

Annual Report 2023

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DR. EDYTA GAWRON, CHAIRWOMAN

At the 20th anniversary of the Galicia Jewish Museum approaches, it is time to sum up the year 2023, which was both a challenging and successful time for our institution. Despite global changes and political insecurity, we managed to continue our projects and develop new activities both locally and internationally. The Museum has been able to continue its work thanks to the generous support of individuals and institutions, people who care not only for Jewish history and heritage but also for the safe future of Jewish life.

Poland, including the region of former Galicia, remains affected by the war in Ukraine. We are thus continuing our efforts to support our Ukrainian colleagues and friends, changing the forms of our projects and adjusting to the situation.

The dramatic October 7 attacks in Israel marked a new era of violence against Jews, but also forced us to face a new political reality and the rise of antisemitism. We were ready to welcome returning Israeli school groups' visits to Poland, but most of those plans went on hold instead. We hope for peace and the safe return of the hostages, including Holocaust educator Alex Dancig, whose work for Polish-Israeli dialogue we admire greatly.

On the subject of challenges and the future, we experienced a significant change as an institution! In 2023, the Museum's longtime Director Jakub Nowakowski left Kraków to take on an important role in our South African partner institution, the Holocaust and Genocide Center in Cape Town. We are very grateful for Jakub's work and leadership. We wish him all the best and hope to continue our cooperation!

After a short transition period, the Galicia Jewish Museum welcomed its new director, historian and journalist Jacek Stawiski! Jacek studied Jewish history and culture at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, focusing in his research on the emergence of Zionism in late 19th-century Galicia. He is currently completing his PhD thesis on politics, history and national memory in Poland (1989–1995). As a journalist and media manager, he worked at BBC World Service, RMF (Poland's largest private radio channel) and TVN24 (the first independent, private news channel in Poland). Recently, he also worked as the communication/PR specialist at the KL Plaszow Memorial Museum in Kraków. We are sure that with his knowledge and experience, skills and vision Jacek Stawiski will lead the Museum successfully into the next decades!

THE WILL TO LIVE

JACEK STAWISKI, DIRECTOR

Renia Spiegel was a young Jewish teenager living in Przemyśl, a Polish city with a large Jewish community. During the war, she kept a diary, starting with the beginning of the occupation – first Soviet and then German. Her dreams, expectations, first love and – above all – her great will to live collided with the cruelty and everyday realities of war.

Renia Spiegel and her diary have been with us for many months. Compiling the diary and creating an animated film about Renia based on it was one of the Galicia Jewish Museum's most important projects this year. It was made possible thanks to a grant from the United States Consulate in Kraków.

We hope that the animation, which is available to all on the Museum's social media sites, will help those who want to learn about the Holocaust and reflect on the experiences of an individual in the face of totalitarianism in the 20th century. Such reflections are particularly needed today, in a time of new threats, uncertainty, growing intolerance and trampling on human rights.

The Galicia Jewish Museum commemorates the heritage of Polish and European Jews. We do not only refer to the past, however. Rather, we look at the rich Polish-Jewish world in a very contemporary context. For several months, we presented an exhibition about the life of Orthodox Jews in contemporary Kraków. The exhibition of Agnieszka Traczewska's photographs showed us that Orthodox Judaism, most commonly associated with folklore, is something alive and very present in Kraków, and that the city was and remains an important part of the Jewish religious and cultural landscape at large.



Picture from the film *Renia Spiegel's Diary*, dir. Miłosz Kozioł and Tomasz Głodek



Picture from the film *Renia Spiegel's Diary*, dir. Miłosz Kozioł and Tomasz Głodek

The vitality of contemporary Jewish culture and its symbiosis with the popular culture of other nations and societies is demonstrated by the fantastic collection of drawings by the artist Steve Marcus, who paints Jewish and other motifs on skateboards. The Galicia Jewish Museum was honored to host an exhibition of Steve's drawings.

In 2023, our Museum finally managed to overcome the problems resulting from the Covid pandemic. Tourist traffic returned to previous levels, which in turn meant that we hit another record – over 73,000 people visited us in 2023. This could be considered a good prognosis for the coming months and years, but, unfortunately, new threats in the world have also impacted our activities.

The brutal and ruthless terrorist attack by Hamas on Israel, the murder of approximately 1,200 Israeli citizens and the kidnapping of approximately 250 hostages was a major shock for us and cast a pall over

the Museum. The Galicia Jewish Museum expresses solidarity with Israel, the victims of the terrorist attack, and the hostages and their families. We are also concerned about increasing antisemitism and hostility towards Jews. These dangerous phenomena can be observed in many countries around the world.

2023 also saw a major change at the Galicia Jewish Museum, with the departure of long-time director Jakub Nowakowski. Jakub was also the co-author of the texts published in the Museum's annual report. I became the new director in November 2023. I would like to continue Jakub's achievements – he created a well-functioning, stable institution. I am counting on the support of the entire team as well as sponsors and friends of the Galicia Jewish Museum.

While we are excited and grateful for the past two decades, we are also looking forward to planning new projects and activities for the coming years.

Our Mission

The Galicia Jewish Museum is a unique institution created to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust, to celebrate the richness of Jewish history and culture, and to take part in the revival of Jewish life in present-day Poland.

The aim of the Museum is to challenge stereotypes and misconceptions typically associated with the Jewish past in Poland, to educate about the common Polish-Jewish heritage as well as to work for dialogue and cultural exchange between various communities of Poland and Europe. As an independent NGO, we are actively engaged in civic initiatives that try to promote values of a free and democratic society.

The Galicia Jewish Museum is a registered charitable foundation and a member of the Association of European Jewish Museums, the Association of Holocaust Organizations and the International Council of Museums.



Benefactors

The Galicia Jewish Museum could not exist without the generous support of individuals and foundations from around the world. We are extremely grateful to all of our Benefactors and Donors.



Mirisch and Lebenheim
Charitable Foundation

Koret Foundation

Taube Foundation
for Jewish Life and Culture

Mr. Kip Knelman

Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund

Mr. Daniel Eisenstadt

Ms. Michelle Ores

The Rosenberg Family

Ms. Elizabeth Szancer

Dr. Karen Underhill

Ms. Jill Vexler

Ms. and Mr. Bussgang

Mr. Miriam Greenbaum

Ms. Risa May

Northern Virginia
Hebrew Congregation

Mr. Walter Weiss

Visitors

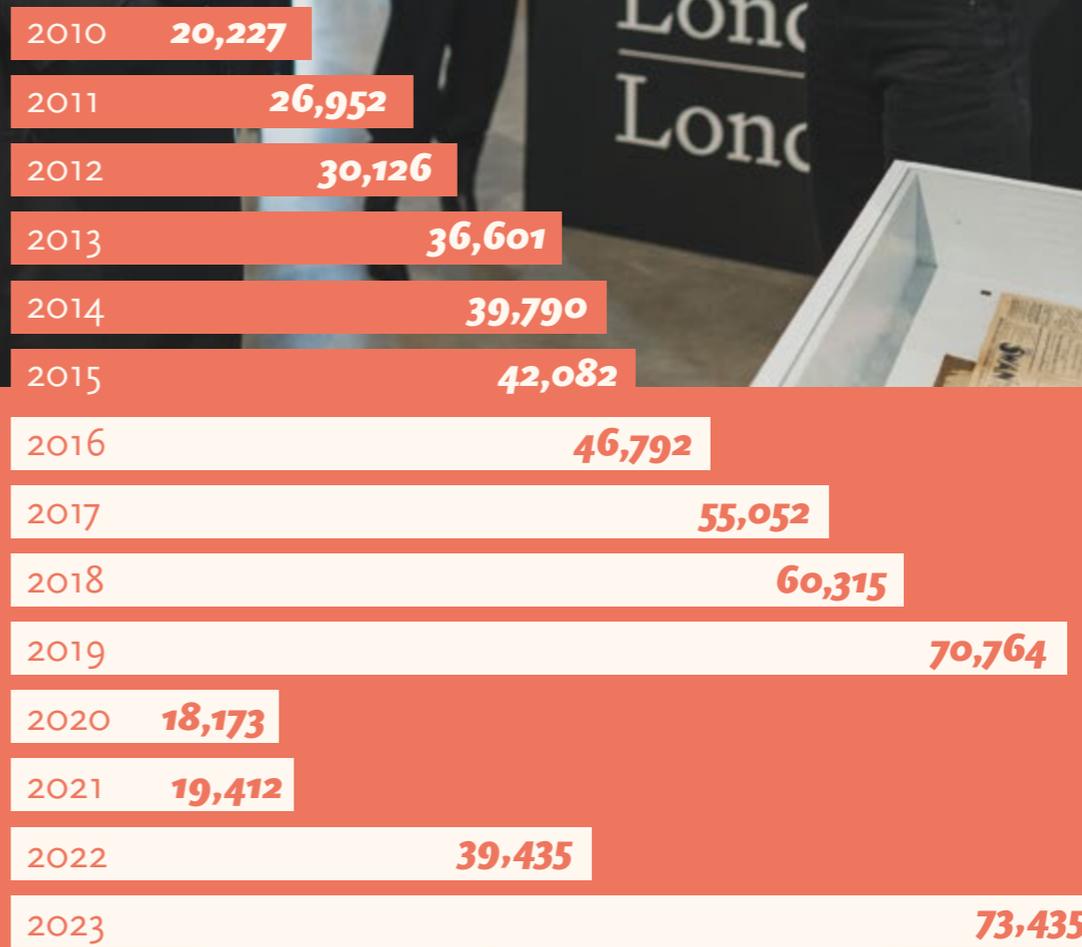
The Galicia Jewish Museum has steadily recovered from the drop-off in visitor numbers caused by COVID-19. In 2023, more than 73,000 visitors came to our Museum, returning us back to pre-pandemic levels. We expect these numbers to rise significantly in the coming years.

Our visitors come mainly from Poland, Europe, Israel and North America. As a unique, independent cultural institution in the heart of Kraków's historic Jewish quarter, we provide meaningful platforms to find information about the Jewish historical experience in Poland, topics connected to the Holocaust, as well as the many creative ways of exploring Jewish and non-Jewish culture in contemporary Poland.

Visitors to the Galicia Jewish Museum are offered an extensive program of activities and exhibitions, giving them the opportunity to encounter Jewish culture and heritage as well as to engage in intercultural dialogue and exchanges of ideas. The Museum bookstore has numerous books on Jewish culture and history published in various languages. Visitors can also purchase souvenirs here, including ones with the Galicia Jewish Museum logo. The Lauder-Szancer Kosher Cafe is a good place to take a break while exploring Kraków and Kazimierz.

The Galicia Jewish Museum enjoys an international reputation as a leader in the fields of education and Jewish heritage preservation. Each year, we are honored to host a number of distinguished guests – including diplomats, politicians, educators, activists and artists – from around the world. In 2023, we had the pleasure of hosting **Douglas Emhoff**, the Second Gentleman of the United States of America, during his visit to Poland. US ambassador **Mark Brzeziński** also visited our Museum. A few months later, we received a visit from an Israeli delegation led by Minister of Education **Yoav Kisch**. Additionally, **Yaakov Livne**, Israel's ambassador to Poland, visited the Museum for the *Preserving Memory* Award ceremony.

For all those who have not yet visited us, we only have one message: come soon!



