

# Documenting for the Future

Oral History as a Tool for Preserving Institutional Memory



**Harris Bauer**  
*Collections Fellow*

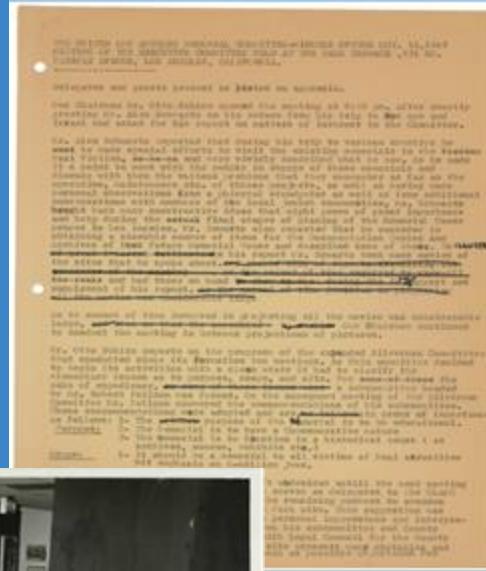
**Christie Jovanovic**  
*VP of Exhibits and Collections*

# History of Holocaust Museum LA

- Founded in the 1960s by Holocaust survivors, with the vision for it to be a memorial space but also educational.
- The collection began with the early founders, as well as materials from other survivors in the community.

Today holds 20,000+ artifacts and documents.

- Oral History Testimony Project begins taping at the museum in 1980s.



# Holocaust Museum LA A/V Collections



- Cataloging began with an inventory of 20 boxes full of VHS Videocassette, U-Matic, and BetaCam formats.
- In addition to the Holocaust Oral Testimony Project tapes, multiple copies, as well as sub-collections of training materials, programs, and student films were found and inventoried based on external labeling.

- HMLA was accepted to the California Revealed Digitization and Preservation Assistance Program in the Summer of 2023. Each tape approved for digitization was numbered, packed, and shipped to vendors in Sacramento, CA.
- Digital files were returned in 2024 so that full description cataloging could begin.



*Christie Jovanovic preparing tapes to be shipped for digitization.*

# Digital File Streaming on California Revealed and Internet Archive



[Home](#) / [Holocaust Museum LA](#) / [Holocaust Oral Testimony with Joseph Freeman](#)

## Holocaust Oral Testimony with Joseph Freeman



Digitized testimony files are now available for playback on the Internet Archive (*left*) and California Revealed (*right*).



Holocaust Oral Testimony Interview with Marcus Salberg, July 16 1985.

*Courtesy of Holocaust Museum LA with support from California Revealed.*



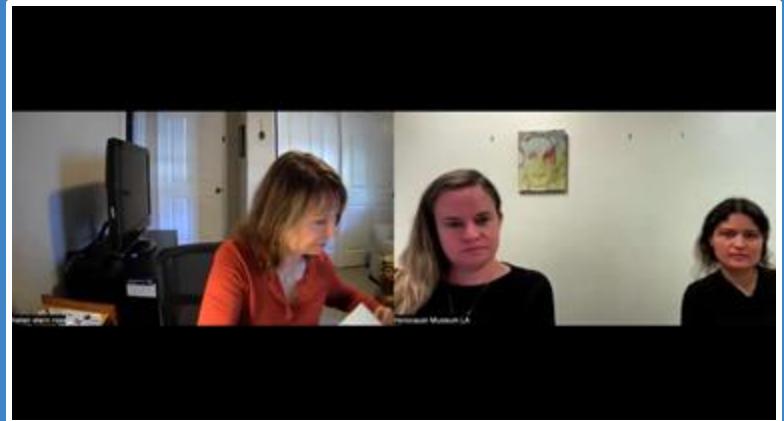
Holocaust Oral Testimony Interview with Benno Fischer, August 8, 1988.

*Courtesy of Holocaust Museum LA with support from California Revealed.*

# Institutional Oral History Interviews and Collection Description



*Institutional Oral History AV.0011.001, June 12, 2024*



*Institutional Oral History AV.0011.004, January 14, 2025*



*Institutional Oral History AV.0011.001-2, December 17, 2024*



*Institutional Oral History AV.0011.003, January 6, 2025*

# Oral History Interviews and Institutional Memory



*Institutional Oral History AV.0011.010, May 14, 2025*



*Institutional Oral History AV.0011.005, January 28, 2025*

# Oral History Interviews as Legacy Collection Description



*Photo Courtesy of National Park Services  
“Choosing Recording Equipment”*



*Institutional Oral History  
AV.0011.006, January 29, 2025*

# Informing the Future



Views of the new Founders Gallery, being developed as part of Holocaust Museum LA's *Building Truth* expansion project.

**Founders' Gallery**  
Institutional Timeline

When the last survivor is gone, who will remain to tell the world?

# Thank you!

# Questions?

For more information  
on the California  
Revealed Digitization  
and Preservation  
Assistance Program:



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