INTERNATIONAL SPY MUSEUM

2020 Year in Review

DONOR REPORT

Educating the public about espionage and intelligence in an engaging way and providing a context for understanding the important role intelligence has played in history and continues to play today.
DEAR SPY FRIENDS,

As we prepared this Year in Review report, we reflected on how your support helped the Spy Museum team innovate, create, and succeed through this unimaginable year. Like countless other nonprofit cultural institutions, the International Spy Museum suffered a harsh blow from the COVID-19 pandemic, losing more than 75% of our revenue for the year. Everyone on the team had to reinvent their work in one way or another and find new ways to help our organization remain resilient through an unprecedented crisis.

With your help, we stayed focused on our mission: delivering innovative and engaging educational opportunities to learners of all ages, leveraging our unique lens on the world to inspire moments of curiosity and awe. The feedback was incredible and inspiring. Week after week, audience members sent us notes (many with donations enclosed) about how SPY’s programs provided much-needed bright spots in weeks of lockdown and kept them and their loved ones engaged and smiling through tough times.

We experienced the pandemic as we experience everything here at SPY: as a family. Challenges and victories were shared, and through it all, we were humbled by the generosity of you, our donors. We could not have done it without you. Thank you for your commitment and your passion for the work we do to educate the public about espionage and intelligence and to create a unique space for learning and conversation about the complex world around us.

With gratitude,

TAMARA CHRISTIAN
President & COO

CHRISTOPHER P. COSTA
Executive Director
Through face-to-face and virtual programs, we reach thousands of students, teachers, and learners of all ages every year with innovative opportunities to explore, learn, and think differently about the world around them.

With our many partners, we provide workshops and field trips for underserved youth; open up access to the Museum; and bring the magic of SPY to all.

With the world’s largest collection of espionage artifacts on public view, we tell remarkable true stories that illuminate history, national security, and technology in a unique way.

In a world of endless information channels, we put the spotlight on how knowledge is created and shared; how facts and analysis can be manipulated; and why critical thinking and problem-solving skills are more important now than ever before.

Through state-of-the-art technology, creative approaches to educational engagement, and pure fun, we reveal the hidden world of espionage and intelligence.
REACHING INTO HOMES AND HEARTS DURING A PANDEMIC

SPY delivered more than 550 virtual live educational programs to over 30,000 households during the pandemic. All told, we reached 3.5 million people from 60 countries and every state with our online content, SpyCast podcast, and YouTube channel.

Support from sponsors like Booz Allen Hamilton, the Embassy of the State of Qatar in the United States, Federal Data Systems, and SOS International made it possible to keep signature programs like Access to SPY, student workshops, Girl Scout Day, summer camps, and more available, and to create new popular outlets for fun and enrichment during lockdown and beyond, such as Curator’s Corner and Spy Chat with Chris Costa.

VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

This year we transformed our popular Mother Daughter Sister Spy program into a globally attended virtual fundraising event. Board Member Lori Stokes hosted a star-studded panel of former female spies. Many thanks to our event sponsors AT&T National Security, Carahsoft Technology Corp., Electronic Warfare Associates, Inc., MAG Aerospace, and PNC Bank.

MISSION: RESILIENCE CAMPAIGN

We rely on the generosity of donors across the country and around the world, through gifts large and small, to keep the Museum going strong and support our staff, collection, and community programs. Our Mission: Resilience campaign continues to draw a grassroots community of support.
VOLUNTEERS

While our doors were closed, volunteers worked on virtual projects like transcriptions and translations to expand access to our online resources. After we reopened, volunteers assisted with new rooftop tours that contributed additional revenue. Thank you!

MEMBERS OF THE INNER CIRCLE

We cannot thank enough the Spy Museum members who stayed with us in 2020 despite prolonged closures and the suspension of in-person events and programs. SPY’s more than 500 members are the heart of our community. In August, members enjoyed an exclusive, virtual lecture in conjunction with the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History.

SAFEGUARDING OUR COLLECTION

SPY’s collection of over 9,000 espionage and intelligence-related artifacts is the largest in the world on public display and includes rare and unique items that we care for but are not on display.

To conserve costs, we created a secure storage room at the Museum to house the thousands of artifacts that had been previously stored offsite.
FIRST-EVER SPY MATCHING GIFT

Thanks to a generous anonymous donor, all charitable contributions to the Spy Museum were matched dollar for dollar between August and December 2020.

WEBSTER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

This special SPY event was not held in 2020, but we look forward to welcoming our community back to the Museum for this truly unique night of intrigue and celebration to support our nonprofit mission.

REOPENING REIMAGINED

Our Reopening Task Force was formed even before we had to close our doors on March 16, 2020, due to COVID-19. Through the tireless efforts of the SPY team, we developed industry-leading safety protocols so the Museum could be a haven and a source of delight for families and espionage enthusiasts despite the pandemic.
The SPY Museum is grateful to the following donors who made gifts and pledges of $250 or more during 2020. Their support, along with hundreds of other members and donors, has helped the Museum to recover from the impact of the pandemic and meet the future with resilience.

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Gifts received in memory of the following individuals:
Charles "Buz" Chaney
Maryse Beliveau-Nance
Dr. John Harbert
Renetta M. Lynch
Donald E. Moore (FBI 1941-1973)
Those Who Died on 9/11

The following donors made in-kind gifts of contributed goods or services:
Francis Boyd
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Thank you.

The Museum has made every effort to ensure that this is an accurate and complete list. Please call 202.654.0961 if you have questions or concerns.
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The International Spy Museum is a 501c3 nonprofit cultural institution. To learn more about ways to support our work, visit spymuseum.org/support.

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