



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Clare Legg

clegg@hmh.org / 713-805-7882

Holocaust Museum Houston to Host Free Educational Programming in June

Houston (June 3, 2022) . . . Holocaust Museum Houston (HMH) will host free public programs in June including a Juneteenth panel discussion, an author event with a National Book Award Finalist and a film screening/poetry reading.

In partnership with the Convict Leasing and Labor Project (CLLP), the Museum presents the Juneteenth roundtable *Who Owns History? Centering Descendants in the Politics of Preservation* on Saturday, June 18 at 2:00 p.m. Featuring grassroots activists and scholars, the panel will discuss best practices of Black cemetery preservation and lingering questions on memorialization and the ethics of public history. Panelists include Founder and Chair of the Chattahoochee Brick Company Coalition Donna Y. Stephens, University of South Florida Anthropology Department Chair Dr. Antoinette Jackson and Assistant Director of the Ruth J. Simmons Center for Race and Justice at Prairie View A&M University Dr. Marco Robinson.

On Thursday, June 23 at 6:00 p.m., HMH will host the 2022 Gerald R. Kaplan Public Lecture featuring Dr. Wendy Lower. The author and historian will discuss her latest book, National Jewish Book award recipient *The Ravine: A Family, A Photograph, A Holocaust Massacre Revealed*. Wendy Lower is the John K. Roth Professor of History at Claremont McKenna College, directs the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights at the Claremont Colleges and chairs the Academic Committee of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The Gerald R. Kaplan Public Lecture is supported by the Gerald S. Kaplan Endowment Fund.

The Museum will present the debut film screening of "It's a Mask / It's a Virus / It's a Knee" on Wednesday, June 29 at 6:00 p.m. Curated by 2021 Academy of American Poets Laureate Fellow and Houston Poet Laureate Emeritus Leslie Contreras Schwartz, the film is a collective, communal poetry video collage comprised of poems written by Houstonians about their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. The screening will be followed by poetry readings by ire'ne lara silva and Leslie Contreras Schwartz on illness, COVID-19 survival and the body's narrative of resilience in response to trauma and sickness. This event is made possible by the Academy of American Poets with funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

All events are free and will be held in person at Holocaust Museum Houston, but tickets must be reserved at <https://hmh.org/events>. *Who Owns History? Centering Descendants in the Politics of Preservation* will also be available to attend virtually via Zoom.

#