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# USC Shoah Foundation

## 30 YEARS OF BUILDING LEGACIES FOR THE FUTURE

FY2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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# A LETTER FROM THE CEO

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Today, thanks to a vision set in motion more than 30 years ago by our founder Steven Spielberg, our collection of survivor and witness testimonies stands as a living memorial; one that looks to the past so that we can all build a better future. We amplify these individual histories through education, research, and public outreach, and in doing so help sustain Holocaust memory and relevance for generations to come.

Over the course of three decades, we have secured more than 62,000 testimonies. Nearly 60,000 of these are already accessible through our digital portal, the [\*Visual History Archive\*](#).

Access through the Visual History Archive is only a first step, though. Survivors entrusted us with their memories so we can share them globally, and we are working toward free worldwide access to our entire collection. The world has already shown considerable interest. On YouTube, where over 4,000 testimonies are available, viewers have watched clips and full-length testimonies more than 46 million times and have spent over 20 million hours listening to survivors share their experiences. Museums, scholars, educators, students, and families increasingly turn to these testimonies as vital sources of truth and inspiration to stay resilient against hate.

Importantly, we are also continuing to expand the collection, working urgently to engage with the 200,000 Holocaust survivors around the world who are still with us, while also helping partner institutions safeguard their fragile collections that are at risk of being lost.

In a world where the historical truth of the Holocaust is increasingly questioned, manipulated, or distorted, we are doing more than ever to expand awareness, build knowledge, improve approaches to teaching and education, cultivate new research, and reach out to the wider public in ways that will guarantee the permanence of our collective memory of the Holocaust.

While the challenges are many, our successes and our resolve point the way forward. The pages that follow share the remarkable achievements of our 30th anniversary year — accounts of testimony preserved, students inspired, and partnerships forged. I invite you to read them as both a reflection of how far we have come and a vision for what we can still achieve together.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Williams', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Robert J. Williams  
CEO and Finci-Viterbi Chair  
UNESCO Chair on Antisemitism and Holocaust Research  
Advisor, International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance



As part of this anniversary year, we undertook a new strategic planning process and updated the Institute's mission to meet the challenges of the future:

**Our mission is to collect, preserve, and share survivor testimonies in order to increase knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust and to build a future for all that rejects antisemitism, hatred, dehumanization, and genocide.**

This is not just aspiration; it is essential to the world we seek to build.



HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR IRENE WEISS SPEAKING AT THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY GALA IN NEW YORK CITY

## THIRTY YEARS OF IMPACT: HONORING THE PAST

The centerpiece of this milestone year was the October 2024 [30th Anniversary Gala](#) in New York. Hundreds of supporters, global leaders, and—most importantly—survivors gathered to honor survivor courage and legacy. Steven Spielberg introduced the inaugural **Mickey Shapiro Leadership Award**, presented to longtime Board of Councilors member Mickey Shapiro, in recognition of his extraordinary dedication to testimony and truth.

Dr. Robert Williams emphasized the urgency of our mission, noting that these “testimonies enrich scholarly discourse, inspire new generations of educators, researchers, and creators, and secure a future for active and

informed memory of the Holocaust.” He also announced the establishment of the Joel and Ulrika Citron Endowment for the USC Shoah Foundation, along with an ambitious \$300 million endowment campaign to provide sustainable funding for the Institute’s archival and educational programs.

This unforgettable evening reflected a new era of university-wide engagement, with the largest number of USC trustees ever to support a USC Shoah Foundation gala. With visible backing from USC Advancement and academic leadership, USC reaffirmed its deep commitment to sustaining Holocaust memory and ensuring its relevance far into the future.

## STRATEGIC GROWTH: LEADERSHIP FOR THE NEXT CHAPTER

The 2019 Strategic Plan envisioned the Institute as a global hub of testimony-driven education, research, and engagement. Over the past five years, that vision has taken root through new initiatives, strengthened partnerships, and groundbreaking collections.

Now, the world demands a bold new plan—one that secures the Institute’s long-term sustainability and amplifies its global reach. Our new 2024 Strategic Plan is anchored in **five interconnected pillars**, guiding both today’s priorities and tomorrow’s ambitions.

### **1. Collections**

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We are expanding and diversifying testimony collections, prioritizing the few remaining Holocaust survivors and underrepresented communities. We are also partnering with institutions worldwide to preserve testimonies at risk of decay, while advancing toward open global access to the entire archive.

### **2. Education**

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Our educational programming is scaling across age groups and geographies. Through IWitness, Echoes & Reflections, micro-credentials, and professional development, testimony is reaching classrooms, universities, and training programs worldwide, ensuring that Holocaust education is both rigorous and relevant.

### **3. Countering Antisemitism**

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The Countering Antisemitism Laboratory and the Contemporary Antisemitism Collection position the Institute as a global leader in combating antisemitism. These testimonies are

used not just in our curricula, programs, and training initiatives, but by scholars, educators, genealogists, museum professionals, and other key multipliers around the world.

### **4. Programs**

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From our campuses in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., to partnerships with museums, governments, and universities worldwide, we are designing programs that connect testimony to civic life—balancing local relevance with global reach.

