

Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington | 2018 Annual Report



Leadership Message

We're excited to share an update reporting our tremendous growth and progress for the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington this year, as we build on our past and grow into our future — as the Lillian & Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum! 2018 was truly a year of transformation for us as we:

- Selected our museum name and logo with the same heart behind our work
- Completed our strategic plan to guide our work as we develop the new museum, exhibitions and programs
- Moved our interim offices to 1319 F Street NW
- · Hired three critical professional staff
- Completed architectural design with architect SmithGroup, and obtained required zoning, historic preservation and ANC approvals
- Began designing our exhibitions and public spaces with world-class team of Evidence Design and Potion
- Hosted 45 programs and walking tours for 2,400 adults and students
- Partnered with 60 synagogues, schools, and cultural organizations
- Acquired new collections and oral histories to support our exhibition plans; answered more than 40 research requests
- Prepared for the third and final move of the historic 1876 synagogue to the site of the new museum at the corner of Third & F Streets
- Voted to change the official name of the organization to the Lillian & Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum, honoring the Small family's long-term support and lead gift for the new museum!

Join us at this exciting moment by supporting the Capital Jewish Museum. Take a look inside these pages to see the museum plans and other highlights from 2018!



M. Howard Morse, President





Kara Blond, Executive Director

3



Connect. Reflect. Act.

The new Capital Jewish Museum will connect families and diverse communities, inspire reflection about the relevance of history to today, and encourage visitors to explore their role in making change. Given our nation's current political and social climate, the mission and message of the Capital Jewish Museum have never been so important.

MUSEUM FEATURES

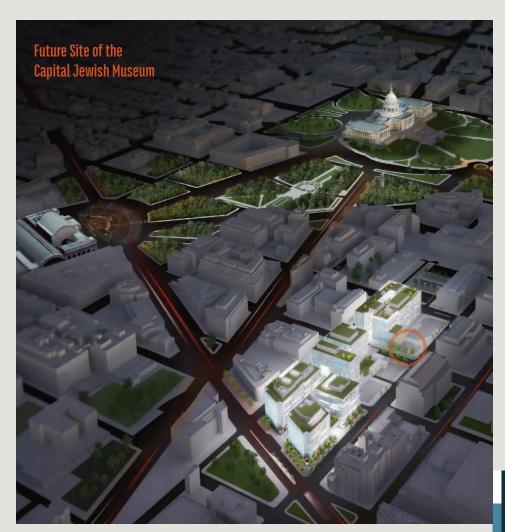
- New site at 3rd & F Streets, NW
- Historic 1876 synagogue
- 25,000 square-foot new facility across 4 floors
- Core and changing exhibition galleries
- Program and event spaces
- · Community lab
- · Multi-story, light-filled lobby
- Roof terrace



A Place for Every Generation

The museum will engage multi-generational families, school groups and tourists from across the country and around the world — inspiring them to see themselves within the complex cultural fabric of Washington, and to explore their role in *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world.

- The greater Washington area hosts the third-largest Jewish community in the country (at more than 300,000) and welcomes 22 million visitors each year.
- For regional Jewish families, many unaffiliated with synagogues, the museum will serve as an "in-between" gathering space to connect with Jewish life and culture.
- For tourist audiences, the museum will promote diverse perspectives, combat antisemitism and serve as a safe space for challenging conversations.



The Museum will be the key cultural institution in Capitol Crossing, a new \$1.3 billion, mixed-use development of commercial offices, residences, a hotel, cafes, restaurants, and retail facilities.



Museum Highlights

We are thrilled to be working with SmithGroup to design the museum. In 2018, we completed architectural design and engineering, and submitted for our building permits. SmithGroup is one of the largest architecture, engineering, and planning firms in the country, specializing in museum design. Relevant work includes: International Spy Museum, Museum of the Bible, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, White House Visitor Center, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Collections and Conservation Center.

LOBBY

Visitors will immediately feel welcomed by this airy, light-filled space, as they take in a close-up view of the historic synagogue and the bridge connecting it to our new building.

