

TAVIS SMILEY PRESENTS



The African American Imprint

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



THE STORY OF WE, THE PEOPLE.

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**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER PRESENTS  
SPECIAL EVENING PROGRAMS  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH *AMERICA I AM* EXHIBITION**

Philadelphia, PA – Presented in conjunction with the *America I AM: The African American Imprint* exhibition, the Center will host a variety of evening programs that explore and celebrate 400 years of African American contributions to our country, as well as encourage a greater understanding of the undeniable imprint left by African Americans on our nation's history.

The schedule of upcoming *America I AM* programs is as follows:

**Tuesday, February 3, 6:30 p.m.: *And Justice for All***

Mary Frances Berry, Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania and former chairwoman of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, will share the extraordinary story of the Commission and the struggle for justice in America as told in her new book *And Justice for All*. Admission is free, but reservations are required at 215.409.6700.

**Wednesday, February 11, 6:30 p.m.: *NAACP at 100***

The Center will host a special program commemorating the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Centennial and addressing its profound impact on the country we live in today. The NAACP has a rich and unique history, and is responsible for a number of victories in the struggle for justice and equality in America. Theodore Shaw, former Director-Counsel and President of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and 2008 Visiting Scholar at the Constitution Center, will lead this conversation. Admission is free, but reservations are required at 215.409.6700.

**Monday, February 23, 6:30 p.m.: *August Wilson and the Century Cycle***

In a unique Constitution Center event, American theater scholars, historians, and professional actors will participate in a special two-hour program celebrating and

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## ADD ONE/PROGRAMS

exploring the work of playwright August Wilson in relationship to the American theater and to the social, political, and historical experience of African Americans. August Wilson is among the most influential and successful African American playwrights of the twentieth century. In Wilson's *Century Cycle*, he dramatizes the African American experience and heritage of the twentieth century. The evening will feature dramatic readings from some of Wilson's most famous works performed by a company of professional actors. Admission costs \$15 for members, teachers, and students and \$20 for non-members. Reservations are required at 215.409.6700.

### **Thursday, March 19, 6:30 p.m.: *Ida B. Wells and the African American Freedom Struggle***

Pulitzer-Prize winner Pamela Newkirk, professor in NYU's Journalism school and author of *Letters from Black America* and *Within the Veil: Black Journalists, White Media*, and Mia Bay, historian and associate professor of history at Rutgers University, will discuss *To Tell the Truth Freely*, Bay's new biography of journalist and activist Ida B. Wells and her pivotal role in transforming the African American freedom struggle. Admission is free, but reservations are required at 215.409.6700.

From January 15 through May 3, 2009, the National Constitution Center will host the world debut of **America I AM: *The African American Imprint***, celebrating nearly 500 years of African American contributions to this country. The exhibition will present a historical continuum of pivotal moments in courage, conviction, and creativity that solidifies the undeniable imprint of African Americans across the nation and around the world.

Featuring more than 200 artifacts culled from every period of U.S. history, the exhibit will include objects, texts, religion, music, narration, and media. An interactive component of the exhibition will allow visitors to leave their own video "imprints," and this collection will grow throughout the life of the exhibition with the potential to become the largest recorded oral history project in U.S. history.

Admission to **America I AM** is \$17.50 for adults, \$15.50 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$9 for children ages 4-12. 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. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. There is no upcharge for school groups to tour **America I AM**. 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](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

## ADD TWO/PROGRAMS

The exhibition is developed in partnership with Tavis Smiley, and organized by Cincinnati Museum Center and Arts and Exhibitions International (AEI). **America I AM** is made possible by Walmart Stores, Inc., which serves as its presenting sponsor. The exhibition is sponsored by Northern Trust and is presented locally by Coca-Cola. CBS 3 is the official media partner for the Center's showing of **America I AM**.

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](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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