### **5. Infrastructure & Operations**

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Strengthening internal systems, measuring impact, and investing in staff capacity will sustain our mission. The \$300 million endowment campaign launched in our anniversary year will serve as the financial engine for this growth.

Together, these five pillars chart the next chapter of the USC Shoah Foundation: a future where memory drives education, research, and action worldwide.



# SPOTLIGHT ON MAJOR GIFTS

“This year’s record-breaking support reflects the deep generosity and conviction of our community—those who believe that education and memory can change the world. To every donor who helped make this possible, thank you.

And to those learning about our work for the first time, I invite you to join us. Together, we can ensure that every survivor’s voice entrusted to the USC Shoah Foundation remains alive, accessible, and transformative for generations to come.”

– Andrea Waldron, Associate Vice President, Advancement



**MICKEY SHAPIRO**  
*A Legacy Gift*

A longtime supporter of Holocaust remembrance and education, and member of the Institute’s Board of Councilors and Executive Committee, Mickey Shapiro’s groundbreaking \$30 million gift marks a generational milestone for the USC Shoah Foundation. His gift will be split between endowment and general operations. As part of this gift, the Institute’s headquarters at Leavey Library was renamed the Mickey Shapiro Headquarters of the USC Shoah Foundation, anchoring his enduring

commitment in a place where memory, research, and education converge.

Reflecting on the extraordinary nature of his gift, Shapiro stated, “Over the last 20 years, [the Institute’s] mission and people have become a part of me. The world needs to learn from the Holocaust...which is why this gift is so important.”

His generous support will sustain the preservation of thousands of testimonies, especially those at risk of loss, alongside critical research, educational programming, and institutional readiness to confront the rising threats of antisemitism now and in the decades ahead.



**JOEL AND  
ULRIKA  
CITRON**  
Securing the  
Future

Longtime supporters and steadfast advocates of the USC Shoah Foundation, Joel and Ulrika Citron deepened their legacy this year with the creation of the Joel and Ulrika Citron Endowment. As former Chair of the Board of Councilors, Joel Citron helped intensify the Institute's efforts in combating contemporary antisemitism and preserving the testimonies of survivors.

The Citrons' endowment will provide a permanent source of support for the Institute's programs and operations, ensuring that survivor testimony continues to educate, inspire, and guide generations to come. Their generosity reflects not only a profound belief in the power of memory but also a commitment to safeguarding the future of the institution they have helped to build.



**MELINDA  
GOLDRICH**  
Board Chair and  
Lead Supporter of  
the Capital Cam-  
pus

Melinda Goldrich, Chair of the Institute's Board of Councilors since summer 2025, made a \$5 million gift to name the USC Shoah Foundation's new home in Washington, D.C., located at the USC Capital Campus. This bold investment has transformed the Institute's abil-

ity to convene national and global leaders, ensuring that testimony and truth remain central in shaping policy and combating antisemitism around the world.



**PHYLLIS AND  
DANIEL J.  
EPSTEIN**  
Visionary Champi-  
ons of Leadership  
and Policy En-  
gagement

USC Trustee Daniel J. Epstein '62 and long-time Board of Councilors member Phyllis Epstein have propelled the Institute's most ambitious work to date. Their catalytic investments established the government affairs initiative, expanded the Student Leadership Program, and contributed to the launch of the Countering Antisemitism Laboratory. Their matching challenge inspired more than \$9 million in additional support from fellow philanthropists to strengthen the Institute's long-term impact.

Contact Andrea Waldron, Associate Vice President for Advancement, to learn how your gift to the USC Shoah Foundation is an investment in a future free from hate and antisemitism. Your impact can be doubled through a challenge grant from Phyllis and Daniel J. Epstein.





**MELANIE DADOURIAN**  
Preserving Armenian Memory for Future Generations

A passionate supporter of Armenian Genocide remembrance, Melanie Dadourian has long supported the preservation and educational use of Armenian survivor testimony. Her leadership gift launched the Keep the Promise initiative and continues to fuel efforts to ensure that testimony is recognized as an essential tool for education, justice, and truth.



**KORET FOUNDATION**  
Transforming Education

A champion of educational innovation, the Koret Foundation provided the founding support for *The Willesden Project*, a partnership between the Institute and Hold On To Your Music. Combining testimony, and music, the project has reached more than 350,000 students, teachers, and community members across five continents. Thanks to Koret's visionary investment, *The Willesden Project* continues to shape Holocaust education for younger learners with compassion, creativity, and global reach.



**ANDREA AND BRIAN KOSOY**  
Bringing Testimony to Students Across Los Angeles

Motivated by a deep commitment to bringing meaningful Holocaust education to Los Angeles schools, Brian and Andrea Kosoy supported the pilot launch of *Dialogue with Witnesses to History: A Dimensions in Testimony Experience*. Their investment brought an interactive biography survivor testimony exhibit directly into schools, reaching nearly 3,000 students from a diverse set of schools. This mobile, immersive experience gave students, and in one instance, parents, a unique opportunity to connect with the voices of survivors, encouraging critical reflection on memory, moral courage, and civic responsibility.



