



# JOHN R. KASICH

GOVERNOR • STATE OF OHIO

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## Communication Department

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### **OHIO HOLOCAUST AND LIBERATORS MEMORIAL BREAKS GROUND AT OHIO STATEHOUSE**

COLUMBUS – On Wednesday, November 6, Governor John R. Kasich attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Ohio Holocaust and Liberators Memorial at the Ohio Statehouse where he joined the memorial designer, Daniel Libeskind, in kicking off the construction process.

“How could we be so lucky as to have this kind of an artist constructing something that people from all over the world will want to come and see,” Kasich said of Libeskind during Wednesday’s groundbreaking ceremony. “This man is a genius and a visionary...We’re all excited and looking forward to that glorious day, Daniel, when you will cut the ribbon and you will unveil a masterpiece here in Ohio that I hope will inspire all of us and generations yet to come.”

Libeskind, a Polish-born architect whose resume includes massive projects such as New York City’s World Trade Center memorial, believes this structure will have a great impact on the lives of those who experience it.

“I think people are going to be moved. It will change them once they see it,” Libeskind said. “The memorial represents a book of life. It represents a gap, a fracture in the world and also light coming through this fracture to inform us about something good, something hopeful.”

Joyce Garver Keller, executive director of Ohio Jewish Communities, also delivered remarks at the ceremony, declaring the importance of a memorial that educates and creates awareness for the lessons taught by our history.

“We have come to the virtual end of the generation of Holocaust survivors and soldier liberators. Soon, they will all be gone. Soon all that we will have left will be the videotaped testimonies of what they witnessed. Now is the time to act to inspire Ohioans to learn about the Holocaust,” Garver Keller told the crowd. “Now is the time to remind us of the need for tolerance, acceptance, and perseverance through placement of a meaningful memorial on the Capitol grounds.”

In 2011, Gov. Kasich called for a Holocaust memorial to be erected at the Ohio Statehouse. Libeskind’s design proposal, originally considered alongside 72 other applicants, was approved by the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board in July 2013 and will be constructed throughout the winter months with an expected completion date of April 2014. The \$2 million project has been privately funded by Ohio Jewish Communities. The Ohio Holocaust and Liberators Memorial will be built on the south lawn of the Statehouse and will consist of a walkway lined with walls and benches that lead to a vertical formation of a six-pointed star.

Libeskind’s design can be viewed [here](#). Video of Wednesday’s ceremony can be viewed [here](#).

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