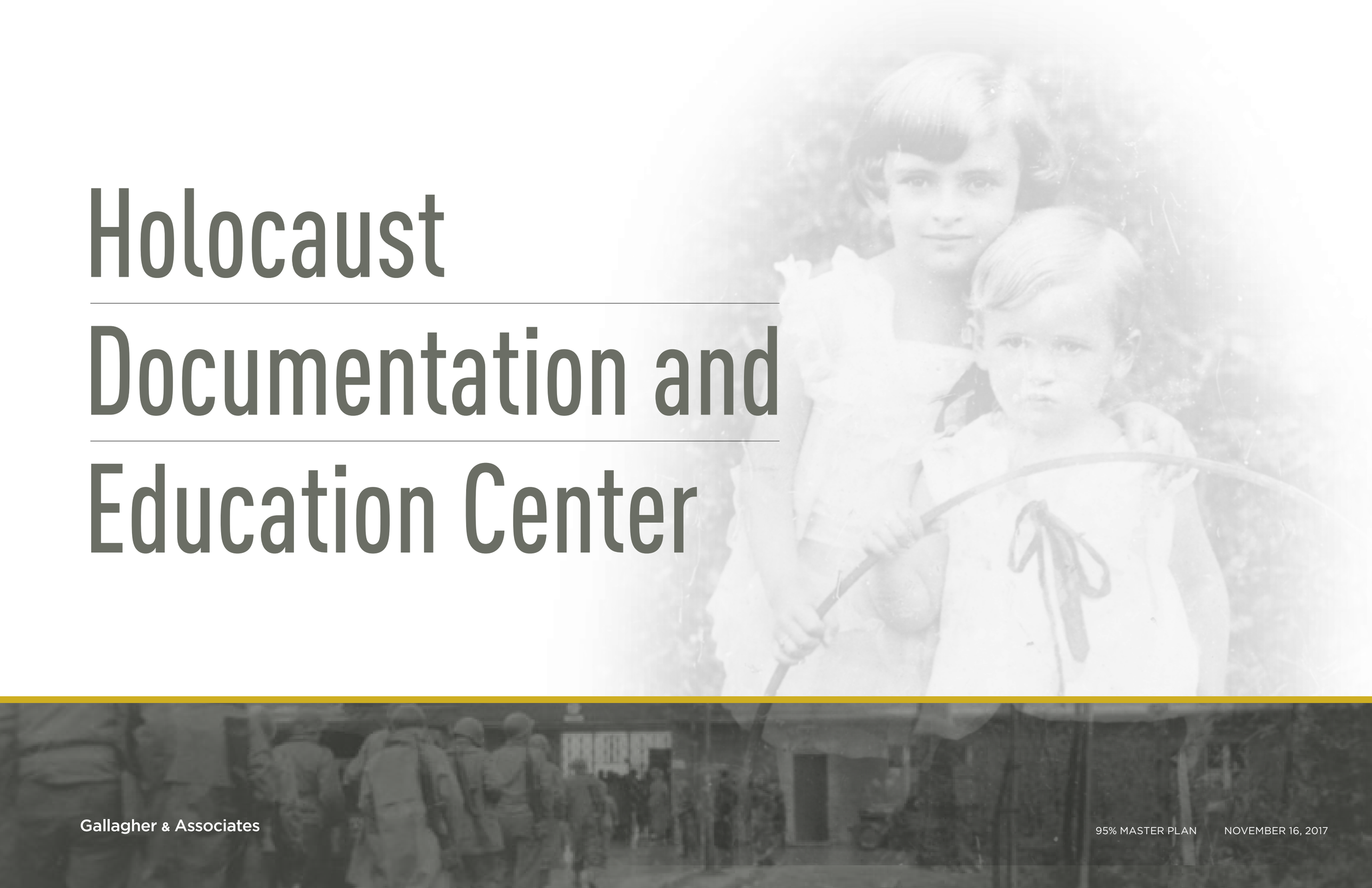
Holocaust Documentation and Education Center



Gallagher & Associates

95% MASTER PLAN NOVEMBER 16, 2017

“IF ANYTHING CAN, IT IS MEMORY THAT WILL SAVE HUMANITY.”

ELIE WIESEL

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Mission

The Holocaust Documentation & Education Center has a two-fold mission:

To document and present an enduring, historically accurate record of the Holocaust through eyewitness accounts by Survivors, Liberators, Rescuers, and others who survived terrifying experiences, overcame fear and grief, and triumphed to live meaningful and productive lives.