**LEAH FRIED SEDWICK**  
Supporting Impact through General Operations

A new donor to the Institute, Leah Fried Sedwick, made a generous contribution to support the Countering Antisemitism Laboratory. Her gift helps maintain the infrastructure needed to confront today's rising hate. It ensures that the USC Shoah Foundation's educational and research programs can continue to grow with resilience and integrity.



**TONI WEINGARTEN**  
Elevating Ethical Journalism through a Visionary Planned Gift

In close collaboration with USC's Office of Planned Giving, Toni Weingarten established the Toni K. Weingarten Fund for Media Coverage of Jews, Judaism, and Israel. Her bequest will support the USC Shoah Foundation's efforts to train journalists to recognize and avoid unintentional antisemitism in their reporting. Inspired by her own experiences and passion for justice, Weingarten believes USC is uniquely positioned to convene top journalists and foster more nuanced, responsible reporting in today's media landscape.



**BARRY AND MIMI STERNLICHT**  
Combating Online Antisemitism

New partners of the USC Shoah Foundation, Barry and Mimi Sternlicht, contributed to the gala and our efforts to combat online antisemitism, a cause aligned with Sternlicht's platform Facts for Peace, which focuses on addressing digital disinformation and hate. Their support bolsters our Countering Antisemitism Laboratory's work to identify, expose, and challenge harmful narratives online. The testimony of Barry Sternlicht's father is included in the Archive.



HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR ELIEZER CHAIM WEISS, WHO RECORDED HIS TESTIMONY WITH THE YIZKOR FOUNDATION

© The Yizkor Foundation

## THE HEART OF THE INSTITUTE: TESTIMONY AND THE ARCHIVE

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At the core of the USC Shoah Foundation is an enduring commitment: to record, preserve, and utilize testimony. This year, we made significant strides toward expanding global access while continuing to secure the last remaining Holocaust voices.

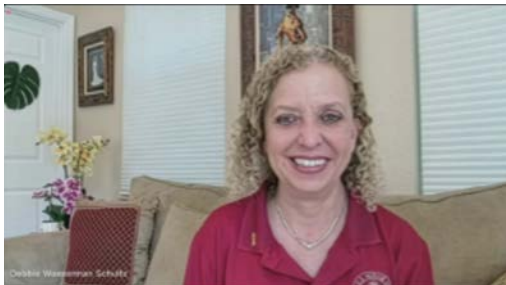
Our digital [Archive](#) now holds **60,000 testimonies in 44 languages from 69 countries**, with over 2,000 more awaiting processing. Each testimony requires careful review and preservation, a resource-intensive process that underscores the urgency of continued investment. With only an estimated 200,000 Holocaust survivors still alive, we are prioritizing underrepresented voices, such as Orthodox

survivors and Yiddish-language testimonies, while also working with partner institutions to safeguard at-risk collections worldwide.

On [YouTube](#), where more than 4,000 testimonies are now accessible to anyone with an internet connection, users have logged over **46 million views and 20 million hours of watch time**—with average sessions of 25 minutes, far surpassing the platform’s 1.5-minute norm. In Israel, usage of the complete digital Archive continues to rise since it became freely available in 2024, more than doubling since the launch of free national access in FY24—even during a time of war.

Important partnerships on the use of technology to teach this history continue. [Survivor Stories: An Interactive Dialogue](#) at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York, allows visitors to engage directly with ten interactive biographies. [Inside Kristallnacht](#), an extended reality (XR) experience co-produced with UNESCO and the Claims Conference, immerses users in the events of November 1938 through the eyes of Dr. Charlotte Knobloch. These initiatives signal our belief that testimony belongs in the public sphere.

This year also marked growth in our [Contemporary Antisemitism Collection](#), an initiative to capture 10,000 testimonies of post-1945 antisemitic violence. With the [American Jewish Committee](#) connecting us to survivors, and through testimonies like those of October 7 survivors, U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, and Dr. Judea Pearl, we are ensuring that testimony continues to illuminate resilience, truth, and the urgent realities of today.



*"I will not let the haters win."  
U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz*

## 5 FOCUS AREAS IN THE COLLECTION

The Contemporary Antisemitism Collection is designed to capture the lived experiences of individuals and communities affected by antisemitic violence since the Holocaust. The initiative is grounded in testimony and guided by five initial areas of focus:

- 1 Middle East and North Africa (MENA):** Testimonies from Jews who left Arab and Muslim-majority countries in the 20th century.
- 2 Ethiopia:** Stories from Ethiopian and Eritrean Jews impacted by antisemitism during political turmoil, migration, and resettlement.
- 3 Former Communist Countries:** Accounts from Jews who experienced state-sponsored antisemitism in communist countries, today and in the past.
- 4 Antisemitic Terror Attacks:** Survivors of events like the 1994 AMIA bombing in Argentina, and others who endured targeted violence animated by hatred of Jews.
- 5 United States:** Testimonies from individuals affected by antisemitism in contemporary American life, beginning with the Civil Rights era.

These testimonies will inform research, education, and public engagement on the global manifestations of modern antisemitism, ensuring that the experiences of those impacted are seen, heard, and remembered.



# THE LIFECYCLE OF A TESTIMONY

How a testimony becomes a global resource:

## 1 Capture

Survivors and witnesses share their experiences with trained interviewers who record their experiences while providing the interviewee with the highest level of comfort, dignity, and support before, during, and after their interview.

