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Civil War and Reconstruction: The Battle for Freedom and Equality
Onsite Educational Programming

In conjunction with the opening of the new permanent exhibit, *Civil War and Reconstruction: The Battle for Freedom and Equality*, and the ongoing commemorations of the 150th anniversaries of the American Civil War and the Reconstruction period, the National Constitution Center will offer various onsite educational programs to engage visitors of all ages with this pivotal era in constitutional history.

The onsite experience will introduce visitors to central topics, including slavery in the Constitution, the Civil War and the role of the federal government, citizenship, the goals of Reconstruction and its successes and failures, key figures of the era, and the legacy of Reconstruction today.

Visitors will:

- Explore ***Civil War and Reconstruction: The Battle for Freedom and Equality***, America's first exhibit devoted to exploring how constitutional clashes over slavery set the stage for the Civil War, and how the nation transformed the Constitution after the war to more fully embrace the Declaration of Independence's promise of freedom and equality.
- Encounter a short, theatrical performance in the 14th Amendment section of *Civil War and Reconstruction* highlighting Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, a key African-American figure from the Reconstruction era.
- Experience ***FOURTEEN***, a moving theatrical performance that sheds new light on the Reconstruction era and the ratification of the 14th Amendment.
- Participate in a series of onsite programs, including hands-on document and artifact workshops, engaging educator-led shows, exhibit tours, and reflective conversations.

Exhibit Guide

Available in the fall: There will be a printed guide to accompany the *Civil War and Reconstruction* onsite experience, available to all visitors.

Programing

Exhibit Gallery Talk

Main Lobby/Feature Gallery, available daily during regular museum hours

National Constitution Center museum educators will introduce visitors to key concepts presented throughout *Civil War and Reconstruction: The Battle for Freedom and Equality*. The goals of the gallery talk are to introduce visitors to the fundamental concepts to look for when exploring the Civil War and Reconstruction exhibit, including slavery in the Constitution, citizenship, and the goals of Reconstruction.

Exhibit Tour

Feature Gallery, booked based on availability and advanced reservations required

The Center will offer guided tours of *Civil War and Reconstruction: The Battle for Freedom and Equality*, presented by museum educators. The tour will explore American society prior to the Civil War, the events that led to the war, and the challenges, successes, and failures of the Reconstruction period.

Visitors will learn more about this tumultuous period in American history as they take a look at several of the unique artifacts and documents on display at the Center.

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper: The Great Problem to be Solved

Feature Gallery, two times an hour between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays, May 9 through Memorial Day Weekend 2019, and available on select dates throughout fall of 2019 and in February 2020

As visitors explore *Civil War and Reconstruction*, they will encounter a one-actor performance in the 14th Amendment section of the exhibit highlighting Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, a key African-American figure from the Reconstruction era. Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, a staunch abolitionist, suffragist, poet, teacher, writer, and public speaker, speaks out in this 1875 address to the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery, outlining the work yet to be done in the cause for African-American freedom. This performance is produced by the National Constitution Center, directed by Walter DeShields, performed by Nastassja Baset Whitman, and designed by Tara Webb and Sara Outing. This production has been supported by [The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage](#).

FOURTEEN: A Theatrical Performance

Bank of America Theater, two times a day June 20 – June 26, four times a day June 27 – August 10, and available in fall 2019 and spring 2020.

For a limited production run beginning on June 19 (Juneteenth)—the holiday that commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans throughout the Confederate States of America—visitors can experience *FOURTEEN*, a moving theatrical performance that sheds new light on the Reconstruction era and the ratification of the 14th Amendment. Through dramatic interpretation of original texts, such as Frederick Douglass’s open letter “To My Old Master,” the 30-minute performance will bring to life the leaders, influential figures, and everyday Americans who were central to the era. *FOURTEEN: A Theatrical Performance* will be performed in the Center’s Bank of America Theater—adjacent to the main exhibit space. This production has been supported by [The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage](#).

Slavery in All But Name

Feature Gallery, feature program available on select dates

Exploring the “hard history,” this program examines how the Reconstruction efforts fell short following the passage of the 13th Amendment and how many formerly enslaved individuals later ended up incarcerated, their freedom taken away, and once again working without pay. The program will also look at contemporary issues and examine the legacy of the Reconstruction Amendments in society today.

The Road to Freedom: The Story of Slavery in America Program

Main Lobby, available daily at posted times

This interactive program will explore the story of slavery in the United States through a constitutional lens, taking visitors on a journey from the time of the Constitutional Convention to the start of the Civil War. It will spotlight historic figures—like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Ona Judge, Angelina Grimke, Harriet Tubman, William Still, and Abraham Lincoln—and key events—such as the Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, the *Dred Scott* case, and the secession of the South.

Reconstruction and the Supreme Court: Case Studies Story Stations

Main Exhibit, available daily at posted times

Beginning in July: Story stations throughout the Main Exhibit will highlight famous Supreme Court cases that addressed the issues of slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction, including *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, *Prigg v. Pennsylvania*, *Corfield v. Coryell*, and more.

Examining the Four Harriet's Program

Main Exhibit, available daily at posted times

Beginning in August: Visitors can explore the lives of four American women—Harriet Robinson Scott, Harriet Tubman, Harriet Jacobs, and Harriet Beecher Stowe—who confronted slavery through literature, lawsuits, and direct action in their efforts to free themselves and others from bondage.

Interactive Constitution Workshops: Reconstruction Amendments

Scheduled for groups upon request

Beginning in the fall: Students will discover how to use the Center's *Interactive Constitution* to explore the constitutional history and modern debates of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.