

Beit HaKehillot

Beit HaKehillot in Jerusalem will be a multi-level museum and media experience designed to tell the story of the Jewish People - its creation, its teachings, and its revolutionary mission in world history.

The exhibition will present Judaism's spiritual richness and cultural heritage through the lens of various Kehillot/communities formed over the centuries in the aftermath of the destruction of Jerusalem and the forced exile of the Jewish people from the land of Israel after 70 CE.

Throughout the generations these dispersed communities were linked by constant written and verbal communication. This included Biblical and Talmudic commentaries, legal rulings, literature, personal correspondence, poetry, prayer and supplication. These communications linked communities across time and place to shared Jewish values and principles.

Utilizing "*Kitvey Yad*" – rare manuscripts of the Jewish people -- historical events, and extraordinary personalities, the *Kehillot Yisrael Experience* will address both the differences and the essential commonalities of Kehillot Yisrael.

The ultimate goal of the center is to engender a renewed sense of pride and identification in the richness of Jewish Heritage, its current relevance, and its indispensability in today's world. The exhibition will be accessible, inclusive and compelling for a wide-ranging audience.



Conceptual Narrative



An introductory film sets the scene for the upcoming exhibition. The film begins with the birth of the Jewish people.

1. Abraham the patriarch becoming the first messenger of monotheism in the world.



2. Persecution and slavery make an indelible imprint on their world outlook.



3. The Torah is given to them and introduces radical ideas into the world and standards of behavior on themselves and human civilization.

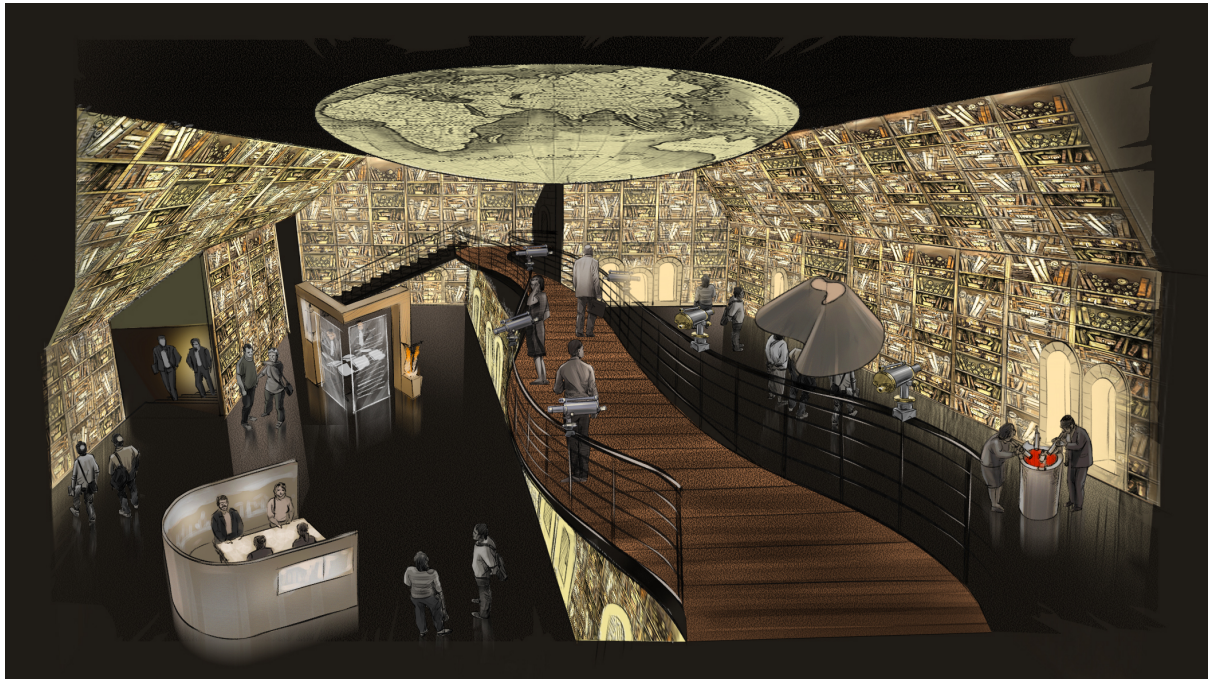


4. They fail to live up to their own standards at the same time that those around them suspect and resent them for their separateness and seemingly strange ways. Destruction and exile ensues casting the Jews to the 4 corners of the earth.