LOBBY FEATURES

- 1,500 square feet
- Gathering space for museum visitor orientation
- Starting point for neighborhood walking tours
- Rentals for simchas and meetings
- Table seating for 100-125 people



MULTI-PURPOSE AUDITORIUM

Large windows look out onto F Street, filling the room with light and creating a comfortable environment for learning. During the day, with the retractable walls hidden away, visitors will experience a seamless connection into the lobby, inviting a bookstore-like atmosphere for reading, family lunches and casual conversation. Evening and weekend programming here includes school demonstrations and workshops, exhibition openings, book talks by scholars, concerts and theatrical performances, film screenings and receptions for diplomatic delegations.

AUDITORIUM FEATURES

- 1,250 square feet
- Retractable walls open into the lobby
- Large windows overlooking historic synagogue ark
- Seats 80-100 people theater-style



Our Historic Synagogue

In early 2019, our historic synagogue will move from its perch in the middle of 3rd Street NW to its final location at 3rd and F Street.

SANCTUARY

With a chandelier and wall sconces providing the room's original warm, flickering glow, visitors will be transported back to 1876. The sanctuary will be restored to its original appearance, and feature dramatic multimedia storytelling.

LOWER SYNAGOGUE GALLERY

This gallery explores the origins of the Jewish community in D.C. through the synagogue building visitors are standing in.

FEATURES

- Accessible off museum lobby and via elevator and bridge
- Event space for 100 seated in sanctuary





Core Exhibition Gallery

After reviewing proposals from six worldclass museum exhibition design teams, we began work this year in partnership with the exhibition designers Evidence Design and media planners Potion Design to develop the exhibitions, wayfinding, and public space theming for the museum. Based in New York, Evidence and Potion are innovative planners and designers that have developed stunning, transformative exhibitions around the world.

KEY STORIES

We will emphasize Washington themes of negotiation, debate, activism, and diplomacy, and explore how change is made in communities as well as on the Hill, the National Mall, and Embassy Row. Through engaging artifacts, images, multimeda and hands-on activities, visitors will explore the city's story through a Jewish lens.

FEATURES

- Largest exhibition gallery at 4,000 square feet
- Key educational experience for adults and students
- · Atrium viewing window

"The museum will be a beacon to invite all citizens to participate in meaningful dialogue and civic engagement. This project could not be more timely and more necessary."

-Evidence Design

Community Lab

The Community Lab will provide the space, materials and provocations for group explorations around social action and identity. Experiences will be personal, engaging and interactive, focusing on issues that matter to our visitors.

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

- Bar and Bat Mitzvah Social Action Club
- Early childhood community art projects
- Family story-making activities and oral histories
- · Collections exploration

FEATURES

- 1,100 square feet
- Programming for families with children 7 to 17 $\,$
- Appeals to region's growing family demographic





Special Exhibition Gallery

BROAD CULTURAL OFFERINGS

Rotating exhibitions will explore additional topics and encourage return visits to the museum.

TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS

- Host exhibits that currently bypass D.C. due to the lack of a suitable venue
- Feature Jewish culture and heritage in art, sports, literature and community
- Draw from other museums in the U.S., Israel and around the world

STAFF-CURATED EXHIBITIONS

- Address provocative, newsworthy themes of local, national and international importance
- Explore the Jewish community's relationships with other cultural communities
- Examples might include D.C. Home Rule, the changing nature of Jewish and African American relationships, Jewish advocacy and attitudes toward Israel.

FEATURES

- 3,400 square feet
- Responsive windows can be adjusted for lightsensitive artifacts
- · Adjacent exhibition preparation space

Our Year in Review

JANUARY

Completed new strategic plan for the museum.

FEBRUARY

Welcomed Council of American Jewish Museums conference to D.C. and hired new Director of Development and Program Associate.

MARCH

Held Women's History Month program at Temple Rodef Shalom. Moved our offices to 1319 F St. NW in Metro Center as we build the new museum.

APRIL

Board of Directors retreat to Charlottesville, VA, to visit Monticello and meet with the rabbi and others from Congregation Beth Israel.

MAY

Celebrated Jewish
American History Month
at National Archives
with filmmaker
Ilana Trachtman and
activists who helped
desegregate Glen Echo
Amusement Park.

JUN

New museum featured in an article in the Washington Jewish Week about the planning and design process underway!







JULY

Interviewed exhibition design firms and led sold-out crowd of young professionals on Twilight Tour.

