

Coming Soon to Elsternwick: the Jewish Arts Quarter

A new home for Jewish arts and culture in Australia

Melbourne, 6 July 2020: In an Australian first, the Jewish Museum of Australia: Gandel Centre of Judaica, Kadimah Jewish Cultural Centre and Sholem Aleichem College, with support from the Victorian Government and Glen Eira City Council, announce the Jewish Arts Quarter (JAQ) – a new and vital precinct to preserve and present Jewish culture in Australia.

An inclusive cultural hub and precinct woven into the Elsternwick neighbourhood of Glen Eira, JAQ will celebrate the excellence and everydayness of the Australian Jewish experience – and shine as a beacon for social connection and cohesion in Melbourne, Australia and beyond. Anchored by a commitment to preserving Jewish culture while progressing a bright future, JAQ will offer world-class museum, cultural and education experiences for everyone. With places to shop, eat and meet, JAQ will add to the public spaces, shops and restaurants that make Glenhuntly Road an attraction across Melbourne.

Located on and around Selwyn Street, JAQ will include the Jewish Museum of Australia (relocated from Alma Road, St Kilda), the Kadimah Jewish Cultural Centre, Sholem Aleichem College, the Jewish Holocaust Centre, Classic Cinemas and more – with the Museum and the Kadimah coming together in an awe-inspiring cultural facility designed by Melbourne’s McIlldowie Partners. The new building will include state-of-the-art exhibition and education spaces, a 300-seat auditorium, co-working areas and a plaza.

Community is at the heart of JAQ and events, performances and activations will bring the precinct to life. The Quarter will become the new community home for concerts, festivals and food and craft markets that will complement the exhibitions and programs that make up JAQ.

The vision, execution and realisation of the Jewish Art Quarter is only possible because of the community that has helped to make it a reality. As a positive addition to the rich history of Elsternwick, JAQ is committed to a bright future for Jewish arts and culture in Melbourne.

Barry Fradkin OAM – President, Jewish Museum of Australia: Gandel Centre of Judaica

‘I am very proud and excited to see the collaboration between the Jewish Museum, Kadimah and Sholem Aleichem College materialise into the Jewish Arts Quarter. Forming a new cultural precinct with two world-class museums in the Jewish Holocaust Centre and the Jewish Museum of Australia, with enthusiastic support from the City of Glen Eira, will enrich our community and visitors keen for a taste of Jewish Life. The ability to rejoice in the widest range of arts and culture will encourage everyone that visits the Quarter to appreciate and gain a better understanding of what we can offer – especially as we emerge from these challenging times.’

Renata Singer – President, Kadimah

‘These are very exciting times for the Kadimah as a central part of the Jewish Arts Quarter. As the home of Yiddish culture in Melbourne for more than a century, we are eager to enter a new chapter seeing our current centre make way for a dynamic new locale, welcoming our community and beyond to be immersed in a wonderful place for art, music, theatre, performance, learning and exhibitions.’

Helen Greenberg – Principal Sholem Aleichem College

‘Sholem Aleichem College has a history in Elsternwick for over 80 years. The College has long had a vision to create and contribute to a welcoming and inclusive locale for Jewish gathering

and activity. The College instils in its students Jewish values for a lifetime and shares in the wonderful opportunity that is the Jewish Arts Quarter. Our students, staff and wider community will see this hub enriching and broadening our educational outcomes.'

With our first development under approval and the Jewish Holocaust Centre building program underway, the Jewish Arts Quarter will be realised in the next two to three years. JAQ would not be possible without the continued support from all tiers of government who consider community, connection and expression to be of greater importance than ever.

Mayor for Glen Eira – Councillor Margaret Esakoff

'The Jewish Arts Quarter offers a wonderful opportunity for the wider community to come together – regardless of race or religion – to celebrate the rich Jewish culture that is so much a part of Elsternwick and Glen Eira. It will provide a welcoming space for everyone to celebrate Jewish life, culture, food, arts and music. Having such a vibrant Quarter is another way we can build vital community connections and bring people of all cultures together.'

Further information at www.jaq.melbourne

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