



VIRGINIA  
HOLOCAUST  
MUSEUM



# IMPACT **2021 2022** REPORT



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HOLOCAUST  
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## MISSION STATEMENT

The Virginia Holocaust Museum preserves and documents the Holocaust in exhibits and its archival collections. Through the permanent exhibit, educational programming, and outreach the museum employs the history of the Holocaust and other genocides to educate and inspire future generations of Virginians to fight prejudice and indifference.

## ADMISSION

VHM is free and open to the public

## HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9 am-5 pm  
Saturday and Sunday: 11 am-5 pm

## LOCATION & PARKING

2000 East Cary Street, Richmond, VA 23223  
The Museum offers free, off-street parking directly across from its main entrance on Cary Street.

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Welcome to the Virginia Holocaust Museum (VHM). The past two years have been significant in the history of VHM. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to close our doors to visitors for three months and postpone the much-anticipated exhibit, ***Violins of Hope***.

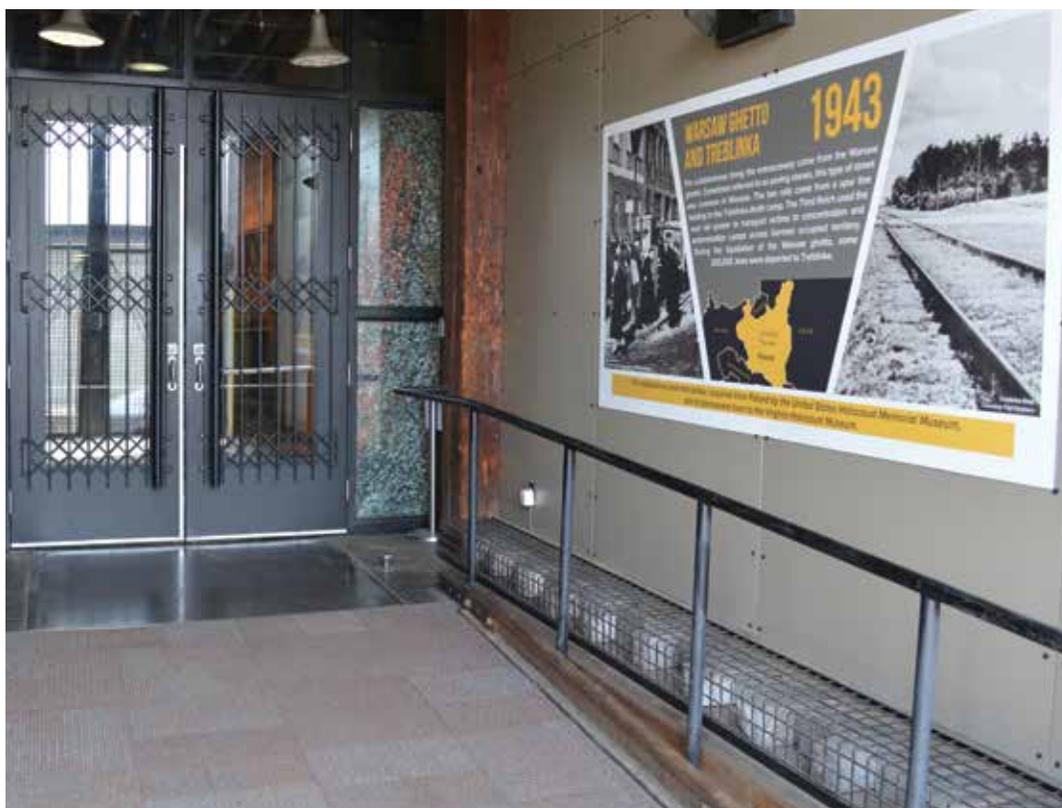
But after nearly three years of planning, ***Violins of Hope*** opened to acclaim in August of 2021. The unique exhibit celebrates the triumph of the human spirit through a private collection of over 60 violins, a viola, and a cello collected by Amnon Weinstein and his son Avshi in Tel Aviv. Bringing ***Violins of Hope*** to the Commonwealth was made possible by a unique collaboration between our Museum, the Virginia Museum of History and Culture, the Black History Museum, and the Richmond Symphony. It drew over 18,500 visitors to the museums and 3,000 more to concerts held in Richmond, Hampton Roads, and Roanoke.

