

THE Zekelman HOLOCAUST CENTER

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The Zekelman Holocaust Center Announces Renovation of Museum's Core Exhibit

*Current Exhibit, in Place Since 2008, to Close May 25/The HC to Remain Open During
Renovation with Programs, Events and Exhibits*

Farmington Hills, Mich., March 20, 2023 – [The Zekelman Holocaust Center](#) (The HC) today announced that a complete renovation of its permanent, core exhibit will begin at the end of May. The current exhibit, in place since 2008, will be completely updated with new interactive galleries and spaces for visitors to reflect on their learning.

During construction, The HC will remain open and feature a robust series of public programs, events, and temporary exhibits. Virtual learning experiences will continue for teachers, students, and adult groups, with The HC's Education Department available for virtual and in-person teaching statewide. Public and scheduled tours will resume in early 2024.

The new exhibit will center Michigan survivor voices within one of the most horrific events in world history by utilizing up-to-date historical information, world renowned exhibit designers, and cutting-edge museum technology. Tours will align with best practices in museum education as the galleries, beginning with pre-war Jewish life and through liberation, summon inquiry and contemplation, to help visitors draw meaning from their visit.

“Over the past few years, we’ve come to realize the core exhibit needs to change to meet the needs of current and future generations,” said Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, CEO, The Zekelman Holocaust Center. “As the population of survivors dwindles, most future visitors to The HC will not be able to meet a Holocaust survivor face-to-face and hear them speak. Our job is to give people an opportunity to connect with these individuals and their stories throughout time. We believe our new core exhibit will do just that.”

Gary Karp, President of the Board of Directors at The Zekelman Holocaust Center, is the son of Holocaust survivors. He knows firsthand that as generations become further removed from the Holocaust, centers of learning like The HC must remain relevant for the future, “so the Holocaust and its survivors are never forgotten, and we continue to teach its lessons,” he said.

The Zekelman Holocaust Center is open Sunday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Docent-led tours are available Sunday through Friday at 1:00 p.m. There is a Holocaust Survivor Speaker every Sunday at 12:00 p.m.

“The current exhibit has been a hallmark of our Center for more than 15 years. I encourage everyone to see it once more before May 25,” added Rabbi Mayerfeld. “Then I encourage all to return in 2024. The transformation of the physical space will introduce a new and exciting era that gives our local survivors the first and last word in the recounting of the history of the Holocaust, honors their legacy, and transfers memory to future generations.”

To view a short video on the core exhibit renovation, visit www.holocaustcenter.org/renovation

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

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.

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