## 2 Post-Production

Recordings are digitized, indexed, and reviewed to meet the highest archival standards. Using advanced technologies like AI-driven language processing, we create searchable keyword indexes that make testimonies accessible to all.

## 3 Access

At the same time that researchers and educators use our testimonies to better understand and convey these histories, we make use of our collection through our own educational programs and in projects that range from museum exhibitions to public events in order to convey how individual experiences enrich our understanding of the past.

## 4 Preservation and Restoration

Each testimony is regularly reviewed and restored to prevent loss. We also work with institutions to preserve and digitize at-risk collections that might otherwise disappear.

Every testimony is a living document that we secure, preserve, and share so the world can learn from individual survivors and seek inspiration from their resilience.

## LEADERSHIP BEGINS WITH LISTENING



## TESTIMONY IN ACTION: GLOBAL EDUCATION AND IMPACT

Testimony is more than a record of the past; it is a living force that shapes how individuals lead, how societies remember, and how future generations respond to hate and injustice.

Through bold educational initiatives and pioneering research, we are transforming Holocaust testimony into a tool for truth, compassion, and civic responsibility.

“Being on this trip to Berlin has allowed me to understand the logistics of oppression outside of my blackness.”

— DINIKO BATES, UCLA

The July 2024 [Student Leadership Program](#), led by Dr. Lesly Culp, Director of Education, brought 20 USC student-athletes, many with limited prior exposure to Holocaust history, on a transformative journey from Washington, D.C. to Europe. Participants spoke to survivors of the Holocaust. They stood in Auschwitz, confronting the reality of what hatred

makes possible. In Berlin, they grappled with questions of memory and identity. Along the way, they grappled with the question: What is leadership in the face of injustice?

Back on campus, these students emerged as powerful voices for inclusion, hosting peer-led forums and standing up against antisemitism

## USC Shoah Foundation

in their teams and communities. Their experience reached national audiences through [Fox Sports Big Noon Kickoff](#), demonstrating that when testimony is paired with lived experience, it can build integrity, courage, and conviction.

Evaluation data proves that 100% of students walked away with a greater understanding of the Holocaust and antisemitism and nearly all participants noted that they felt better

equipped to recognize and respond to hate in their communities.

The program's ripple effect continues to grow. In the summer of 2025, at the start of the 2026 fiscal year, the program expanded to include other Big Ten universities—UCLA, the University of Oregon, and the University of Washington—thereby broadening the reach of testimony-based leadership training nationwide.

## EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION



One of our flagship programs, the [William P. Lauder Junior Internship Program](#) empowers high school students to explore testimony as a lens into history, leadership, and action. This year's summer session, "Leadership: Action and Values," welcomed 39 students who engaged deeply with the voices of survivors and civic themes. A new Community Action Capstone brought nine interns to Philadelphia, where they explored Holocaust memory in public spaces and met with civic leaders.

Tracking shows that 97% of participants reported that the program helped them define their own values and beliefs, and 100% felt the program increased their understanding of antisemitism.

The connection to the Institute continues beyond the formal program, with many alumni becoming peer mentors and testimony ambassadors in their own schools, ensuring that memory is preserved and actively shared.

# IWITNESS

## INNOVATION AT SCALE

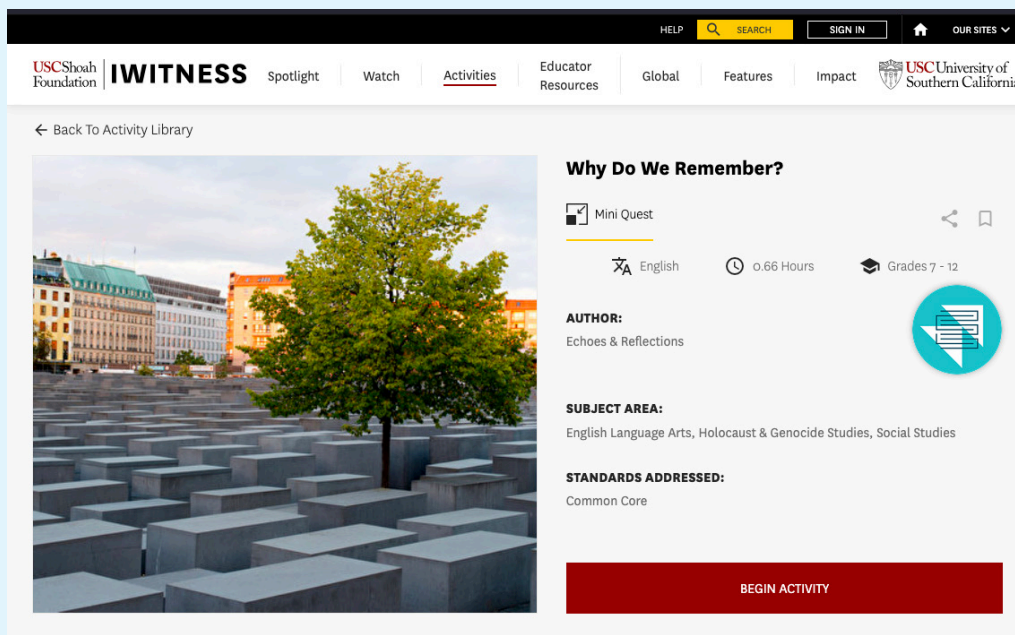
[IWitness](#) is our core educational program, and it continues to bring testimony to students worldwide. In 2024, IWitness materials reached 11 million people.

