



## Request for Proposal: Childrens' Holocaust Memorial Sculpture

The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee is seeking an artistic memorial to the Children of the Holocaust for installation in an educational Holocaust sculpture space currently under construction.

### I. Background information

The Chaifetz Holocaust Memorial and Education Center, referred to here as "The Path" consists of paths around a large pond on approximately 1.5 acres of land. There are fountains on either end of the retention/reflection pond and seating areas along the path. Foliage and shade structures will create a play of light and shadow.

The space is designed with three independent goals in mind, each equally important in creating a balance and variety of experiences for visitors of all kinds.

- **A Memorial:** It will be a place of reflection and inspiration in which Holocaust survivors and the families of survivors can commemorate, mourn, and celebrate those they have lost.
- **A Classroom:** Sarasota and Manatee County public and private schools will experience educational tours on a variety of grade levels. Each section of the Memorial will encompass lessons about different segments of time and the experiences of victims, resisters, and survivors.
  - Section 1 – Mosaic of Jewish Life: A covered gazebo where groups will congregate before and after tours of the grounds. This space may also be used for recreational purposes.
  - Section 2 - Jewish Life in Europe Before the War: Covering the period from 1930-1941 images and signage will mark the gradual eroding of freedoms, rights, civility, and democracy leading to Kristallnacht, a dramatic turning point in the treatment of Jews in Germany from verbal and legal abuse to state sanctioned physical violence.
  - Section 3 – Life During the War: Visitors will walk across train tracks to enter this section. The tracks indicate a transition but also represent the trains that took children to sanctuaries and others to death camps. We will explore the experiences of children, both those who hid or escaped, and those who did not. And we will learn about acts of resistance against the backdrop of systematic efforts toward extermination.
  - Section 4 – Remembrance Plaza: a space for reflection and discussion dedicated to the memory of all that was lost, featuring a Memorial.
  - Section 5 - Life After the War:
    - **Celebration of Survival:** This section will highlight the contributions of Jews in Sarasota and Manatee counties over the last 80 years, among the accomplishments of other Jews and Jewish communities since the end of the war and the liberation of the camps.
    - **Walk of the Righteous:** those who took a stand to make a difference and save lives; designed to prompt discussion about what courage looks like and what makes an upstander.

- Butterfly garden: Butterflies symbolize freedom. This image is used often, the legacy of the child who wrote the poem “I Never Saw Another Butterfly,” featured in the book of the same name, a collection of children’s drawing and poems from Terezin Concentration Camp 1942-1944.
  - Section 6 - Birth of the Land of Israel: This section will feature flora native to Israel and include a seating area of Jerusalem stone overlooking an eternal flame floating in the reflecting pond.
- **A Museum**: The space will be inhabited by works of art commemorating various concepts, events, and individuals as well as informational panels and interactive technology designed to enrich a self-guided experience. *Each of the sections listed above will include at least one artistic representation. RFPs will be issued for each.*

The Memorial is expected to open to a limited audience by January 2024 and to school groups and the general public by September 2024. Sculptures will be added as selected artists complete their installations.

## II. Children and the Holocaust

In the pre-war years, as the Neurenberg laws were being enacted, children became ostracized by former friends and were prevented from attending school. Many would have seen one or more parent arrested, others were put on Kindertransports to take them to other countries for safekeeping. Some were taken in by orphanages or other families where their Jewish identities were hidden. Some served in the resistance as couriers, thieves, and any number of other roles suited to small bodies. Some were sequestered in ghettos where many starved or froze to death or were murdered by Nazis to reduce the number of “useless eaters.” Others were taken to concentration camps and killed by Nazis, both in and out of the camps. A small number were housed in camps that were designed to fool aid workers and dignitaries from other countries, with the appearance of “detention camps” as opposed to the work and death camps that were the reality for most.

Other resources: The web is full of first person accounts and facts. Here are just a few.

- <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/children-during-the-holocaust?series=16>
  - <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/life-in-shadows-hidden-children-and-the-holocaust>
- <https://www.claimscon.org/regions/north-america/united-states/new-york/survivor-story-anne-kelemen/>
- <https://www.holocaust.com.au/resources/supplementary-material/children/>
- <https://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/children/index.asp>
- <https://www.britannica.com/event/Kindertransport>

## III. The Sculpture

We are seeking an artistic interpretation of one or more aspect of the experience of children during the Holocaust. The sculpture should offer visitors a way to glimpse that experience through the eyes of a child and possibly interact and identify with that child; reach back through time to stand beside them. This piece will be instrumental in initiating conversation about the experiences noted above.

