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### Omar al-Qattan

### Chair of the Board of Directors

2021 included many significant achievements for the Palestinian Museum, despite the Covid-19 pandemic that continued to disrupt the fabric of social and cultural life in Palestine. Today, as the pandemic dwindles, I am confident that we will surpass ourselves and multiply our achievements, both quantitatively and qualitatively, and be in a better position to sustain the quality of our programmes and exhibitions. This will enable us to attain our higher purpose of providing educational, artistic, and cultural services and products to our audience in Occupied Palestine and the Diaspora.



From here, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to my museum colleagues for their dedication, and to the Board of Directors for their continuous and tireless efforts to provide financial, moral, and intellectual support, bolstering our ambitious national project. Still considered in the establishment phase, the Museum is in dire need of all forms of support to achieve its mission.

I am pleased to report that during the past year, the Museum obtained licensing from the Palestinian National Authority's Council of Ministers and the Ministry of the Interior to operate as an independent Swiss institution with a branch in Palestine, under the new name 'The Palestinian Museum - Non-Governmental Association.' In a key step towards grounding our work as an independent institution with an ambitious vision for the future, we successfully established several internal policies, regarding internal governance, finance, procurement, and human resources.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my gratitude to all the institutions and individuals supporting the Museum's vision, programmes, and projects, particularly our honourable patrons for their generosity and continued confidence in our achievements and our path forward.

We wish you all a new year full of accomplishments and progress.

Members of the Board of Directors 2020 - 2023:

Lila Abu Lughod, PhD, Head of Programmes and Collections Committee; Gamal Abu Ali; Mamdouh Al-Aker, PhD; Sawsan Al-Fahoum-Jaafar; Muwaffaq Bibi, Treasurer; Amahl Bishara, PhD; Honaida Ghanem, PhD; Serene Huleileh; Bassam Kanaan, Head of the Audit Committee; Nadia Sehweil; Bassem Salfiti; Yara Sharif, PhD; Suha Srour, Head of the Resource Development Committee; Omar Tesdell, PhD.

### Adila Laïdi-Hanieh, PhD General Director

We are pleased to place our 2021 annual report in your hands. 2021 is the year the Museum emerged from the trial of the pandemic and quarantine to return to its audience and partners with new programmes.

The return to in-person programming represents a new beginning for the Museum, with the continuation of our virtual interactions with remote Palestinian audiences and friends of Palestine everywhere. This, thanks to the organisation of an intensive and original public programming that included such innovations as the production of pod-



casts, a public knowledge programme that merges the academic with the artistic, producing a play where the audience follow actors in the galleries to experience our new exhibition, to the opening of the museum's storage to share permanent collections of tangible Palestinian heritage items with the public through regular tours, in addition to other activities detailed in this report.

This new launch of the Palestinian Museum culminated with the opening of our fifth annual exhibition 'A People by the Sea: Narratives from the Palestinian Coast.' The exhibition embodies a new approach to knowledge production about Palestine: A synthesis of academic historical knowledge, rich documentary material, arts and design multimedia interventions, and interactive stations for adults and children alike, to create spaces to experience the past sensorially and cognitively. In doing so, the exhibition provides an immersive environment to live out the experiences and achievements of the people of the Palestinian coast over centuries; accompanied by year-round publications and public, educational, intellectual, recreational and community activities.

Along with its content and environment, the organisation of this exhibition was characterised by its realisation in a group effort by Museum colleagues across departments and disciplines, combined with the valuable contributions of a consulting team of academics, researchers, designers, and artists.

More broadly, Palestinian society continues to know the horrors of the Occupation's campaigns. Most prominent among them was the repression of the May uprising in Jerusalem and the coast, and the war on our people in Gaza. As for our own Museum family, we experienced this up-close with the loss of our colleague Zakaria Badwan, a civilian who left behind a bereaved family. Mercy upon his soul and to his family patience and solace.

More than ever, I express my gratitude and appreciation for my colleagues who furnished outstanding efforts this year, despite the challenges, to carry out the Museum's mission to produce and disseminate emancipatory learning experiences about Palestine, its people, culture, and history. I also express my gratitude to the members of the Museum Board of Directors and all our partner and supporting institutions who enable, and are keen to sustain, this beautiful Palestinian journey.