2023
 ↓
 73.435 visitors

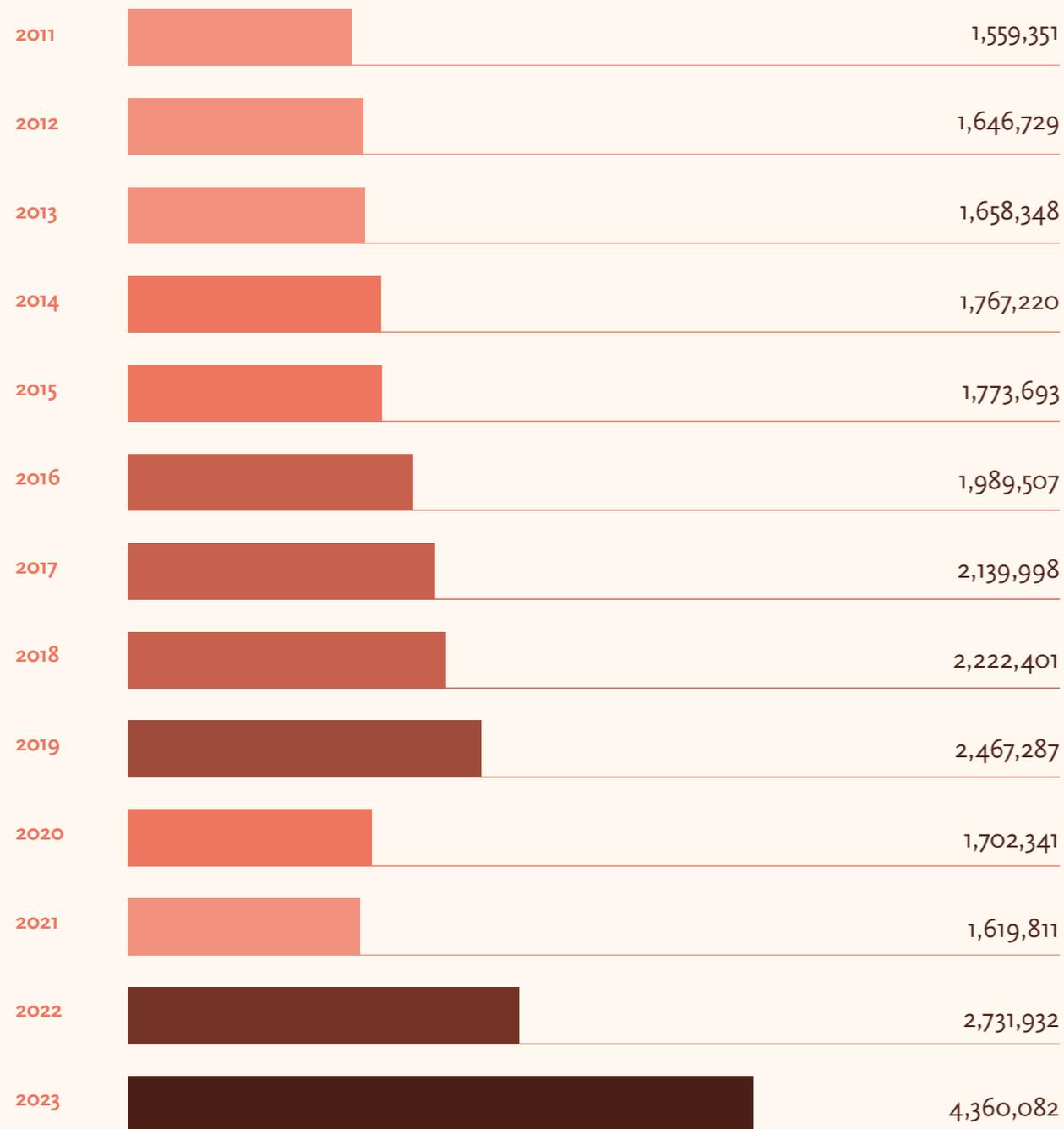
Finances

As a non-governmental organization (NGO), the Galicia Jewish Museum is among the few Jewish museums in Europe that is not funded by governments, municipalities or other public institutions. This status ensures our independence from political pressures. It also forces the Museum to be highly effective in raising and generating the funds that are vital to continuing our work.

The Museum covers most of its operational costs from revenue-generating activities. The remainder is covered by operational grants and donations. Our financial situation began improving starting in 2022 thanks to the post-COVID resumption of normal activities and growing visitor numbers. This allowed a visible increase in our in-house generated income. Rising operational costs (energy bills, wages, etc.) mean that we must continue to closely monitor our financial situation. At the same time, the Galicia Jewish Museum is financially secure, and we are thus ready to make a solid assessment of our income and expenditures to guide our activities in the coming years.

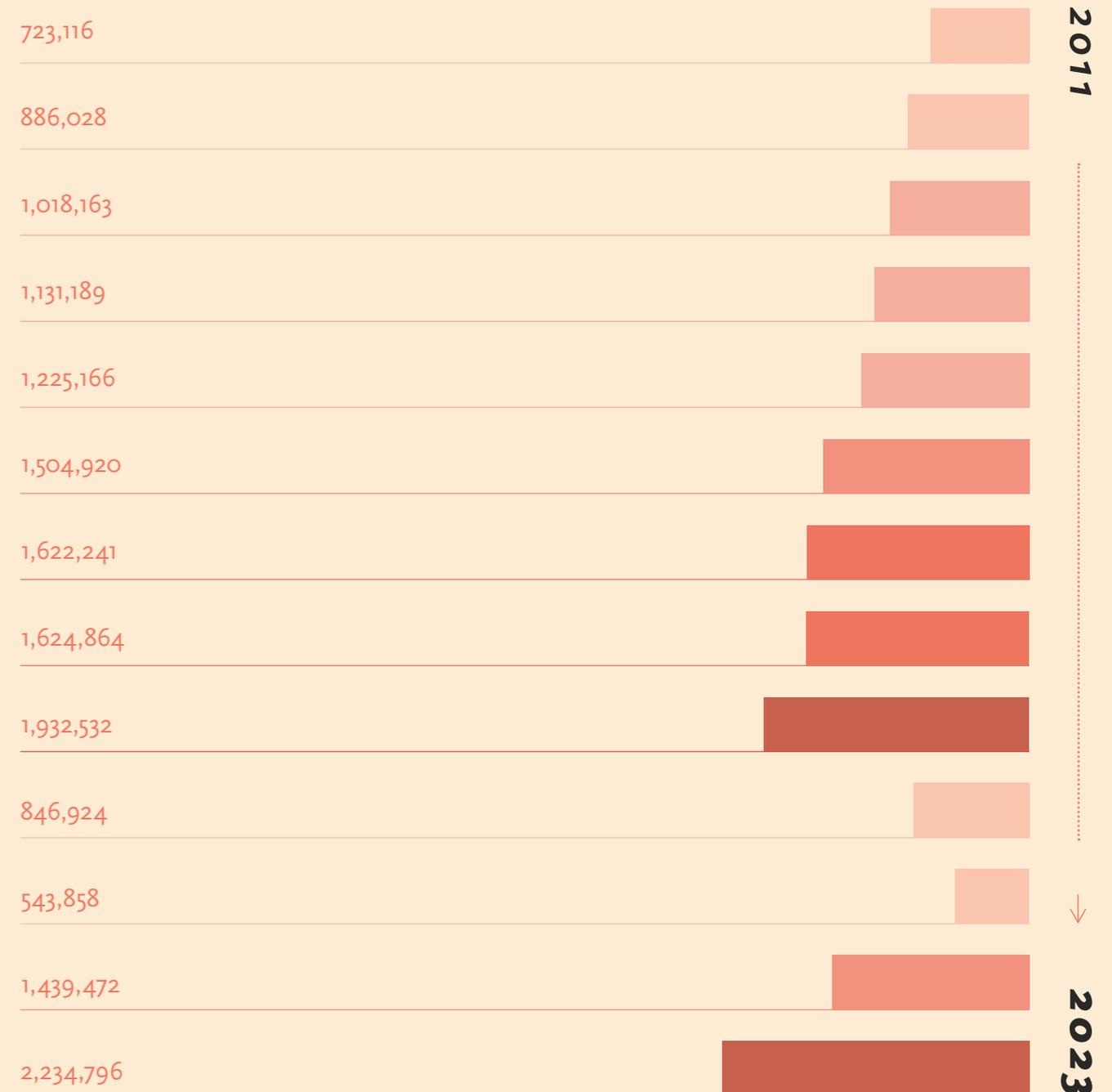


Operational Budget Comparison (PLN) >



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Operational Income Comparison (PLN)

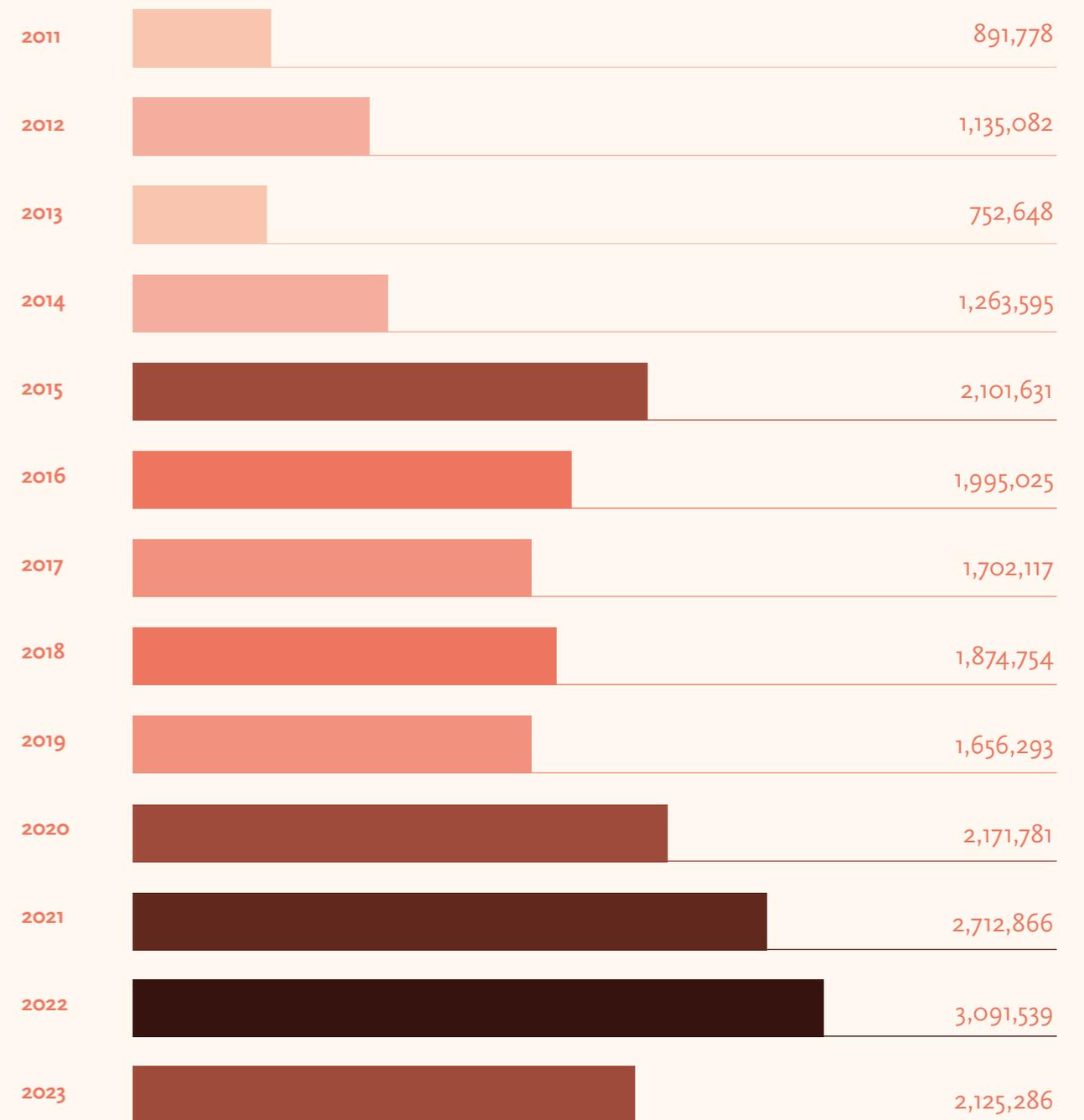


The total *amount of grants and donations* received in 2023 was over

2 mln PLN

Programs and projects organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum are supported by governmental bodies, foundations and individual donors from all over the world.