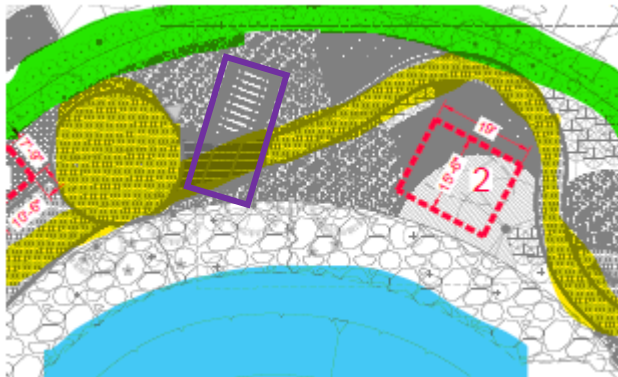
## V. Installation Space

The sculpture will be located just off the walking path in “The War Years” section, just beyond the train tracks. In this area, the pavers will be darker, the path will have a slight decline and, as the path goes downhill the foliage will be taller, darker and denser, giving the visitor a clear sense of change and of the space closing in on them.

The available space is approximately 19' by 15'6" and is located between the walking path and the reflection pond. This space includes any area the artist would like to make available for visitors to walk around and interact with the piece.

How close visitors can get to the sculpture is at the discretion of the artist. If visitors can interact with the piece, discussion with the landscape architect can facilitate a suitable surface that will not impede safe passage for visitors, including those with physical limitations. There is no height requirement for but the piece must be hurricane-proof and able to withstand Florida’s storm season.

Area #2 is the space designated for this installation.



**Green** = perimeter between the Holocaust Memorial and Education Center and the parking area

**Yellow** = the walking path and conversation area

**Blue** = the reflection pond

The **purple box** represents the area where train tracks will cross the walking path and extend into the planting area.

## VI. Budget

Design, materials, fabrication, delivery, and installation cannot exceed \$100,000.

The cost of maintenance and upkeep of the piece need not be included in the initial budget but must be explained and outlined in the submission as anticipated subsequent costs.

## VII. Selection Criteria

Each proposal will be evaluated based on

- Effectiveness of evoking an emotional response
- Effectiveness in conveying the event of Kristallnacht through artistic representation
- The fit of the proposed piece within the landscape of The Path
- Adherence to outlined specifications (such as: intent, available space, available funds, Florida code for hurricane safety, etc.)
- Subsequent anticipated cost of upkeep and maintenance of the piece.

## VIII. Timeline

Dates Subject to change

Release date: September 21, 2023

Artists are welcome to call directly for feedback on ideas in process, especially if they are concerned about any installation or ADA compliance issues, but also to discuss concepts and bounce off ideas. Please limit these requests to two calls or 3 emails. We will do our best to make ourselves available to you and provide clear direction. We do not want anyone to waste time or energy on a beautiful and brilliant design that will not work in the context of this specific project.

Contact: Lisa Feinman, [lfeinman@jfedsrq.org](mailto:lfeinman@jfedsrq.org), 941-706-0034

October 30, 2023: Submissions are due by 5pm. This date will be published on our website. The reviewing committee may follow up submissions with questions or requests to meet with the artist.

**Send proposals to Lisa Feinman, [lfeinman@jfedsrq.org](mailto:lfeinman@jfedsrq.org).**

November 15, 2023: Project will be awarded and all applicants notified.

Upon acceptance of the project, the Jewish Federation will provide a contract for the work and will set up meeting times at which the artist can confer with the project manager and landscape designer to plan the integration and installation of the piece, and realistic deadlines for delivery will be determined.

## IX. Submission (max 2 concepts per artist)

- Contact Information
  - Artist or Company Name:
  - Contact person:
  - Email:
  - Phone:
  - Mailing Address:
- Design Proposal
  - Design should be submitted in sketches, photos, or other images.
  - Dimensions
  - Materials
  - Narrative description of the design and how it is expected to meet our goals.
  - Timeline from acceptance through delivery and installation
  - Cost of fabrication and installation
  - Outline of subsequent maintenance costs and anticipated maintenance schedule
  - Any other considerations for the presentation, signage, installation, upkeep, and safety of the piece.
- Artist's Statement & References
  - Artist or Artistic Team bio or statement
  - Please tell us about some projects you have completed that are similar in scale, educational function, or thematic content. (2 pages max)
  - Please provide two references of satisfied clients, preferably of comparable projects. (Name, company if applicable, phone and email contact information)
- **Send proposals to Lisa Feinman, [lfeinman@jfedsrq.org](mailto:lfeinman@jfedsrq.org).**