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## LEDI ART EXHIBIT SHINES A LIGHT ON GROWING ANTISEMITISM IN THE U.S.: DESIGNED TO ILLUMINATE, UNITE & EMPOWER

Innovative Multimedia Showcase At MOSH Reimagines Holocaust Education, Highlighting Testimony from a 93-Year-Old Survivor

**Jacksonville, FL (August 27, 2024)** - A powerful fusion of art, music, and narrative with a multimedia experience, <u>Lives Eliminated, Dreams Illuminated (LEDI)</u> launches this week in Jacksonville, FL. The exhibit is a thought-provoking journey which brings together innovative storytelling techniques that forge a personal and emotional connection to the young women and girls tragically lost during the Holocaust.

The touring exhibition is a collaboration between American painter Lauren Bergman and Israeli composer Ella Milch-Sheriff, designed to foster empathy, ignite understanding, and promote tolerance. Founded by Dr. David M. Milch and supported by the <u>Dr. David M. Milch Foundation</u>, with lead sponsorship from the <u>Together Strong Community Fund</u>, the exhibition will be hosted by the Museum of Science & History (MOSH) from August 30<sup>th</sup> through February 2, 2025. During its time in Jacksonville, it will serve as an educational tool for students and community groups across northeastern Florida.

Lusia Rosenzweig Milch, 93, the subject of one of the powerful LEDI portraits, shares vivid memories of her ordeal and liberation. After losing over a hundred family members in the Holocaust, Lusia escaped Europe, crossing the German Alps in the winter to reach safety in Italy before arriving in New York City, where she raised a family and still resides. As living memory for the millions of adults and children who were lost, Lusia continues to speak out against antisemitism, discrimination, and hate.

Lusia's son, Dr. David Milch, founded the Dr. David M. Milch Foundation, whose mission is to support youth mentoring and Arts for Social Impact through its "Ars Veritas" initiative ("Truth in Art"), which conceived and presents the unique LEDI Experience.

"LEDI is founded on three core principles," says Dr. Milch. "First and foremost, the Holocaust is an undeniable historical fact, and any attempts to deny or trivialize it must be challenged. Second, many communities have faced genocide and tragedy throughout history, and this suffering continues today. No group or individual is exempt from the consequences of hate." Adding, "art and creativity offer a way to help grasp the enormity of these challenges, promoting empathy, compassion, and the wisdom needed to foster a better future."

"We are proud to host LEDI as an exhibition and as featured programming at the core of our annual Passport Series of cultural education events," says Dr. Anthony Mortimer, MOSH Vice President of Education and Exhibits. "LEDI's powerful message further reinforces the purpose of MOSH Passport, which is to bring communities closer through education and understanding and to inspire all of us to come together on shared objectives to make Northeast Florida a better place to live in and work for everyone."

According to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), <u>antisemitic incidents</u> in the US are at the highest level recorded since the 1970s. In the last year alone, ADL recorded nearly 8,000 antisemitic incidents across the U.S, which is more than a 200% increase compared to the same period a year before.

LEDI aims to curb this worrisome trend.

## About LEDI

Lives Eliminated, Dreams Illuminated (LEDI) features archival photographs of female Holocaust victims paired with paintings reimagining the lives lost and dreams shattered. A unique musical vignette, composed for each victim and extending from their known history and inspired portraits, enhances the emotional connection and deepens the experience. LEDI is a visionary exhibition dedicated to promoting insight into, and dialog about, antisemitism, intolerance, and hate through the transformative and elevating power of art and artistry. To learn more, please visit <a href="livesdreams.com">livesdreams.com</a>.

## About The Museum of Science & History (MOSH)

The Museum of Science & History (MOSH) is located at 1025 Museum Circle near Friendship Park. MOSH, first chartered in 1941, inspires the joy of lifelong learning by bringing to life the sciences and regional history.

Museum funding is provided in part by the City of Jacksonville and the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, Inc.; State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; and the National Endowment for the Arts; Historic Museums Grants-in-Aid Program assistance provided by the Bureau of Historical Museums, Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State, Secretary of State.

The exhibition will run through February 2, 2025. For more information or to purchase advance tickets, visit themosh.org.