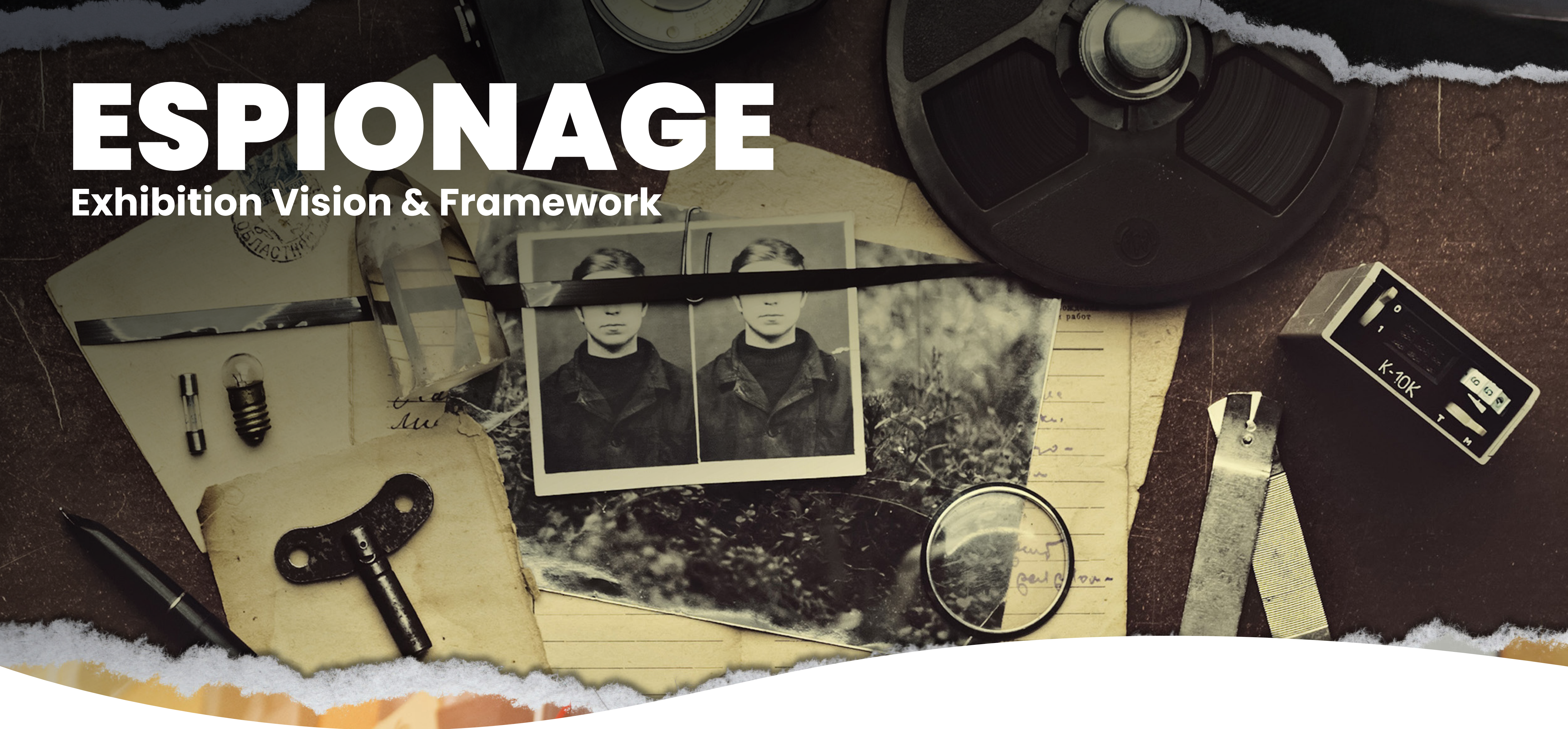


ESPIONAGE

Exhibition Vision & Framework

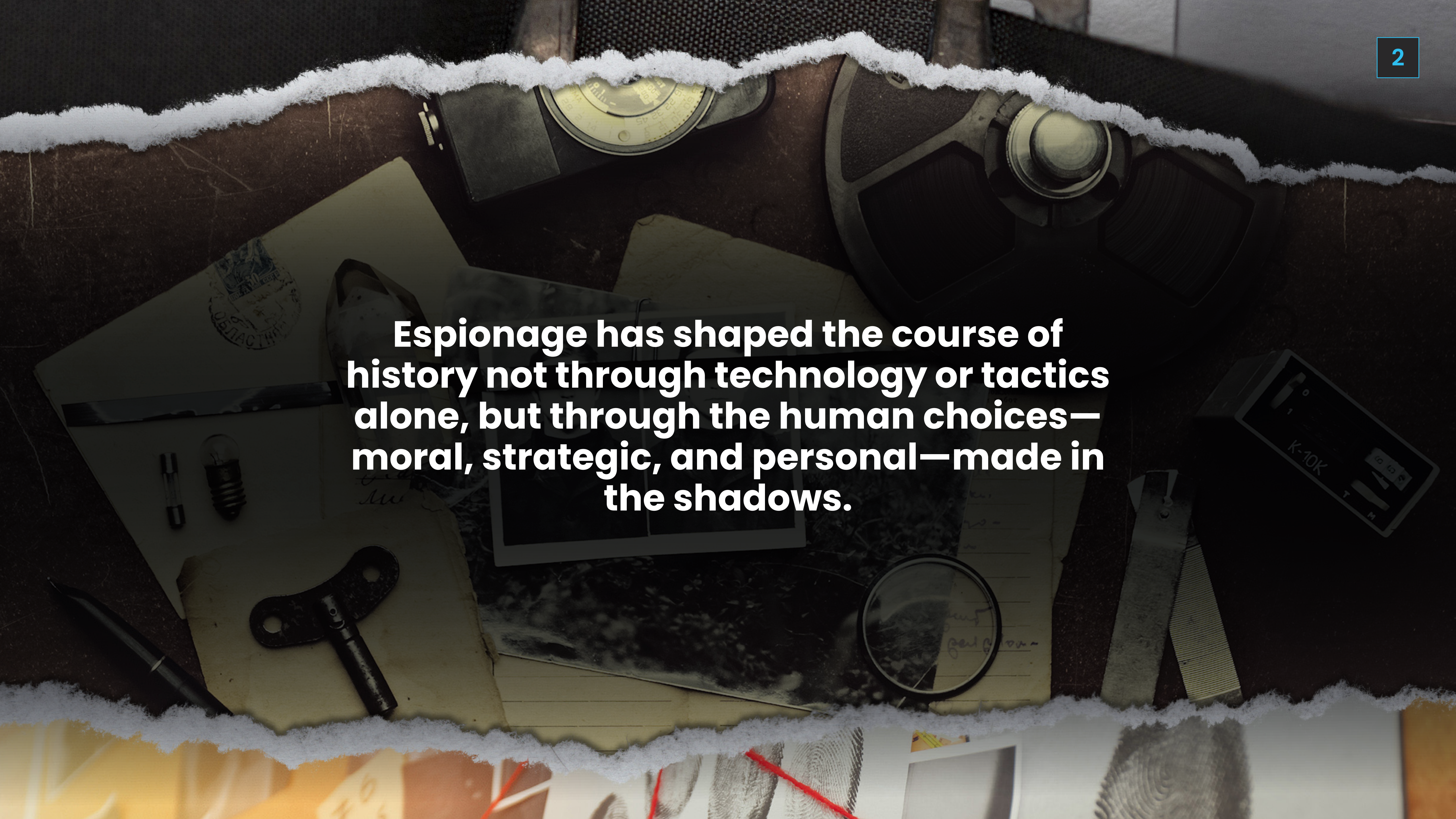


Espionage is a traveling exhibition produced and toured internationally with Flying Fish in collaboration with the Virginia Museum of History & Culture.

Exhibition is in development and is subject to change.


FLYING FISH

**VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF
HISTORY & CULTURE**

A dark, textured background featuring a collage of various espionage-related items. At the top, a pair of vintage binoculars is visible. Below them, a circular compass with a yellow face is partially shown. To the left, there's a small light bulb and a key. In the center, a magnifying glass rests on a piece of paper with handwritten text. To the right, a film strip labeled 'K-10K' is visible. The bottom of the image shows a torn edge with a bright orange and yellow glow, and several fingerprints are visible on a surface below the main collage.

Espionage has shaped the course of history not through technology or tactics alone, but through the human choices—moral, strategic, and personal—made in the shadows.

THE BIG IDEA

Espionage has been a pivotal yet largely hidden force throughout history, involving the covert collection and dissemination of information to secure strategic advantages for nations or organizations. This secretive practice has shaped political decisions, military tactics, and global relations.

Rooted in human ingenuity, intuition, and determination, its influence is heavily shaped by the ethical decisions of those who engage in it. While technology enhances the scope and capabilities of espionage, it cannot substitute the distinctly human qualities that drive its effectiveness in an increasingly dynamic world.

THEMES

Human Ingenuity

Espionage depends on the ingenuity, inventiveness, and flexibility of individuals.