# Vision, Mission, and Values

### **VISION**

A vibrant Palestinian culture.

### **MISSION**

The production and dissemination of emancipatory learning experiences about Palestine, its people, and history through innovative programmes in Palestine and around the world.

### **VALUES**

### Inclusivity

The Palestinian Museum builds partnerships and bolsters Palestinian communities wherever they are.

### Excellence

The Palestinian Museum produces verifiably accurate content.

### **Creativity and Innovation**

The Palestinian Museum provides tools, renewable concepts, and innovative content through its various platforms.

### Transparency

The Palestinian Museum is accountable to society and is keen to maintain its trust.

### Independence

The Palestinian Museum is an independent institution with no political affiliation.

### Inspiration

The Palestinian Museum is a source of hope for a free Palestinian future.



# Creating a Private and Independent Database to Archive and Exhibit the Museum's Permanent Collection

The CatalogIt app, a free specialised platform, was selected for the establishment of a documentation database of the Museum's permanent collection. The Museum will then be able to protect, archive, and categorise its collections, and make them available to the public.

### Donation of Collections to the Palestinian Museum

- The Museum received a collection, donated by Dr Nabila Nashashibi, of several valuable embroidered dresses (thobes) and heritage pieces, sent from France. The collection includes heritage pieces and rare tapes dating to the 1970s featuring songs from the Palestinian revolution.
- A major costume heritage collection, donated by members of the Committee for the Preservation of Palestinian Heritage (CPPH) in Washington, DC, including 240 pieces. The collection has been stored, arranged, and categorised in preparation for documentation.
- Donor acknowledgement plaques have been placed at the entrance of the Museum collection room honouring all collections donors to the Museum since its inception.





### **Digital Archive**

- March 1st, 2021 marked the launch of the second phase of the Palestinian Museum Digital Archive (PMDA) Project. As of the end of the year, the team completed archiving, translating, and editing over 54,000 digital archival documents. Each one is now available to the public via the PMDA website.
- The Museum unofficially launched the new PMDA website, adding around 36,000 new archival documents to the existing publicly available material.
- Two internal reference guides were developed: The Archival Guide was finalised in line with academic standards, as was a technical guide outlining the use of the adopted digital archive platform.
- The PMDA project conducted a total of six-monthly news highlights covering the
  archival collections collected by the archiving team. These highlights focus on various social themes related to everyday social and economic life. The information was
  published on the Museum's websites and includes: 'Embroidery: From Local to International', 'Professor Mohammad Fahed Hammoudeh's Collection', and 'Vaccine
  Certificates: The Present Archive.'



