

From: **National Constitution Center** **SMITH Magazine**
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The National Constitution Center and SMITH Magazine
Launch a Challenge for President Barack Obama's Inaugural Address:
"ADDRESS AMERICA: Six Words to Inspire a Nation"

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"By joining together we shall prevail."
"A mighty river, drop by drop."
"The dream once deferred, finally fulfilled."
"New deal. New day. New world."
"Strength from hope, change through action."
"Land of opportunity – today, tomorrow, forever."

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Philadelphia, PA (November 21, 2008) —

SMITH Magazine (smithmag.net), the online storytelling community behind the *New York Times* bestseller *NOT QUITE WHAT I WAS PLANNING: Six-Word Memoirs By Writers Famous & Obscure*, and the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia have teamed up for a new project perfectly attuned to our times: **ADDRESS AMERICA: Six Words to Inspire a Nation**. The groundbreaking Web site and storied museum are asking the country to suggest the half dozen words they hope to hear in President-elect Obama's Inaugural speech on January 20, 2009. Entries can be submitted at www.constitutioncenter.org/addressamerica.

"So much of Obama-the-candidate's success was derived from his people-powered, ground-level approach," says SMITH founder and editor Larry Smith. "Now, by challenging Americans to create compelling six word messages for Obama the President-elect, we're asking them to get at the essence of their hopes for the future. ADDRESS AMERICA is the perfect

way to take stock of our dreams for our nation, one person at a time. It's also the perfect project for SMITH and a museum whose motto is 'We the People.'”

“Americans showed a great involvement in this year’s historic election, and it is our hope that the interest and enthusiasm will not subside,” says National Constitution Center President and CEO Joseph M. Torsella. “ADDRESS AMERICA gives people the chance to continue serving as active citizens by making their voices heard again.”

In conjunction with ADDRESS AMERICA, the National Constitution Center has created a lesson plan that teaches students about the history of the Presidential Inaugural Address and provides a framework for them to write a "six word inaugural." The lesson opens with an introduction to the power of six words, and then asks students to read inaugural addresses of the past to examine how presidents have used this unique oration.

ABOUT SMITH

SMITH Magazine, launched in January 2006 by Larry Smith and Tim Barkow, is a home for storytelling of all forms and kinds, with a focus on personal narrative. Its recently released book, NOT QUITE WHAT I WAS PLANNING: Six-Word Memoirs By Writers Famous & Obscure (Harper Perennial), is a *New York Times* bestseller list, and the first in a four-book six-word memoir series. For more information, visit smithmag.net.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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.

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