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Go beyond *The Greeks* at the National Hellenic Museum

NHM offers companion programs to historic Field Museum exhibition

CHICAGO, IL - Beginning November 25, the world of ancient Greece will come to Chicago with a spectacular once-in-a-generation exhibition at The Field Museum along with compelling companion programs and exhibitions at the National Hellenic Museum in Greektown.

The National Hellenic Museum is the proud co-presenter of *The Greeks—Agamemnon to Alexander the Great*, a once-in-a-lifetime look at 5,000 years of Greek innovation and influence on Western Civilization, that will be on display at The Field Museum from Thanksgiving weekend until April 10, 2016. It's an historic opportunity to experience and learn about the ancient Greeks through an exhibition of more than 500 priceless treasures from 21 Greek museums. Many of the objects have never been displayed outside of Greece.

This will be the largest exhibition of its kind to tour North America in 25 years and will make only one other stop in the United States. The exhibition is presented largely through the lens of the ancient Greeks themselves – some recognizable, and some unnamed - as the objects from their lives provide insight into the roles they played within their respective societies.

The Greeks exhibition is made possible by a generous donation from The John P. Calamos Foundation, and John P. Calamos, Sr., Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the National Hellenic Museum.

“The National Hellenic Museum is the premier Greek cultural institution in North America, and it is a privilege to co-sponsor this exhibition, which will be of great value to those of Greek heritage as well as to those who recognize the pivotal contributions ancient Greeks made to our current society, democracy, and western culture,” says John P. Calamos, Sr.

The Greeks exhibition at The Field Museum was developed by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs (Athens, Greece), The Field Museum (Chicago, USA), the National Geographic Museum (Washington, DC, USA), Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology and History Complex (Montréal, Canada), and the Canadian Museum of History (Gatineau, Canada).

Visitors will continue the journey at the National Hellenic Museum, which tells the classic Greek story with a fresh voice. The National Hellenic Museum is augmenting *The Greeks* with a rich cultural program of exhibitions, events, and activities showcasing the enduring universal relevance of Greek history and culture in collaboration with eminent scholars and cultural institutions from around the country and abroad.

Visitors to the National Hellenic Museum are invited to explore the landscape of Greece through a new exhibition that will run from November 23, 2015 to August 2016. *Aegean: Creation of an Archipelago* will explore the evolution and geology of Homer’s “wine dark sea” and its dazzling islands through digital and audiovisual material, as well as tangible artifacts that include underwater findings, ancient fossils, and a 14-meter petrified tree trunk.

Greek history and culture will be examined through unique discussions, debates, performances, staged readings, and other events that provide a forum for conversation, self-reflection, and entertainment on topics that encompass a vast range of issues, both ancient and contemporary.

Events include *The Trial of Antigone* in March at The Field Museum with the legal dream team of Patrick Fitzgerald, Bob Clifford, Patrick Collins, and Dan Webb, and a program in collaboration with the Chicago Humanities Festival on Greek citizenship and politics by moral philosopher Martha Nussbaum.

A complete schedule and descriptions of *The Greeks* companion programs is available at www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org.

Guests to the National Hellenic Museum are always invited to learn more about the legacy of Greek immigrants in more modern times, through the Museum’s collection of objects and stories about the Greek American immigrant experience.

With a fresh, modern approach to presenting art, culture, politics, and economics from the Greek vantage point, The National Hellenic Museum is where the journey of *The Greeks* continues.

Tickets to the National Hellenic Museum are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students, and \$7 for children 3-12 years. Special rates are available for groups of 10 or more.

Photo 1: *Aegean: Creation of an Archipelago* exhibition coming to NHM in November.



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Located in Chicago's Greektown, the sleek 40,000-square-foot National Hellenic Museum at 333. S. Halsted St. is both contemporary and timeless, connecting all generations—past, present and future—to the rich heritage of Greek history, culture, art and the Greek American experience. The National Hellenic Museum, previously known as the Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center, has been fulfilling this mission since 1983.

For more information, visit <http://www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org> or call 312-655-1234.

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