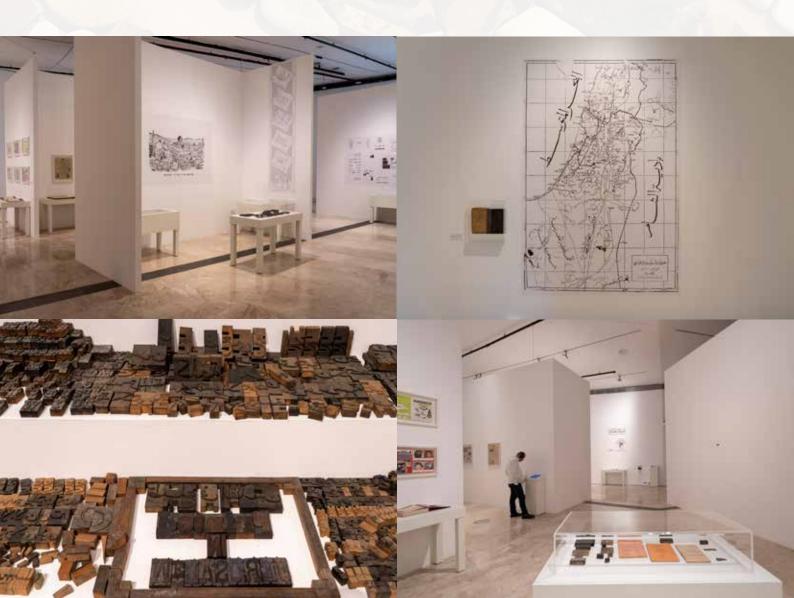
www.palarchive.org

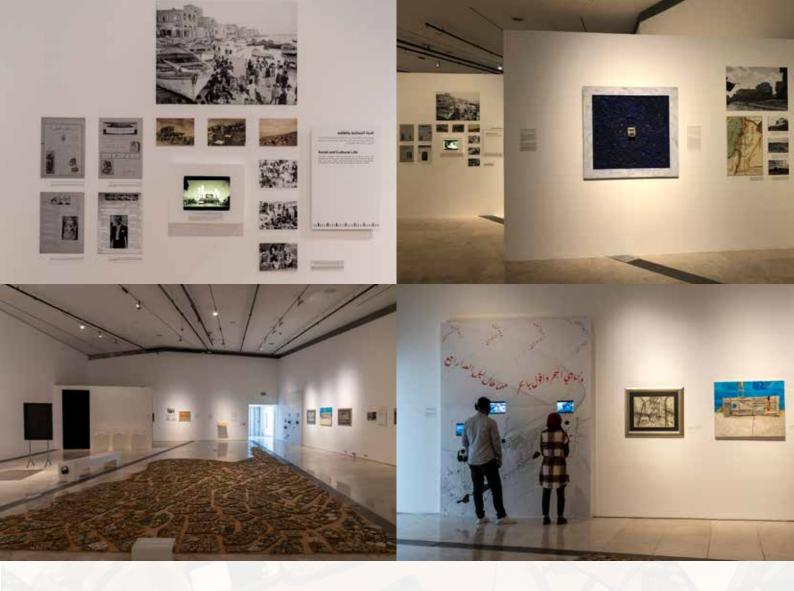


Through its annual exhibitions, the Museum seeks to engage the public with the modern culture and history of the people of Palestine by producing immersive learning experiences, thus serving as a reference for further research, learning, and discovery. The Museum's exhibitions form the foundation of its various public programmes.

# **'Printed in Jerusalem: Mustamloun' Exhibition** 27 July 2020 – February 2021

The 'Printed in Jerusalem: Mustamloun' exhibition ended at the beginning of the year. Borrowed pieces were returned to their lending institutions, including Dar Al-Tifel Al-Arabi and the Dar al-Aytam Institute in Jerusalem. The exhibition was curated by Baha Jubeh and guest curator Abdel-Rahman Shabane.





### Launch of the New Exhibition 'A People by the Sea: Narratives from the Palestinian Coast'

September 29, 2021 - October 2022

The Museum launched its new exhibition 'A People by the Sea: Narratives from the Palestinian Coast' on September 29th, 2021, to run until October 31st, 2022. 'A People by the Sea' sheds light on the history of the Palestinian coast in the period between 1748 – 1948, and considers possible futures by reviewing and reflecting on past experiences. The exhibition's timespan allows for a re-examination of the Nakba through historical landmarks spanning over this two-hundred-year time frame. The exhibition was curated by guest curator Inass Yassin and assistant curator, Ahmad Al-Aqra.' Academic advisors were historians Professor Adel Manna and Professor Mahmoud Yazbak.

The exhibition unfolds around four narratives: the rise of Akka, the rise of Yaffa, the Nakba, and Palestinians' continuation and survival. In addition, the Museum's entrance displays films and documentary photographs, while the glass gallery is dedicated to presenting artworks and to a children and families' area. Several documentary pieces are on display, alongside paper and audio archives. The exhibition features archival photographs sourced locally and internationally, maps, interactive stations, and artwork by artists Abed Abdi and Nasser Soumi. The exhibition also features commissions by Amir Al-Zuabi, Dima Srouji, Manar Zubi, Bashar Khalaf, Sasha Khoury, Suzanne Groothuis, Shareef Sarhan, and Essa Grayeb. Various ethnographic items and artworks were also generously lent by Amjad Ghannam, George Al Ama, and Amer Shomali.