To teach people from all walks of life the universal lessons of the Holocaust, through thought-provoking exhibitions and insightful programming, illuminating the catastrophic ramifications of prejudice, racism, stereotyping, and bullying which tragically still occur today. This is accomplished through the cultivation of alliance and cooperation with individuals, organizations and institutions, locally, nationally, and internationally."

THE HOLOCAUST DOCUMENTATION AND EDUCATION CENTER WILL:

CREATE a unique experience that generates a public "buzz" that will attract both local residents and tourists.

CONTINUE the museum's legacy of working with students ages 11 and up, educators, and the surrounding Hispanic community to teach the enduring lessons of the Holocaust.

HIGHLIGHT the two large and significant artifacts acquired by the Center – a US Army tank and WWII era railcar – as central parts of the visitor experience.

EMBRACE a distinctive narrative that highlights Jewish resiliency and resistance, with a special emphasis on the experience of Survivors living in South Florida based on the museum's large collection of video testimonies.

ENSURE that all audiences feel connected to the museum's mission and message by incorporating stories that evoke a universal lesson and underscore the Holocaust's continuing legacy for contemporary society.

UTILIZE ground-breaking exhibition design that incorporates advanced media techniques and Survivor testimonies to create a unique, personalized experience for guided groups and individual visitors.

PRESENT the story of the Holocaust in a non-demoninational space so that visitors from all walks of life can relate to the eyewitness accounts of Survivors and identify with the continued issues of bigotry, hatred, anti-Semitism, bullying, and intolerance.

Museum

The Holocaust Documentation and Education Center (HDEC) has been devoted to documenting the memory of the Holocaust and educating today's generation about the dangers of bigotry, hatred, and intolerance for the past 36 years.

The museum has been central in collecting over 2,500 oral histories of Survivors, liberators, and rescuers as well as artifacts, photographs, and documents that provide invaluable eyewitness accounts to the story of the Holocaust. The museum also features a unique combination of two iconic artifacts – a Railcar and an American Sherman Tank that liberated Dachau – that provide impactful moments of reflection for visitors.

As a leader in Florida's Holocaust education statute, the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center hosts Student Awareness Days and programs that educate younger generations about the continued issues of hatred, bigotry, and bullying. Students participate in writing contests as well as interact with the Survivor community in South Florida.

Goals

The Holocaust Documentation and Education Center will:

GIVE VOICE to the Survivors of the Holocaust and tell the stories of the veterans who liberated them.

PRESENT visitors from all walks of life with an historically accurate account of the Holocaust to ensure that these terrible events will not be forgotten by future generations.

CELEBRATE the resiliency of the Jewish people during and after the Holocaust.

EDUCATE the public on the universal, enduring lessons of the Holocaust.

SHOWCASE the center's vast oral history archive which provides first-hand accounts of life during the Holocaust.

PROVIDE a call of action to visitors and give them an outlet to confront instances of intolerance and bigotry today.

Values

The Holocaust Documentation and Education Center will strive to educate the public about the history of the Holocaust and its enduring lessons. To accomplish this goal, the museum will continue to work with students and the surrounding Survivor community in South Florida to create a space where the universal lessons of the Holocaust are at the forefront of discussion.

11+

TO EDUCATE STUDENTS AGES 11 AND UP on the history of the Holocaust and its continued lessons. The Holocaust Documentation and Education Center has been a leader in Florida's education mandate and will continue this mission through student and teacher workshops.

TO PRESENT THE JEWS AS A PEOPLE OF RESILIENCE as opposed to merely victims of the Holocaust. The museum will showcase acts of Jewish defiance and resistance during the Holocaust and educate the visitors on how the Jewish people rebuilt the community after Holocaust all over the world.

FL

TO BECOME A SPACE THAT THE COMMUNITY CAN FEEL CONNECTED TO. The Center will continue to reach out and be a voice for South Florida's Holocaust Survivor and Hispanic communities who will be able to learn the history at the first Holocaust museum in North America to be presented in English and Spanish.

TO COLLECT EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS, ARTIFACTS, AND DOCUMENTS of the Survivors, liberators, and rescuers of the Holocaust. The museum's collection helps to ensure that the history of the Holocaust will live on and continue inform visitors.

Collection

The Holocaust Documentation and Education Center has been collecting items and accounts to tell an authentic story of the Holocaust. Their vast collection will help visitors relate to the past and those who experienced its events.

ORAL HISTORIES

The museum has been a leader in the collection of oral histories from Survivors and their Liberators and rescuers. The 2,500 have been used for Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and have also been used as a tool to tell the story of the Holocaust to the HDEC's visitors. These eyewitness accounts provide invaluable connection to the Holocaust for visitors.