Another highlight I'd like to share occurred this past April when we opened the ***Children's Memorial***. The new permanent exhibit honors the memory of the 1.5 million

Jewish children who perished in the Holocaust. It was made possible by a generous donation from Dr. Donald S. and Beejay Brown, and we are most grateful to them.

A future exhibit we are excited about features an interactive hologram of local Holocaust Survivor, Halina Zimm. The filming of Halina by the USC Shoah Foundation wrapped up in May 2022. When installed, we will be one of only four museums in the country to have a free-standing holographic exhibit featuring a Survivor who can answer questions interactively with visitors.

On behalf of the Virginia Holocaust Museum, thank you for your support and commitment over the last two years. We couldn't fulfill our mission without you. Our work here at VHM is as relevant today as when we opened our doors 25 years ago. Thank you for helping us become a beacon of hope and light in an increasingly dark and divided world.



The front doors of VHM are lined in cobblestones from the infamous Warsaw Ghetto and rail lines that led directly to the Treblinka extermination camp.



# HOLOCAUST EDUCATION IS VITAL

In 2022, April 28 was Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah), commemorating the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Yet, despite the lessons of history, antisemitism is on the rise in Virginia and worldwide.

On his first day in office, Governor Glenn Youngkin established the **Commission to Combat Antisemitism** in Virginia. Educators, policymakers, faith leaders, experts in antisemitism, and other community members are working together to reach Virginians in an attempt to reduce and eliminate antisemitism in the Commonwealth. VHM Executive Director, Samuel Asher, is now serving on the Commission.



In the foreground at far right, VHM Executive Director Samuel Asher is being sworn in to the Commission to Combat Antisemitism in Virginia along with fellow commission members.

During the 2022 Virginia General Assembly Session, the Museum worked diligently to advocate for new state funding dedicated to supporting statewide Holocaust education. As the champions of the budget amendments during this past legislative session, Delegate Betsy Carr and Senator Emmett Hanger worked to ensure legislators understood the importance this new funding would provide the Commonwealth. This hard work resulted

in \$50,000 of funding for the Museum, allocated in the Virginia Department of Education's 2023 budget.

The funding will directly support statewide efforts in providing high-quality offsite educational experiences, exhibitions, and other educational content to engage students with the history of the Holocaust and other genocides. This engagement, aligned

with Virginia Standards of Learning, provides an important service to the state and to the Museum's community.

Through student engagement and professional development resources for teachers, this funding achievement further ensures the Virginia Holocaust Museum remains a key wellspring of conversation when our communities need it most.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



*Violins of Hope* concert held in our synagogue.

*Violins of Hope* opened in August 2021 and ran for 12 consecutive weeks. It drew over 18,500 visitors to VHM and our partner museums and 3,000 more to concerts held in Richmond, Hampton Roads, and Roanoke.

In April of 2022, we opened the *Children's Memorial*. This new permanent exhibit honors the memory of the 1.5 million Jewish children who perished in the Holocaust. Using mirrors and somber lighting for dramatic effect, the *Children's Memorial* creates a stunning visual of an infinite panorama of empty classroom desks representing the unfathomable number of children and their unborn descendants who were victims of the Nazi's Final Solution to exterminate Jews from Europe. The exhibit was made possible by a generous donation from Dr. Donald S. and Beejay Brown.

In addition to *Violins of Hope*, we hosted three other traveling exhibits, including:

- ***Humility: Work by Molly Robinson***  
(Opened November 2021)
- ***All That Remains: A Holocaust Exhibition in Fiber***, by Leslie J. Klein  
(Opened April 2022)
- ***There's Just Us***, by Professor Alex R. Hosterman  
(Opened July 2022)

We had a record of 80 teachers from 50 localities around the Commonwealth come to the museum during June and July 2022 for our **Alexander Lebenstein Teacher Education Institute (TEI)**.

We now hold more than 240 oral history interviews that you can listen to 24/7 through our website. We also have 4,300 objects in our collection.





*Made possible through the generous donations of  
Dr. Donald S. and Beejay Brown*

# Being young did not protect Jews from the Third Reich.

Nazi racial policies required the elimination of "unwanted" members of the population in order to create a pure Aryan society. The measures, which started with the killing of disabled children in Germany, quickly shifted to encompass all of European Jewry.