# Preparations for Music Exhibition

2023 – 2024

The Museum is moving forward with plans to hold an exhibition in 2023 under the theme of music. The Curatorial and Collections Department team, in cooperation with musician Ramzi Abu Radwan, conducted a research assessment of archives containing information on music in Palestine. Work will begin on developing a concept paper in the coming months, based on commissioned research papers drafted by numerous Palestinian and international researchers and ethnomusicologists.











The Education Programme's mission is to ensure that equal learning opportunities are provided for all participants in the Museum experience. The Museum is designing and working on linking its various exhibitions with the public through interactive educational activities. The Museum is also working on producing multimedia educational resources to help improve the museum-going experience for children and their families. This will also serve to enrich the Museum's resources per the education goals in Palestine stipulated by the Ministry of Education, official and private institutions, and international education goals. Accordingly, the Education Programme conducted several activities in 2021, including:

# Book Launch: 'Honak honak... ba'idan fil-lawn (Way Out There in the Faraway Colour)'



The book was launched on January 11th and was written by colleagues Hana Irshaid and Sarah Zahran, Samar Kirresh from the A. M. Qattan Foundation, and was illustrated by Baraa al-Awour. It targets children between 6 to 11 years old and includes a collection of children's stories inspired by the Museum's interactive family space. The space was built to accompany the 'Printed in Jerusalem: Mustamloun' exhibition launched in cooperation with the Science Studio - Educational Research and Development Programme at the A. M. Qattan Foundation. Oral versions of the stories were also made available for visually impaired children and published in tandem with an activity on social media entitled 'Story of the Week'.

### Symposium Series 'Reflections on Jerusalemite Educators'

Following two symposia held in 2020 by the educational programme on the philosophy of educator Khalil Sakakini, a third symposium took place on January 25th focusing on educator Hind al-Husseini. Palestinian Museum registrar Baha Jubeh, Nasab Adeeb Hussein, PhD, and famed actress Hiam Abbas all spoke of Hind al-Husseini based on their research or personal experiences. Professor Abaher El-Sakka moderated the symposium.

# Song Writing Workshop 'Song of Jerusalem' with Musicians Mira Abu Hilal and Jalal Nader

The workshop took place over four online sessions in January and February, targeting children in the 7 to 10 age group. The aim was to tap into their memories of songs they've heard from their parents and encourage them to produce similar songs by conjuring up their memories of the city of Jerusalem, whether they have lived in the city or only visited. The children wrote the lyrics and selected the melody with musicians Mira Abu Hilal and Jalal Nader. Children participated from different areas of Palestine, along-side children from Egypt and Bahrain.

# Poster Design Workshop Series 'Reveries of Blue' with Graphic Designer Maya Chami

The workshop series held in March targeted adolescents 17 years and older. Aspiring graphic designers participated in all four workshops, most of whom were Faculty of Arts students from Birzeit University. The workshop series explored the visual elements that embody the concept of the coast as depicted on Palestinian posters. The knowledge that participants gained in the workshops helped them design their own posters.

### 'Seaborne Dreams' Workshop Series

In partnership with the Dutch Hope Foundation, the Museum completed the first phase of a series of creative writing and art workshops targeting children in the 9 to 13 age group. The children explored manifestations of the Palestinian coast as material and emotional geography in their everyday lives. The outcome included an art installation displayed in the 'A People by the Sea' exhibition. The installation sought to evoke a sense of presence on the coast, while also illuminating the worlds dreamt up in its absence or amidst its siege. The workshops took place at Tejwal Center - Khan Yunis / Gaza with artists Mumen Khalifa (Origami), Ahmad Muhanna (Arabic calligraphy), Maher Daoud (Creative writing), and Mahmoud al-Haj (Video).







# Education through Art Project Conclusion

The 'Education through Art' project was implemented in cooperation with the Educational Research and Development Programme of the A. M. Qattan Foundation with a grant from the 'Visual Arts: A Flourishing Field' project funded by Sweden. The project began in November 2020 and continuing until May 2021. Teachers and students were encouraged to produce education and community-based projects for schools that integrate the arts as a creative process that reflects the cumulative human



experience. At the end of the project, the educational programme produced a short video highlighting the project's main outcomes. These were developed by teachers through their interaction with the Museum's various exhibitions.

