



Students from the Benjamin School
in West Palm Beach visit The Cold War Museum.



THE COLD WAR MUSEUM

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

*Preserving the Past. Informing the Present.
Influencing the Future.*



OUR MISSION

The Cold War Museum® is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to education, preservation, and research on the global, ideological, and political confrontations between East and West from the end of World War II to the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Founded in 1996 by Francis Gary Powers, Jr. and John C. Welch • Vint Hill, Virginia • All-volunteer

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

1996
FOUNDED

7
EXHIBITS OPENED OR
REBUILT

300+
LECTURE ATTENDEES

150+
SPEAKING
ENGAGEMENTS

20+
STATES REACHED

10+
COUNTRIES REACHED

84%
SPENT ON PROGRAMS

\$23,628
OPERATING SURPLUS

A Letter from the Chairman

Friends,

As we reflect on our accomplishments in 2025 and as our nation celebrates America's 250th anniversary, I am filled with gratitude for the generous community that makes The Cold War Museum possible. For three decades, donors, members, volunteers, and friends like you have preserved this important chapter of history, ensuring that the lessons of the Cold War continue to educate, inspire, and inform future generations.

Because of your support, 2025 was a year of meaningful progress. Our volunteers completed a major redesign of the Vint Hill exhibit, opened a new exhibit exploring chemical weapons during the Cold War, and expanded our human intelligence exhibit. We were also honored to receive several significant artifact donations that strengthen our collection and enable us to tell more complete and compelling stories of the men and women who served during this pivotal period in history.

Every achievement at the museum reflects the commitment of people who believe our mission matters. I extend my sincere appreciation to our Board of Directors, docents, and dedicated volunteers whose countless hours make our work possible. I am equally grateful to our donors and members whose financial support provides the resources needed to preserve artifacts, develop exhibits, and expand educational opportunities. Simply put, The Cold War Museum could not fulfill its mission without your partnership.

Your generosity made 2025 one of the museum's strongest fundraising years in recent memory. Contributions through Give Local Piedmont, Giving Tuesday, and individual gifts are already helping us preserve our growing collection, enhance the visitor experience, and expand programs that reach students, veterans, educators, and lifelong learners. Every donation, large or small, helps ensure that these stories are preserved for generations to come.

Beyond our galleries, your support enabled us to continue offering group tours, speaking engagements, and our Cold War Conversations Lecture Series. These programs bring together veterans, scholars, students, and members of the public to explore the history and enduring legacy of the Cold War. We look forward to announcing our 2027 lecture series in the coming months, while continuing to recruit new volunteers and build partnerships with organizations that share our commitment to education and historical preservation.

As we look ahead, there is much more to accomplish. We remain committed to expanding our exhibits, preserving newly acquired artifacts, and reaching broader audiences through innovative educational programming. Later this year, I hope you will join us for our special fundraising gala as we continue building support for the museum's future. Details will be announced soon, and I look forward to sharing this exciting evening with many of you.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, docents, volunteers, and staff, thank you for your generosity, your confidence in our mission, and your continued friendship. Together, we are preserving history, honoring those who served, and ensuring that the lessons of the Cold War continue to educate and inspire future generations.

Very truly yours,



Francis Gary Powers, Jr.

INTERIM CHAIRMAN & FOUNDER, THE COLD WAR MUSEUM

A Letter from the Executive Director

Most museums interpret history from a distance. This one was built by the people who lived it.

Our founders, board members, and volunteers served in military, intelligence, and diplomatic roles. Their experience shaped the exhibits visitors see today. That gives the museum a credibility few institutions can claim.

In 2025 the curatorial team finished three major projects. They redesigned the Vint Hill room, the site of a secret World War II intercept station. They opened a gallery on chemical weapons. They rebuilt the human intelligence gallery around original espionage artifacts and tradecraft.

The year was also a strong one for fundraising. Revenue reached \$78,585. The museum spent 84 cents of every dollar on programs and closed with a surplus of \$23,628. An all-volunteer staff made that ratio possible.

Three priorities guide the year ahead. First, bring the collection to a wider audience, in the gallery and online. Second, protect the financial base that lets the museum run without paid staff. Third, recruit the next generation of members, donors, and volunteers who will continue the work.

The Cold War shaped the last century and still shapes this one. The museum exists to preserve these stories and ensure their lessons are not forgotten. Thank you for standing with us.



