



To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

August 20, 2019

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**SUBJECT: LIBRARY APPLYING FOR “AMERICANS AND THE HOLOCAUST” TRAVELING EXHIBIT**

The American Library Association and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is sponsoring ***Americans and the Holocaust***, a traveling exhibition that examines the motives, pressures, and fears that shaped Americans' responses to Nazism, war, and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s. The exhibition will travel to 50 sites across the United States and Fort Worth Public Library has applied to be one of the sites. ***Americans and the Holocaust*** examines various aspects of American society: the government, the military, refugee aid organizations, the media, and the general public. It aims, like all of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's exhibitions, to motivate audiences to think critically about the history as individual citizens, as a country, and as members of a global community. If awarded, Fort Worth will host the exhibit for six weeks sometime in 2020-2022. The 1,100 square foot exhibit will be displayed at the Central Library and will involve public programming, including programs aimed at school-aged children.

As a publically funded educational institution, the Fort Worth Public Library is the perfect place to host an exhibition that challenges the community to figure out how to prevent an event like the Holocaust happening again. It is important that as a community we engage in conversations that help us examine failings from the past and contextualize them in the present. As a safe and neutral space, the public library helps people from all backgrounds, political beliefs, and economic status to come together as a community to have hard conversations that are not always acceptable to have with friends and family. The library is thrilled to have this opportunity because it advances their mission to building a community of learners, dreamers, and doers.

If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact Manya Shorr, Library Director at 817-392-7707 or [manya.shorr@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:manya.shorr@fortworthtexas.gov).

**David Cooke**  
**City Manager**