### 'Education through Art' outputs include the following:

- The illuminated box initiative was carried out by fourth graders from the Faisal Husseini Higher Primary Girls' School with artist Bashar Alhroub.
- Recycling plastic materials, by students at Al-Fajr Al-Jadid School with artist Bashar Alhroub.
- The Wall initiative, by students at the Badw Al-Ka'bna Basic School with artist Bashar Alhroub.
- Garden and map initiative, by the Al Khulafa' Ar Rashideen School students with artist Munther Jawabra.
- A wood mural initiative, implemented by students and teachers at the Maria Coptic School with artist Munther Jawabra.

# Launching 'The History of Palestinian Art Told by Objects'

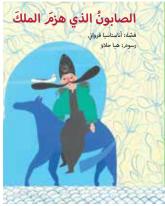
In a special event coinciding with the holiday season, the Museum celebrated the release of six children's stories, as part of its publications inspired by the Museum's exhibitions under the 'The History of Palestinian Art Told by Objects' Project. This project was implemented with funding from the A. M. Qattan Foundation through a grant from the 'Visual Arts: A Flourishing Field' Project, funded by Sweden and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. The stories were written and illustrated by writers and artists from Palestine, Egypt, Syria, and Argentina, including Ahlam Bsharat, Anas Abu Rahma, Anastasia Qarawani, Esol, Wasim Al-Kurdi, Esraa Haidari, Abdullah Qawariq, Walid Taher, Haya Halaw, and Yara Bamieh.















The event included meetings and chats with some of the authors and illustrators, as well as activities inspired by the stories and the holiday season. The event was attended by several children and their families. Samar Kirresh, Mira Abu Hilal, Jalal Nader, Lubna Taha, and Joanna Rafidi carried out this event, which included:

- Chat with the writers and illustrators.
- Zahra wara' Zahra, 'Urus Taht al-Shajara (A Flower Behind a Flower, a Wedding Under the Tree): during which the children took part in the Christmas tree lighting and hung ornaments inspired by the six stories.
- Food and Stories: Burbara in the Museum.
- · Giant bubbles
- Have You Ever Tried to Hold a Bird?
- Storytime with Story and Song artists Nader Jalal and Mira Abu Hilal

### Creative Writing Workshop 'Across the Coast, Across the Sea'

The workshop was conducted on August 9th and 10th with the poet Asmaa Azaizeh, targeting children in the 10 to 12 age group. It was attended by a group of children from Palestine and abroad, thanks to support from the A.M. Qattan Foundation through the 'Visual Arts: Flourishing Field' (VAFF) Project grant funded by Sweden. The workshop aimed to help participating children view writing as a manifestation of their imagination and a means of creating a bridge to children in historic Palestine, distanced by political fragmentation and occupation. In addition, the workshop provided space for daily personal expression and encouraged the children to incorporate letter writing into their lives.

### **Education Programme Policies**

The Education Programme developed a series of special papers, which will be continuously revised to meet the development of the Museum's strategies based on the Museum's vision and goals, as follows:

- Education Programme Philosophy
- Education Programme Policy
- Child protection paper

### Educational Tours in Partnership with the Tijwal Safar Team

Two tours were coordinated in partnership with the Tijwal Safar team. This partnership was formed to work on taking the exhibition 'A People by the Sea' from the exhibition hall space to an open physical space outside the borders of the Museum. The aim was to facilitate a better understanding of history by listening directly to people's stories of their connection with the land and landscape. Many youths from across Palestine participated in the tours, which were conducted as follows:

### The Hejaz Railway Tour. October 15, 2021

The guided tour traced the Hejaz Railway route which once linked the city of Nablus to Haifa, passing through several important areas, including Masoudiya station near Sebastia - Burqa, and the Ottoman tunnel near Anabta. The tour included a discussion of the formation of major Palestinian cities, the creation and history of caravan routes, and the historic roads that linked them together. Youths from Ramallah, Hebron, and Nablus participated in the tour, alongside a group of researchers.