DONATED ARTIFACTS AND DOCUMENTS

The HDEC has acquired an extensive collection of artifacts from Survivors and their families. The collection contains documents, photographs, and memorabilia such as Torahs, yellow stars, identity cards, and clothing. These artifacts provide a compelling visitor narrative for visitors to the Center.

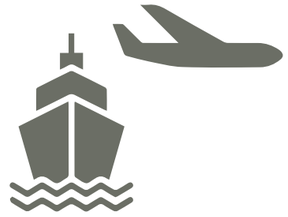
ICONIC ARTIFACTS
SHERMAN TANK AND RAILCAR

The Sherman Tank and Railcar are a unique artifact combination, exclusive to the HDEC. The Railcar gives visitors an insight to what it was like to be transported to the Concentration Camps during the Holocaust and the Sherman Tank tells the story of the liberation of Dachau. These two artifacts show the visitor two sides of the Holocaust – despair and hope.

Audience

STUDENTS ages 11 and up who will be visiting as part as the state of Florida's mandate to teach the Holocaust in school. The Holocaust Documentation and Education Center is one of Florida's designated institutions for Holocaust Education.

TEACHERS who wish to work with the museum on ways inform, augment, and present their classroom lessons on the Holocaust.



TOURISTS who regularly visit museums and would like to learn more about Holocaust history.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS, LIBERATORS, RESCUERS AND THEIR FAMILIES who can bear witness to that which was lost and remind us of the continuing relevance of the Holocaust today.

THE SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUNITY as a non-denominational space, the Center will welcome all community members, including South Florida's large Survivor community and Hispanic community, to learn about Holocaust history.

FAMILY GROUPS who are interested in learning more about history and culture and would like to teach their families the history of the Holocaust.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARS studying the Holocaust who will be able to search through the museum's collection of oral histories and artifacts to enhance their own research and academic pursuits.

GOVERNMENTAL AND COMMUNITY GROUPS such as local media, social workers, and universities all benefit by working in conjunction with the Center to combat intolerance and prejudice.

Interpretive Approaches & Exhibit Techniques

The Florida Holocaust Documentation and Education Center will be a multidimensional and rich visitor experience. The exhibit design will be determined by which methods best convey specific storylines and messages. Exhibit techniques will include the following:

HUB AND SPOKE LAYOUT

A hub and spoke layout will be used for visitors to explore the history and themes of the Holocaust in a way that connects the stories.

PROGRAMMING AND EDUCATION

The museum will continue its efforts to educate students on the history of the Holocaust in accordance with statue 1004.32 which mandates Holocaust education in Florida. These programs will include student awareness days and teacher institutes which focus on the lessons of the Holocaust as well as the dangers of hatred, prejudice, and intolerance.

TIMELINES

In addition to the hub and spoke layout, the Holocaust gallery will feature a more traditional chronological approach as a familiar way to grasp history. This will aid visitors in learning the events leading up to the Holocaust which allowed for its widespread reach.

ICONIC ARTIFACTS

The museum will feature a railcar that was used to transport prisoners to the camps and one of the Sherman tanks that was used in the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp. Using these and other iconic artifacts, visitors will be able to connect with the personal stories of the Holocaust and help understand its significance.

FIRST PERSON ACCOUNTS

Interviews, diaries, and letters from Holocaust Survivors, liberators, rescuers, and perpetrators provide invaluable stories that describe the events of the Holocaust but also demonstrate that hope and humanity can survive even in the most horrifying of times.

MEDIA TECHNOLOGIES

The latest technologies enhance the visitor experience and can deepen our understanding of the events of the Holocaust and its enduring lessons. This will include interactive stations to listen to oral histories and the potential for responsive holographic projections of Survivor testimonials.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

