

# THE Zekelman HOLOCAUST CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Glenn Oswald  
Marx Layne & Company  
248-855-6777

## **The Zekelman Holocaust Center Receives \$1 Million Dollar Grant from The Claims Conference**

*The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany Gift Will Go Toward  
Construction of the New Core Exhibit*

**Farmington Hills, Mich., April 24, 2023** – The Zekelman Holocaust Center has been awarded \$1,000,000 from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany toward fabrication expenses of the Center’s core exhibit, which will be undergoing a complete renovation starting in June 2023.

The update will be the first since the Center moved to its permanent home in Farmington Hills in 2004. The new exhibit will center Michigan survivor voices in its telling of one of the most horrific events in world history, utilizing updated historical information, cutting-edge technology and modern museum design, media, and lighting. Tours will align with best practices in museum and Holocaust education. Visitors will learn about pre-war Jewish life, the onset of World War II, and the liberation of the concentration camps through information, testimonies, and artifacts that summon inquiry and contemplation, to help guests draw meaning from their visit.

“As the population of Holocaust survivors dwindles, we must find a way for future generations to continue to connect to their experiences,” said Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, CEO, The Zekelman Holocaust Center. “Our new exhibit elevates our local survivors’ stories for perpetuity, and ensures they have the first and last word as visitors move through our exhibit. Thanks to this generous grant, we can accomplish this goal, and position ourselves as a 21<sup>st</sup>-century leader in Holocaust education.”

“The Claims Conference is proud to support institutions like The Zekelman Holocaust Center, which are dedicated to remembering the Holocaust. Ensuring future generations have access to the history of the Holocaust not only perpetuates the testimony of the Shoah but also opens space for learning, fosters healthy discussion, and enables critical thinking,” said Greg Schneider, Executive Vice President of the Claims Conference.

“This new exhibit will be an important addition to the educational programming they continue to provide. We cannot truly say ‘never again’ if we do not actively educate future generations on the atrocities of the past.”

While construction is taking place, the Center will remain open for events, programs, and a unique temporary exhibit; the new core exhibit will debut in January 2024.

### ***About the Claims Conference***

*Founded in 1951, the Claims Conference seeks justice for Holocaust survivors through the disbursement of funds to individuals who suffered at the hands of the Nazis, as well as to agencies caring for their needs as they age. The organization has also provided material aid to Righteous Gentiles, slave laborers, and to spouses and children of survivors. Over time, the Claims Conference has expanded its mission to support projects around the world that promote Holocaust education including teacher training, scholarly research, and filmmaking.*

### ***About The Zekelman Holocaust Center***

*Founded in 1984 by Michigan survivors who were intent on creating a lasting memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, The Zekelman Holocaust Center is guided by its mission to engage, educate, and empower by remembering the Holocaust.*

*Each year the Center welcomes thousands of visitors who benefit from having a local resource where they can learn the lessons of history’s darkest period. Exhibits and artifacts on display include survivor testimonies, documents, paintings, and films, an authentic WWII-era boxcar, and a sapling from the tree located outside Anne Frank’s hiding place window that is described in her diary. The Center also invites the public to make use of its extensive Library Archive, which contains more than 20,000 volumes.*

*Embedded in the community, the Center’s Museum Educators and Docents tell the human story of the Holocaust to school and adult groups through customized tours, training, and programs. Participants are empowered to apply the lessons learned to create a compassionate society where people take responsible action.*

Learn more at [www.holocaustcenter.org](http://www.holocaustcenter.org)

Hours: Sunday through Thursday 9:30 am to 5:00 pm and Friday 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. The last admission is one hour before closing. Wheelchair accessible. Free parking. For additional information, visit [www.holocaustcenter.org](http://www.holocaustcenter.org) or call 248-553-2400.

**###**