## A Tour of the Sea: From Wadi Nisnas to Wadi Jamal. November 19, 2021

The tour aimed to reconsider official historical narratives in light of the oral histories that people 'tell' about places and their social and cultural history, in order to understand the changes wrought by colonialism. Various areas in Haifa were visited, starting with Al-Midan Theatre in the Wadi Al-Nisnas neighbourhood and continuing to the Matal which overlooks Haifa and the sea. A group of youths took part in the tour. The Museum Education Programme produced a video documenting the tour, allowing a broader audience to learn more about the city and its history.





### **School Visits**

The Education Programme organised a total of 24 visits for schools across various governorates during the first three months of the exhibition 'A People by the Sea: Narratives from the Palestinian Coast (1748-1948).' About 1,172 students and teachers participated in the educational tours that dealt with the exhibition's themes, referencing the educational booklet being produced to accompany the children. The booklet will be printed in early 2022. These tours were organised on weekends and during the last classes of schools in the Ramallah area, as the Ministry of Education did not allow school groups to leave during school hours, to make up for time lost during the beginning of the pandemic.















### **Public Engagement Programme and Public Outreach**

The Palestinian Museum's Public Engagement Programme seeks to foster continuous interaction and dialogue with the general public across different interests and age groups. It also seeks to create an interactive space for self-expression and direct engagement to develop an unconventional museum experience. During 2021, the Public Engagement Programme concluded a series of activities accompanying the 'Printed in Jerusalem' exhibition and began companion activities for the 'A People by the Sea' exhibition. These activities varied between artistic and cultural workshops, on-site and virtual tours, concerts and theatre performances, up-close explorations of the artworks and collections, and other events, as follows:

### A Series of Tours of the 'Printed in Jerusalem' Exhibition

• 'Printed in Jerusalem' exhibition sign language tour
A sign language version of the tour was designed by interpreter Thaer Daraghmeh. The video of this tour was shown on the Museum's social media platforms on February 24th. This tour dealt with the five sections of the 'Printed in Jerusalem: Mustamloun' exhibition:

Remnants, the Sixth Communiqué, Inspection and Evaluation, Leaving a Trace, and Rebirth.

• Closing tour of 'Printed in Jerusalem: Mustamloun' exhibition The closing tour of the 'Printed in Jerusalem: Mustamloun' was presented on February 28th with curator Baha Jubeh, guest curator Abdul Rahman Shabana, and assistant curator Sandy Rishmawi. The tour was given in Arabic on-site.









# Presentation of 'Made in Palestine' workshop outputs

Following the conclusion of the 'Made in Palestine' workshop, launched by the Museum in partnership with the Palestinian Art Court- al Hoash to accompany the 'Printed in Jerusalem: Mustamloun' exhibition, participants combed through the archives of Palestinian companies that have closed their doors, in search of Palestinian product trademarks before and after the Occupation. Artist Ahed Izhiman presented the results of the workshop on February 4th, tracing the participants' progress and experiences in producing artwork and specifically highlighting their research and information-gathering journey. The video was widely viewed on social media.



# Launching the 'A Garden among the Hills: The Floral Heritage of Palestine' Catalogue

The Museum launched the garden catalogue 'Garden among the Hills: The Floral Heritage of Palestine' on April 1st on social media. The Museum's gardens designer, landscape architect Lara Zureikat, and catalogue authors Birzeit University Professors of plant biology Jamil Harb and Munir Naser took part in the session, facilitated and presented by Birzeit University Associate Professor of geography Omar Tesdell.



# A Series of Tours in the Museum Gardens

The Museum presented a series of tours of its gardens during March and April, guided by Professor of plant biology Jamil Harb. He introduced the floral variety at the Museum and Palestine in general.



### Yoga in the Palestinian Museum Gardens

The Museum filmed a series of yoga sessions in its gardens in cooperation with Yoga instructor, Shadan Nasser, known as Shadana Yoga. The sessions were broadcast on the Museum's social media and the Shadana Yoga YouTube channel on April 23rd, helping participants relieve stress and ease tension. The event received many views on the Museum's social media pages.