Analysis of Operational Income (PLN)



Major project-related grants were received from:

Association of Cracovians in Israel

Holocaust Education Ireland

Centropa

Małopolska Voivodeship

The City of Kraków

Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

Claims Conference

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Consulate General of the Republic of Austria in Kraków

National Center for Culture

Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kraków

Polaron

Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund

Salomon Calahorry Foundation

European Union

State Street Foundation

Future Fund of the Republic of Austria

United States Consulate General in Kraków



Exhibitions

The Galicia Jewish Museum runs an extensive program of exhibitions dealing with Jewish history and culture. The Museum is home to the internationally acclaimed exhibition *Traces of Memory*, which has been visited by over 650,000 people in Poland and abroad.

The Museum's core exhibition is accompanied by a wide range of temporary exhibitions, both curated in-house and sourced externally, that support the Museum's mission. Our exhibitions regularly travel to venues in Poland and abroad, including to major Jewish museums around the world.



Opening of the exhibition *Jewish Quarter Pipe*.
Kosher Pop Sk8 Art



CORE EXHIBITION

Traces of Memory. A Contemporary Look at the Jewish Past in Poland

This unique exhibition is based on many years of research and photography. It began at the end of the 1980s when Professor **Jonathan Webber** came to Poland to search for the traces of the Jewish past that still randomly and unpredictably dotted the small market towns and villages of southern Poland as well as for the memories still lingering in the minds of local people. Working village by village and town by town, Webber slowly assembled a significant amount of material.



From the exhibition *Traces of Memory*

This exhibition also has a travelling version that has been presented all over the world, including in the United States, United Kingdom, South Africa and Japan.



In 1993, he was approached by the brilliant English photographer **Chris Schwarz**, who visually documented the subject. The two men worked closely together selecting and arranging the photos for the *Traces of Memory* exhibition, which opened with the Galicia Jewish Museum in 2004, with Chris Schwarz as its founder and first director. The exhibition was updated and expanded in 2016 with new photographs taken by the highly talented American photographer, scholar and essayist Professor Jason Francisco.

By merging the work of the two photographers – Schwarz depicting the reality of post-communist Poland in the 1990s and Francisco documenting the situation in the 2010s – the exhibition presents photos of what Jewish heritage in Poland looked like 25 years ago and how it has evolved into what it looks like today. Thanks to this, the exhibition offers a contemporary and thought-provoking look at the Jewish Poland, piecing together a picture of the relics of Jewish life and culture in Polish Galicia that can still be seen today, interpreting these traces in a manner that is informative, accessible and interesting. This exhibition also has a travelling version that has been presented all over the world, including in the United States, United Kingdom, South Africa and Japan.

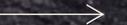
PERMANENT EXHIBITIONS

An Unfinished Memory: Jewish Heritage and the Holocaust in Eastern Galicia

The exhibition complements the Museum's acclaimed core exhibition, *Traces of Memory: A Contemporary Look at the Jewish Past in Poland*. With this exhibition, the Museum achieves its long-held goal of extending its thoughtful and provocative approach to the Jewish past to the whole of historic Galicia, including the eastern part that is today in Ukraine.

In keeping with *Traces of Memory*, *An Unfinished Memory* invites visitors not just to gaze upon but to read the everyday world for the sake of Jewish memory. In dramatic photographs and incisive texts, *An Unfinished Memory* studies the continued existence of Jewish heritage in Eastern Galicia, the continuing impact of the Holocaust on the social-geography of Western Ukraine, and the challenges of remembrance and preservation.

From the exhibition An Unfinished Memory





The exhibition 10 Polish Cities - 10 Jewish Stories

10 Polish Cities – 10 Jewish Stories

10 Polish Cities – 10 Jewish Stories is the result of cooperation between the Galicia Jewish Museum and Centropa. Drawing from the vast Centropa archives, it tells the story of ten Polish Jews, all of whom were born in the first decades of the 20th century and were brought up or reached adulthood in interwar Poland. They came from a variety of towns and backgrounds: their families represent the diversity of Polish Jewish communities before the Second World War. The world that they knew fell apart in September 1939. Even though they managed to survive – in ghettos, camps, in hiding, as partisans, in the Soviet army, or in exile far away in the East – they lost their families, their homes, and had to rebuild their world from scratch after the war.

In the background of each of these ten stories, one can also see the history of the ten towns. The protagonists of this exhibition recall specific sites they remember from their childhood and stories related to these places: these stories are sometimes funny, sometimes tragic. Seven of these towns are now located in Poland, while the remaining three are in Ukraine. This also points to the very complicated and difficult history of Central and Eastern Europe in the 20th century – yet another element of a narrative that describes the fates of many people who lived through those times in this part of the world.

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

2023 was as busy as ever for the Galicia Jewish Museum's Exhibitions Department. In just 12 months, we hosted 9 temporary exhibitions in the 4 galleries operated by the Museum, maintaining our position of one of the most prolific Jewish institutions in Europe.

The highlights of 2023 included a contemporary art installation by **Xawery Deskur**, an exhibition of masterful photographs by **Agnieszka Traczewska** and a display of brilliant Jewish pop-art by **Steve Marcus**.

We entered the year, however, with the continuation of one of our most successful temporary exhibitions, **Helena Rubinstein. First Lady of Beauty**. Opened in October 2022 and on display in the Mirisch and Lebenheim Charitable Foundation Gallery until May 2023, the exhibition attracted more than 17,000 visitors who wanted to learn about Helena Rubinstein, one of the most successful women entrepreneurs in history and considered to be one of the richest women of her time.

Raised in a modest, traditional Jewish family in the Kazimierz district of Kraków, Rubinstein was barely 24 when she decided to travel the world in search for better future. Drawing on the original exhibition developed by the Jewish Museum Vienna, our exhibition placed particular emphasis on Polish chapter of Rubinstein's life and her connection to Poland after emigrating.



The exhibition *The Place of Singing Stones*

Earlier this year we concluded the second edition of the **Chris Schwarz Memorial Art Award** competition. The competition, named for the Museum's founder and first director, was inaugurated in 2018. A cyclical event, its aim is to promote and develop contemporary art, as well as create a forum for dialogue on history and Polish-Jewish relations.

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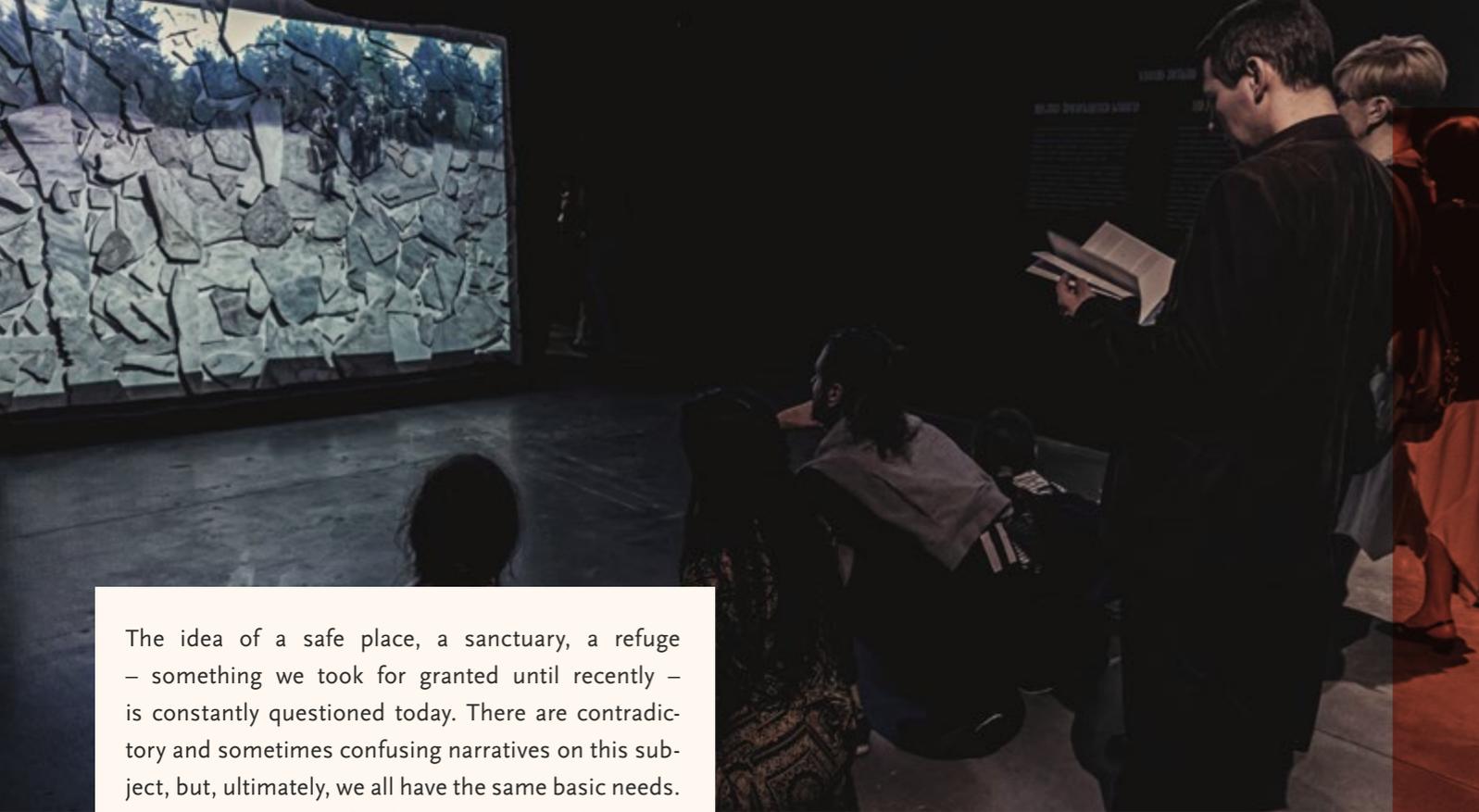


Opening of the exhibition *The Place of Singing Stones*



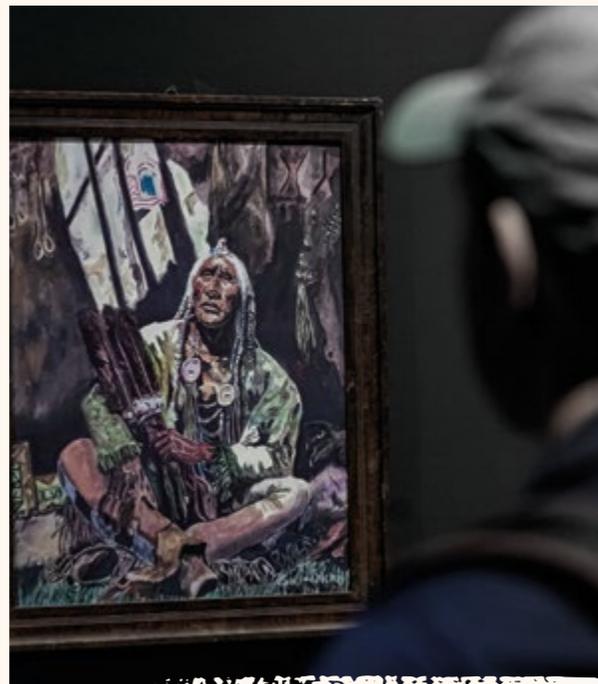
The exhibition *Helena Rubinstein. First Lady of Beauty*

The second edition's theme was **A Safe Place**, which was inspired by the Museum's own work and the changing realities of the contemporary world. Over the years, we have presented dozens of exhibitions and told countless stories of specific individuals, families and entire communities. The starting point for many of these was the tragic events of the 20th century – wars, genocide, famine, shifting waves of refugees. In many of them, a common denominator emerged: the search for a safe place. In recent times, we have increasingly realized that the stories we tell do not only belong to the past but are reflected in contemporary events. They also do not only require reflecting on what took place then, but also reacting to what is happening now.