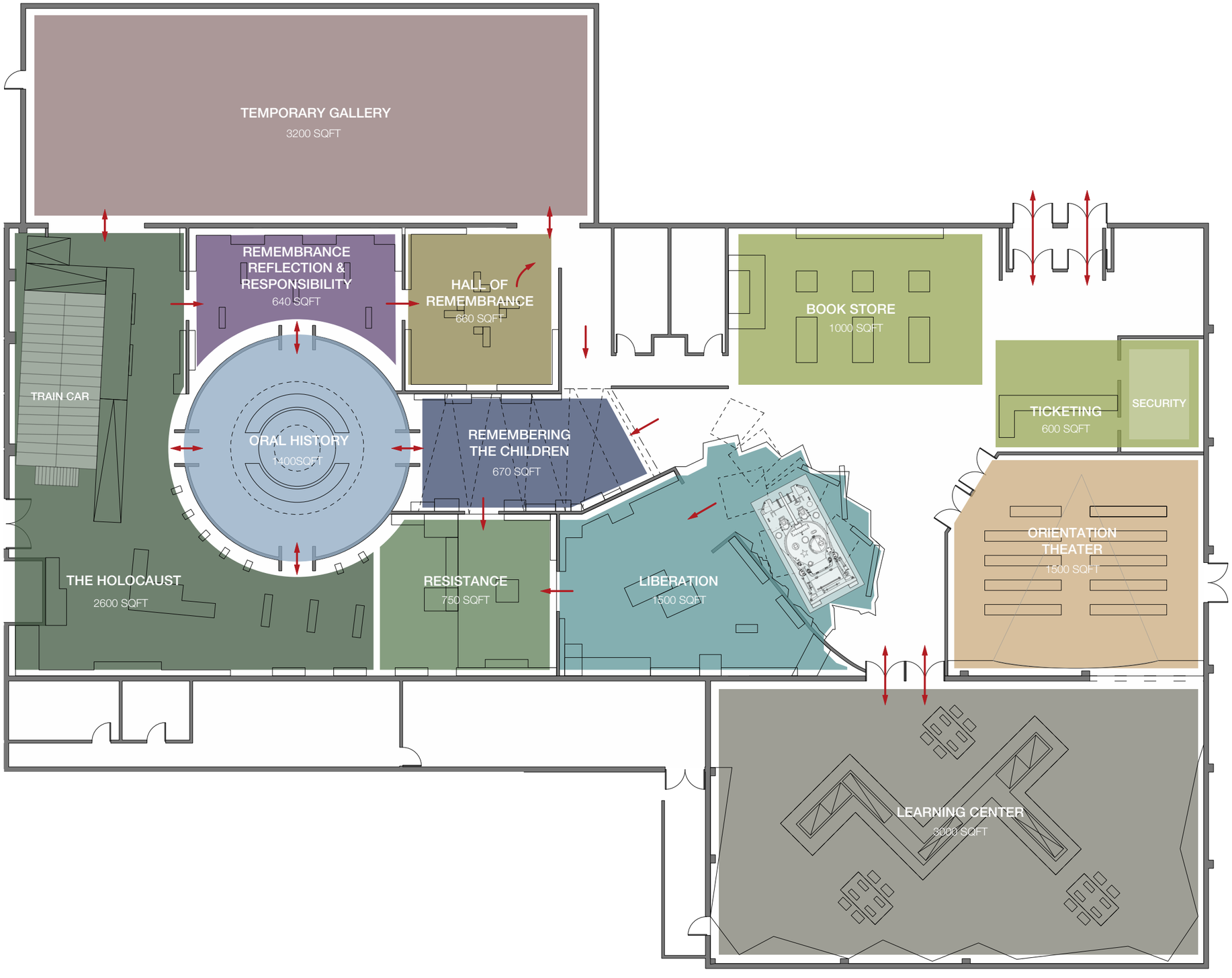


EXHIBIT PLAN

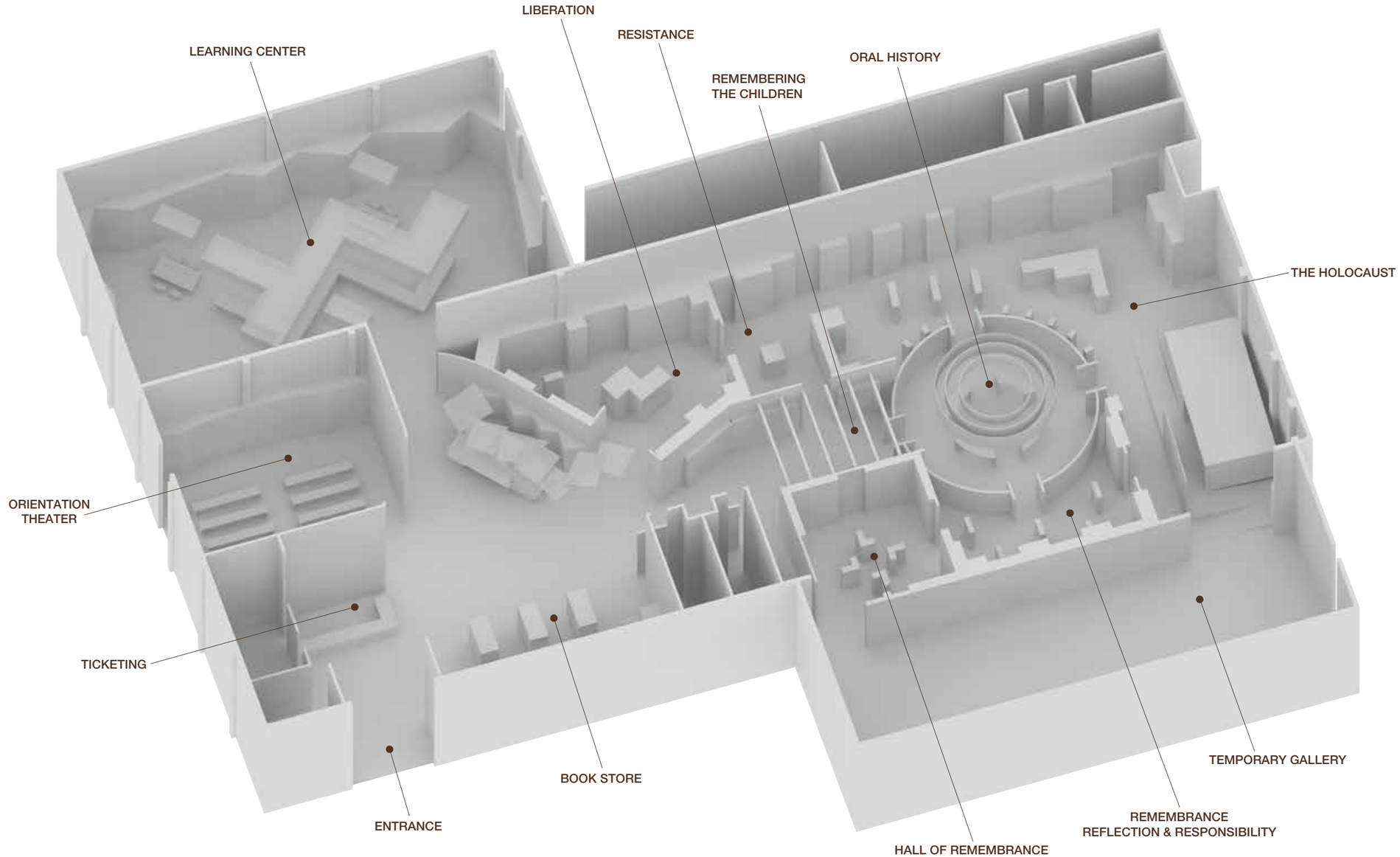


EXHIBIT AXON VIEW

AREA

1

Orientation

Remembering the Children

The Orientation will give visitors a quick overview of the museum's main themes and introduction to all the galleries. An orientation film may be included to serve as a logical starting point. The orientation space can also provide visitors an introduction to the children who lost their lives in the Holocaust. This will allow for a powerful connection to the victims and their stories.

AREA 1: CHILDREN'S REMEMBERENCE

Remembering
THE CHILDREN
"FOR THE DEAD AND THE LIVING,
WE MUST BEAR WITNESS."
ELIE WIESEL
bear witness

AREA

2

The Liberation

Starting with the story of Liberation allows the museum to create a unique narrative in telling the story of the Holocaust. This also gives us the chance to highlight one of the museum's iconic artifacts – the M4 Sherman tank used to liberate Dachau, the first established Nazi concentration camp. This space also provides the opportunity to create an orientation show that will introduce visitors to the story of the Jews, Nazis, and Liberators during the Holocaust.

AREA 2: LIBERATION

AREA 2: LIBERATION

AREA

3

Resistance: Courageous Acts in Desperate Times

The Jewish Resistance gallery will focus on the story of the Jewish efforts to confront and defy Nazi oppression during the Holocaust. In contrast to the popular images of Jews as passive victims, numerous examples of courageous acts of Jewish resistance and determined perseverance will be a major part of the museum's narrative. Here we will discuss successful examples of hiding and escaping Europe, acts of defiance in the camps and ghettos during the Holocaust. This will help to counter the common perception that Jews were passive victims but showing visitors the agency they took over their own fate.

AREA 3: RESISTANCE: COURAGEOUS ACTS IN DESPARATE TIMES

AREA 3: RESISTANCE: COURAGEOUS ACTS IN DESPARATE TIMES

AREA

4

The Holocaust

The third section of the museum will showcase the chronological story of the Holocaust. This will provide visitors with a more traditional method to understand the events leading up to and during the Holocaust. It will also include a section on Jewish resistance to help illustrate that the Jewish people had a sense of agency during the Holocaust which helped to inspire their continue resilience in today's world.

