



MEDIA RELEASE

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People Power - and Pink Shorts!

A new gallery - The Centre of Democracy - is Adelaide's latest free North Terrace cultural precinct offering.

"The opening of this new gallery creates an opportunity to share important South Australian stories with visitors and our community" says Minister for the Arts, Hon. Jack Snelling MP.

This gallery showcases the people and ideas that have shaped democracy in South Australia. Featuring treasures from the state's collections and the latest in digital technology, this will challenge visitors to think again about people and power.

South Australians can claim and celebrate a number of significant democratic milestones. These include the radically democratic Constitution of 1856, which gave all men, including Aboriginal men, the right to vote – by secret ballot. And in 1894, South Australian women were among the first in the world to win the right to vote, and the first in the world to be able to stand for parliament.

The Centre of Democracy celebrates these and other important milestones. Visitors will enjoy rarely seen treasures drawn from state, private and organisational collections, including Governor Gawler's plumes and even former Premier Don Dunstan's famous pink shorts.

"The History Trust of South Australia is proud to be leading this collaboration with the State Library of South Australia. True to our mission, we are 'giving the past a future - now!'" says Chief Executive Officer, Greg Mackie OAM.

"Thanks to funding from the South Australian Government, we have incorporated digital technology tools to give visitors a great new gallery experience. We will also be introducing new content over time, since history is constantly evolving and often contested" says Mackie.

Visitors can vote using The Democracy Machine – an interactive digital artwork by creative company Sandpit. They can also use the digital wall to discover more about the people who have made a difference to democracy in South Australia. At Speakers' Corner, visitors can record their thoughts about contemporary democracy.

Located in the historic Institute Building on the corner of Kintore Avenue and North Terrace, Adelaide, this gallery will become the hub for a vibrant program of education and public programs that will engage children, students of all ages and visitors in the ideas behind democracy and political participation.

The Centre of Democracy will be open 7 days per week from 10am to 5pm (excluding public holidays). Greg Mackie, CEO, History Trust of South Australia is available for comment, please contact Kristy Rebbeck on phone 8203 9869 or 0403 017 676.

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ADELAIDE