The idea of a safe place, a sanctuary, a refuge – something we took for granted until recently – is constantly questioned today. There are contradictory and sometimes confusing narratives on this subject, but, ultimately, we all have the same basic needs. Having a secure, safe place is – it would seem – a fundamental right for every human being. In announcing the second edition of the Chris Schwarz Memorial Art Award, we invited artists working in all mediums to tell us about such places – about their character, shape, structure, and about the opportunities and risks that accompany their exploration, construction and existence.

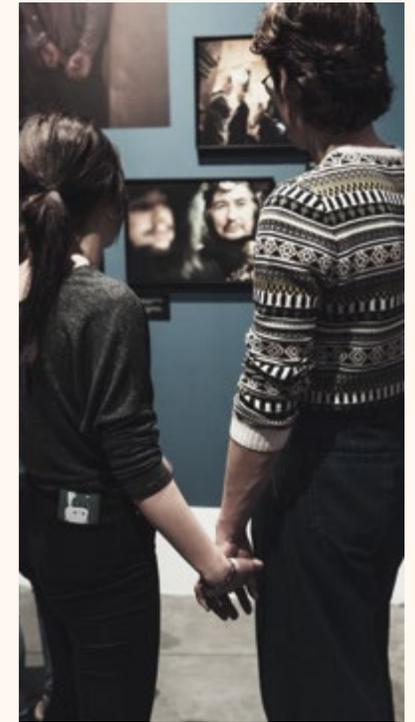
In June we inaugurated the exhibition of the winning work: an installation by **Xawery Deskur**, one of the most important and critically acclaimed young Polish artists. Deskur's *The Place of Singing Stones* consisted of a video and a site-specific installation inspired by the story of Stanisław Supłatowicz, aka Sat-Okh or "Long Feather", the author of many books about the history and culture of the indigenous peoples of North America and considered the godfather of the Polish Indianist movement.



Opening of the exhibition *The Place of Singing Stones*

The third of the exhibitions opened in the Mirisch and Lebenheim Charitable Foundation Gallery was **Kroke. Orthodox Jews in Kraków** with photographs by **Agnieszka Traczewska**, one of the most important contemporary photographers of Jewish culture. Traczewska specializes in photographing the hermetic world of the Hasidim, showing a world of Jewish rituals, ceremonies and daily life closed to outsiders. Through her photographs, she presents an intimate glimpse into the world of Orthodox Jews whose lives are subordinated to religious precepts and spiritual tradition. **Kroke** was the culmination of 15 years of documenting the Orthodox Jewish community in her hometown of Kraków. Over the years, she has taken hundreds of photos, creating a unique collective portrait of the community, during Jewish holidays, synagogue prayers, private events in family homes, and rituals related to keeping kosher or celebrating Shabbat.

Things looked equally interesting in the Koret Gallery. In January 2023, as part of the commemorations of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, we concluded the showing of the exhibition **Some Were Neighbors. Choice, Human Behavior and the Holocaust**.



Opening of the exhibition **Kroke. Orthodox Jews in Kraków**

Originally prepared by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the exhibition examined some of the key questions about the Holocaust: Why was it possible? Besides the fundamental and indisputable role of Adolf Hitler and other Nazi party leaders, what made so many ordinary people across Europe either endorse it or remain silent? Why did so few aid those most at risk? And what guided those who did not take advantage of the situation and succumb to the temptation of betraying their neighbors, showing that there is an alternative even in extremely difficult times?

The Duty of Remembrance, an exhibition of works by **Sara Melzer**, was opened in February. The artist has worked out her own technique of expression by preparing papier-mâché from newspapers and producing portraits of her own murdered relatives. For Melzer, a Holocaust survivor who was born in Nowy Sącz, creating these artworks was part of the process that has helped her to deal with her own Holocaust trauma, as well as becoming a medium to educate the younger generations about the Shoah.



In June, the Koret Gallery was taken over by one of the most interesting contemporary Jewish artists. ***Jewish Quarter Pipe. Kosher Pop Sk8 Art*** by **Steve Markus** was opened during the Festival of Jewish Culture in Kraków. Using skateboard decks as canvases, this New York City artist's newest exhibition explored the themes of tradition, spirituality and local Jewish history. His unique style, inspired by cartoons and underground comics, is a fun and refreshingly accessible approach to contemporary Jewish art that was masterfully showcased on 40 whimsical and thought-provoking skateboard decks. Marcus also used skateboard parts to build objects designed for regular use, as well as placed xerography inspired skateboard culture posters for this fabulous exhibition, which was enjoyed and appreciated by viewers of all ages.



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Opening of the exhibition ***Jewish Quarter Pipe. Kosher Pop Sk8 Art***

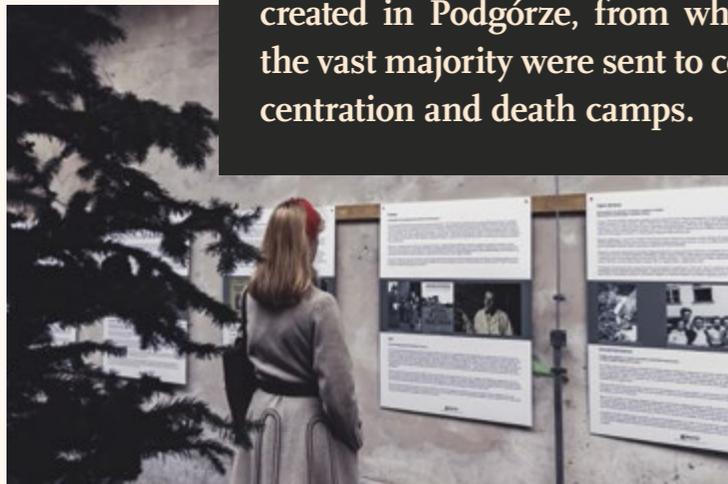




Opening of the exhibition *The Duty of Remembrance*

A lot was also happening in our galleries located outside of the main Museum buildings. On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the liquidation of the Kraków Ghetto, the Fendler Gallery – the Museum’s outdoor gallery located in the heart of Kazimierz – hosted the opening of *There is no tomorrow for us...* A joint effort by the Galicia Jewish Museum’s Exhibition and Education Departments, this exhibition was created to commemorate the Jews of Kraków who were forced by the Germans to leave their homes and move to a ghetto created in Podgórze, from where the vast majority were sent to concentration and death camps.

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Opening of the exhibition *There is no tomorrow for us...*

Opening of the exhibition *Not-Light-Mindedly* →



Our newest gallery, located on the ground floor of the famous High Synagogue, hosted two openings in 2023. *Not-Light-Mindedly* was opened in June. An exhibition of photographs made by students of the Jagiellonian University, the exhibition was a part of the Deep Dive program, a project by the Foundation for Jewish Heritage, Centropa and European Jewish Cemeteries Initiative. The initiative involves developing different types of activities and events around selected Jewish cemeteries located in seven different European countries, exploring the potential of these sites for interpretation, local community engagement and developing heritage skills.

The initiative involves developing different types of activities and events around selected Jewish cemeteries located in seven different European countries.



Also in June, the gallery at the High Synagogue was transformed by the American artist **Julie Weitz** and her collaborators. During the Festival of Jewish Culture in Kraków, they organized several performances of *The Seven Beggars*, a famous Hasidic tale by Rebbe Nachman of Breslov. Weitz portrayed a different beggar on each day of the performance. Her performance art was staged as a week-long event on the streets of Kazimierz and introduced audiences to a contemporary reimagining of the tale. The accompanying exhibition was designed as a dynamic installation of Weitz’s performance ephemera, including props, costumes, drawings and photographs. The living display also gave visitors the opportunity to meet the participants.

TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS

One of the trademarks of the Galicia Jewish Museum is its comprehensive program of travelling exhibitions. Over the years, our exhibitions have been shown in numerous venues across Poland and abroad, in small villages and big cities, schools and public libraries, art galleries and acclaimed museums. This is one of the ways the Galicia Jewish Museum extends its influence far beyond its location. 2023 was no different. Our exhibitions were shown over 20 times in Poland and abroad, including being hosted by some of the most prestigious Jewish museums in the USA.

Sweet Home Sweet exhibition opening in Los Angeles, photograph by Tamara Leigh



Starting in May, the exhibition *The Girl in the Diary. Searching for Rywka from the Łódź Ghetto*, a cornerstone of our travelling exhibitions program, was on display at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Centre in Skokie. It remained there until September and attracted more than 11,000 visitors to learn about the extraordinary story of Rywka Lipszyc and her diary.

Found by a Soviet doctor during the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1945, the diary was written between October 1943 and April 1944 in the Łódź Ghetto. It is the testament of a Jewish girl who, despite losing her siblings and parents, never lost hope despite moments of doubt.

The exhibition *The Girl in the Diary. Searching for Rywka from the Łódź Ghetto* in Skokie



In the exhibition, selected excerpts of the diary were supplemented by expert commentary from historians, doctors, psychologists and rabbis. The exhibition also included unique historical artifacts, documents and photographs from museums in Poland, the US, Israel, Germany and Belgium.



WKYC Channel 3 in Cleveland featuring the exhibition *The Girl in the Diary*, photograph by Dahlia Fisher

In October, the exhibition was opened in the Maltz Museum in Cleveland, Ohio, where it will remain until April 2024. The presentation of the exhibition at the Maltz Museum involved cooperation with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, with both of these institutions providing additional unique objects and artifacts to expand the exhibition.

The Girl in the Diary was also shown in Europe. Polish venues included the Municipal Museum in Turek as well as a showing in Kraków, where high-school students were introduced to the story of a girl almost their age but in a dramatically different situation. In Germany, the exhibition was shown in Dusseldorf. Opened in late 2022, the main events were organized in January 2023 as part of the city's commemoration of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Sweet Home Sweet: A Story of Survival, Memory, and Returns, one of our most important exhibitions in recent years, had its international debut in 2023. The exhibition, originally opened in Kraków in 2021, is devoted to three generations of the Ores family and their relationship with Poland. It explores how Holocaust memory and narratives are transmitted between generations, and how the children and grandchildren of survivors engage with contemporary Poland. The exhibition shows how one family formed their own vibrant connections to the country of their roots while still living with the pain and trauma of the Holocaust. It raises challenging questions about the relationship between non-Jews and Jewish survivors and their families with the goal of understanding this relationship today.

