



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF  
AMERICAN JEWISH  
HISTORY  
A Smithsonian Institution Affiliate

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES AWARDS MAJOR GRANT IN  
SUPPORT OF THE EXHIBITION, 1917: GATEWAY TO THE 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY**

**Exhibition is co-organized by the National Museum of American Jewish History  
and the American Jewish Historical Society**

The **National Endowment for the Humanities** (NEH) has awarded a \$325,000 grant in support of the forthcoming exhibition, **1917: Gateway to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**, co-organized by the **National Museum of American Jewish History** (NMAJH) in Philadelphia and the **American Jewish Historical Society** (AJHS) in New York. *1917* will illuminate how the dramatic events of a single year brought about fundamental changes in American politics and culture that reverberated throughout the world. The exhibition will be on view March 17 – July 16, 2017 at NMAJH and September 1 – December 29, 2017 at AJHS, coinciding with the centennial year of America’s entry into World War I.

“We are immensely grateful for the generous support of NEH, who shares our enthusiasm for this historical exhibition,” said **Ivy Barsky**, NMAJH’s CEO and Gwen Goodman Director. “The grant will play a key role in the implementation of *1917*, which will bring

century-old events to life through vivid story-telling, interactive media, and original artifacts.”

One of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States, the NEH awards grants to top-rated proposals examined by panels of independent, external reviewers. NEH’s Public Humanities Projects grant for *1917* will provide support during the exhibition’s implementation phase, including design, fabrication, media development, and installation of the exhibition.

*1917* is the first exhibition to explore the causes and consequences of episodes that took place in 1917 by focusing on three major events: America’s entry into World War I, the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, and the signing of the Balfour Declaration, in which Great Britain promised to support a Jewish homeland in Palestine. The exhibition examines this critical year through the eyes of American Jews—eyewitnesses who understood and reacted to the events both as Americans and as an international diaspora community.

Prior to the grant for *1917*, NMAJH received a \$40,000 NEH grant in April 2016 for the planning of the Spring 2018 exhibition, *Leonard Bernstein: The Power of Music*, as well as a \$300,000 NEH grant in July 2013 for the implementation of the 2014 exhibition, *Chasing Dreams: Baseball and Becoming American*.

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#### About the National Museum of American Jewish History

The National Museum of American Jewish History, located on historic Independence Mall in Philadelphia, brings to life the 360-year history of Jews in America. Tracing the stories of how Jewish immigrants became Jewish Americans, the Museum invites visitors of all backgrounds to share their own stories and reflect on how their histories and identities shape and are shaped by the American experience. An open door for all, NMAJH honors the past and contributes to a better future by sharing the power of imagination and ideas, culture and community, leadership and service, in ways that turn inspiration into action.

The National Museum of American Jewish History is located at 101 South Independence Mall East at the corner of Fifth and Market Streets in Philadelphia. Museum hours are Tuesday to Friday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, and Saturday and Sunday 10:00 am - 5:30 pm. NMAJH is closed most Mondays, including federal holidays and some Jewish holidays.

Museum admission is \$12.00 for adults, \$11.00 for senior citizens and youth, free for children 12 and under, Museum Members, and active military with ID. For more information, visit [NMAJH.org](http://NMAJH.org) or call 215.923.3811.



About the National Endowment for the Humanities

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at: [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov).