



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Mimi La Camera  
President, Freedom Trail Foundation  
mlacamera@theFreedomTrail.org  
617.357.8300 x201

**Walking the Line...Boston 1775 to 1820: Bank of America Creates Special 50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Freedom Trail<sup>®</sup> Art Exhibit**

*An exhibit of the Bank's historic 18<sup>th</sup>-century art holdings related to early banking,  
shipping, the China trade, currency, tea, maps and Boston "firsts"*

**Boston, Mass., November, 2008:** The Freedom Trail Foundation and Bank of America today announced a new exhibit of art and artifacts from the Bank's extensive 18<sup>th</sup> century collection. Part of the Freedom Trail's year-long celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, *Fifty Events to Celebrate 50 Years*, this partnership exhibit opens November 20. The exhibit is free and open to the public during banking hours and is open through March 31, 2009.

The exhibit will be hosted at the Mezzanine level, 100 Federal Street, Boston.

*Walking the Line...*, a reference to the renowned red line of the Freedom Trail, includes more than 40 objects that highlight Boston and the bank's historic positions as early leaders in the country's nascent financial services industry, its position as a global shipping port, the center of China trade and evolution of America's currency. These themes, hot topics all between *1770 and 1820*, continue today as headline news.

Objects include tea and rare domestic items, period maps, rarely seen parade banners of George and Martha Washington, selected illustrations, printing plates and newspaper articles, and a unique collection of domestic items.

"The Freedom Trail, as expressed through *Walking the Line*, emphasizes the continued timeliness of our history. For example, an item on exhibit is a John Adam's loan document, showing the signers of the Constitution dealt with the same worries facing citizens today," said Mimi La Camera, president of the Freedom Trail Foundation.

The Freedom Trail's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year has been marked by 50 events hosted by the 16 Freedom Trail sites and more than 20 additional history-related organizations. Bank of America traces its origin directly to the Boston bank of 1775; the exhibit is located at the bank's Boston headquarters, the same site where the ratification of the U.S. Constitution

by the people of Massachusetts occurred in 1788. To mark the occasion, the street was renamed to Federal Street.

"The 50th anniversary of the Freedom Trail is an important and exciting milestone for the city of Boston and Bank of America is pleased to offer residents and visitors a unique way to participate in the celebration," said Bob Gallery, Massachusetts President, Bank of America. "The Bank of America Corporate Collection is one of the oldest and most significant corporate art collections in the world, and this anniversary presents a wonderful opportunity to spotlight some of its most historically important pieces, while providing public access to Boston's rich history."

"We're thrilled to be working with Bank of America on this anniversary event," said LaCamera. "They are great corporate citizens and we're honored to have their curatorial department so enthusiastic about showcasing their holdings and helping us tell the story of this amazing revolution that started in Boston. "

The Bank of America Collection reflects the diversity of artistic expression in America and internationally. These works of art are displayed in museums and Bank of America's public galleries as well as in corporate offices. As the company has grown in recent decades, the size and scope of the Bank of America Collection has also grown. Today, the collection has been enriched with the art from legacy banks, each with a particular emphasis – regional, thematic, contemporary, and historical.

For a full calendar of events surrounding the Freedom Trail 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and additional details, please visit [TheFreedomTrail.org](http://TheFreedomTrail.org).

### **About the Freedom Trail**

The Freedom Trail is made up of 16 distinct, original historic sites related to the establishment of the country. It is a repository of some of the country's most valuable historic and cultural artifacts. The Freedom Trail Foundation is charged to protect, restore, conserve, and raise public awareness of these sites of exceptional cultural and historic significance. Established in 1958, the Freedom Trail is a national icon and draws domestic and international visitors, resulting in more than \$800 million in spending annually. The Freedom Trail was designated as a Millennium Trail in 2000 by First Lady Hilary Clinton. It attracts more than three million tourists, residents of Massachusetts, and school children each year.

### **Bank of America and the Arts**

Bank of America is a leading supporter of arts and culture in the United States. Through a wide variety of programs, Bank of America works to strengthen artistic institutions and provide greater access to treasured works of art for both its customers and those who might not otherwise experience them. Each year the company provides millions of dollars in grants to a wide range of arts organizations, supporting education and access programs and enabling institutions to expand their scope, and underwrites national and local performances, arts programs, and exhibitions. Through the Bank of America

Traveling Exhibition and Loan Programs, the bank lends its art collection to museums so they may expand their offerings for the benefit of their communities.