Ladegew 15 000kg
Tragf 15 500kg
Bodenfl 21.3 m²
LüP 9.60
GewdW 11 525kg
Deutsche
Reichsbahn
Karlsruhe
RENDERING BY:
Gallagher & Associates, 2017

Deutsche
Reichsbahn
Kassel
37723
G

AREA

5

Remembrance, Reflection, and Responsibility

The Remembrance, Reflection, and Responsibility gallery will show visitors how, through the Survivors, the Jewish people and communities were able to live on and grow despite all the horrors they had been through. We will feature the Survivor community in South Florida and their efforts to work with the museum to share their stories and inspire new generations to fight against hate and bigotry.

THIS IS A CALL TO ACTION.

6,560,000

Current number of forcibly displaced people worldwide

THEMES:

The resiliency of the Jewish people and their efforts to establish Israel and rebuild the Jewish community all over the world.

Laws put in place because of the Holocaust in U.S. and all over the world.

Other genocides to discuss how we need to keep fighting intolerance.

STORIES:

Liberation
We will revisit the story of Liberation here to focus on the Survivors and the Liberators. Provide the visitors with a chance to come full-circle with the story of the Holocaust.

South Florida Survivor Community
Discuss how the Survivor community in South Florida has been instrumental in continuing Jewish culture and teaching younger generations.

Other and Current Genocides
Stories will show that genocide has not ceased even in the wake of the Holocaust. This story can help show visitors what to do in today's world when confronted with bigotry, hate, and systemic violence.

AREA

6

Hall of Remembrance

The Hall of Remembrance will provide a space for visitors to reflect on the lessons and stories they have learned throughout their visit. The gallery will also act as a memorial to the Survivors, liberators, and those who lost their lives during the Holocaust.

Reflect.
Think.
Remember.

"Human suffering anywhere concerns men and women everywhere"

