

# NAVY PIER *celebrates* BLACK HISTORY *month*

**Contact:**

Delores Robinson, Navy Pier  
312.595.5031

## **Navy Pier's Black History Celebration Honors President Barack Obama**

**February's month-long celebration features gallery panels of commemorative photos and front page news articles chronicling President Obama's journey to the White House**

CHICAGO (January 30, 2009) – Historic Navy Pier is proud to unveil a tribute to Chicago's own President Barack Obama during the *Opening Ceremony* of its celebration of Black History Month. **The kick-off event will be held January 30, 2009 from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. in Navy Pier's Crystal Gardens.**

The specially-themed, month-long exhibit entitled, "*Perseverance & Persistence: An Exhibition of Pride,*" includes a walk-through gallery saluting the accomplishments of 29 African-American pioneers, including President Barack Obama. *NEW* this year, Navy Pier has partnered with the *Chicago Sun-Times Learning Laboratory* to install gallery-sized panels of commemorative photos and front page news articles that highlight the drama of the campaign, the excitement of election night, and the elation of the victory rally in Grant Park. Television monitors will air President-elect Obama's speech on Election Night.

The *Opening Ceremony* will include inspiring performances by soloists James Earl Jones II, Maggie Brown and Veronica Houston, the Najwa Dance Corps, Lights of Zion Gospel Mime Ministry, the Choir Academy Charter School of Chicago and a special commemorative unveiling.

"Navy Pier is proud to share in the excitement of celebrating the accomplishments of African-Americans of the past and present, including those of our new President," said Juan Ochoa, Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA) – owner and operator of Navy Pier. "We hope the Black History Month exhibit at Navy Pier is an experience that reminds everyone of the vital contributions of African-Americans in the fields of medicine, science, literature, business, education, entertainment, sports, diplomacy and politics."

Navy Pier provides cultural, educational and fun programming and entertainment throughout the year.

"As the top tourist attraction in the Midwest, Navy Pier is a destination for visitors from around the world. We see Black History Month as our opportunity to raise awareness among our guests about the accomplishments of African-Americans," said Theodore R. Tetzlaff, MPEA Chairman.

The goal of the Black History Month celebration at Navy Pier is to educate and inspire all visitors to our exhibit. For more information, plus details on transportation to Navy Pier, please visit our website at [www.navy Pier.com](http://www.navy Pier.com)

###

A Chicago Landmark since 1909, Navy Pier has evolved from a freight and passenger ship docking facility to the #1 tourist attraction in the Midwest, drawing more than eight million visitors annually. Navy Pier currently encompasses more than fifty acres of parks, gardens, shops, restaurants, family attractions and exhibit facilities, making it a tourists and visitors entertainment hub. For more information, visit our web sit at [www.navy Pier.com](http://www.navy Pier.com)