Educators asked for it, and IWitness delivered: lessons and activities now fully integrate with **Google Classroom**, providing students with seamless access to survivor voices across various subject areas. In its first academic year, more than 340 classrooms have used the platform, reaching over 10,000 students.

New learning activities debuted this year, including [“Why Do We Remember?”](#)—an activity launched for **International Holocaust Remembrance Day** that invites students to explore the meaning of memory in their own lives.

We also tested a traveling interactive biography exhibit, *Dialogue with Witnesses to History*, made possible by the generosity of Brian and Andrea Kosoy. Insights from the traveling installation are informing how we will expand [interactive biographies](#) on IWitness, ensuring broader and more accessible engagement with testimony, allowing learners to ask questions and receive real-time responses from survivors at any time. Eight interactive biographies in three languages are already available through IWitness, with plans to add more testimonies and educational resources.

[The Willesden Project](#), a moving blend of music and testimony, continues to inspire young learners worldwide through IWitness, fostering a foundation of courage and compassion from an early age. This initiative is a partnership with the Koret Foundation and Hold On To Your Music Foundation. After participating in the Willesden Project learning experience, 85% of students reported that they felt more confident that they could stand up for someone being mistreated.





## VOICES THAT STAY WITH YOU

[Teaching Film with Testimony](#): Our Teaching Film with Testimony resources show how films can open the door to deeper understanding, and when paired with testimony, they become powerful tools for truth, memory, and compassion:

- [White Bird: The Courage of Kindness](#), in partnership with Lionsgate and Discovery Education, reached 34,000+ students in its first month through a virtual field trip and curriculum suite.
- [Among Neighbors](#), an award-winning 2024 documentary film by Yoav Potash combining hand-drawn animation, archival materials, and interviews, brings to life the testimony of Yaakov Nehamya Goldstein and the lingering violence in a Polish village post-Holocaust. The Institute hosted an early screening of the film and sup-

ported its broader launch in October 2025 as part of our ongoing engagement with testimony-based media.

- [For the Living](#), follows 250 cyclists retracing the route of liberation from Auschwitz to Kraków.

## FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION



The USC Shoah Foundation's [Living Links](#) initiative continues to grow, with 25 communities of grandchildren of Holocaust survivors (3G). Many 3G participants have completed the speaker training, equipping them to share their grandparents' histories with impact. Early evaluation shows powerful results: 98% of educators reported marked improvement in students' critical thinking after hearing from trained 3G speakers.

## ADVANCING TESTIMONY-DRIVEN RESEARCH

Our fellowships, residencies, and research colloquia support emerging and established scholars to better use testimony in their research.

These collaborations spark interdisciplinary dialogue across borders and generations, generating new insights into the past and present.

The researchers themselves best express the impact of this work.

Bianca Cialone, the Azrieli Research Fellow, shared the following about her experience working with the Archive and the Institute:

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“Using survivor testimony was, in my experience, the most fruitful way to uncover the motivations, thoughts, and stories behind their decisions to start families as DPs [displaced persons]. Other archival sources rarely capture this. Equally valuable was the opportunity to discuss my research with the Shoah Foundation staff. The diverse team of historians, curators, and platform specialists provided rich insights into both my historical interpretations and methodological approach.”

### – BIANCA CIALONE, AZRIELI RESEARCH FELLOW

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Ms. Cialone, a graduate student at McGill University, spent time in residence at the USC Shoah Foundation while completing her thesis on how Holocaust survivors rebuilt family life in postwar DP camps. In addition to accessing rare insights through testimony, she emphasized the value of engaging with the Institute’s team of historians, curators, and digital specialists, calling her time at the Institute “immensely beneficial.”

*“The colloquium provided an extraordinary opportunity to collaborate with peers, which not only enriched my immediate research but also opened pathways for long-term scholarly connections.”*

– Paul Sauberer, Colloquium Series Participant

Mr. Sauberer credited the experience with strengthening the conceptual grounding of his dissertation, developing a new conference proposal, and more clearly situating his work within the field of Holocaust and genocide studies.

These reflections underscore the ongoing and evolving role of testimony in academic research and reaffirm the USC Shoah Foundation’s central place in cultivating testimony-based scholarship for decades to come.



