

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER CELEBRATES AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

***TD Bank underwrites FREE admission to the Center on Presidents Day, Monday, February 19***

Philadelphia, PA (February 2, 2018) – Throughout February, the National Constitution Center will host a variety of programs in honor of African American History Month. Visitors can explore the museum's main exhibit, *The Story of We the People*, to discover key milestones in African-American history and then test their knowledge at the Center's giant game board activity. Visitors will learn about the history of the Civil War and the Emancipation Proclamation, the background of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments, and key figures from the Civil Rights Movement.

TD Bank sponsors African American History Month at the National Constitution Center and underwrites free admission to the Center on Presidents Day, Monday, February 19. Featured programs on Presidents Day include a Meet the Presidents Kids Town Hall, a Presidential Costume Contest, and more. This year marks the fifth consecutive year of TD Bank's sponsorship.

Admission during African American History Month includes access to the National Constitution Center's interactive main exhibit, the signature multimedia, theatrical performance of *Freedom Rising* presented in the Sidney Kimmel Theater, and the iconic *Signers' Hall*.

Visitors also have access to the Center's feature exhibits, including *American Treasures: Documenting the Nation's Founding*, an intimate look at the rarest early drafts of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and *Constituting Liberty: From the Declaration to the Bill of Rights*, highlighting the three most important documents in American history.

In February, visitors can also take advantage of the National Constitution Center's Winter Warm Up sale, which runs through March 31, 2018. Admission prices are discounted to \$10 for adults (usually \$14.50) and \$7.50 for youth ages 6-18 (usually \$11). *This promotion is valid online only; tickets must be purchased in advance.*

**African American History Month Programs**

**PLEASE NOTE:** On Sunday, February 18, the museum's hours will be extended, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., in celebration of Presidents Day Weekend.

Special Events[Presidents Day Weekend and FREE Family Day](#)

Saturday, February 17, through Monday, February 19

Visitors can participate in a family festival while observing both African American History Month and Presidents Day. Visitors will learn about the contributions of African-Americans throughout history and the role of the president and what it takes to be commander in chief during the National Constitution Center's Presidents Day Weekend celebration. Throughout the weekend, the Center will host a variety

of entertaining, educational programs for the whole family, including presidential trivia where visitors can test their knowledge of America's 45 presidents, craft stations, story corners, and more. **Admission to the Center will be free on Presidents Day, Monday, February 19, courtesy of TD Bank.**

***America's Town Hall Program – [Landmark Cases Part 2: Historic Supreme Court Decisions](#)***

Monday, February 19, 6:30 p.m.

On Presidents Day, visitors can join C-SPAN President **Susan Swain**, National Constitution Center President and CEO **Jeffrey Rosen**, and a panel of experts for a discussion which will launch the second season of the C-SPAN series, *Landmark Cases: Historic Supreme Court Decisions*, produced in collaboration with the National Constitution Center. The panel and the series will explore the human stories between the Supreme Court's most historic rulings. **Among the cases featured this season will be *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which allowed racial segregation in public spaces, and other cases pertaining to the 14th Amendment.**

Daily Programs

*Program times will vary daily. Please check the Visitor Guide upon arrival for that day's show times.*

**Breaking Barriers Show**

*Main Exhibit*

The interactive Breaking Barriers show examines the lives of Thurgood Marshall, Bessie Coleman, Jackie Robinson and other groundbreaking African-Americans throughout American history—providing insight into the struggles they faced and the rights they secured for all citizens. Their inspiring stories reveal how one individual's civic actions can impact a nation.

**Decoding the Document: Emancipation Proclamation Document Workshop**

*Main Exhibit*

Visitors can join the Center's education staff and take a closer look at a rare copy of the Emancipation Proclamation, signed by Abraham Lincoln in June 1864. Forty-eight similar copies were sold at the Philadelphia Great Central Sanitary Fair to raise funds for sick and wounded Union soldiers. Of those 48 signed by Lincoln, only 24 are known to survive. A preview [video](#) of the Center's exhibits team discussing the artifact is available online and a digital copy of the document is available for [download](#).

**African-American History Self-Guided Tour**

*Main Exhibit*

Visitors can pick up a flier at the Information Desk to take a self-guided museum tour highlighting important moments in African-American history. Featuring:

- One-of-a-kind artifacts that give a glimpse into the daily lives of free African-Americans in the 1700s who once called the museum's block home.
- The American National Tree, featuring influential African-Americans including Paul Robeson, Fannie Lou Hamer, Hiram Rhodes Revels, and more.
- A rare printing of the Emancipation Proclamation, signed by Abraham Lincoln.
- Original documents from the landmark Supreme Court cases, including *Dred Scott v. Sandford* and *Loving v. Virginia*.
- Artifacts from the March on Washington.
- President Obama inauguration artifacts.

**Giant Game Board Activity**

### *Main Lobby*

As part of the Center's interactive daily programming in February, visitors can test their knowledge of African-American history by becoming "pieces" in the Center's giant constitutional board game.

### Online Resources

#### ***Interactive Constitution***

After the Civil War, a series of transformational amendments, collectively known as the Reconstruction amendments, were ratified. The National Constitution Center's [Interactive Constitution](#) explores these provisions (the [13th](#), [14th](#), and [15th](#) amendments to the Constitution) with in-depth essays written by top scholars from across the political spectrum.

#### **Educational Videos**

The National Constitution Center's award-winning [Constitution Hall Pass](#) video lesson series explores the post-Civil War era and two of the pivotal Reconstruction amendments. View full length episodes on the [13th](#) and [14th](#) amendments, as well as short videos featuring top 14th Amendment scholars [Eric Foner](#) and [Tomiko Brown-Nagin](#), and National Constitution Center President and CEO [Jeffrey Rosen](#).

#### **2018 Civic Holiday Calendar**

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the 14th Amendment, the Center's 2018 calendar explores the amendment's history and legacy. The calendar also celebrates civic holidays and historical milestones by highlighting events, activities, lesson plans, and resources available at the museum or for use in classrooms. A copy of the calendar can be downloaded [here](#).

#### **About the National Constitution Center**

The [National Constitution Center](#) in Philadelphia inspires citizenship as the only place where people across America and around the world can come together to learn about, debate, and celebrate the greatest vision of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution. A private, nonprofit organization, the Center serves as America's leading platform for constitutional education and debate, fulfilling its Congressional charter "to disseminate information about the U.S. Constitution on a nonpartisan basis." As the **Museum of We the People**, the Center brings the Constitution to life for visitors of all ages through interactive programs and exhibits. As **America's Town Hall**, the Center brings the leading conservative and liberal thought leaders together to debate the Constitution on all media platforms. As a center for **Civic Education**, the Center delivers the best educational programs and online resources that inspire, excite, and engage citizens about the U.S. Constitution. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit [constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org).

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