The Final Solution of the Jewish Question included the planned extermination of children and newborn infants. Whether in the

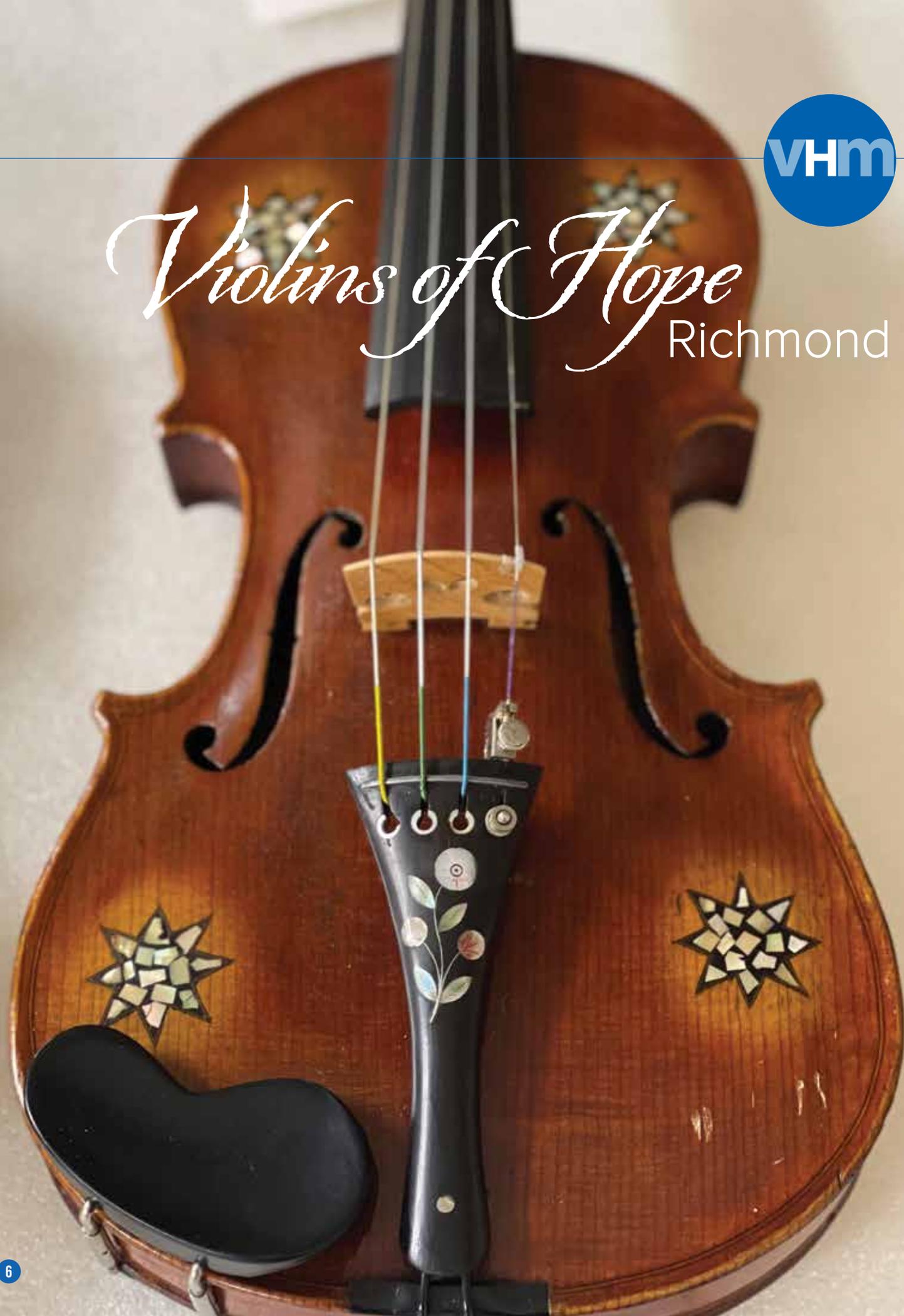
Open Air Killings of Eastern Europe or the gas chambers of the extermination centers, the Nazi regime murdered the youngest generation of Jews alongside their families.

In total The Holocaust took the lives of 1.5 million children.