THE USC CAPITAL CAMPUS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

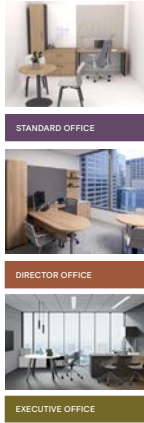
# A NEW CENTER FOR MEMORY, EDUCATION, AND ACTION

## THE USC SHOAH FOUNDATION CAPITAL CAMPUS, WASHINGTON, D.C.

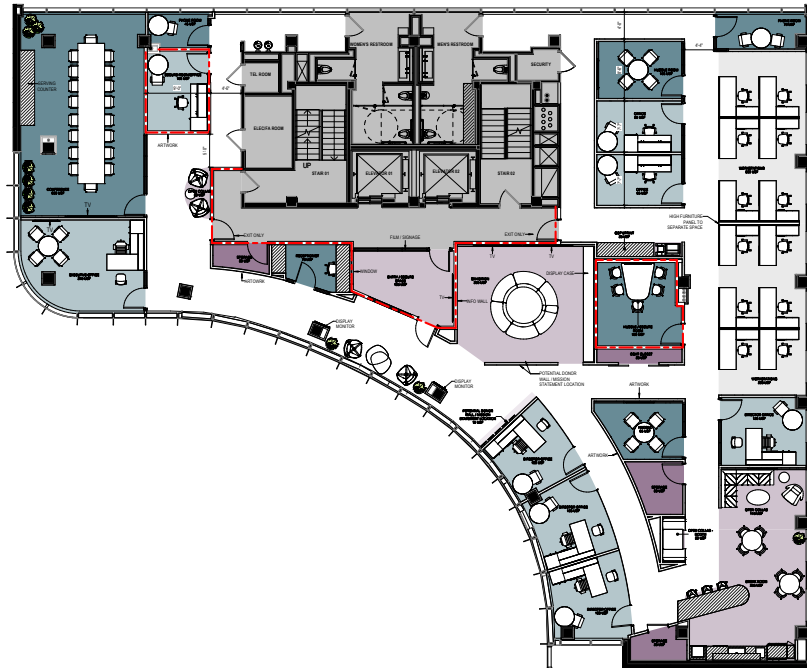
With the opening of its Capital Campus in 2025, the USC Shoah Foundation established a strong presence in the heart of the nation's capital, providing the Institute with direct access to the corridors of power. The space serves as the new home for the East Coast team, featuring a dedicated exhibition hall, student collaboration spaces, and state-of-the-art offices. It acts as a dynamic hub for partners and fellows engaged in testimony-driven work

across education, research, collections, and public affairs.

To meet these goals, the Institute expanded its Washington-based team by assembling a diverse group of professionals. At the heart of these efforts is the Countering Antisemitism Laboratory (CAL), led by Dr. Brian Hughes, a nationally recognized expert on extremism and disinformation. Under his direction, CAL is developing evidence-based strategies to



- SPACE LEGEND**
- Office
  - Meeting Spaces
  - Workstations
  - Amenities / Support
  - Storage
  - Core
  - Ballistic Partition



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combat antisemitism and related forms of hate, bringing together scholars, technologists, and policymakers to turn research into effective interventions.

D. Wes Rist, Director of Government Affairs, advances this work at the policy level. A former U.S. State Department official and international human rights lawyer, he leads the Institute’s engagement with governments and multilateral organizations to ensure sustainable global support for Holocaust education, remembrance, and research.

Meg McDermott, Director of Board and External Relations, brings a decade of experience at major universities, including George Washington, Harvard, and Tufts. She enhances the Institute’s capacity to achieve its strategic goals by deepening collaboration with the Board of Councilors, university partners, and other key stakeholders.

Mollie Bowman, Managing Director of Living Links and a grandchild of Auschwitz survivors, leads a growing movement of third-generation descendants who are transforming remembrance into active engagement through testimony, education, and community action. Her background in advocacy, public service, and democracy-building helps bridge the next generation to the Institute’s enduring mission.

The Capital Campus has already become a hub for international collaboration. This year, the Institute partnered with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland to mark the 82nd anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The event featured remarks from Dr. Williams and Dr. Catherine Clark, Senior Director of Programs, survivor Alan J. Hall, and music from the Solounis Ensemble. We also co-organized the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany’s 2025 International Holocaust Remembrance Day program which featured remarks from Dr.

## USC Shoah Foundation

Williams, and music from the Payadora Ensemble. Both events underscore that testimony must remain at the heart of civic life and public memory.

The Capital Campus stands as a launchpad for the next generation of testimony-based leadership, where scholars, students, policymakers, and educators come together to build a future that rejects antisemitism, hatred, dehumanization, and genocide.

Learn more about how your investment in the USC Capital Campus can transform the USC Shoah Foundation's impact on students, scholars, policymakers, and international leaders. Your gift can be doubled through a match by Board of Councilors Chair Melinda Goldrich.



“We are not simply preserving history, our space in Washington, D.C. allows us to position testimony to shape the decisions and values that will define the decades ahead.”

— DR. ROBERT WILLIAMS, CEO AND FINCI-VITERBI CHAIR



FRONT ROW, THIRD FROM LEFT: JENNA LEVENTHAL, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, WITH WITH THE US DELEGATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE



SENIOR DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS DR. CATHERINE CLARK WITH HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR ALLEN HALL IN WASHINGTON, D.C..

## TESTIMONY WITHOUT BORDERS: GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

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We are more than keepers of memory; we are global collaborators in shaping its use educationally, politically, and socially.

As antisemitism and Holocaust distortion grow stronger across continents, the USC Shoah Foundation serves as a trusted partner in shaping how nations fight hate, preserve memory, and educate for a more just future. This year, our global influence expanded through new diplomatic ties, strengthened institutional partnerships, and meaningful symbolic moments

that brought survivors' voices to the highest levels of public life.