Arman Amini
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE COLD WAR MUSEUM

\$78,585
2025 REVENUE

84%
SPENT ON PROGRAMS

\$23,628
OPERATING SURPLUS

2025 at a Glance

A strong fundraising year. New and rebuilt exhibits. Outreach in more than twenty states and ten countries. Highlights from 2025.



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WHAT 2025 DELIVERED

A strong fundraising year

Revenue of \$78,585, among the museum's strongest results in recent years.

300+ lecture attendees

Across the year's evening programs.

84% to programs

Exhibits, lectures, and education, run by an all-volunteer staff.

Seven exhibits opened or rebuilt

Featured this year: Vint Hill, chemical weapons, and human intelligence.

150+ speaking engagements

In more than 20 states and 10 countries, anchored by a Cold War & Espionage Tour of Europe (www.SpyTour.com) led by Gary Powers Jr.

\$23,628 surplus

Cash on hand grew from \$13,390 to \$36,325.

Inside Vint Hill Farms Station

Vint Hill Farms Station was one of the Army's most important listening posts. In 2025 the museum rebuilt the room that interprets its history.



The redesigned Vint Hill room, with intercept equipment, archival panels, and recognition of its wartime operators.

Army personnel stationed at Vint Hill intercepted and analyzed enemy radio traffic during World War II. In 1943 they helped intercept a report by Baron Hiroshi Oshima describing German defenses along the Atlantic Wall. That intelligence supported Operation Fortitude, the deception plan that protected the Normandy landings. After World War II, Vint Hill became an important center for signals intelligence and electronic warfare during the Cold War.

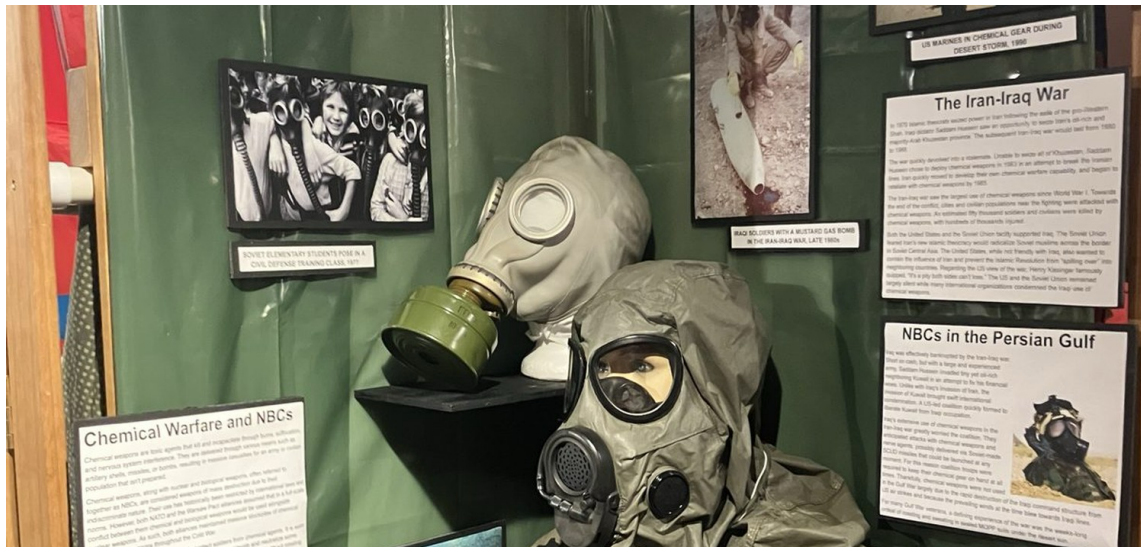
Curators Doug Harsha and Jeff Proehl led the redesign. Volunteers Mike Washvill, Kenzie Hool, Bryan Zwanzig, and Jill Hallden built and installed the new panels and cases.

WHO SERVED AT VINT HILL

- The Women's Army Corps operators who ran around-the-clock intercept shifts
- Nisei linguists who translated enemy traffic while their families were held in internment camps

The Chemical Weapons Gallery

The Cold War Museum opened a new gallery examining the history, technology, and legacy of chemical weapons during the Cold War.



Protective equipment, a Soviet-era gas mask, and panels tracing chemical weapons from the World Wars through the Persian Gulf.

The exhibit follows chemical agents from the trenches of the First World War through the stockpiles and treaties of the Cold War. It explains why both superpowers built arsenals they hoped never to use, and how the world pulled back from them. A full protective ensemble meets visitors at the entrance and introduces the subject.