# *Violins of Hope*

Richmond



# VIOLINS OF HOPE

August – October 2021

- Unique collaboration between VHM, Virginia Museum of History and Culture, the Black History Museum, and the Richmond Symphony
- Drew 18,500 visitors to the museums
- Ten concerts in Richmond, Tidewater and Roanoke
- 3,100 concert attendees
- 33 community and educational events at VHM and partner museums
- 1,000 students and 75+ teachers reached for in-school programming
- 700 virtual and in-person attendees at community/educational programs

A sold-out feature concert with the Richmond Symphony held at Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond, Virginia.



# ALEXANDER LEBENSTEIN TEACHER EDUCATION INSTITUTE (TEI)

June and July 2022

- Record 80 teachers attended
- 50 localities from around the Commonwealth were represented

“It was a rich experience. I enjoyed every moment of TEI. It was an honor to meet and speak with Holocaust Survivors Halina Zimm and Dr. Roger Loria.”

– 2022 TEI Teacher Attendee

**Top Photo:** Survivor Halina Zimm sharing her personal story with attendees.



**Bottom Photo:** Survivor Dr. Roger Loria surrounded by TEI participants.





# VISITING EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS

## HUMILITY: WORKS BY MOLLY ROBINSON

November 2021 – March 2022

As a high school student, Molly Robinson was urged by her art teacher to make art motivated by deep self-reflection. After seeing examples of social conflict during trips to Kenya, Tanzania, and Togo, Robinson was inspired to create pieces that explored the impact of human rights violations on personal identity. The result of this endeavor was *Humility*, a collection of bright, mixed-media works that reflect her personal inquiries on human rights, social justice, and conflict.

An original work by Molly Robinson. ▶



## ALL THAT REMAINS: A HOLOCAUST EXHIBIT IN FIBER

April–June 2022

Created by award-winning mixed media and textile artist Leslie J. Klein, the exhibit consisted of conceptual art clothing, wall hangings, drawings, soft sculptures, and installation pieces. The exhibit addressed the historical events of the Holocaust in layers of fabric combined with innovative and thought-provoking designs.

Artist Leslie J. Klein and Executive Director Samuel Asher with an item from the exhibit. ▶



## THERE'S JUST US

July–December 2022

August 11 and 12, 2022, marks the fifth anniversary of the *Unite the Right* rally that shook Charlottesville. *There's Just Us* by Alec R. Hosterman, is a photo series that documents the rally. His exhibit represents the struggle Hosterman saw when communities face hate and bigotry head-on, as well as the power and hope of when individuals refuse to give in to incendiary rhetoric, standing up to antisemitism and Jim Crowism.

Dr. Alec R. Hosterman is next to a photo from *There's Just Us*. ▶



◀ A stuffed bear from Leslie J. Klein's *All That Remains* fiber exhibit.

# OUR COLLECTION



Our collection consists of objects, documents, photographs, digital files, and oral histories related to the Holocaust (1933-1945) and World War II (1939-1945). Although these two time periods are the focus of our collection, VHM also collects objects from before the Holocaust and WWII if they are related to local survivors and liberators—or to events that contributed to the Holocaust. Finally, the collection also encompasses artifacts associated with the aftermath of these periods, including but not limited to the Nuremberg Trials, Displaced Persons Camps, and emigration out of Europe.

## FROM OUR COLLECTION: MEET MARGOT CASPARY

Margot Caspary, pictured right, was born on September 3, 1897. During the Holocaust, Margot lived in Berlin with her husband and their son, Henry.

The family was deported to Lodz ghetto in Poland. According to ghetto records, Margot lived at Pfeffer 4, apartment number 10, with two relatives: Wilhelm Caspary and Gunter Heinz Caspary.

From Lodz, the family was deported to concentration camps. According to camp records, Margot was sent to Natzweiler-Struthof (prisoner number 38904).

Margot and Henry survived the Holocaust, reuniting in England before immigrating to the United States.

Margot's family records, photos, and prisoner uniform are just a few examples of items found in our comprehensive collection.