From May to December 2023 the exhibition was on display at the Holocaust Museum LA in Los Angeles, California. Its success there highlights that the story it tells is relevant not only in Poland, but in every place where descendants of European Jews live today.

Our long-standing cooperation with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, was particularly relevant for our exhibition work in 2023. The Polish tour of **Some Were Neighbors. Collaboration & Complicity in the Holocaust**, an exhibition originally displayed in Washington, was coordinated by the Galicia Jewish Museum.

The exhibition examines the key question about the Holocaust: Why was it possible? In addition to the indisputable and fundamental role of Adolf Hitler and other leaders of the Nazi party, what made so many ordinary people across Europe either endorse or remain silent? Why did so few help those most at risk? And what guided those who did not take advantage of the situation and succumb to the temptation of betraying their neighbors, showing that there is an alternative even in extremely difficult times?



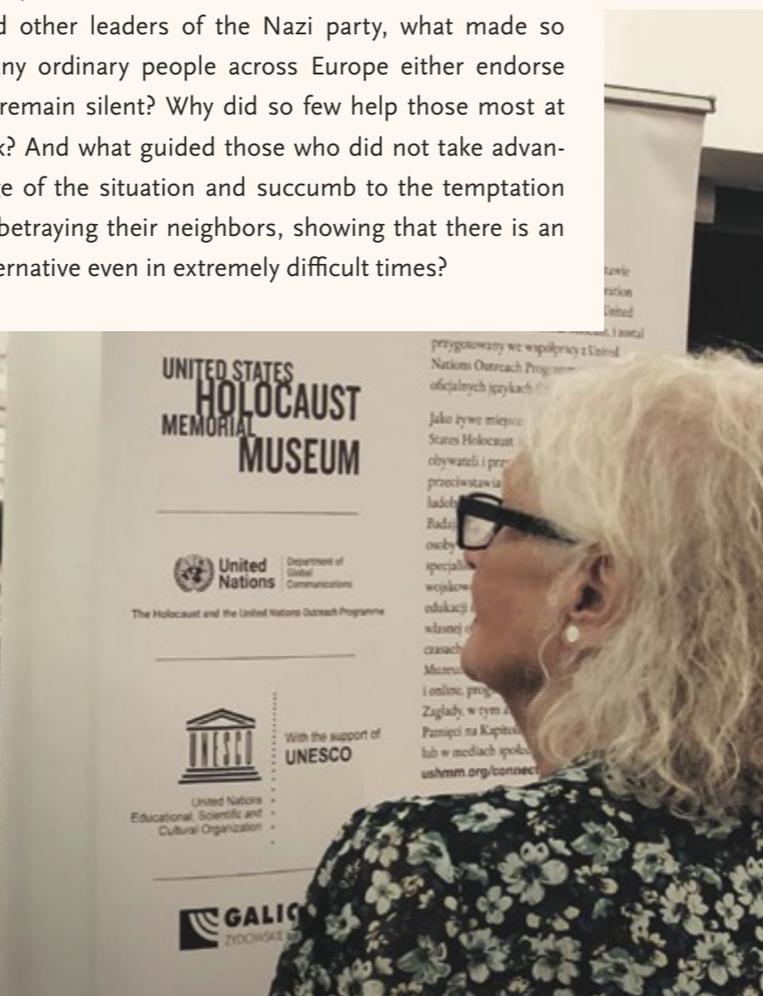
High-school students were introduced to the story of a girl almost their age but in a dramatically different situation.

Opening of the exhibition **The Girl in the Diary. Searching for Rywka from the Łódź Ghetto** in Turek

„Jestem tak wdzięczna ludziom, którzy nas uratowali. To byli (...) zwykli ludzie, którzy nigdy nie trafiają do podręczników historii (...).
W czasach, kiedy brakowało dobroci, oni ją pielęgnowali (...).
Nie myśleli o sobie (...).
Chcę, żeby pokolenia po Holokauście właśnie to wiedziały: każdy ma wybór (...).”
— Esther Ben-Zur, jak wspomina pomoc jej rodzici przy wyjściu z getta



Opening of the exhibition **Some Were Neighbors. Collaboration & Complicity in the Holocaust** in Biecz



The exhibition was shown in the Czesław Miłosz High School in Wrocław, the Museum of Mazovian Jews in Płock, the Sądecki Sztetl in Nowy Sącz, and the Municipal Public Library in Biecz before being opened in Ecomuseum in Starachowice and Cultural Centre in Wąchock. In each of those venues, the exhibition was accompanied by a range of educational programs created by the Galicia Jewish Museum in cooperation with the USHMM.

Our acclaimed exhibition, **Szancer. Imagine That!**, originally opened in Kraków in 2020. It celebrates the life and work of **Jan Marcin Szancer**, a legendary illustrator of Polish-Jewish heritage, and attracts viewers of all ages. In 2023, it was displayed in the Museum of Mazovian Jews in Płock as well as in the Świętokrzyski Shtetl in Chmielnik and the BWA Gallery in Tarnów.

After a few years' break, the **Letters to Sala** exhibition is back on tour. Originally displayed at the New York Public Library, the exhibition tells the wartime story of Sala Garncarz. In 1940, 16-year-old Sala was deported to a Nazi slave labor camp, where she thought she would stay for six weeks. Instead, she was held prisoner in seven different camps over the next five years. During this time, she received and saved more than 350 letters, photographs, and kept a personal diary. They were the only connections to her lost family and friends.

The exhibition's tour in the Lower Silesia region included showings in the Municipal Public Libraries of Świdnica, Wałbrzych, Głuszyca and Walim, as well as in the galleries of Grodno Castle and the City Weaving Museum in Kamienna Góra.

Exhibitions sponsors

Koret Foundation



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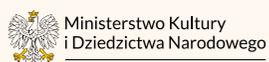
City of Kraków



David Berg Foundation



Ministry of Culture and National Heritage



Association of Cracovians in Israel



Kip Knelman

Elizabeth Szancer

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United States Holocaust Memorial Museum



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Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany



Re-Bau



A group of people, including children and adults, are walking along a stone path that winds through a grassy field. The path is made of large, flat stones and is partially covered with grass. In the background, there are large, leafy trees and a grassy hillside. The scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a pleasant day outdoors.

Education

In 2023, the Education Department took up new projects searching for innovative, interactive ways of teaching about Jewish history and culture, and also continued several well-known programs.

The Galicia Jewish Museum's educational offer includes a wide range of activities for all ages – from preschoolers to adults – and covers topics including Judaism and Jewish culture, Jewish history, antisemitism, the Holocaust and its consequences, and Jewish heritage and art.

The Museum is also known for its work with teachers and educators from across Poland and abroad, including seminars for teachers, some organized by the Museum itself and others in cooperation with other institutions and organizations.

One of the flagship projects of the Galicia Jewish Museum's Education Department is **Teaching the Holocaust in Context**, a seminar for teachers organized annually since 2010 thanks to the generous support of the Claims Conference and other international partners. The 2023 seminars were co-organized by Yahad-In Unum, and its representatives conducted several lectures, workshops and a study visit.

Another permanent project coordinated by Galicia Jewish Museum's educational team is the annual **Crocus Project**. Originating in Ireland and now organized in several European countries including Poland, the aim of the project is to commemorate the 1.5 million Jewish children and thousands of children of other nationalities murdered during the Holocaust.



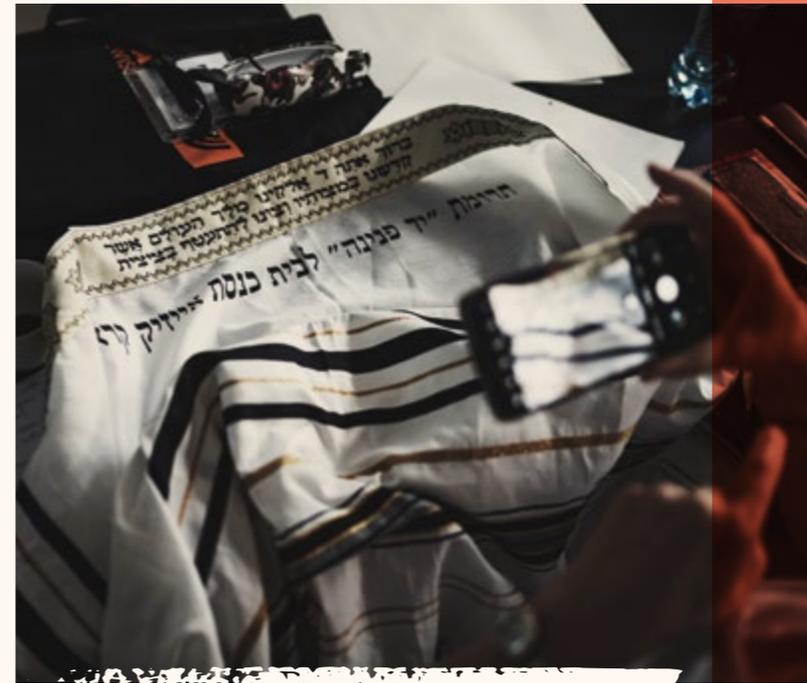
In 2023 the Galicia Jewish Museum continued its long-standing cooperation with Centropa by co-organizing seminars for teachers, conducting film competitions, and helping with training programs held online and on-site. A significant part of the Galicia Jewish Museum's cooperation with Centropa this year was devoted to the project **HerStories: Telling Jewish Women's Stories**, with Centropa being the leading



Perhaps the most important, most challenging and most satisfying project of 2023 was **The Diary of Renia Spiegel – Digital Storytelling and Education for Human Rights**.

organization in the international consortium implementing this unique project. **HerStories** is a broad educational program that includes activities for students and adults based on the biographies of seven Jewish women from different European countries.

Perhaps the most important, most challenging and most satisfying project of 2023 was **The Diary of Renia Spiegel – Digital Storytelling and Education for Human Rights**. The project, based on the diary of a teenage girl from Przemyśl who was murdered by the Nazis in the summer of 1942, consisted of creating a series of animated video episodes telling her story. It was made possible thanks to cooperation between the GJM Education Department and the Foundation for Education and Art, as well as with the support of the US Consulate General in Kraków.



In 2023, the Galicia Jewish Museum ran the **Key to Understanding** project, supported by the Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund. This project included offering paid positions at the Museum, giving a young member of the Ukrainian Jewish community the opportunity to join the Museum team for several months.

Projects for Ukrainian audiences, aimed at the Ukrainian community in Kraków and war refugees of all ages, were an extremely important part of the Education Department's work in 2023 and included a wide range of activities and events.

All of our work would not be possible without the help of an international team of volunteers and interns who supported Museum educators in their daily tasks while also learning and gaining professional experience.