These people draw on their unique backgrounds, expertise, emotions, and motivations to steer the intelligence process—from operatives collecting secret information to the experts working behind the scenes who interpret, communicate, and determine how to act on the gathered intelligence.



THEMES

Technology as a Tool

Human innovation and resourcefulness have consistently fueled the creation of tools designed for intelligence gathering, communication, and analysis.

From traditional methods like invisible ink, ciphers, and secret compartments to miniaturized cameras and modern digital surveillance systems, technological advancements have made espionage more efficient and discreet, often enhancing its effectiveness.

Yet even the most cutting-edge tools cannot substitute for human judgment, intuition, and critical decision-making. In an era where constant monitoring and the sharing of personal data have become commonplace, the digital age presents new challenges regarding how technology shapes our lives, guides our choices, and affects individuals who may remain unaware they are part of the intelligence-gathering process.



THEMES

Ethics and Impact

Espionage impacts not only those directly involved in intelligence operations but also the lives of ordinary citizens affected by its repercussions. Governments and intelligence agencies must carefully consider the implications of surveillance practices and their pursuit of geopolitical advantage.

The motives behind intelligence gathering and its subsequent use can shape international relations and redirect the course of history. These decisions underscore the intricate ethical challenges of espionage, where the balance between national priorities, individual outcomes, and shared security becomes deeply intertwined.

TOP SECRET

T - - -

THEMES

Influence on Popular Culture

Beyond the glamorous portrayal of “super spies” in popular media, real-life spies and intelligence professionals encompass a wide variety of individuals from diverse backgrounds. Although some thrilling real-world espionage stories have influenced how spies are depicted in books and films, the essence of intelligence work is rooted in discreet and untraceable operations.



George Washington



Josephine Baker



Harriet Tubman



THEMES

Collaboration

In the realm of espionage, collaboration among individuals, networks, and nations plays a critical role. Each person contributes their distinct background, training, and drive to advance intelligence efforts. While spies are often chosen for their ability to access sensitive information, others who can effortlessly integrate into workplaces, social settings, or entertainment circles also play a significant part. Behind the curtain, many utilize their expertise in STEAM disciplines, leveraging skills in coding, engineering, research, and innovative problem-solving to support covert operations.

LEARNING GOALS

The Exhibition will:

- introduce visitors to espionage;
- connect visitors to the people involved in intelligence; and
- allow visitors to explore how espionage technology has been created, used, and adapted throughout time.



STORY AND EMOTIONAL JOURNEY

This exhibition invites visitors to rethink what it means to be a spy and explore how espionage actually happens. Through the steps of the intelligence cycle, this exhibition reveals espionage as a collaborative, human endeavor shaped by skill, judgment, and ethics.



STORY AND EMOTIONAL JOURNEY

1 Spies & Espionage What do we think we know? • Pop Culture • Debunking The Real Intelligence Cycle Visitors will feel Excitement Suspense	2 Planning & Direction What do we want/need to know? Visitors will feel Excitement Suspense Revelatory Respectful	3 Collection Who has the means, motivation, and opportunity to collect intelligence? Visitors will feel Excitement Suspense Revelatory Respectful	4 Processing, Analysis, & Production What does this information mean? Visitors will feel Excitement Suspense Revelatory Respectful	5 Dissemination & Decision Making How will the information be used? Visitors will feel Excitement Suspense Revelatory Respectful Reflective	6 Conclusion The public's role in the intelligence cycle. Visitors will feel Excitement Revelatory Respectful Reflective
--	---	---	--	--	--