## COLLECTION STATISTICS

### ARCHIVES

- 4,300 Objects

### RECORD GROUPS

- 321 from Survivors, Liberators, Righteous Gentiles, Partisans, & Witnesses

### ORAL HISTORIES

- 240

### CAROLE WEINSTEIN HOLOCAUST RESEARCH LIBRARY

- 4617 Unique Titles
- 5223 Total Volumes

### INFORMATION REQUESTS

- 271 (As of August 2022)

# VHM

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

In honor of our 25th Anniversary, VHM kicked off a \$2.5 million Capital Campaign. The campaign's goals are two-fold: to improve and expand what we offer visitors, scholars and educators; to improve the energy efficiency, comfort, and security in the building. To date, the Capital Campaign has raised \$1.8 million.



Artist rendering of a new and expanded reception desk area.

### COMPLETED IMPROVEMENTS

Key improvements completed in the last year include:

- Installing an all-new, energy-efficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system
- The addition of more security cameras strategically placed around the building

### UPCOMING IMPROVEMENTS AND PROJECTS

- A new and expanded Museum shop
- An enlarged reception desk and visitors' area
- A state-of-the-art interactive holographic theater featuring Holocaust Survivor Halina Zimm



Survivor Halina Zimm being filmed for new holographic theater.

# OUR VISITORS



VHM hosted visitors from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Quebec, Nova Scotia, Peru, Dominican Republic, China, Great Britain, Ireland, and Israel.

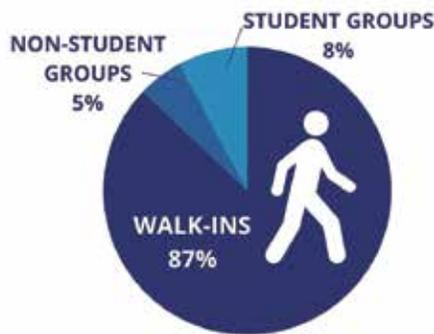
Excluding Virginia, the greatest concentration of visitors came from Florida, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania as noted with gold stars.



VHM hosted a total of 1,796 students.

An additional 1,000 students attended the *Violins of Hope* exhibit, programs, and concerts.

## WALK-INS VS GROUPS



## NON-STUDENT VISITORS IN GROUPS



28 OUTREACH PROGRAMS REACHED MORE THAN 2,500 PEOPLE



MORE THAN 37,000 PEOPLE VISITED THE MUSEUM

# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 2021  
WITH COMPS FOR YEAR ENDED 2022

	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	2021 TOTAL	2022 TOTAL
<b>Revenue and Support:</b>				
<b>Public support:</b>				
Contributions and grants	\$759,920	—	\$1,633,761	\$1,419,287
<b>Other income:</b>				
Museum sales, net	\$9,052	—	\$9,052	\$4,456
Rental income	\$10,493	—	\$10,493	\$8,266
PPP loan proceeds	\$100,687	—	\$100,687	\$100,700
In-kind donations	—	—	—	\$26,814
Interest and dividends, net	\$11,366	\$2,686	\$14,052	\$784
Realized gain (loss) on investments	\$43,902	\$10,054	\$53,956	(\$11,694)
Unrealized loss on investments	\$54,355	\$12,411	\$66,796	\$54,125
Total other income	\$229,855	\$25,181	\$255,036	\$183,452
<b>Net assets released from restrictions</b>	\$258,526	(\$258,536)	—	—
<b>TOTAL revenue, gains, and support</b>	<b>\$1,248,301</b>	<b>\$640,496</b>	<b>\$1,888,797</b>	<b>\$1,602,739</b>

<b>Expenses:</b>				
Program services	\$923,790	—	\$923,790	\$828,507
Management and general	\$173,320	—	\$173,320	\$167,151
Fundraising	<b>\$88,784</b>	—	\$88,784	\$42,498
<b>TOTAL expenses</b>	<b>\$1,185,894</b>	—	<b>\$1,185,894</b>	<b>\$1,038,156</b>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	\$62,407	\$640,496	<b>\$702,903</b>	\$564,583
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	\$3,540,729	\$3,010,758	<b>\$6,551,487</b>	\$5,986,904
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	\$3,603,136	\$3,651,254	<b>\$7,254,390</b>	\$6,551,487



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[www.vaholocaust.org](http://www.vaholocaust.org)

Mon–Fri 9 am–5 pm

Sat–Sun 11 am–5 pm

Closed New Year's Day, Easter, first day of Rosh Hashanah,  
Yom Kippur, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day,  
and New Year's Eve