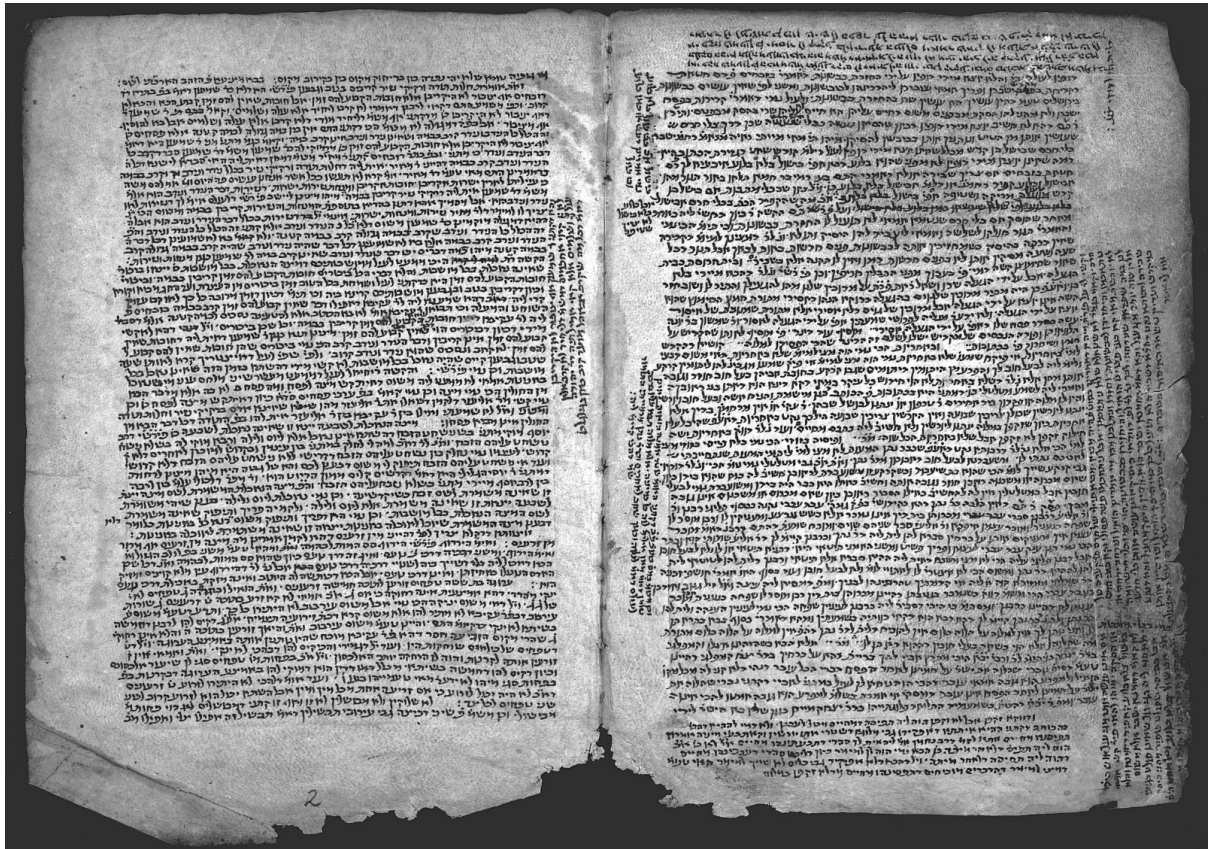


Main Gallery

5. In the diaspora, despite hardship and oppression, a rich culture and heritage develops among the far flung Kehillot around the ever-expanding realm of *Torat Yisrael*.



6. More remarkable still is the tremendous inter-connectivity between those kehillot and their collective adherence to tradition as well as its expansion as expressed in multitudinous Kitve-Yad of all manner and type. This is the literal glue that binds the dispersed people together.



7. Events transpire both allowing and forcing a majority of the Jewish people back to their ancestral homeland. There, the question becomes: how will this rich heritage continue to be an integral part of both the people's national and individual identity.



Kehillot Yisrael Institute

Kehillot Yisrael Institute includes a Jewish studies research institute; an advanced center for documentation and digitization; a department for research, documentation, and preservation of Jewish cemeteries throughout the world; and a department for research of Jewish customs and liturgy. All of these facets of the Institute will be made available as part of the *Beit HaKehillot* museum experience. This will allow visitor access to deeper and more specific layers of information.



History of the Project

Phase 1 Concept Development was approved in November of 2018. This stage set the goals and narrative details of the project.

*Phase 2 Concept Design** includes:

- Hiring of the local media production arm of the project, including project coordinator.
- Further concept development and visitor experience
- Preliminary visualizations of the exhibition
- Architectural blocking and interior building design with architects
- Joint workshops with Rav Hillel and his representatives to insure all desired content elements are included in visitor experience.
- Initial budgetary estimates and breakdowns
- Completion of this phase will be presented by the end of 2019 and will include a five-minute movie based on a virtual walkthrough of the visitor experience.

* A successful client presentation midway through the Phase 2 was conducted in July, 2019 to receive client confirmation of direction and further development.

Initial Budgetary Projections

The initial estimate for the realization of the visitor experience section in the complex is approximately \$25M. This cost includes additional building costs, concept design and development, exhibition and multimedia design, fabrication and of all experiential elements and exhibits. Detailed breakdowns of each project element available upon request.

Concept and Design: About BJA

In 2017 the Kehillot Yisrael Institute invited Berenbaum Jacobs Associates (BJA) an internationally recognized museum design firm specializing in Jewish themes, to enter into a collaborative effort in designing *Beit HaKehillot*. BJA utilizes unique storytelling methodologies, creative applications and pedagogical techniques to deliver meaningful messages in a way that has lasting impact and instills positive action among its audiences. *Beit HaKehillot in Jerusalem* will be a groundbreaking exhibition containing cutting-edge exhibition technologies and devices to create an experienced that is both intellectually informative and emotionally compelling.



More information about BJA projects can be found on the [BJA website](#)

Projects opened in the past year include:

[Holocaust and Humanity Center \(VIDEO\)- Cincinnati, Ohio, Opened January 2019](#)

[Holocaust Memorial Center \(VIDEO\) Skopje, North Macedonia, Opened March 2019](#)

[Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum \(VIDEO - pending\)](#) - Dallas, Texas, (preview In ABC News), opened September, 2019