AUGUST

NEH recognized the Capital Jewish Museum with a major infrastructure and capacity-building grant!

SEPTEMBER

New branding complete, including new website, brochures, and capital campaign materials. Campaign reaches the \$20M milestone toward our capital goal of \$34M.

OCTOBER

Held Campaign Kick-off event on the rooftop terrace of Georgetown Law School overlooking the new site. Hired new Director of Interpretation.

NUVEWBEK

Launched museum exhibition design process with Evidence Design and Potion Design, both from New York.

DECEMBE

Annual meeting reveals stories about *Rabbis Under Arrest* and we prepare for the final synagogue move!



Programming

This year our key programming focused on negotiating challenging conversations. Our Jewish American Heritage Month program at the National Archives highlighted the experience of activists involved in desegregating Glen Echo Park in 1960. Washington powerhouse Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat spoke to Guardian members about how his lewish identity influenced his White House and diplomatic career. We partnered with the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and the DC Minyan to provide aid to asylum seekers, and we refined our popular walking tours to provide greater context of the surrounding communities.



Good Deeds Day, April 2018

Program Partners

We worked with the following organizations on program development in 2018:

1882 Foundation

1968/2018 DC Collaborative

Adas Israel Congregation

B'nai Israel Congregation

Chinese Community Church

Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County

Council of American Jewish Museums

Cultural Tourism DC

DC Minyan

GatherDC

HIAS

Hill Havurah

Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Holy Rosary Church | Casa Italiana

InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan

Washington

John Wesley AME Zion

Moishe House - Capitol Hill

National Archives

National Building Museum

Operation Understanding DC

Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

Sixth & I Historic Synagogue

Tifereth Israel Congregation's "Millennials

Plus"

Temple Rodef Shalom

The Edlavitch DCJCC Jewish Community

Center

Washington Jewish Film Festival

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington

Tikkun Olam Women's Foundation

2018 Tours & Speakers Bureau

Alexandria Public Library American University Department of History Beth El Hebrew Congregation Brandeis National Committee -

Greater Washington Chapter

Camp Nai Nai

Congregation Har Shalom

Council of American lewish Museums

"Die Vereinigte Kirche" | The United Church

Georgetown University Law School

Greenspring Village Retirement Community

Hadassah Greater Washington

Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia

Montgomery County Recreation Center

Ohev Shalom Talmud Torah Congregation of

Olney

Ohev Sholom - The National Synagogue

Sixth & I Historic Synagogue

Temple Emanuel

Temple Rodef Shalom

Temple Sinai

The George Washington University's

Experiential Education and Jewish Cultural

Arts Program

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington's

Shlichim Program

Youth Programs

Beth Chai

B'nai Tzedek

Brauser Maimonides Academy (Florida)

Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County

Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School

Gesher Jewish Day School

National Building Museum's teen program,

"Investigating Where We Live"

Rockwern Academy (Ohio)

Temple B'nai Shalom

Temple Micah

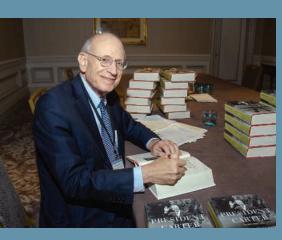
Temple Shalom

URJ Camp Harlam

Washington Hebrew Congregation

Collections

Collections are at the heart of our programs and exhibition plans. This year, we conducted oral histories of Washingtonians with exciting and diverse stories to share — including Ambassador Alfred Moses (shown here), Norma Lee and Morton Funger, and activist Michael Tabor. We also continued collecting objects that will help us tell compelling stories about Jewish Washington in the new museum. Our favorite acquisition this year was this hand-knit collar worn on the bench by Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.



Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat, speaker at the 2018 Guardian Luncheon



Photos (top to bottom): Oral History with Ambassador Alfred Moses; lace collar from Justice Ginsburg; sign from Abe's Jewish Book Store







Capital Campaign

A gift to the Museum's Capital Campaign will create a lasting legacy for future generations. We are deeply grateful for support for the Capital Campaign from the following generous donors.

Founders Society

The Founders Society honors the Museum's most generous donors, who have made exceptional contributions of \$250,000 or more.

