**INTERNATIONAL SPY MUSEUM** **FACT SHEET**

# Overview and Mission

The International Spy Museum (SPY) is the only museum in the world dedicated to fostering public understanding of intelligence and espionage from a global perspective, which has an enormous impact on our daily lives and has played a critical role in world history. Located in Washington DC, a hub for international intelligence as well as the US Intelligence Community, the Museum is at the heart of the ever-changing world of global espionage.

It is the Museum’s mission to provide visitors with nonbiased, accurate information through its educational programs, exhibitions, and resources. The Spy Museum’s staff, Board of Directors, and Advisory Board comprise more than 35 current and former military, technology, policy, and intelligence professionals who have served in various agencies including the CIA, FBI, and KGB, among others. The original Museum opened in 2002 and its new, expanded building opened on May 12, 2019.

# Exhibitions & Collection

The International Spy Museum has the largest collection of international espionage artifacts ever publicly displayed. Its collection tripled in 2017 when founding Board Member H. Keith Melton and his wife Karen Melton pledged a gift of over 5,000 objects from their world-renowned collection of rare intelligence-related objects.

The exhibits explore the full intelligence process from collection to analysis to action, and dive into moments in which espionage changed history. With interactive and immersive exhibits, and in-depth stories of intrigue, daring, and betrayal, the Museum puts visitors in the shoes of the officers, agents, and analysts who work in the shadows, as well as the leaders who make use of their work – sometimes with life or death consequences.

The Spy Museum explores espionage successes and failures, shows how changing technology has transformed the world of intelligence from ancient times to today, and how cyberwarfare brings these activities into our homes.

# Education

Public Programs - With programming for children and families, school groups, and adults, the International Spy Museum’s initiatives encourage the application of skills, analytical thinking, and creative problem solving inherent to intelligence and espionage work – and with real life applications.

SpyCast - To-date, the Museum has published more than 300 podcast episodes, most of which have been hosted by its executive director and its historian/curator, featuring interviews with intelligence and espionage professionals and authors, including: former CIA Director **John Brennan**, former member of Al Qaeda and agent for MI-6 **Aimen Dean**, NBC Chief Political Correspondent **Chuck Todd**, former Director of CIA’s Counterterrorism Center (CTC) **Cofer Black**, Co-Founder and former Chief Technology Officer of Crowdstrike **Dmitri Alperovitch**, former DIA Director and National Security Advisor **Michael Flynn**, bestselling author **Daniel Silva**, among others.

Workshops - In addition to equipping educators with publicly available lesson plans, the International Spy Museum provides dynamic workshops that meet national curriculum and Common Core Standards. SPY leads on-site Museum workshops, off-site workshops at DC locations, and interactive videoconferencing field trips for schools or groups around the globe.

Accessibility - The International Spy Museum is committed to providing Museum experiences to all visitors. The Access to SPY series offers exclusive programs with enhanced accessibility for various audiences, including members of the Deaf and signing communities as well as individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and sensory processing differences.

# Architecture

The International Spy Museum’s new building is a “purpose-built” structure, designed by Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners, and tailored specifically for exhibitions and public events. The firm’s Senior Partner, Richard Rogers, is known for his work on the Pompidou Centre in Paris; among the firm’s projects are the Senedd (the Welsh Assembly building) in Cardiff, as well as the Millennium Dome and the British Museum World Conservation and Exhibition Centre (WCEC) in London.

The Museum’s new building will increase permanent exhibition space by 30 percent, include a theater that can seat up to 160 guests for public programs, feature adaptable spaces for programs, and accommodate even the Museum’s largest artifacts. More than two times the size of its current home, the flexible design of the facility will allow for new programming and future initiatives, including a new special exhibition space.

# Urban Impact

Located between the Wharf and the National Mall, and within a couple blocks of both, the new International Spy Museum will expand cultural tourism to L’Enfant Plaza and the Southwest quadrant of Washington, DC. The Spy Museum’s new home will be a short walk from the Hirshhorn Museum, Smithsonian Castle, and Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

**History**

The International Spy Museum was founded in 2002 to be an educational resource on the secret world of global espionage and intelligence work. In the years since the Museum originally opened, spycraft has evolved dramatically and new challenges—from cyberwarfare to the hacking of personal information and national secrets—have proliferated. The Museum felt it was vital to expand its exhibitions and programs and create its first purpose-built structure to meet the growing public demand for information on these issues and to provide a broadened and deepened perspective on espionage across time and around the world. The new International Spy Museum at L’Enfant Plaza opened on May 12, 2019.

**Admission Information**

The International Spy Museum’s hours of operation are 10:00 am to 6:00 pm daily\*, with the last admission one hour prior to closing.

\**Hours are subject to change and are often extended for holidays. The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. For the most up to date information visit spymuseum.org or call 202.654.0991.*

General admission tickets are $24.95 for adults; $22.95 for seniors (ages 65+), military and law enforcement personnel, and college students with a valid ID; and $16.95 for youth ages 7 to 11. Children under the age 6 are admitted for free.