ELIE WIESEL

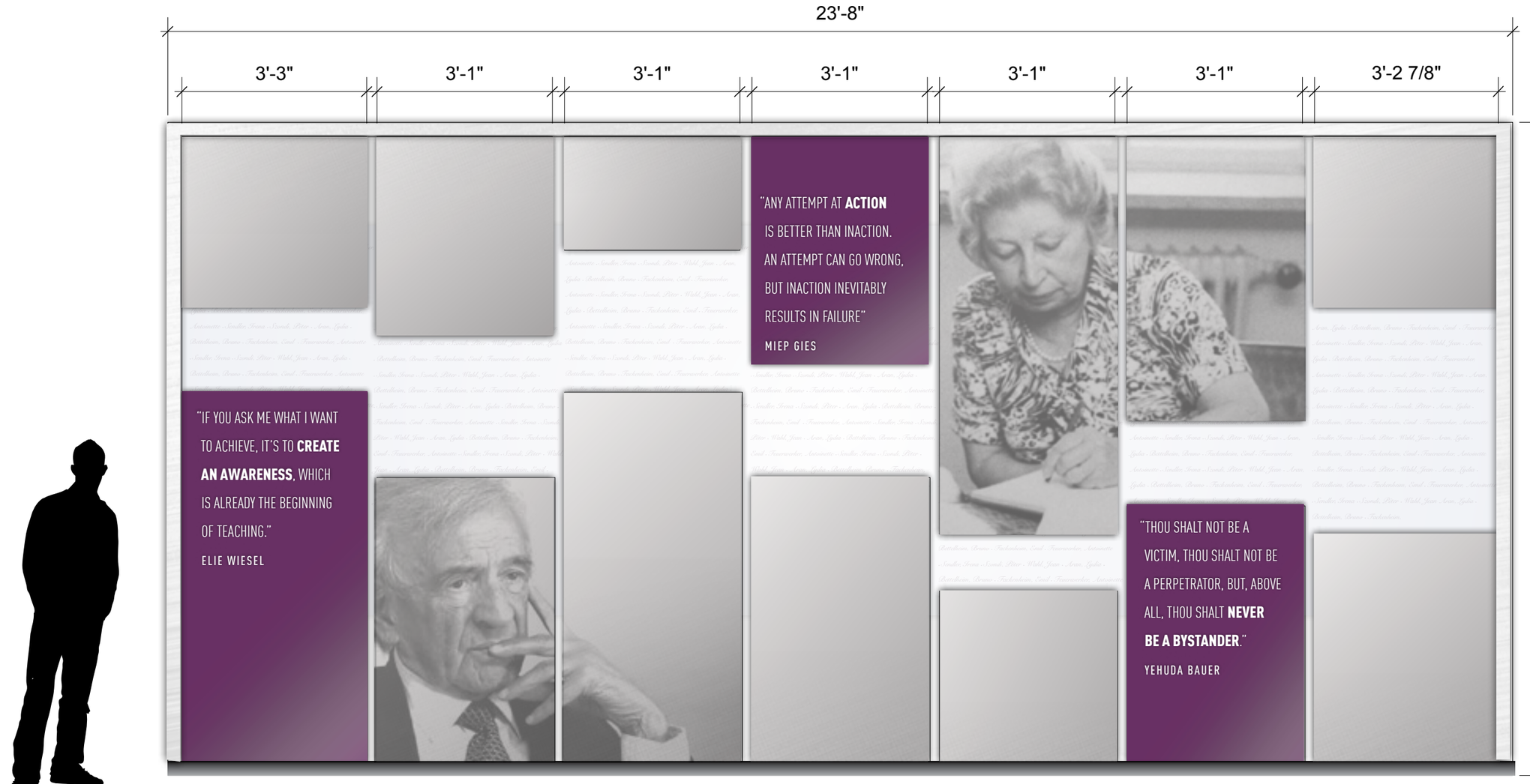
AREA

7

Oral Histories

The most illuminating aspect of the HDEC's collection is its vast library of Oral Histories from Survivors and liberators. These oral interviews provide a first-hand account from Survivors to help bring an understanding to visitors of what it was like to live through the Holocaust. The use of these recordings will help enhance the museum experience and reinforce the lessons that students learn from the Survivors on student days.

