

MUSEUM AMBASSADORS SPEAKERS

DALLAS HOLOCAUST AND HUMAN RIGHTS MUSEUM



Mary Pat Higgins President and CEO

As President and CEO of the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum, Mary Pat Higgins leads the Museum in its mission to teach the history of the Holocaust and advance human rights to combat prejudice, hatred and indifference.

Under her leadership, the Museum underwent a significant change as it moved from its transitional location to a new, permanent home, which opened to the public on September 18, 2019. The mission was expanded with a dual focus to teach the history of the Holocaust and advance human rights inspiring visitors to be upstanders by confronting hatred and promoting human dignity.

Mary Pat has been a longtime advocate for children and educational initiatives. Prior to her role at the Museum, Mary Pat served as Associate Head and Chief Financial Officer at The Hockaday School in Dallas. Today, she has led the charge to welcome students from urban and rural school districts throughout North Texas, which account for nearly one-third of all Museum visitors, by removing barriers that prevent students from visiting through scholarships for free admission and transportation reimbursement for students from Title 1 and economically disadvantaged schools.

Most recently, the Museum launched the innovative Upstander Partnership, in year two of a pilot program, which is currently serving 36,000 students in two school districts and is in discussions to add another school district in 2023 to serve a total of nearly 59,000 students, with potential to increase reach in future years. This program offers tools to provide a fully immersive K-12 partnership that allows school districts to integrate Upstander behavior, citizenship, civics, and inclusion education through consistent and engaging cross-curricular learning plans to encourage students to become Upstanders in their community through curated curriculum, field trips, professional development for their teachers, and more.

Outside of the Museum, Mary Pat is active in the greater non-profit community of Dallas and has served on the boards of Oak Hill Academy, Preston Hollow Presbyterian School, Planned Parenthood of North Texas, KERA, the Dallas Women's Foundation, and the President's Visiting Council of Austin College. She currently serves on the board of The Ursuline Academy, VisitDallas, serving as Chair-Elect, and North Dallas Bank & Trust. She earned a bachelor's degree in Accounting from The University of Texas at Austin, is a Certified Public Accountant, and is a graduate of Southern Methodist University's Cox School of Business Executive MBA Program. Mary Pat and her husband, Lance, have lived in Dallas since 1989, and they have two grown sons

[Book here!](#)

See below to book a speaker!

MUSEUM AMBASSADORS SPEAKERS

DALLAS HOLOCAUST AND HUMAN RIGHTS MUSEUM



Sara Abosch-Jacobson, PhD
Barbara Rabin Chief Education Officer

[Book here!](#)

Dr. Sara Abosch-Jacobson is the Barbara Rabin Chief Education Officer for the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum. An experienced educator, she has researched, taught and written on Jewish culture and history. Abosch-Jacobson holds a PhD in modern European and Jewish history, an MA in British history, and an MA in Political Science with a concentration in Civil/Military Relations.

At the Museum, she is responsible for all content-related matters. She regularly speaks on the Holocaust, topics in Jewish history and culture, and the history covered in the Museum's core and special exhibitions.

Charlotte Decoster, PhD
Ackerman Family Director of Education

[Book here!](#)



Dr. Charlotte Decoster is the Ackerman Family Director of Education for the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum. An experienced educator, she has researched, taught, and written on Holocaust history. She holds a PhD in History from the University of North Texas. Decoster regularly speaks on the Holocaust, children and child rescue during the Holocaust, and in Nazi Germany.

She has travelled throughout the U.S. to give talks on Anne Frank and child rescue during the Holocaust.

Felicia Williamson
Museum Archivist / Special Collections



[Book here!](#)

Felicia J. Williamson, MLIS, CA, is the Director of the Helen and Frank Risch Family Library & Archives for the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum. She holds an MLIS with an archives focus from LSU and a BA in History, German, and European Studies from the University of Arkansas. Williamson is a certified archivist.

At the Museum, she is working to expand the archives and increase access to the important collection of rare books, artifacts, and oral history testimonies.