

THE Zekelman HOLOCAUST CENTER

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

The Zekelman Holocaust Center Receives a Nissan Foundation Grant to Fund Unique Cultural and Racial Diversity Programming *Grant to Assist in Funding The HC's Summer Academy for Teachers*

Farmington Hills, Mich., June 27, 2023 – The Nissan Foundation has named The Zekelman Holocaust Center (The HC) a 2023 grant recipient to help fund the planning, implementation, and delivery of its Holocaust Education Summer Academy, which provides teachers with content knowledge and pedagogical techniques to use in teaching about the Holocaust. The Summer Academy runs August 7 – 10, 2023, and registration is open.

“We are grateful for the \$30,000 award for our Holocaust Education Summer Academy Professional Development Series for Educators,” Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, CEO of The Zekelman Holocaust Center, said. “This gift funds the training of over 100 Michigan educators across all disciplines to incorporate best practices in Holocaust education in every subject. The content furthers teachers’ own knowledge of the Holocaust and helps them master the instructional practices related to teaching this sensitive material.”

The Nissan Foundation was created in 1992 as a thoughtful response to the three weeks of violent civil unrest that occurred near Nissan North America’s then U.S. sales and marketing operations in Southern California following the Rodney King trial verdict. Nissan established a \$5 million endowment to promote cultural diversity within southern Los Angeles neighborhoods.

In the more than 30 years since, the Nissan Foundation has awarded nearly \$16 million to more than 150 nonprofit organizations to support innovative programs that break down societal barriers and build inclusive communities through education and outreach. Grant recipients promote cultural diversity across a variety of arts, education, social and public programs in seven U.S. communities where Nissan operates.

“It’s an honor to award The Zekelman Holocaust Center a grant for the work it’s doing to promote, share and sustain cultural awareness and understanding in communities throughout our world,” said Chandra Vasser, President of the Nissan Foundation and Nissan’s first Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer.

“The grant provides teachers with the opportunity to immerse themselves in a weeklong professional development experience with The HC staff,” Rabbi Mayerfeld added. “Their efforts in the classroom inspire and empower the next generation to value cultural diversity, stand up to prejudice and antisemitism, and create a society free from hate.”

For information on how to enroll in The HC’s Summer Academy, please contact Rick Schaffner, Manager of Education Outreach, at (248) 556-3663 or rick.schaffner@holocaustcenter.org.

About The Zekelman Holocaust Center

Founded in 1984 by Michigan survivors to create 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

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 or call 248-553-2400.

About The Nissan Foundation

The Nissan Foundation is awarding a total of \$1.2 million in grants to 39 nonprofit organizations for its 2023 grant cycle. The nonprofit recipients are located in Atlanta, Central Mississippi, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Middle Tennessee, New York City, Southeast Michigan, Southern California – all locations where Nissan has an operational presence. Learn more about all of the 2023 Nissan Foundation grantees at www.NissanFoundation.com.

Nissan Foundation grants are awarded annually. It will begin accepting Letters of Intent for the 2024 grant cycle on Monday, October 9, 2024. All Letters of Intent must be received by 5 p.m. ET/4 p.m. CT on Friday, November 3. The Nissan Foundation will announce 2024 grantees in June 2024. For more information about the Nissan Foundation and its application process, visit the [Nissan Foundation](#) page.

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