The gallery expands the museum's interpretation beyond intelligence history to examine another defining dimension of the Cold War. It pairs equipment with clear interpretation, so visitors gain a deeper understanding of both the threat and the long effort to contain it.

WHY VISITORS CONNECT

- Protective gear and detection equipment make the danger tangible
- Clear panels explain the science without sensationalizing it
- The story links wartime history to the treaties that still govern these weapons

Human Intelligence: Spies and Tradecraft

The museum rebuilt its human intelligence gallery around the tradecraft, artifacts, and figures of Cold War espionage.



The Major Spies and Defectors panel in the redesigned gallery.

The gallery highlights both well-known espionage cases and lesser-known operations that shaped the Cold War. Aldrich Ames and Kim Philby appear beside Ryszard Kuklinski, Bill Weisband, and Edward Lee Howard, with defector Oleg Kalugin representing the Soviet side. Original espionage artifacts include Minox subminiature cameras, a reproduction of the Hollow Nickel message container used by Soviet KGB spy Rudolf Abel, FBI surveillance radios, and a Canon T70 camera used by the FBI Special Surveillance Group.

FEATURED STORY

The Stargate Project

The Stargate Project was a classified U.S. government effort to test whether people could collect intelligence through remote viewing, the claimed ability to describe a distant person, place, or event without being present. A viewer might be given only a code number for a site and asked to describe what was there. The work began in the early 1970s, after reports that the Soviet Union was funding research into psychic phenomena.

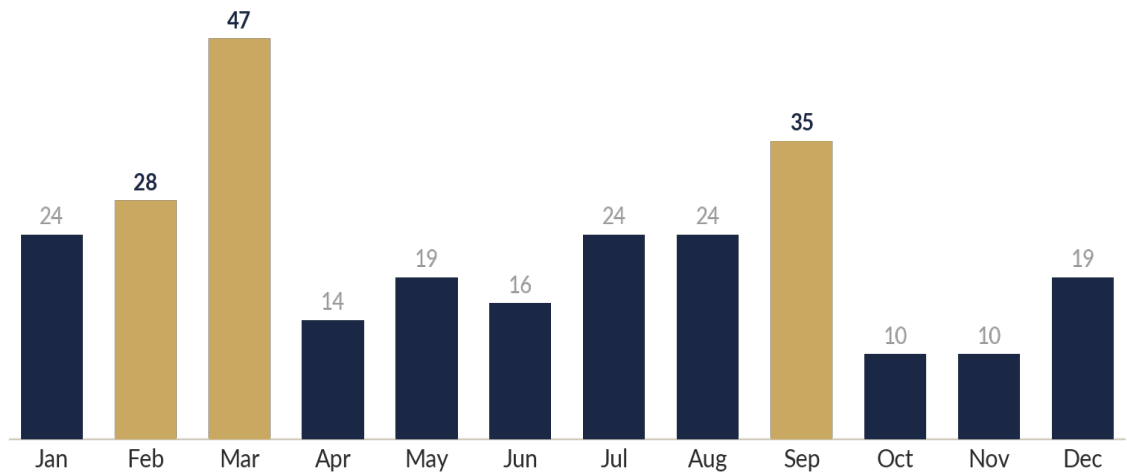
Over two decades the work passed among military and intelligence organizations. Researchers performed laboratory trials and a unit was established at Fort Meade, Maryland, for intelligence tasks and missions. An independent review panel in 1995 reviewed Stargate's last few years and recommended closure of the operational work, although the panel did not consider the project's earlier results. Conventional scientific proof is elusive, although some statisticians indicate sufficient research exists for the reality of this ability.

Cold War Conversations

The Cold War Conversation Lecture Series brought veterans, scholars, and authors together virtually for twelve evening programs, drawing more than 300 attendees in 2025.



LECTURE ATTENDANCE BY MONTH



Ticketed attendance across the twelve evening programs. Gold bars mark the three best-attended nights.