Seminars and training programs for teachers and educators in 2023:

25-26 January 2023

Polish Teachers' Union Seminar on the 78th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau (Polish Teachers' Union, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Ignacy Daszyński Centre and Galicia Jewish Museum): **40 participants**

26-27 February 2023

International Expert Conference *Integrating Jewish Heritage into the Educational System* (European Jewish Cemeteries Initiative, Foundation for Jewish Heritage, Centropa, and Galicia Jewish Museum): **25 participants**

28-20 April 2023

International Seminar for Teachers and Educators in Warsaw "20th Century Jewish History and Digital Storytelling: Different Perspectives on Holocaust Education" (Centropa, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Jewish Museum in Greece, and Galicia Jewish Museum): **25 participants**

24 July - 3 August 2023

Teaching the Holocaust in Context seminars (Galicia Jewish Museum, Yahad - In Unum):
basic seminar: 29 participants
advanced seminar: 23 participants

24-26 November 2023

HerStories seminar (Galicia Jewish Museum, Centropa, Institute of Jewish Studies UJ):
25 participants

November-December 2023

Online sessions on Renia Spiegel's Diary (Galicia Jewish Museum): **40 participants**

The Crocus Project:

2023/2024 edition: **473 schools, 33,000 students**



The projects implemented by the Education Department in 2023 were made possible thanks to the generous support of:

Claims Conference



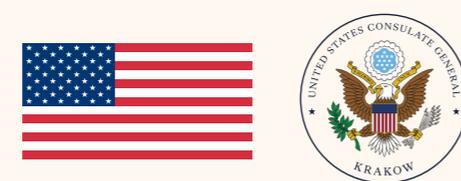
Koret Foundation



Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund



US Consulate General in Kraków



European Union



Project supported by the Visegrad Fund



The main task of the Galicia Jewish Museum's Education Department is to work with visitors of all ages and backgrounds. In 2023, the number of Polish and international visitors who participated in almost 500 guided tours, museum lessons, workshops and lectures conducted by Museum educators, interns and volunteers again showed an upward trend. The most popular activities are those related to Jewish customs and traditions, tolerance and diversity, morality and human behavior during the Holocaust, and art workshops. The majority of groups from abroad visiting the Museum use this unique opportunity to meet Holocaust survivors and witnesses: in 2023 the Museum organized more than 300 such meetings.

This is the last moment to meet the Holocaust survivors and former prisoners of Nazi German concentration camps, to listen to their authentic personal accounts, and to ask them questions. In 2023 the Galicia Jewish Museum conducted meetings with one child survivor of Auschwitz-Birkenau and three Children of the Holocaust – born shortly before or during the Second World War, they survived in hiding and their Jewish identities were concealed. In 2023 the Museum started working with the Second Generation – people born after the Second World War whose lives were affected by their parents' dramatic wartime experiences. They not only tell their parents' stories, but also discuss issues of intergenerational trauma.



In the summer of 2023, the Galicia Jewish Museum's Education Department invited teachers from across Poland to participate in basic and advanced seminars on Holocaust education. The basic seminar lasted 7 days, from 24-30 July, and the advanced seminar lasted 5 days, from 30 July - 3 August. The programs included various activities – lectures, guided tours, workshops, discussions presenting Jewish culture and history, dealing with the Holocaust and its aftermath, and discussing the problems of antisemitism and discrimination against other minority groups.

For the second year in a row, the strategic partner for this edition of *Teaching the Holocaust in Context* was Yahad-In Unum. Its representatives conducted lectures and workshops based on the organization's research, and the teachers attending the advanced seminar had a unique opportunity to go on a study visit to sites of Nazi atrocities with Yahad-In Unum experts and educators. The partnership will be continued in subsequent seminars.

The total number of participants of the seminars in 2023 was 52 people:

29 participants in the basic seminar

23 participants in the advanced seminar

Both seminar groups participated in a comprehensive program that included a wide range of activities. On the last day of each seminar, participants filled out surveys in which they assessed all of the activities in the program. Based on these surveys, it was clear that both seminars achieved their goals of strengthening the teachers' knowledge about Jewish culture, history,



The basic seminar lasted 7 days, from 24 to 30 July, and the advanced seminar lasted 5 days, from 30 July to 3 August.



antisemitism and the Holocaust; discussing the mechanisms that led to the Holocaust the reactions to the Holocaust and the attitudes of Polish society during and after the Holocaust; and presenting various methods and tools useful to challenge misconceptions about Jewish history, antisemitic discourse, manifestations of Holocaust denial or distortion, and biased visions of Polish-Jewish history and relations before, during and after the Holocaust.



Networking – establishing contacts between teachers from across Poland and encouraging them to undertake joint projects and cooperation – is an extremely important part of the project. Teachers are also encouraged to act locally and take small steps to raise awareness in their local communities. The participants of both seminars were asked to take part in a post-seminar project. This follow-up project consisted of cooperation between their schools: sharing experiences, learning from each other, getting to know local Jewish history, and presenting it to the partners in interesting and innovative ways. More than 10 inter-school projects were conducted by the end of 2023 and some projects will be carried out in 2024.

This project was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Claims Conference.

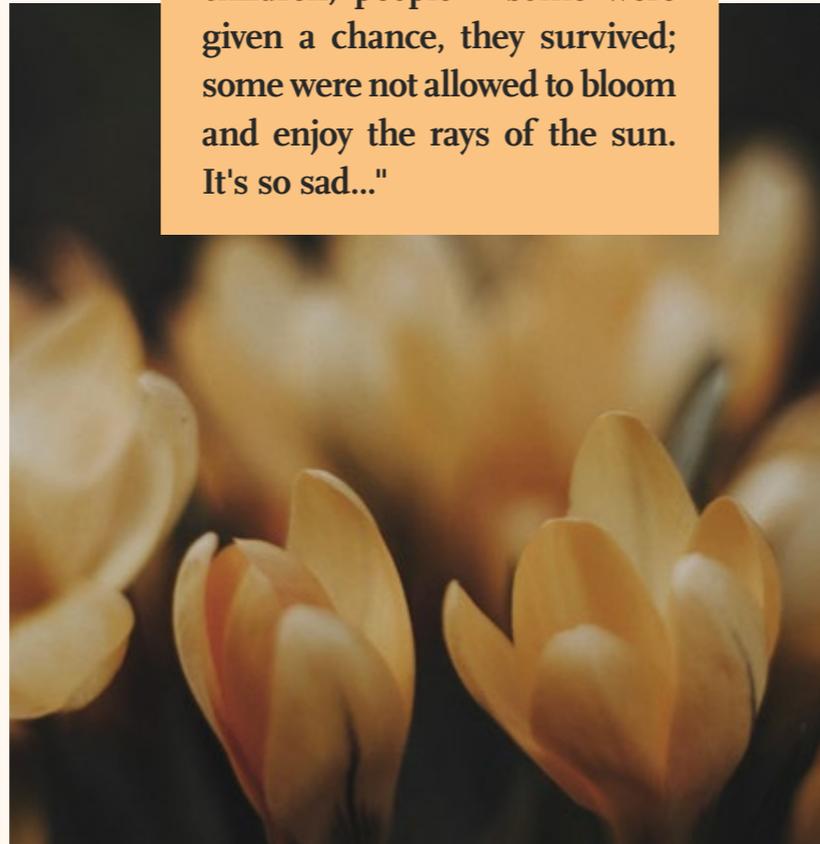


For many years, Galicia Jewish Museum has been the Polish coordinator of the **Crocus Project**, initiated by Holocaust Education Ireland. In the autumn of 2023, the Museum wrapped up the 2022/2023 edition of the project and started the 2023/2024 edition. A new brochure with educational materials was prepared for this occasion. The launch of the 2023/2024 project was attended by students from the Music Primary School in Kraków. The guests of honor were the Consul General and the Vice-Consul of Ukraine in Kraków. Representatives of the Education Department of the Kraków City Hall, the Jewish Culture Festival in Kraków and the Institute of Jewish Studies of the Jagiellonian University were also present during the ceremony. The guests had the opportunity to meet Holocaust survivor Mrs. Monika Goldwasser and listen to her moving story, followed by a classical music concert performed by our guests from the music school. At the end of the festivities, the guests and young people planted the crocus bulbs together. The project was co-funded by the European Union.

In the autumn of 2023, students from schools across Poland involved in the project planted yellow crocus bulbs. Some did so near their schools, others at local memorial sites. The flowers start blooming in early spring, creating living monuments in memory of the youngest victims of Nazi atrocities. The project serves as an introduction for younger students to the subjects of the Second World War and the Holocaust, and also raises their awareness of contemporary issues resulting from intolerance, discrimination and prejudice.



“ These flowers are like children, people – some were given a chance, they survived; some were not allowed to bloom and enjoy the rays of the sun. It's so sad...”



During classes with my students, I often discuss topics related to the Holocaust using various materials – memoirs, photos...

However, meeting a witness to history and experiencing living history will remain in the hearts of my students for a long time. Listening to Mrs. Monika's story was a great experience for them. Her story became extremely authentic. The Crocus Project has become somewhat quintessential. Thanks to it, for many students it has become a form of commemoration of those who are no longer here, whose lives were brutally taken. Observing the crocuses standing on the classroom windowsill... whether they would grow or bloom became a topic of discussion. Voices appeared: "These flowers are like children, people – some were given a chance, they survived; some were not allowed to bloom and enjoy the rays of the sun. It's so sad...". These voices are undoubtedly a positive response and reaction – that this is an extremely valuable action. It is reliving history, remembering those who are no longer there.



Cooperation with Centropa – an institution founded in Vienna and Budapest in 2000 with the goal of preserving Jewish memory in Central and Eastern Europe, the Balkans, the Baltics, and the former Soviet Union, then disseminating its findings to the widest possible audience – has been one of the Museum’s strategic partners since 2012. The Galicia Jewish Museum is Centropa’s Polish representative. Over the years, both institutions have conducted a wide range of joint projects aimed at providing knowledge and skills to teachers, creating a network for sharing ideas, best practices and inspiration, and reaching out to young people in order to create new tools to teach history: with them and for them.

International Expert Conference *Integrating Jewish Heritage into the Educational System*

In February, a conference on using Jewish cemeteries in education was held with experts from several European countries attending. The conference was part of the project on Jewish cemeteries organized by Centropa, the European Jewish Cemeteries Initiative (ESJF) and the Foundation for Jewish Heritage (FJH), and was financed by the European Union. The Galicia Jewish Museum was a partner for this project.

International Seminar for Teachers and Educators in Warsaw 20th Century Jewish History and Digital Storytelling: Different Perspectives on Holocaust Education

On the last weekend of April, a seminar for teachers and educators from Poland, Germany, and Greece took place in Warsaw. This seminar was organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum in cooperation with Centropa, the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the Jewish

Museum of Greece. The participants attended a series of workshops and also had the opportunity to go on a study trip to Treblinka. The program also included visits to the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews and the Jewish Historical Institute, as well as a guided tour through the former Warsaw Ghetto in the footsteps of Anna Lanota, a Holocaust Survivor who died in 2008 and whose memories were immortalized in an interview with Centropa.

Memory Lanes – Shared Interventions of Remembrance is a long-term project conducted in Poland, Serbia and Germany funded by the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility, and Future (EVZ) and the German Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF).

A transnational exchange project, its goal is to develop new ways of remembering Jewish life in Europe. The program brings together young people between the ages of 15 and 18, educators, artists, and informal education institutions in order to develop creative projects. Young people search for innovative ways of depicting Jewish life in the four participating cities: Belgrade (Serbia), Kielce (Poland), Berlin and Mannheim (Germany).

As part of the Memory Lanes program, the Galicia Jewish Museum led a series of workshops with a group of teenagers from High School No. 6 in Kielce and the artist Dawid Sypniewski. The activities were coordinated locally by educator Jacek Jaros. The aim of the workshops was to take a closer examination of local Jewish history, culminating in the creation of materials for a mobile app.

In 2023, the Galicia Jewish Museum joined an international team of organizations involved with Jewish history and heritage for the **HerStories** project. This EU-funded project conveys the multifaceted Jewish history of 20th-century Europe through the biographies of seven Jewish women from Germany, Poland, Greece, Spain, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, contributing to a better understanding of European history by listening to women’s voices and analyzing their perspectives. The project will run from January 2023 until December 2024.