### ENGAGING THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY: UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGH-LEVEL WEEK

At the 2024 United Nations General Assembly's High-Level Week, Dr. Williams participated in a pivotal panel, convened by UNESCO and the French Ministry for Europe and

Foreign Affairs. The event brought together world leaders and foreign ministers from Argentina, Albania, Morocco, Rwanda, the Netherlands, and France alongside Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt, UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, and senior leadership from the AJC and the World Jewish Congress to address the urgent need for coordinated action against antisemitism and related bias.

Dr. Williams called for a renewed commitment to education as a bulwark against hate and democratic decay. Drawing on lessons from history and his expertise as UNESCO Chair on Antisemitism and Holocaust Research, he stressed that antisemitism, in particular, cannot be defeated by Jewish communities alone, and that political leadership, civic institutions, and educational systems must share in the responsibility. Informed by testimony and research, his remarks sparked significant interest in international partnerships and underscored the importance of testimony-based education in upholding shared democratic values.

*“Antisemitism has long been part of the arsenal of those seeking to eliminate democratic life. We must become resilient against divisive, anti-Jewish propaganda regardless of whether it comes from state or non-state actors.”*

—Dr. Robert Williams, CEO and Finci-Viterbi Chair

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND ACCESS

In Europe, the USC Shoah Foundation established a number of high-level partnerships that have strengthened the Institute’s presence. These are with governmental and non-governmental bodies dedicated to advancing

Holocaust education and research, and building cooperation around educating against antisemitism and hate. These organizations include ENCATE (European Network – Combating Antisemitism Through Education), the Kreuzberger Initiative gegen Antisemitismus (KIgA e.V.), the Ravensbrück Memorial, EHRI (European Holocaust Research Infrastructure), NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, the Milan Simecka Foundation in Slovakia, and other institutions in the lands where the Holocaust occurred. Additionally, the Institute expanded and strengthened its partnership with Yad Vashem to allow for joint efforts to secure and preserve more Holocaust era testimonies.

These alliances reflect a central goal of our 30th anniversary vision: connecting local memory work to global systems of education, justice, and policymaking. As a result, four new European access sites to the Archive were launched, helping bring us closer to universal access. The coming years will ensure closer cooperation with European institutions, built on a foundation of mutual partnership and the sharing of best practices. The future of our field requires such cooperation, particularly in countries where commitments to honest engagement with history are at risk.

## UNITED KINGDOM: FROM ROYALTY TO CLASSROOMS

In a powerful moment at Buckingham Palace, King Charles III engaged with our interactive biography experience—both in person and with the digital avatar of Manfred Goldberg, a survivor of Stutthof. A similar program occurred in the UK Parliament, where lawmakers and thought leaders experienced firsthand the enduring power of survivors’ voices.

Our partnership with the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET) continues to bring testimony-based learning into classrooms and communities across the UK, through our award-winning joint initiative, [Testimony 360](#), strengthening the legacy of witness testimony.

Over multiple meetings and speeches, we have also expanded our cooperation and dialogue with the UK government on the threats posed by AI to Holocaust history and education, as well as begun identifying ways to work with Parliament to assist in the development of the anticipated Holocaust Education Centre.

## WHY WE REMEMBER

This year, we paused to reflect.

Each date a milestone. Each anniversary a call to conscience.

Not just to recall what happened—but to remember why it matters.

“We are not simply preserving history,” said Dr. Williams, “We are positioning testimony to shape the decisions and values that will define the decades ahead.”

Every survivor hoped for a world that would learn so that crimes like the Holocaust never happen again. This is why those who survived genocide chose to give testimony.

They shared their stories not to relive pain, but to ignite understanding, to inspire vigilance, and to preserve human dignity.

We remember because forgetting makes repetition possible.

Because silence opens the door to denial and distortion.

Because memory, if nurtured, can become resistance.

### 110 YEARS

Since the Armenian Genocide began

### 80 YEARS

Since the liberation of Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Dachau, and other Nazi camps

### 50 YEARS

Since the Khmer Rouge seized power in Cambodia

### 31 YEARS

Since the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda

### 30 YEARS

Since the Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia

### 2 YEARS

Since the October 7 terrorist attack by Hamas on Israeli civilians



HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND TWIN SISTERS GITTA MORRIS AND MONIKA WHITE IN THE CEGI CHAN AND LILA SORKIN MEMORY STUDIO LOCATED IN THE MICKEY SHAPIRO HEADQUARTERS AT LEAVEY LIBRARY

## CLOSING THOUGHTS: CARRYING MEMORY FORWARD

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The relevance of the past is clear, but it is our responsibility to help ensure that the world learns from the echoes of history. Our shared experience speaks to us through our archives, through our scholarship, and through our educational initiatives. We face many challenges, including viral disinformation, hate-fueled violence, and the fragility of the international order. If responsible historical memory will matter, we must engage with it, make it accessible, and share it across generations and different media.

The survivors gave us their stories. They trusted us to tell them. And they hoped, fiercely, that we would use them to build a better world.

With fewer survivors sharing their experiences, that responsibility now rests with us. To all of us.