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Campaign Update

The Campaign to Build a Jewish Museum for the Nation's Capital gained significant momentum during 2018. We are now well over halfway to our capital goal of \$34 million! Thanks to all of our wonderful supporters who have helped us reach this incredible milestone. We look forward to others joining this extraordinary effort to build the Lillian & Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum.

The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded the Capital Jewish Museum a hyper-competitive Infrastructure and Capacity-Building Challenge Grant of \$250,000. We must match the award 3:1 with \$750,000 in gifts, an added incentive to amplify the impact of gifts to our campaign. The NEH grant, along with other recent major gifts, have helped push us over the \$23 million mark!

For more information about the Capital Campaign, contact any of our campaign committee members or Director of Development Michelle Malet at (202) 290-2593 or MMalet@CapitalJewishMuseum.org.

Annual Giving

We are grateful to the following supporters for their contributions in 2017-18:

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Stanley Zupnik

Financial Statements

Statement of Activities for the Year Ended December 31, 2017

Operating	Revenue and	l Support
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Contributions and grants	\$ 5,106,524
Membership Dues	316,872
Educational & Program Fees	15,080
Interest & Dividends, net	272,441
In-Kind Contributions	197,726

Total Operating Revenue and Support \$ 5,908,643

Total Expenses	\$ 783,990
Fundraising	 36,746
Administrative	185,568
Museum Planning	137,355
Curatorial, Program, Education	\$ 424,321
Expenses	

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2017

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 447,232
Investments	14,848,895
Pledges and grants receivable, net	4,997,253
Other receivables	162,473
Prepaid expenses and other assets	4,966
Property and equipment, net	1,170,497

Total assets \$ 21,631,316

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued expenses \$ 146	5,005
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Total liabilities	146,005
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Net Assets

Total net assets

Unrestricted	14,248,064
Temporarily restricted	6,354,689
Permanently restricted	882,558

Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 21,631,316

The complete financial statements, including the audit report of our independent accountants, Rogers & Co., are available by contacting our office at (202) 789-0900.



21,485,311

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In Memoriam

We note with sadness the deaths of the following friends and members:

Stephen Bodzin
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Marlene Zakai

Meet the Staff



Kara Blond, Executive Director

Building a new museum from the ground up has been an acrobatic, fast-paced adventure — particularly after 15 years at the behemoth Smithsonian. I'm excited by the chance to experiment, to reinvent and reimagine, to build connections between people, across communities and through time. An avid skier and swimmer, I have two children who must therefore endure interminable ski and swim lessons.



Samantha Abramson, Museum Educator

For me, this work has always been about the power of story to build relationships through interactions of the past — to inspire curiosity and change in the present. In my case, my passion for our historic synagogue and surrounding neighborhood literally helped me build relationships, as I met my husband while leading a walking tour — on Yom Kippur!



Jaclyn Kimball, Program Associate

As a fairly new member of the staff, I am most excited about the opportunity to participate in the creation of a new museum – it's such an extremely unique and inspirational task for someone at my current career level. Fun Fact: My dad played for the Redskins, which is why I'm such a big fan. And even though I haven't lived there for about 13 years, I am still New England girl at heart. (Go Sox! World Series Champs!)



Michelle Malet, Director of Development

This is my dream job! I've worked mainly in Jewish philanthropy for the past 20 years, with a career that has included raising resources for Israel, Holocaust education, and Jewish communal needs. In my "spare" time, I've traveled extensively. Mongolia, South Korea, Greenland, Iceland, Peru, Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Zanzibar, Bali, and Tanzania are some of my favorite destinations.



Rebekah Sobel, PhD, Director of Interpretation

After a decade at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum focused on audience research, I am excited to apply what I've learned as we plan the new Capital Jewish Museum. When I am not reading old issues of *The Record*, I can be found chasing two kiddos through any other museum in town. I enjoy living on Capitol Hill and being part of the Hill Havurah, a Jewish community not yet well researched! (at least I have not found it yet).



Wendy Turman, Deputy Director

I believe in history. I love the sound and feel of the floorboards creaking beneath my feet in our historic synagogue, discovering an obscure reference in our archives that helps a researcher in their work, and seeing the light in a visitor's eyes when they gain a new understanding of the world from historic content that we have shared. After 18 years here in several different roles, my passion for our content and its impact continues to deepen.



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