AREA 7: ORAL HISTORIES



SIDE VIEW

1 Elevation

AREA 7: ORAL HISTORIES

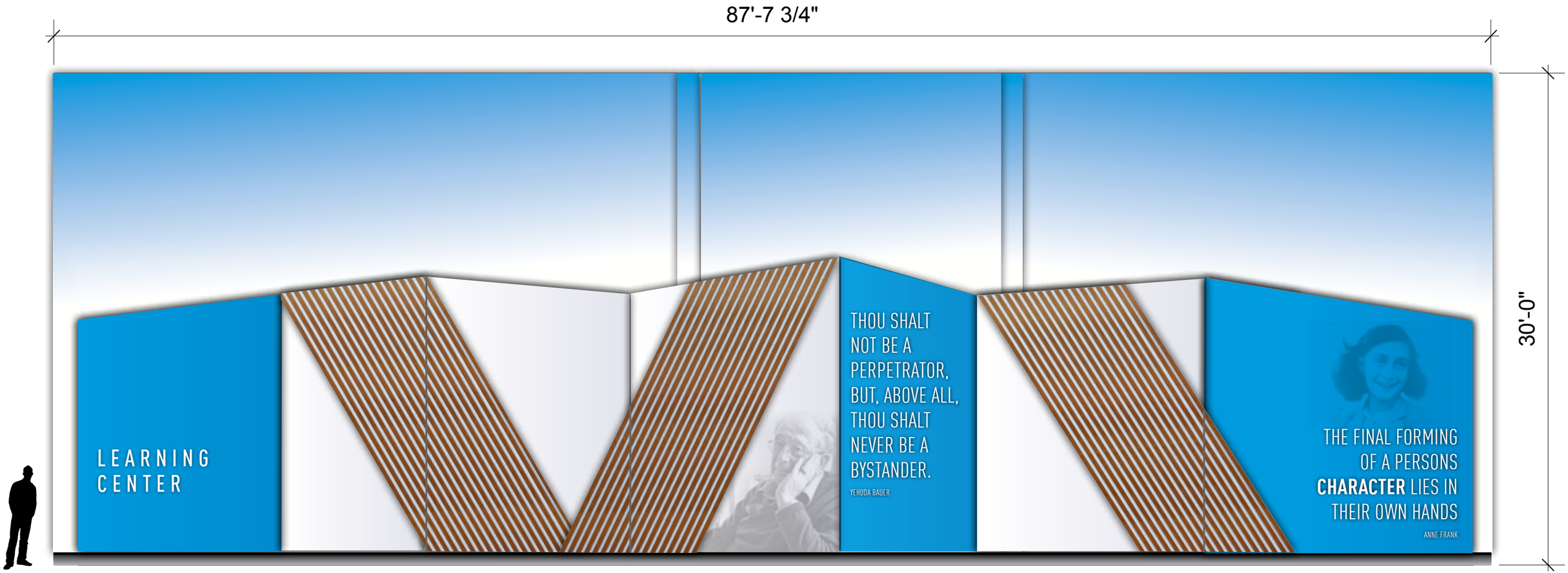
AREA

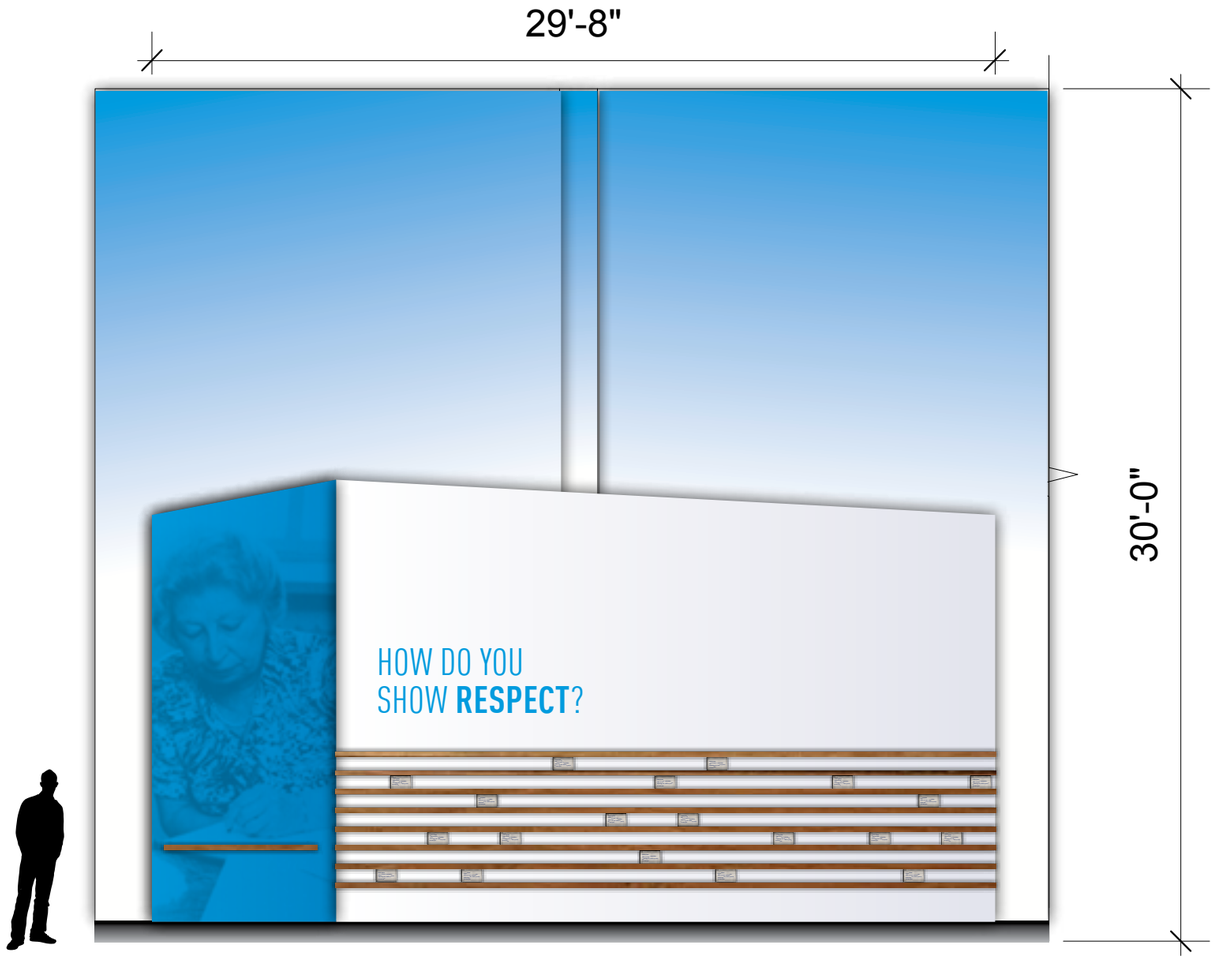
8

Learning Center

Presenting visitors with a complete history of the Holocaust is central to the HDEC's mission. A new Learning Center will provide a space for students to meet with Holocaust Survivors and participate in the Center's student days. This classroom space will allow students and visitors to augment their experience through interactive media where visitors can ask additional questions to Survivors. The dynamic programming and media in this space will give students the knowledge to help confront hatred and prejudice in their daily lives.

AREA 8: LEARNING CENTER


87'-7 3/4"
30'-0"
LEARNING
CENTER
THOU SHALT
NOT BE A
PERPETRATOR,
BUT, ABOVE ALL,
THOU SHALT
NEVER BE A
BYSTANDER.
YEHUDA BAUER
THE FINAL FORMING
OF A PERSONS
CHARACTER LIES IN
THEIR OWN HANDS
ANNE FRANK


29'-8"
30'-0"
HOW DO YOU
SHOW **RESPECT**?

THE FINAL FORMING OF A PERSONS
CHARACTER LIES IN THEIR OWN HANDS

ANNE FRANK

LOREM
IPSUM DOLAR

THANK YOU