“ I’m grateful that I could take part in these interesting workshops, in a seminar that broadens my perspective, opens new doors. The teachers’ meetings – discussions and sharing – are invaluable.”



Oral history interviews with **Rosa Rosenstein, Katarína Löfflerová, Ludmila Rutarová, Irena Wygodzka, and Vera Szekeres-Varsa**; Lisa Pinhas’ memoir and biography; and the account of **Rosl Heilbrunner’s** daughter **Dory Sontheimer** give us invaluable insight into their lives.

Seven women who didn’t know each other and likely never met share their stories of growing up in Jewish families before the Second World War in different parts of Europe – of going to school, friendship and love, everyday hopes and struggles. The stories presented in this project include dramatic experiences of persecution, deportation and flight, but also of survival, resistance and rebuilding after the Holocaust. These accounts and testimonies reveal not only these women’s individual views and decisions, but also their roles in society, their survival strategies, as well as how their worlds fell apart and then the process of rebuilding in the postwar years. In this way, each woman’s unique experience – juxtaposed and intertwined with one another – reveals the complexities and diversity of 20th-century European Jewish history.



HerStories



“ A very interesting approach to studying history; helps one immerse oneself in the atmosphere.”

The **HerStories** project tells these Jewish women's stories in various formats aimed at educators, students and the general public. Bringing together partners from educational and research institutions throughout Europe allows for combining diverse approaches to contemporary Jewish history. There are several components of the project, including:

- a multilingual website with biographies, photographs, additional resources and teaching materials for educators
- a teaching compendium collecting best practices from different countries
- the exhibition ***In the Footsteps of Jewish Women in Europe***
- a documentary film on the project
- workshops for students
- training seminars for teachers
- an international youth competition

All of the components of this project have one goal: to foster engagement with these women's stories and ensure they are not forgotten.

Project website: www.her-stories.eu

The HerStories project is co-funded by the European Union within the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Program. Partners include Centropa - Zentrum für Jüdische Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts e.V. (Hamburg, Germany), Galicia Jewish Museum (Kraków, Poland) the Jewish Museum of Greece (Athens, Greece), Mozaika (Barcelona, Spain), Centropa Alapitvany (Budapest, Hungary), and Jugend- und Kulturprojekt e.V. (Dresden, Germany).

Project co-funded by the EU



Project supported by the Visegrad Fund



Renia Spiegel's Diary



“The film is incredible. (...) There was a feeling that we were personally communicating with Renia, and that we were experiencing the same feelings that she experienced.”

The film series based on Renia Spiegel's diary was one of the highlights of the Education Department's work in 2023. We were pleased to present the results of this unique project, which was conducted in cooperation with the Foundation for Education and Art. The project consisted of creating an innovative educational tool with accompanying teaching materials and encouraging teachers and educators to use it during their lessons and other activities. Together, we created a series of eight short films telling the story of Renia Spiegel (1924-1942).



In cooperation with the Foundation for Education and Art, the Galicia Jewish Museum launched a project to present Renia's diary to a broad audience, particularly young people in Poland and abroad. This resulted in the creation of a series of short films. Renia's fate was presented metaphorically through a unique combination of animation and live-action scenes. Her tragic story is told in this eight-episode series, which also seeks to create discussion about universal issues including human values, empathy, human rights, respect and tolerance, as well as threats to these values – xenophobia, exclusion and persecution.

The diary of Renia Spiegel, written in Przemyśl from January 1939 to July 1942, is undoubtedly a valuable historical source and an extraordinary testimony of this young, talented and ambitious woman's last years. Renia's writings were preserved thanks to the efforts of her boyfriend, Zygmunt Schwarzer. He brought them to the United States and gave them to her mother and sister, who had survived the war. The diary was published several decades after the Second World War thanks to the determination of Elizabeth and Alexandra Bellak, Renia Spiegel's sister and niece.

Each episode presents a different aspect of Renia's life and is divided into two parts – her story based on her diary entries and an interview with her surviving sister, Elizabeth Bellak. The first episode introduces her and her writing. The next three episodes (2-4) show the events of the Second World War and the Holocaust from 1939 until 1942 chronologically. Episodes 5-7 deal with the subjects of love and friendship, plans and dreams about the future, and the diary itself. The last episode symbolically presents Renia's last days and her tragic death in the summer of 1942.



The project centered on presenting certain moments of Renia's life. These include her relationship with her parents, sister and grandparents, education, friendships, falling in love with Zygmunt Schwarzer, etc. as well as her feelings of hope, love, anger, loneliness and fear. Teenagers and young adults today can relate to many parts of her diary. This allows a better understanding of Renia's story, sparks empathy, and helps shape attitudes of respect and tolerance. The historical events are presented in the series as seen through Renia's eyes. The goal is to shape a better, broader understanding of the Holocaust not as one singular event, but rather as a process that took time and consisted of several stages: from hate speech, to exclusion and persecution, to physical violence and finally the mass murder of all Jews regardless of age or gender.

“Outstanding. Respect for the authors of this film.”

The films were published between October and December 2023 on the Galicia Jewish Museum's YouTube channel as well as on its and the Education Department's Facebook pages. The eight episodes were also edited into one film of approx. 25 minutes, which was shown to audiences at the Galicia Jewish Museum during two events in November and December 2023.



“A very sensitive and emotional film that helps those who are thinking about the fate of women of that time: not just reading the story, but feeling it.”



*The project **The Diary of Renia Spiegel - Virtual Storytelling and Education for Human Rights** was made possible thanks to cooperation with and the financial support of the US Consulate in Kraków.*



Some Were Neighbours: Choice, Human Behavior, and the Holocaust – Exhibition and Educational Program

This exhibition *Some Were Neighbors. Choice, Human Behavior and the Holocaust*, created by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, traveled throughout Poland in 2023. At each stop, it was accompanied by our educational program. In Wrocław, Nowy Sącz, Biecz, Starachowice and Wąchock, we met with teenagers, adults and seniors during lectures, workshops and presentations. These meetings were an important opportunity to discuss our shared difficult past and traumatic moments in the history of our country. They provided an opportunity to discuss moral choices and responsibility during the war as well as in the present and how we can react to the challenges of our times.



In 2023, the Galicia Jewish Museum conducted several **programs for the Ukrainian community in Kraków**. We held a series of workshops on disinformation, propaganda and stereotypes for seniors and for Polish and Ukrainian teachers. There were also on-line programs, including lectures on propaganda and disinformation and about the Famine (Holodomor) in Ukraine for young people from Hillel International.

The Museum continued to operate a day center for seniors from Ukraine and hosted a significant number of events in Ukrainian: meetings, lectures, excursions and workshops, including a walking tour *In the Footsteps of Oskar Schindler*, thematic tours of Kazimierz, guided tours of museum's exhibitions, etc.

Cooperation with Forum for Dialogue

In 2023, we continued our cooperation with the Forum for Dialogue through the project *Discovering Jewish History and Culture Together*. During this program, 17 groups of Polish and Ukrainian students from different Polish cities had the opportunity to learn together about Jewish history, culture and heritage through museum lessons, workshops, and educational walking tours organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum.



The Key to Understanding

The Galicia Jewish Museum's project *The Key to Understanding*, supported by the Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund, aimed to restore, rediscover and reestablish international Ukrainian-Polish-Jewish connections. The funding provided by the Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund allowed the Museum to employ a Ukrainian-Jewish person as the project's coordinator. This project gave Ukrainians, including refugees currently residing in Poland, the opportunity to learn more about Jewish history and traditions during excursions to various museums, workshops, quests, walking tours, concerts and meetings, which not only broadened their knowledge and understanding of Jewish life in the past and today but also helped them integrate successfully into local society.



On Our Way Home exhibition

On Our Way Home, which presents the personal stories of Ukrainian refugees in Kraków, continued on as a traveling exhibition. It was first opened at the Polish Institute in Rome in February 2023. From March to September 2023, it was presented at the Memorial Democràtic de la Generalitat de Catalunya in Barcelona (with the Catalan title *De camí a casa*) as one of two projects aimed at familiarizing the public with the experiences of refugees. Eleven photographic stories symbolically represent the difficult path that Ukrainians had to go through, focusing on the essential things they carried throughout their journey – a book, a pair of dance shoes, a toy. Ukrainian photographer **Iryna Myronenko** made all of the photographs in the exhibition.



The Museum's temporary exhibition *The Girl in the Diary: Searching for Rywka from the Łódź Ghetto* was opened in 2017. Since then, the Education Department has occasionally held training sessions for teachers in order to present this extraordinary story and share ideas for workshops and other related educational events for schools.

This year, we organized events via Zoom in order to reach people who were unable to visit us in Kraków in person. The first lecture was organized for the Turek City Museum when it hosted the traveling exhibition in March 2023. There, we discussed the specific situation of the Łódź Ghetto and historical circumstances connected to Rywka's life.

Another event was an online webinar where participants had the opportunity to discuss the creation of new ways of commemoration, particularly digital forms of remembrance. Additionally, we discussed the issues of ownership of wartime diaries where all family members perished during the Holocaust as well as ways of using these documents by educators and artists. This event was part of the NeDiPa (Negotiating the Difficult Past) Project, which is conducted by FestivAlt in cooperation with Fundacja Zapomniane and the Urban Memory Foundation thanks to the support of the EU as part of the program Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV).

Internships and volunteering program

The Galicia Jewish Museum internship and volunteering program offers an in-depth opportunity to gain insight into the structure and operations of a growing, dynamic organization. Internships are for a minimum of eight weeks and can take place throughout the year. Interns are fully immersed in the everyday work of the Museum and have the opportunity to gain practical experience in a thriving cultural institution, while focusing on the preservation of Jewish memory and Holocaust memory in both the Polish and international context. Interns are frequently encouraged to rotate between Museum departments, and mainly participate in the work of the Education, Visitor Services and Operations Departments. They also help with curatorial and promotional projects.

The Galicia Jewish Museum hosts volunteers in cooperation with the Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste (ASF) Organization from Germany, which promotes history education and carries out actions for peace, tolerance and understanding. It pursues its goals through promoting and organizing international volunteering.

Our second main partner for internships and volunteering is the Austrian Service Abroad, a non-profit association founded in 1998 that gives young Austrians the opportunity to work in partner institutions worldwide. Volunteers are involved in Holocaust commemoration in the form of Gedenkdienst, supporting vulnerable social groups, and engaging in projects of peace within the framework of the Austrian Peace Service.

The Galicia Jewish Museum is constantly expanding the list of institutions whose students participate in our internship programs to give them opportunities for professional training. In 2023, our new partners included Georgetown University, the University of Michigan and McGill University.

Participants in our programs also had the opportunity to participate in study trips around Poland. This year, we visited Bochnia, Tarnów, Dąbrowa Tarnowska and Markowa, following in the footsteps of Galicia Jews.





Cultural programs

In 2023, the Museum hosted over 130 events onsite, online and outside of the Museum premises. Through these programs, the Museum provided a forum for interfaith and intercultural dialogue as well as offered a venue for Jewish community events.

This slate included an extensive program of events marking the 80th anniversary of the liquidation of the Kraków Ghetto, including a guided walk through the Kraków Ghetto, a screening of the film *Polański, Horowitz. Hometown*, a lecture by Dr. Alicja Jarkowska about Jewish youth in the resistance movement in Kraków, and a concert by Stanisław Soyka called *Memory Never Dies*.

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the Museum organized a concert by Andre Ochodlo's *The Odem Quintet Ghetto Songs*.



