, which established Prohibition in the United States. During “Decoding the Document” talkbacks, museum staff will interpret the meaning behind the text of the 18th Amendment for visitors.

### ***African American History Month***

**Friday, February 1, 2013 – Thursday, February 28, 2013, regular museum hours**

**FREE with admission**

In connection with *American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*, the National Constitution Center’s African American History Month celebration will focus on the history and legacy of jazz music. Visitors will learn about famous jazz musicians from the 1920s including Joe “King” Oliver, Bessie Smith, and Louis Armstrong, as well as the famous Cotton Club and more.

### ***Moonshine and Valentines***

**Thursday, February 14, 2013, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**\$35 for non-members, \$30 for members; includes exhibition access as well as food and drinks**

**Ages 21+**

**Reservations Required: 215.409.6700**

Channel your inner Roxie Hart or Billy Flynn at our edgy yet glamorous Valentine’s Day extravaganza, featuring live music by the Boilermaker Jazz Band and cabaret performances from the musical *Chicago* by award-winning Philadelphia actors. Strike a pose on the red carpet before exploring the must-see exhibition *American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*. Sweethearts and singles alike will enjoy a sinfully decadent menu, exquisite whiskey cocktails, and beer by Philly’s own Yards Brewing Company, including their popular Brawler and sought-after Love Stout.

### ***Women’s History Month***

**Friday, March 1, 2013 – Sunday, March 31, 2013, regular museum hours**

**FREE with admission**

In connection with *American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*, the National Constitution Center’s Women’s History Month celebration will turn the spotlight on famous women of the Prohibition era, including Carry Nation, Frances Willard, and Pauline Sabine. The Center also will feature special programming that explores the role of women in both the ratification and repeal of Prohibition, as well as the changing role of women in society during the time period.

### ***Spring Break***

**Monday, March 25, 2013 – Sunday, April 7, 2013, regular museum hours**

**FREE with admission**

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## ADD THREE/PROHIBITION PROGRAMMING

During the National Constitution Center's Spring Break programming, children and their families can delve deeper into the Roaring '20s with daily workshops that explore the era's music, dance, literature, politics, and much more. Children and their families also can play popular games, explore other fads from the era, and create their own mahjong tiles – a game that was all the rage in the '20s!

### ***Cheers to Beer***

**Thursday, April 4, 2013, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**\$35 for non-members, \$30 for members; includes exhibition access as well as food and drinks**

**Ages 21+**

**Reservations Required: 215.409.6700**

Last call! Join us at our final *American Spirits* event to toast the “Beer Act” of 1933, which legalized beer prior to Prohibition's repeal. Sample suds from local breweries as well as Beam Inc.'s newest spirits, and take home your own souvenir tasting glass. Tap your feet to the acclaimed Blue Vipers of Brooklyn – known for their fresh take on Jazz Age tunes – while enjoying all-American pub fare, a themed photo booth, and access to the must-see exhibition *American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*.

## **Daily Offerings and Tours**

### ***American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition iPod Tours***

**\$5 for general admission, \$3 for groups, and FREE for members**

Exhibition curator Daniel Okrent and documentary filmmakers Ken Burns and Lynn Novick lend their voices and commentary to a special iPod audio tour that will guide visitors through the *American Spirits* exhibition. The iPod tour features several discussion stops recorded in the wine cellar of New York City's 21 Club.

### ***American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition Gallery Talks***

**FREE with admission**

As visitors enter *American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*, members of the Center's staff will pose thought-provoking questions about one of the most notable periods in American history.

### ***American Spirits: The History of Liquor in the United States Tour***

**FREE with admission**

**Tour times vary; check the visitor guide upon arrival**

This special tour within *American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition* highlights the role of liquor in American history and culture. Subjects covered include: the Whiskey Rebellion and the economic role of whiskey on the early frontier; the history of moonshine as a way to assert individual rights against government intrusion; the role of bootlegging in the rise of stock-car racing; and twentieth- and twenty-first century efforts to warn people about the dangers of drunk driving and excessive alcohol consumption.

### ***“Order a Story” Interactive***

**FREE with admission**

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## ADD FOUR/PROHIBITION PROGRAMMING

Guests can “order a story” from the speakeasy bar located inside the *American Spirits* exhibition. During this interactive program created in partnership with Historic Philadelphia, Inc., museum staff members will share engaging stories from the time period with visitors, who can pick and choose the stories from a special menu. Story titles include: “Bathtub Gin: What Helped Make the Twenties Roar,” “Singing the Blues: Empress Bessie Smith,” “The Inside Scoop: Roy Olmstead, Rum Runner,” “Boo Boo Hoff vs. Old Gimlet Eye,” and “The Powder Room.”

### ***American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition Lesson Plans***

**Available online at [constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org)**

*American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition* provides a unique opportunity to teach students about the constitutional amendment process, the impact of civic action and protest, the women’s suffrage movement and the changing role of women in society, and the ingenuity and invention that came about during the Prohibition era. In partnership with the Bill of Rights Institute, the Center has created five engaging lesson plans about the historical figures and events of the Prohibition era and how they relate to present day. Lesson plans include: “Prohibition Era Dinner Party,” “Prohibition Pictionary,” and “The Rise and Fall of Prohibition” essay activity.

### ***American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition Exhibition Guide***

**FREE with admission**

Designed for middle and high school students, the Center’s exhibition guide puts young people into the shoes of a reporter covering the amendment process. The guide will lead students through the *American Spirits* exhibition as they examine the passage of the 18th Amendment and its effect on American culture, industry, and government.

From October 19, 2012 through April 28, 2013, the era of flappers and suffragists, bootleggers and temperance lobbyists, and real-life legends like Al Capone and Carry Nation will come vividly to life in the National Constitution Center’s world-premiere exhibition *American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*. Spanning from the dawn of the temperance movement, through the Roaring ’20s, to the unprecedented repeal of a constitutional amendment, this first comprehensive exhibition about Prohibition will explore America’s most colorful and complex constitutional hiccup.

*American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition* is created by the National Constitution Center and curated by Daniel Okrent, Pulitzer Prize finalist and author of *Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*. Following its debut at the Center, the exhibition will embark on a nationwide tour.

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## ADD FIVE/PROHIBITION PROGRAMMING

Admission to *American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition* is \$17.50 for adults, \$16 for seniors and students, and \$11 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates also are available. Admission to the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, including the award-winning theatrical production *Freedom Rising*, is included. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

*American Spirits: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition* has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the human endeavor.

6abc, Fox 29, and Comcast Spotlight are the local media partners for the exhibition.

The National Constitution Center is the first and only nonprofit, nonpartisan institution devoted to the most powerful vision of freedom ever expressed: the U.S. Constitution. Located on Independence Mall in Historic Philadelphia, the birthplace of American freedom, the Center illuminates constitutional ideals and inspires active citizenship through a state-of-the-art museum experience, including hundreds of interactive exhibits, films and rare artifacts; must-see feature exhibitions; the internationally acclaimed, 360-degree theatrical production *Freedom Rising*; and the iconic *Signers' Hall*, where visitors can sign the Constitution alongside 42 life-size, bronze statues of the Founding Fathers. As America's forum for constitutional dialogue, the Center engages diverse, distinguished leaders of government, public policy, journalism and scholarship in timely public discussions and debates. The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, the national hub for constitutional education, which offers cutting-edge civic learning resources both onsite and online. Freedom is calling. Answer it at the National Constitution Center. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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