We must meet audiences where they are, whether that be on their screens, in their classrooms, or during moments of moral confusion and cultural reflection. We must develop new creative partnerships, platforms, and ways of communicating to keep the truth alive.

As we shape the next chapter of the Institute, we remain grounded in our mission and driven by a shared commitment to ensure this history remains alive, relevant, and transformative. Together with our supporters, partners, and global community, we will expand access to testimony, reach new audiences, and ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust continue to inform how we understand our world. In building a sustainable institution, we are safeguarding memory and strengthening the values that define our shared future.

# FRIENDS OF THE USC SHOAH FOUNDATION

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This year marked a record-breaking moment for the USC Shoah Foundation. Our success was due, in no small part, to Mickey Shapiro's transformative leadership gift of \$30 million in 2024. His support not only inspired a groundswell of giving, but helped establish and name our Los Angeles headquarters thereby ensuring that our work will continue to inspire courage and moral clarity for generations to come.

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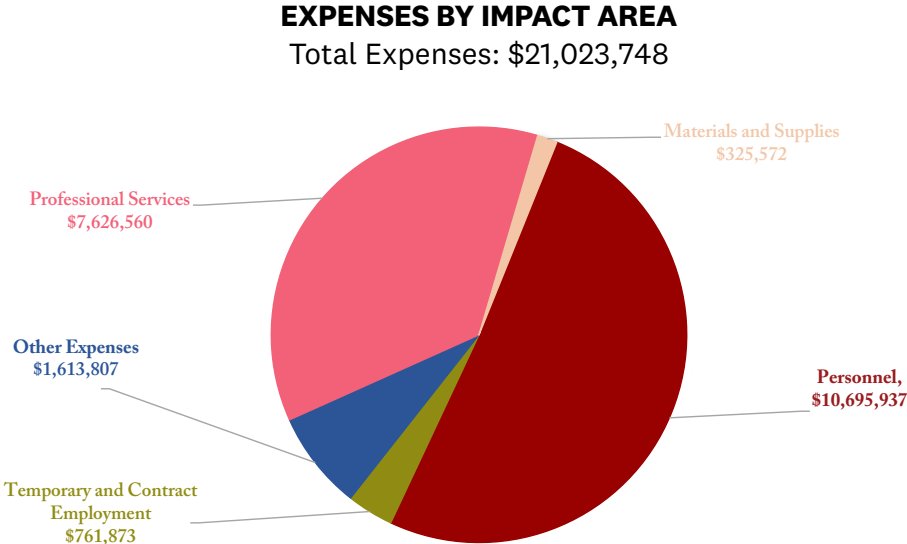
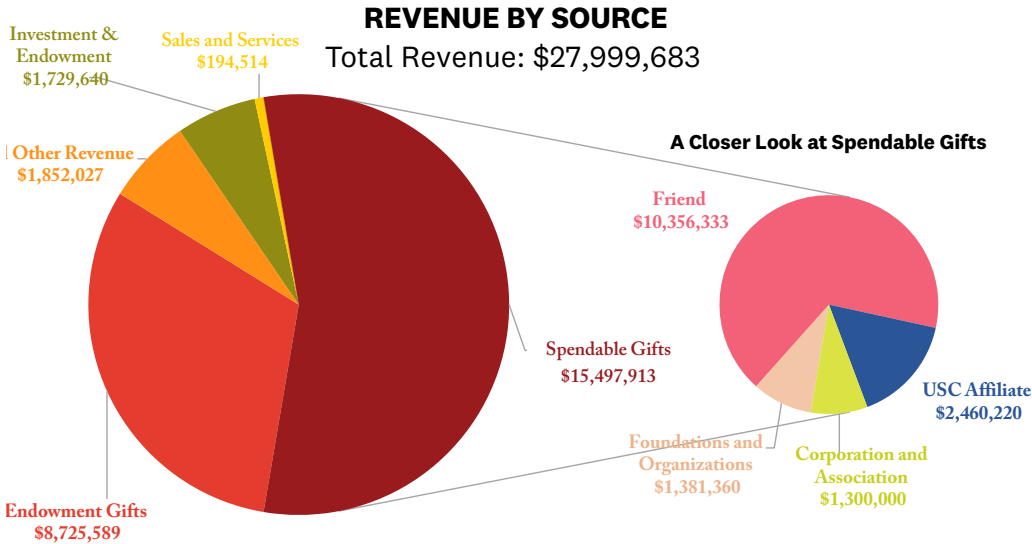
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## HOW YOUR SUPPORT POWERS IMPACT: FY25 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Every dollar we raise helps preserve survivor voices, empower educators, and inspire compassion through testimony.



This year, \$15.7 million in revenue allowed us to preserve thousands of survivor testimonies, expand educator training across five continents, and launch a new generation of testimony-based research.

We ended the year in the black — proof that our commitment to stewardship and efficiency strengthens every dollar you invest in our mission.

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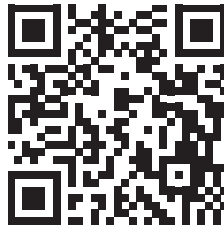
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Your support ensures that these testimonies remain preserved, accessible, and active for generations to come.

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