



Request for Proposal: Memorial Wall

The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee is seeking an artistic interpretation for a Memorial Wall 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 March 2024 and to school groups and the general public by September 2024. Sculptures will be added as selected artists complete their installations.

II. Memorial Wall

The centerpiece of our Memorial Plaza is a wall, 8 ft high and 30 ft wide. This focal point is an opportunity to pay homage to, and somehow try to wrap our minds around, the unfathomable enormity of all that was lost; not just 6 million Jews and millions of others, but the loss of a culture, of civility, of the contributions that could never be made, the generations that would never be born, and the death of a way of life.

Visitors will rest here to reflect and mourn between chapters of the story. Guests will gather on the memorial plaza to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day, honor the passing of local Holocaust survivors and liberators, and other somber occasions.

The wall design must include the names of the six Nazi extermination camps; Chelmno, Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka, Majdanek, and Auschwitz-Birkenau.

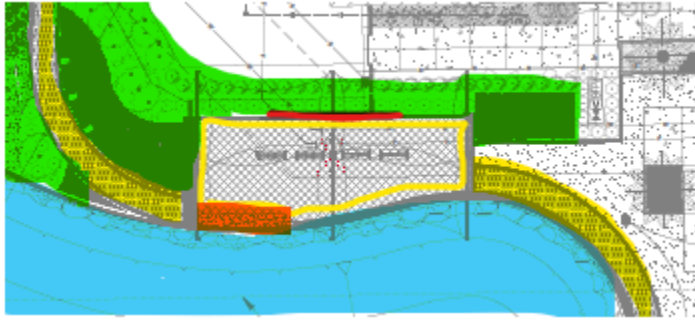
The only requirement of the materials used is that they be able to withstand Florida storms and sun.

III. Installation Space

The 8ft x 30 ft wall will be located on the north side of the pond and Memorial Plaza, adjacent to the Event Terrace. Visitors will approach the plaza as they move through our story from the section on Resistance will continue on to learn about Liberation and Life after the war.

The Plaza will be covered by shade sails and backless benches will be fixed in the center so visitors can look at the wall or the water. Also in this space, we will have names of local survivors, liberators, second generation educators, and others. There is also a bronze shoe memorial along the water as pedestrians enter the plaza. The intent is that they will see the shoes as they approach and will enter the plaza with their attention on those shoes as they learn about the “one bullet per Jew” practices carried out along the Danube and commemorated by a similar memorial in Budapest. When they turn around, the reveal of the Memorial Wall should evoke a reaction.

The concrete wall will be unfinished, creating the greatest flexibility for artistic expression. The choice of materials is up to the artist as long as the finished product is hurricane-proof and able to withstand full sun, high humidity, and Florida's storm season.



The **red line** indicates the Memorial Wall location

Green = planting area and perimeter of the Holocaust Memorial and Education Center

Yellow = the walking path and conversation area, yellow outlined area is the Memorial Plaza

Blue = the reflection pond

Orange = Budapest-style Shoe Memorial

IV. Budget

Design, materials, fabrication, delivery, and installation cannot exceed \$85,000.

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.

V. Selection Criteria

Each proposal will be evaluated based on

- Effectiveness of evoking an emotional response
- Effectiveness in conveying a sense of loss and/or a reverence for the memory of all that was lost through artistic representation
- How well the design serves the intended use of the space
- 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.

VI. 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, 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.

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.

VII. 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.**