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Holocaust Museum Houston Announces Grand Reopening Weekend Events and Exhibitions

Houston (June 11, 2019) . . . The Holocaust Museum Houston (HMH), Lester and Sue Smith Campus will host its grand reopening June 22 through June 23, 2019, after a \$34 million expansion of its original home at 5401 Caroline Street. The Museum's temporary location at 9220 Kirby Drive has closed in preparation for the move to the new facility.

More than doubling in size to a total of 57,000 square feet, the new facility will rank as the nation's fourth largest Holocaust museum and will be fully bilingual in English and Spanish. The new three-story structure will house a welcome center, four permanent galleries and two changing exhibition galleries, classrooms, research library, café, 200-seat indoor theater and 175-seat outdoor amphitheater. With more than 50 screens, mini-theaters and interactive terminals are featured throughout the Museum.

In becoming one of the top Holocaust museums in the country, the organization will broaden its mission as a superregional hub for Holocaust education and a national voice for human rights and social justice.

"This expansion marks the most ambitious undertaking in our 23-year history," said Dr. Kelly J. Zúñiga, CEO of the Museum. "After five years of planning and building the new facility, we are proud to open the doors of our new home for Holocaust education and human rights studies. With the rise in anti-Semitism, hate crimes and threats to human rights in our own country, our role in education and outreach is more important than ever before." Expanded exhibits are expected to increase student field trip attendance by 50 percent in the first year, while overall annual attendance is expected to grow by 35 percent.

The permanent Holocaust exhibit includes such rare artifacts as a fishing boat like those used by Danish fishermen to ferry Jewish neighbors to neutral territory under cover of night, as well as a World War II-era railcar like the ones that transported Jews to concentration camps and killing centers. A Human Rights Gallery will feature educational displays of all UN-recognized genocides as well as tributes to international human rights leaders including Malala Yousafzai and Martin Luther King, Jr. among others. The Museum will debut the nation's largest gallery of artwork by the Holocaust child survivor and painter Samuel Bak, with more than 130 works in exhibition rotation. Finally, an interactive media display will bring to life the writings of 12 young diarists, including Anne Frank, who died in genocides around the world.

The Museum will open its doors with two touring exhibitions. *Operation Finale: The Capture & Trial of Adolf Eichmann* will be on view June 22 through September 15, 2019 in the Minberg Gallery. The Museum's smaller Central Gallery will feature *Points of View* from June 22 through October 6, 2019.

The head of the Nazis' homicidal "Jewish Department," who zealously managed the transport of millions of innocent people to death camps, vanished after World War II. Photographs, film and recently declassified intelligence artifacts reveal the dramatic secret history behind the daring abduction and globally broadcast trial of a principal perpetrator of the Final Solution.

'Operation Finale' references the code name given to the Mossad's effort to capture and abduct Adolf Eichmann. With more than 100 original artifacts and photographs, the exhibition details exactly how agents located a perpetrator of "The Final Solution" hiding in South America and smuggled him to Israel to stand trial for crimes against the Jewish people. Short films within *Operation Finale* allows exhibition-goers to hear directly from the abduction team that caught the SS lieutenant colonel and the legal team that prosecuted him.

An immersive video installation complete with a replica of the iconic bulletproof glass booth from which a dispassionate Eichmann testified drops visitors right into the historic 1961 trial.

Operation Finale illustrates the enormity of the crimes committed during the Nazi regime and explores issues of justice and accountability. The message powerfully reinforced by the trial was encapsulated in the phrase "Never Again" - the determination to stamp out murderous tyrannies wherever they arose, no matter the target. The message is as important today as ever, and the Eichmann trial serves as a reminder of what can happen if the world is not vigilant.

Operation Finale is a co-production of The Mossad – Israeli Secret Intelligence Service; Beit Hatfutsot – The Museum of the Jewish People, Tel Aviv, Israel; and the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, Cleveland, Ohio. The exhibition is made possible by a generous grant from the Maltz Family Foundation. [Click here for Operation Finale photos.](#)

Operation Finale exhibition sponsors include Premier Sponsor Christensen Building Group, LLC; Presenting Sponsors Paula Goldstein, South Texas College of Law and Veritex Community Bank; Title Sponsors David and Judy Beck, Lilly and Charles Foster / Foster LLP, U.S. & Global Immigration Services, Heidi and David Gerger, Joel and Jamie Grossman Family / Edie and David Amran Family in honor of Robert z"l and Cathy Grossman and Lindsay Grossman, Guillermo Guefen, Husch Blackwell LLP, Elizabeth and Alan Stein, Sterling Family Foundation, Susman Godfrey LLP, Vison & Elkins LLP, Robin and David Wayne, and Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP / Bruce Herzog and Deb Hurwitz; Lead Sponsors are Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, LLP, BoyarMiller / Gary W. Miller, Eve and Bobby Lapin, Jerry Rochman, and Weycer, Kaplan, Pulaski & Zuber, P.C. Community Partners are H-E-B, Memorial Hermann and Sysco, with United Airlines as the official airline of Holocaust Museum Houston.

Points of View, a national photography exhibition from the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, offers glimpses into how people perceive human rights around them – rights related to freedom of expression, inclusion and diversity, reconciliation and the environment. Visitors who have low vision or who are blind can experience a tactile version of the award-winning *Mi'kmaq Woman*, 2013, Ossie Michelin, with audio descriptions in English and Spanish.

The photographs tell stories of passion and protest, family and friendship, suffering and struggle, hunger and hope. Some of these images may convey viewpoints similar to your own. Others may inspire you to think about an issue in a new way. We all have different points of view. [Click here for Points of View photos.](#)

Opening weekend activities include Holocaust Survivor Talks in the Albert and Ethel Herzstein Theater at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, June 22, and 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday, June 23. The first 500 people each day of opening weekend receive a Holocaust Museum Houston tote bag.

Admission is free for children and students (includes college students with valid college ID), \$15 for adults, and \$10 for seniors and AARP members; free for active military through Labor Day as part of the Blue Star Museums program. As a member of the Houston Museum District Association, HMH waives admission from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. each Thursday. Parking is available onsite in the Museum's lot for \$8 for the first four hours. The Museum's hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. For more details and to purchase advance timed tickets, visit hmh.org.

[CLICK HERE FOR MUSEUM RENDERINGS.](#)

ABOUT HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HOUSTON

Holocaust Museum Houston, Lester and Sue Smith Campus, is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization founded in 1996 by Houston-area Holocaust Survivors, their descendants and members of the community, is accredited by The American Alliance of Museums. Average annual attendance is 130,000 visitors, including more than 71,000 middle and high school students. The Museum is dedicated to educating people about the Holocaust, remembering the 6 million Jews and other innocent victims and honoring the survivors' legacy. Using the lessons of the Holocaust and other genocides, we teach the dangers of hatred, prejudice and apathy.