Memory Never Dies – Stanisław Soyka

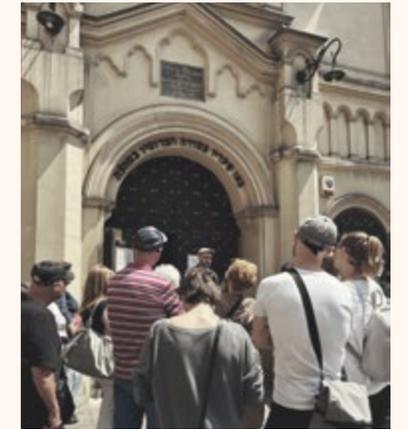




The end of June and beginning of July is always a special time in Kraków's Kazimierz District, as this is when the **Jewish Culture Festival** is held. As a partner of the Jewish Culture Festival, the Galicia Jewish Museum hosted a number of events: lectures, ceremonies, meetings, concerts, theatrical performances, field trips, film screenings and exhibition openings. Once again, we hosted authors published by the Czarne Publishing House (Wydawnictwo Czarne) as part of the "Czarne w Galicji" series.



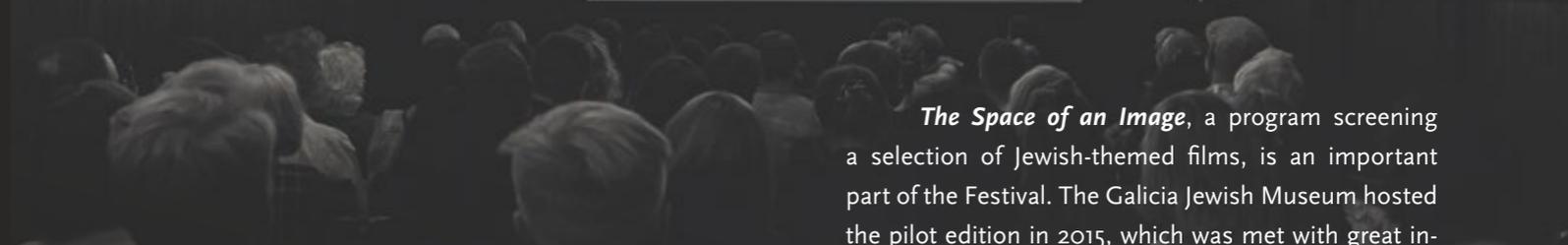
Events during Jewish Culture Festival



This year, **Małgorzata Nocuń**, **Beata Dżon-Ozimek** and **Michał Olszewski** talked about their new books. **Jarosław Kurski** also shared the story of his family as described in his memoir *Dziady i dybuki*. **Bartosz Wencel** discussed Jewish Kraków during a walking tour and social activists **Katarzyna Winiarska**, **Kamil Kmak**, and **Marek Chmielewski** talked about the transformation of memory in a discussion organized in cooperation with the Community Archives Center. There was also a discussion about contemporary Israel and life in Tel Aviv with **Łukasz Sroka** and **Karolina Przewrocka-Aderet**.



In 2023, the Museum organized the 26th edition of the **Preserving Memory** ceremony, which honors non-Jewish Poles who rescue and commemorate Jewish heritage. Since the establishment of this unique award, initiated by **Michael H. Traison** in 1998, over 280 non-Jewish Poles have been recognized. The Ceremony is an effort to bring attention to the work of dedicated people who are often working alone, on their own initiative, to ensure that Poland's Jewish heritage will be remembered. Their heroic stories are a testament to their selfless devotion.



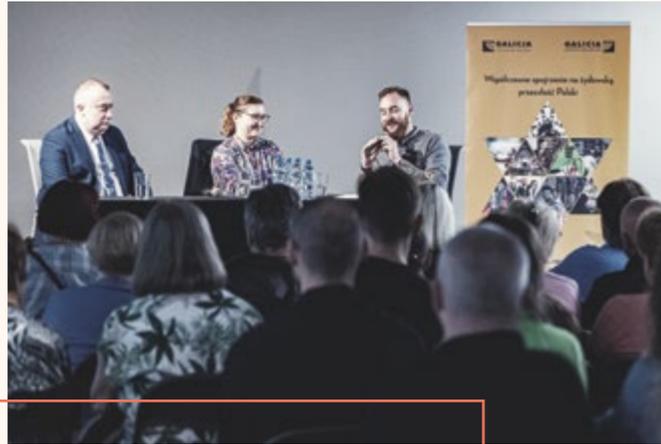
The Space of an Image, a program screening a selection of Jewish-themed films, is an important part of the Festival. The Galicia Jewish Museum hosted the pilot edition in 2015, which was met with great interest from viewers. The program is now in its ninth year and is the only one of its kind in Małopolska. The films screened in 2023 were shown and won awards at major film festivals in Europe and had their premieres in Poland in November 2022 at the 20th Warsaw Jewish Film Festival (WJFF), organized by the Kamera Dawida Foundation – the project's partner.



The series makes it possible to show Jewish culture and heritage from different perspectives and also present contemporary Israeli cinema. In 2023, we showed six different films from around the world at the new Galicia Jewish Museum space located in the basement of the High Synagogue. More than 500 people attended.



Additionally, the 2023 edition of the Warsaw Jewish Film Festival included the participation of a representative of the Museum on the Festival's jury, continuing our collaboration.



An important part of the Museum's programs are **lectures** and **panel discussions** with prominent scientists and journalists. In 2023, among many others, we hosted **Prof. Joanna Dyduch**, **Dr. Artur Skorek**, **Konstanty Gebert**, **Prof. Genviève Zubrzycki**, **Dr. Edyta Gawron**, **Prof. Michał Galas** and **Dr. Magdalena Furmanik-Kowalska**. As part of the Balzan Bystanding Lectures series, we also hosted a lecture by a distinguished scholar, **Prof. Barbara Engelking**, in cooperation with the Jagiellonian University of Kraków and the University of Bielefeld (Germany).





The Galicia Jewish Museum also offers a wide range of musical events.

The Museum hosts many musical artists, ranging from those who draw on a wealth of traditional music from a variety of cultures, to classical music, to more popular genres such as jazz, blues and rock.

In 2023, we had the opportunity to hear Sephardic Jewish and Fado songs sung by **Urszula Makosz** and **Kinga Rataj** as well as Ukrainian and Lemko songs performed by **Susanna Jara**.



We also hosted **Maja Kleszcz** and her band. Described by the press and critics as one of the best Polish vocalists, she has recorded 14 albums and has given more than 20 theater performances and television productions, given hundreds of concerts and received numerous awards for her music. The concert, which was organized on International Blues Day, promoted her album *B.L.U.E.S.* All of the lyrics were written by **Bogdan Loebel**, the master of Polish blues who is also celebrated his 90th birthday in 2022.



During Jewish Culture Festival, music inspired by African sounds was presented by **Jeremy Danneman** in his international project *Harmonious Exchange by Parade of One, Inc.*

Additionally, the Museum hosted **Dr. Aleksandra Hałat's** project *American Dream*, dedicated to Polish composers with Jewish roots who immigrated to the US in the 20th century and created their works in their new homeland.



Dr. Hałat, a pianist, chamber musician and lecturer, created this project to promote lesser-known works by Polish emigre composers such as Karol Rathaus, Michał Kondracki, Feliks Łabuński and Tadeusz Kassern.

With the support of the Polish Book Institute as part of the “Certificate for Small Bookstores 2023-2024” program, we organized a series of Q&A sessions with Polish authors under the joint title *Galicja. Here You Read*. Our audience participated in meetings with Dariusz Rosiak, Ishbel Szatrawska, Mikołaj Grynberg, Natalia Judzińska, Rafał Kowalski, Barbara Gawryluk, Paweł Skawiński, and Filip Łobodziński.



Cultural Programs sponsors:

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Cooperation and partnerships in 2023:

4 Travel	Consulate General of Ukraine in Kraków	Forum for Dialogue	Internationaler Bund Polska Foundation	Municipal Cultural Center in Wąchock	University of the Third Age in Kraków
Agora Publishing House	Community Archives Center	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Germany	International March of the Living, USA	Municipal Public Library in Głuszyca	University of Victoria, Canada
AMS Kosher Catering	Complex of Schools of Geodesy and Roads and Water Management in Kraków	Friends of the Israel Defense Forces, USA	Israel Experience, Israel	Municipal Public Library in Nowy Sącz	Walkative!
Archives Helena Rubinstein in Paris, France	Czarne Publishing House	Furnel Travel	ITS Poland	Museum of Lower-Silesian Weaving in Kamienna Góra	Warsaw Jewish Film Festival
Art Exhibitions Office in Tarnów	Cyprian Kamil Norwid Municipal Public Library in Świdnica	Gargždai Regional Museum, Lithuania	Jroots, United Kingdom	Museum of Mazovian Jews in Płock	Wiktorja Kubisz Cultural Center in Bielsko-Biała
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Bildungs-WG e.V, Germany	Die Europäische Akademie Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany	Health And Care Foundation	Jewish Culture Festival	Polin Museum in Warsaw	Yad Vashem. The World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem, Israel
Camera of David Foundation	District and Municipal Public Library “Biblioteka pod Atlantami” in Wałbrzych	Herzl-Thon Center for Israel Studies and Polish-Israeli Relations in Kraków	Jewish Historical Institute	Polish Institute in Rome, Italy	Yahad-In Unum, France
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CB International	European Jewish Cemeteries Initiative	Holocaust Museum in Los Angeles, USA	Jewish Museum Vienna, Austria	Polish Institute in Vilnius, Lithuania	Znak Publishing House
Centre for Dialogue and Prayer in Oświęcim	Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics, USA	Idea Foundation	Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre, RPA	Polish Teacher’s Union	Zustricz Foundation
Center for the Study on the History and Culture of Kraków Jews	Foundation for Jewish Heritage, United Kingdom	Ignacy Daszyński Centre	Józef Mehoffer Museum in Turek	Siberian Deportee Soldiers Secondary School in Lubawka	
Centropa, Germany		Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Skokie, Illinois, USA	Jugend-& Kulturprojekt e.V., Germany	SIROWA Poland	
Consulate General of Germany in Kraków		International Youth Meeting Centre in Oświęcim	Kazimierz Hotels Group	Shalom in All the World Jewish Culture	
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			Krytyka Polityczna Publishing House	Shalom Travel Warsaw	
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Support

the Galicia Jewish Museum

THE GALICIA JEWISH MUSEUM IS IN NEED OF YOUR SUPPORT.

Your donation today will allow the Museum to continue its mission. The Galicia Jewish Museum challenges the stereotypes and misconceptions typically associated with the Jewish past in Poland. Your support will help promote democratic values, tolerance, openness and inclusivity, while fighting antisemitism, xenophobia and hate.

\$100

Helps host a school group for a guided exhibition tour or lead a workshop on Polish-Jewish history.

\$150

Allows to cover costs for an open lecture or workshop.

\$1 000

Helps cover the monthly costs of our educational and cultural programs or an open concert.

\$4 000

Supports creating a new exhibition or publishing an accompanying exhibition catalogue.

\$10 000

Helps organize a seven-day seminar for teachers, a Polish- Israeli youth exchange, or a study visit for Polish and Israeli educators, teachers and guides.

How to Support Our Work?

Only together can we build an open and tolerant society, aware of its past, and actively shaping its Polish-Jewish future.

US Donors:

US donors can make their donation tax-deductible by sending the donation through to the Galitizianers - Friends of the Galicia Jewish Museum at the King Baudouin Foundation United States (KBFUS).

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