TARGET AUDIENCES

Multi-Generation Family Groups

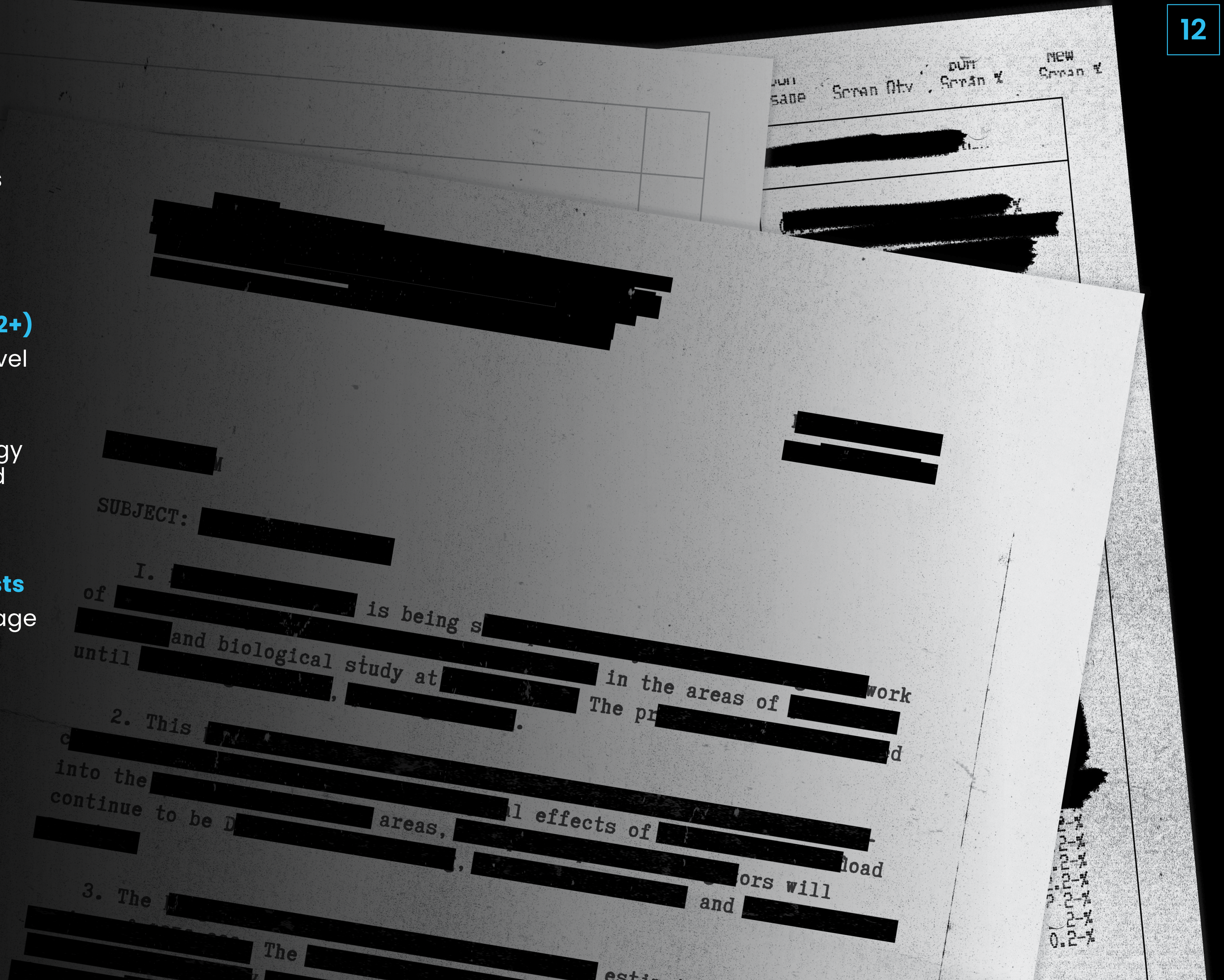
- Adults in groups help facilitate understanding of some complex topics for younger visitors
- Experience is fun, engaging, and educational

Middle School Grades to Young Adults (12+)

- Content will primarily be written at a level suitable for this age group range
- School groups with curriculum geared toward US and World History, Technology and Engineering, and global affairs and interpersonal relationships will have relevant context for these topics

Individual Hobbyists with Special Interests

- Visitors who have an interest in espionage and spies, history, intelligence, and geopolitical relationships will enjoy a unique, immersive experience



SPECIFICATIONS

Space Required

5,000 sq ft (+/- 1,500 sq ft)
Adaptable floor plans available

Target Audience

Multigenerational family groups, adults,
school groups

Freight

Up to (3) 53 ft. trailer (estimated)

Premiere

March 2028



EXHIBITION PARTNERS

14



FLYING FISH

About Flying Fish

Flying Fish believes exhibitions can do more. For more than 12 years, we've partnered with leading museums and science centers to design, produce, and tour extraordinary exhibitions exploring science, history, culture, and beyond—engaging nearly 14 million visitors worldwide.

Our mission is to make exceptional, authentic content accessible to communities everywhere while generating new revenue for our partners. Whether creating original, turnkey exhibitions, adapting existing collections for global audiences, or supporting long-term touring strategies, we bring creative vision, operational expertise, and market insight to every project. More than a service provider, we're a trusted partner and industry ally—dedicated to expanding our clients' mission, reach, and impact.

For Museums. By Museums.

flyingfishexhibits.com

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE

About Virginia Museum of History & Culture

Founded in 1831 as the Virginia Historical Society, the VMHC, a private, non-profit organization, is the oldest museum and cultural organization in Virginia, and one of the oldest and most distinguished history organizations in the United States. The museum cares for a renowned collection of more than nine million items representing the far-reaching story of Virginia.

virginiahistory.org

CONTACT

sales@flyingfishexhibits.com