MOST-ATTENDED PROGRAMS

- 47

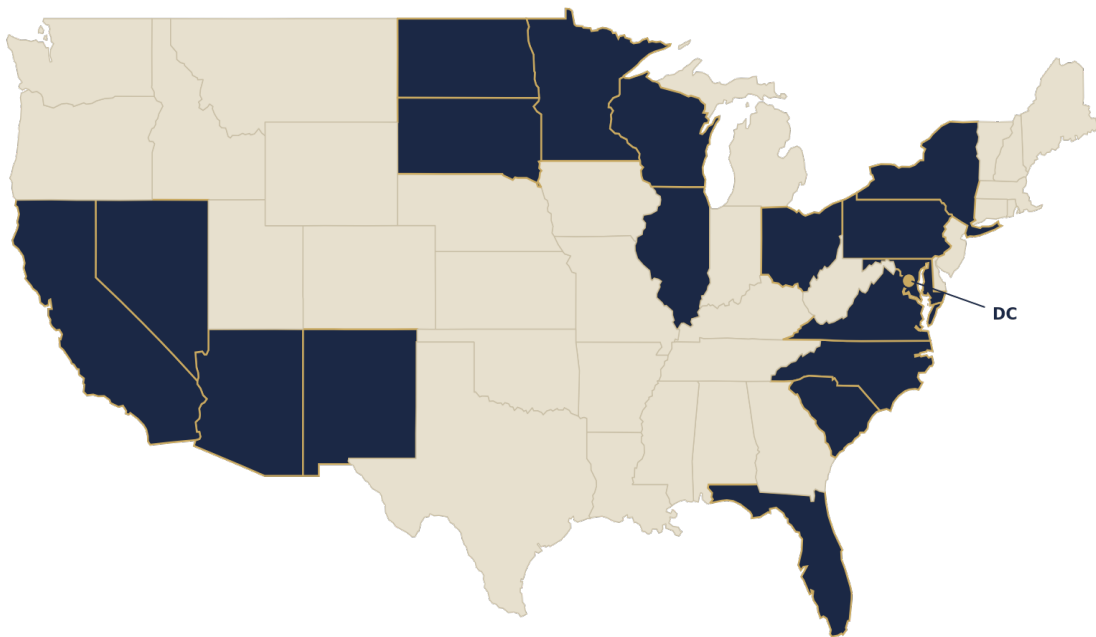
MARCH **The Black Cats**
U-2 reconnaissance flights over China, flown from Taiwan.
SPEAKER **Chris Pocock**, U-2 Program Historian
- 35

SEPTEMBER **Alaskan Intelligence**
Listening posts on the Cold War's northern frontier.
SPEAKER **Bob Wallace**, Retired CIA officer
- 28

FEBRUARY **Stargate**
The U.S. government's remote viewing project.
SPEAKER **Dale Graff**, Former Director, Project Stargate

On the Road

Museum representatives brought the museum's educational programs to audiences across the United States and overseas. Chairman Francis Gary Powers, Jr. and the museum team presented at airshows, universities, civic clubs, libraries, military groups, schools, and museums.



150+

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

20+

STATES REACHED

10+

COUNTRIES REACHED

NOTABLE STOPS

- **Espionage Tour of Europe** London • Amsterdam • Berlin • Bonn • Leipzig • The Hague
- **EAA AirVenture, Oshkosh** One of the largest aviation gatherings in the world
- **City of Fairfax Fall Festival** A hometown audience close to Vint Hill

