

National Gallery of Art

NEWS RELEASE

UPDATED RELEASE
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NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART SCULPTURE GARDEN ICE SKATING RINK OPENS FOR THE SEASON

Washington, D.C. - The National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden Ice Skating Rink, located at 7th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., opens to the public for the first time in its newly designed setting today. The rink will remain open daily through March 15, 2000, weather permitting. For information, call (202) 737-4215.

The rink's sleek, modern design with clear glass dasher boards creates an open vista throughout the garden and offers skaters the unique experience of viewing magnificent works of sculpture. A state-of-the-art compact disc music system, with twenty-four speakers installed on light poles encircling the rink, provides uniform sound to skaters, without distracting other visitors to the garden.

The ice skating rink first opened to visitors on the National Mall in 1974. It closed in 1997 for construction of the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden, which was given to the nation by The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation. Since its public opening on May 23, 1999, the Sculpture Garden has become one of the most popular outdoor attractions on the National Mall with an attendance of more than 780,000 people to date.

The hours for the ice skating rink are Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-11 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Admission for a two-hour session* is as follows:

Adult:	Weekday, \$5.00 Weekend, \$5.50 (Saturday and Sunday)
Senior/Student:	Weekday, \$4.00 (seniors age 50 and over, children age 12 and under, and students with ID) Weekend \$4.50 (Saturday and Sunday)

* Sessions begin on the hour.

The skate rental fee is \$2.50. The locker rental fee is \$.50 (\$5.00 deposit required). Discounts on admission and fees are available for groups of 10 or more; to arrange a group visit, call (202) 289-2666. Refreshments and light fare served from carts adjacent to the rink will be available in January 2000.

Please note: During evening skating hours, when the National Gallery is closed to the public, the ice skating rink alone is open; the surrounding Sculpture Garden is closed to the public. Access to the rink during these times will be via the Constitution Avenue and Madison Drive entrances at Ninth Street.

The National Gallery of Art, located on the National Mall, is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The National Gallery of Art and Sculpture Garden and Ice Skating Rink are closed on December 25 and January 1. For general information, call (202) 737-4215, the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or visit the National Gallery of Art's Web site at www.nga.gov. To receive the Gallery's free bimonthly Calendar of Events, call (202) 842-6662.

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Fourth Street at Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20565

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