

The Ukrainian National Museum in Chicago is pleased to invite you to a presentation on Sunday September 24, 2023 at 2:00 pm. by Olha Honchar, director of the "Territory of Terror" Museum in Lviv, Ukraine, and founder of the Cultural Heritage Foundation of Ukraine. Together with her co-founder, Maksym Davydenko, Olha will present their flagship project "**Wounded Culture**".

The Wounded Culture project, started in October 2022, is an act of non-violent resistance to the colonial practice of destroying cultural public memory. Focused on the recording of cultural crimes and professional scientific documentation of oral testimony, the Wounded Culture team strives not only to draw the attention of the international community to cultural losses in Ukraine, but also to reduce these losses by means of VR technologies that enable the preservation of the images of museums located in borderline dangerous areas.

During her presentation, Ms. Honchar will also discuss the flagship project "**Museum Crisis Center**" of the NGO "New Museum", which she co-founded with Bohdana Brylynska in January 2022.

The Museum Crisis Center, a grassroots initiative, is a network of over 150 museums in Ukraine, many of which belong in the top risk group and remain potential targets of seizure by Russia during the ongoing war. With peer-to-peer access to 1,380 museum workers from the most war-torn areas of Ukraine, MCC members have, since the beginning of the invasion, assisted colleagues in difficult life circumstances and helped them preserve their unique collections.

The MCC's fundraising is targeted at supporting museum employees, preserving and relocating endangered artifacts, and documenting museum workers' experiences during the war through oral histories and virtual reality (VR) based projects.

During their North American tour, Ms. Honchar and Mr. Davidenko will meet with museum professionals, academics, cultural heritage advocates, and Ukrainian communities in New York City, New Jersey, Detroit, Chicago and Toronto. They will be the keynote speakers at the annual conference of the Ukrainian Heritage Consortium of North America, hosted this year by the Ukrainian American Archives & Museum of Detroit. One of the goals of these visits will be to explore the possibilities for collaboration and sharing of access to collections and archives and thus enhancing research and the exchange of historical knowledge between colleagues in Ukraine and abroad. Months after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, their presentations will spotlight the diligent work of museum professionals in Ukraine in their fierce fight to resist the looting and destruction of cultural property by Russians. In this way they will highlight just how Russia's war is as much about the destruction of Ukrainian culture as it is about the capture of territory.

Please join us Sunday September 24, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. Hear captivating first hand accounts from Ms. Honchar and Mr. Davidenko, and be transported via VR headsets to view the cultural artifacts and locations that pose such a threat to the Russian invaders. Tickets \$20 at the door. Light refreshments will be served.

Program sponsored by:

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