



ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER

Take history to heart. Take a stand for humanity.

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WITH OPENING OF BOLD NEW **TAKE A STAND CENTER**, ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER BECOMES GLOBAL LEADER, USING TECHNOLOGY TO SHARE SURVIVOR STORIES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

[Vibrant photographs now online](#) illustrate trio of interactive galleries:

- **World Premiere of *Abe & Ida Cooper Survivor Stories Experience*** utilizes groundbreaking technology to enable ‘conversation’ with 13 recorded Holocaust survivors from around the world via 3-D holography, preserving stories into perpetuity
- ***Goodman Upstander Gallery*** extends message beyond the Holocaust to showcase 40 contemporary and historic “Upstanders” championing the areas of civic, social, economic and environmental rights
- **Action-oriented *Take a Stand Lab*** provides hands-on tools for affecting change – and becoming an Upstander- including a toolkit for visitors to use at home

(December 2017 -- CHICAGO, IL) With the opening of its new multi-million-dollar **Take a Stand Center**, unveiling the first-ever interactive three-dimensional technology in an immersive permanent exhibition, the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center has become a global leader in preserving Survivor stories for generations to come.

Illinois Holocaust Museum is the first in the world to employ groundbreaking, interactive, three-dimensional technology to tell Holocaust Survivor stories in an incredibly life-like way in the 66-seat **Abe & Ida Cooper Survivor Stories Experience**. The technology, developed by USC Shoah Foundation’s New Dimensions in Testimony program, combines high-definition holographic interview recordings and voice recognition technology to enable Survivors to tell their deeply moving personal stories and then respond to questions from the audience, inviting one-on-one ‘conversation’ that has evoked laughter, tears and frequently gasps from those in attendance.

Through the capturing of these stories, the **Abe & Ida Cooper Survivor Stories Experience** addresses the challenge of preserving first-hand Survivor narratives for future generations. Years from now, long after the last Survivor has passed on, the New Dimensions in Testimony program will provide a path to enable young people to listen to a Survivor and ask their own questions directly, essentially advancing the age-old tradition of passing down lessons through oral storytelling, utilizing the latest technologies. 13 Survivors from around the world have been through the rigorous recording process; the seven from Chicago include Aaron Elster (Lincolnshire), Fritzie Fritzshall (Buffalo Grove), Sam Harris (Kildeer), Janine Oberrotman (Lincolnwood), Adina Sella (Chicago), Israel Starck (Chicago), and Matus Stolov (Evanston).

The 4,000-square-foot **Take a Stand Center** is comprised of a series of unique and interactive galleries showcasing multiple areas of social justice; after the **Survivor Stories Experience**, the **Goodman Upstander Gallery** takes visitors on an interactive exploration of 40 historical and contemporary Upstanders (vs. bystanders) who have fought against injustice and stood up for worthy causes, from education and equal rights to economic opportunities, safe communities, health and the environment. Life-size touch-screen *Story Portals* allow visitors to digitally interact with Upstanders' stories, enabling visitors to put themselves in the shoes of these heroes and come away inspired to create positive change in the world. Chosen with input from numerous advisory groups—including local community leaders, academics, educators, high school students, and Museum board members—the Upstanders have taken action to impact their communities in positive ways. Upstanders include historic leaders Nelson Mandela, Susan B. Anthony, and Jane Addams; artists and athletes Theaster Gates and Carli Lloyd; advocate Malala Yousafzai; and 12-year-old Marley Dias, who raises awareness of the need for diversity in children's literature and reminds us that we have the power to make a positive impact at any age.

The **Take a Stand Lab** puts the power of change in visitors' hands, allowing them to get involved and make their voices heard. The Lab features *Interactive Media Kiosks* leading visitors towards their unique activism style: raising awareness, giving, advocating or participating; *Success Story Flip Books* share stories and strategies of individuals and organizations that have taken a stand and made a positive difference in their communities; and a *Leave-A-Pledge* Interactive, enables visitors to pledge to make a difference in their area of passion.

Concluding the journey is the **Act of Art Gallery**, which expands upon the Take a Stand Center experience by highlighting art as a form of social action and activism. The **Act of Art** features selections from the Museum's fine art and photography collection to demonstrate to visitors that there are many different ways to take action, including communicating one's message through art. These works explore historical events related to genocide and prejudice from the artists' perspectives.

"The opening of the Take a Stand Center is a major milestone not only for our Museum and the Midwest, but for our world," said Museum CEO **Susan Abrams**. "Our Museum team is proud to be leading the way in using the history and lessons of the Holocaust and the inspiration of Upstanders, to equip our community, teachers, students, and the public to take a stand for humanity."

"Illinois Holocaust Museum's mission and message against hatred and intolerance are as relevant and vital today as they have ever been," said **Mayor Rahm Emanuel**. "I am confident this center will empower and encourage more courageous people around the world to stand up and speak out against racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and bigotry in all its ugly forms."

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, located at 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, IL, honors the Survivors and victims of the Holocaust and transforms history into current, relevant, and universal lessons in humanity. Through world-class exhibitions and programs, the Museum inspires individuals and organizations and provides a universal wake-up call to action: Take history to heart. Take a stand for humanity.

The Museum is open daily from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m. Entrance to the **Take a Stand Center** is free with Museum admission. It is highly recommended to make

a reservation for the Survivor Stories Experience theater in advance; presentations take place hourly starting at 11:00 a.m. and concluding with a 4:00 p.m. showing (final showing Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.). Weekend presentations begin at 10:15 a.m. and then take place hourly starting at 11:00 a.m. with a final showing at 4:00 p.m.

Learn more at www.illinoisholocaustmuseum.org/tas.

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