

ADD ONE/LAST CHANCE FOR BEING “WE THE PEOPLE”

Beginning in July 2009, students from both schools shared their work and ideas online at <http://beingwethepeople.shutterfly.com/>. In March 2010, the Afghan students traveled to the United States and met face-to-face with their American counterparts to curate the exhibition. Together, the students scoured through over 500 photographs in order to select pairs – one image from each country – that showcase both the striking differences and startling similarities between Afghanistan and the United States. They also wrote accompanying captions, explaining the circumstances under which the photographs were taken.

Visitors to the exhibition are invited to join in the dialogue. A total of 70 photographs are on display, but additional images are accessible at electronic touch-screens, where guests of both the National Constitution Center and the National Museum of Afghanistan can peruse photo pairings and recommend those that resonate with them most. Through internet connectivity, users in both countries can see how their recommendations compare with those made by other visitors to the Center and the National Museum of Afghanistan. For more information and to recommend photo pairings online, visit www.constitutioncenter.org/beingwe/.

Being “We the People” is part of the National Constitution Center’s International Engagement Project, which is dedicated to establishing international exchange and promoting constitutional principles to emerging democracies through educational and civic learning initiatives.

The American Association of Museums awarded the Center a Museums & Community Collaborations Abroad grant to support the exhibition. Museums & Communities Collaboration Abroad is a joint program of the Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in partnership with the American Association of Museums. The online exhibition was generously underwritten by the Verizon Foundation.

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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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