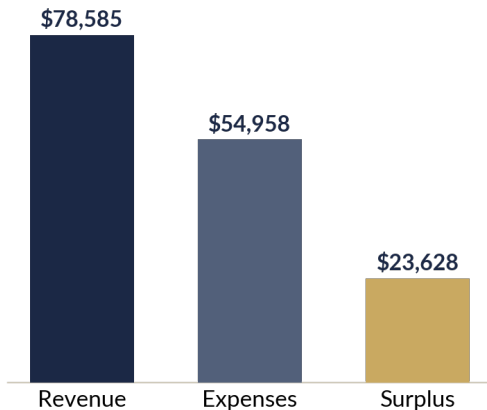
Financial Performance

\$78,585
TOTAL REVENUE

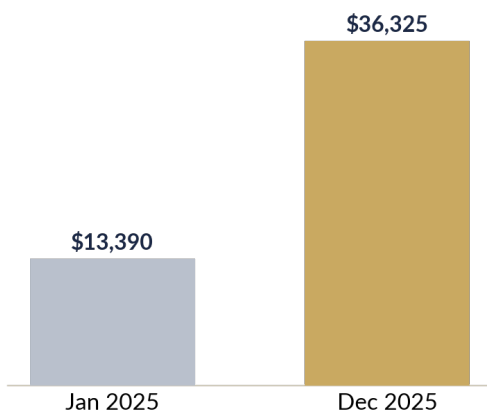
\$54,958
TOTAL EXPENSES

84%
TO PROGRAMS

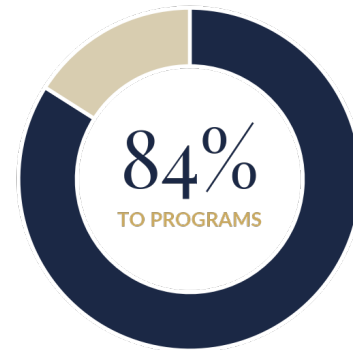
REVENUE, EXPENSES, SURPLUS



CASH ON HAND



PROGRAM SPENDING



STEWARDSHIP

- An all-volunteer organization with no paid staff.
- 84% of annual expenses directly supported exhibits, educational programming, and public outreach.
- The operating surplus strengthens the museum's financial position and supports future exhibits and educational programming.

Two campaigns drove the result. Give Local Piedmont in May raised \$18,148. Giving Tuesday in December raised \$20,931. Cash on hand grew from \$13,390 to \$36,325, and the museum closed the year with a surplus of \$23,628. Donor support directly funds exhibits, collections, educational programs, and preservation efforts.

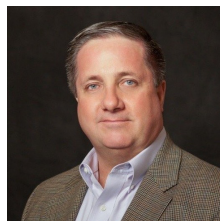
Board of Directors

The museum is governed by leaders drawn from military, intelligence, diplomatic, and business careers.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Francis Gary Powers, Jr.
MPA, MA US History
INTERIM CHAIRMAN & FOUNDER
Since 1996

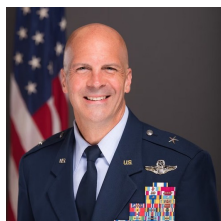


John C. Welch
MPA
VICE CHAIRMAN & CO-FOUNDER
Since 1996



Adelbert "Buz" Carpenter
USAF SR-71 Pilot, Ret.
TREASURER
Since 2017

DIRECTORS



BG Chad Manske
USAF, Ret.
DIRECTOR
Since 2017



Charles Ray
U.S. Ambassador, Ret.
DIRECTOR
Since 2017



Pauline Thompson
Tysons Realty, Inc.
DIRECTOR
Since 2020



Charles "Chuck" Wilson
USAF U-2 Pilot, Ret.
DIRECTOR
Since 2017



Maureen Wingfield
CIA, Ret.
DIRECTOR
Since 2017

LEADERSHIP & CHAPTERS



Arman Amini
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (EX OFFICIO)
2025



Chris Sturdevant
Midwest Chapter
CHAPTER DIRECTOR

Support the Mission

Like every nonprofit in the U.S., the Museum depends in large part on donations to keep our doors open and fulfill our mission. At The Cold War Museum®, we recognize the critical importance of honoring Cold War veterans, educating students, and preserving the rich history of this pivotal era. For over 25 years, we've dedicated ourselves to educating future generations through engaging programs, immersive displays, artifact loans, lectures, conferences, and symposiums. Every student we inspire, every dollar you contribute, and every moment of your time brings us closer to fulfilling our mission.

Together, we can ensure that future generations remember the events, actions, and influential figures that defined the 46-year struggle of the Cold War. It is essential that history does not repeat itself.

Thank you for standing with us. Your support is crucial in ensuring that the lessons of the Cold War endure for generations to come. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation.

THREE WAYS TO HELP

GIVE

Make a tax-deductible gift at any level. Every dollar funds exhibits, education, and outreach

JOIN

Become a member and stay connected to programs, lectures, and new exhibits all year

VOLUNTEER

Help preserve Cold War history by volunteering at exhibits, events, and educational programs



Give and join online
COLDWAR.ORG

WITH THANKS

*To our curators and volunteers **Jill Hallden, Doug Harsha, Kenzie Hool, Jeff Proehl, Clayton Vieg, Mike Washvill, Bryan Zwanzig, and Karen Zwanzig**, whose dedication makes this museum possible.*



THE COLD WAR MUSEUM

The Cold War shaped the world we live in. The museum keeps its history alive, honors those who served, and helps new generations understand its history and enduring legacy.

VISIT • JOIN • GIVE

7172 Lineweaver Road • Vint Hill, Virginia 20187 • (540) 341-2008
COLDWAR.ORG

Preserving the Past. Informing the Present. Influencing the Future.