### Ramadan Beverages 'Ramadan Recipes' Series

Chef and artist Mirna Bamieh of the Palestine Hosting Society presented recipes for five traditional drinks served during the month of Ramadan. This included tamarind, carob, hibiscus, and almond juice, in addition to a distinctive and delicious herbal drink from the Museum's gardens. The recipes were broadcast on the Museum's social media.



# Podcast: An Orange Grove's Recollection

In this podcast, prepared and presented by colleague Jenan Silwadi, a PMDA coordinator, we discovered Hoda Batshoun's journey of physical exile from Yaffa and the exile of her memory with its sudden, unexpected return. The podcast aired on May 15th.



### Virtual Exhibition Launch Commemorating International Museum Day 'The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine'

On May 18th, the Museum launched a virtual exhibition of artwork focused on reimagining the Museum via its social media. The artists featured were not necessarily professionals, but rather people from all walks of life who shared artistic representations of how they conceive the Museum, its collections, and exhibitions. This virtual exhibition allows the Museum to be seen through the eyes of an expanded public.



### A Series of Tours of the Museum's Permanent Collections Room

The Public Programme held a series of tours of the Museum's permanent collections room, under the title 'Heritage Dresses: Memory Lane', presented by Museum Registrar Baha Jubeh on September 6th, October 25th, and December 19th.

# Recorded Videos on Close-up Exploration of Artwork and Collections:

- A video that sheds light on the life of late artist Fatima Al-Muhib with researcher George Al-Ama.
- A video on the works of playwright and musician Omar al-Jallad.
- An awareness and educational video translated into English, '80 Thobes and Stories Make it Home from the Diaspora'. The two speakers, Museum Registrar Baha Jubeh and Collector Maha Abu Shusha, introduced viewers to the story of the 80 Palestinian embroidered dresses (thobes) that made their way from Palestine to the United States three decades ago, now repatriated to Palestine to be preserved in the Museum, identifying their unique artistic and geographic characteristics.

### Introductory Video for the New Exhibition 'A People by the Sea: Narratives from the Palestinian Coast (1748 - 1948)'

On September 15th, the Museum broadcast an introductory video regarding the exhibition 'A People by the Sea', in which guest curator Inass Yassin answered public queries about the new exhibition. The video was part of the worldwide 'Ask a Curator Day' event in which museums around the world participate, harnessing the power of social media for effective engagement between the public and museums staffs. The event was an initiative of Museum Next.















Inauguration of 'A People by the Sea: Narratives from the Palestinian Coast'

The Museum officially opened its new exhibition on October 24th, after it had opened its doors to the public on September 29th. The September opening did not include any activities out of respect for the recent killing of our colleague Zakaria Badwan by the occupation army. The official opening included a live performance written and artistically supervised by Amer Hlehel and directed by Emile Saba. The performance takes the audience through the exhibition's various narratives, bringing them closer to the lives of the people of the coast by showcasing how political events and major changes affected their ordinary days at distinct historical stages. The audience moves between tales of escape, survival, love, hope, surprise, loss, and longing through intimate personal experiences open to the collective memory, performed by a group of young actors.



Zakaria Badwan (1985-2021)

### A Series of 'A People by the Sea' Exhibition Tours

The Museum organised a series of tours of its new exhibition over October, November, and December, led by Assistant Curator Malak Abdelwahab that shed light on the various aspects of the new exhibition: its main themes, research process, and commissioned art and design works.

### Artist Talk with Shareef Sarhan

The Museum organised a talk with artist Shareef Sarhan on September 14th, where he discussed his commissioned multimedia artwork 'Microscopic Vision Restoration'.

### **Short Film Production Workshop**

Director and Producer Salim Abu Jabal held a workshop on a re-montage of archival materials of the Wadi al-Saleeb neighbourhood in Haifa, which ran from September 5th-18th online. Students from the faculties of media and cinema and young filmmakers produced 3-to-5-minute documentaries, video art, and experimental short films. The films were screened at the end of the event. The participants also worked on archival materials filmed by German director Monica Mauer in 1981, materials filmed by the workshop supervisor in 2008-2014, and other materials from different eras never before used or screened to the public.





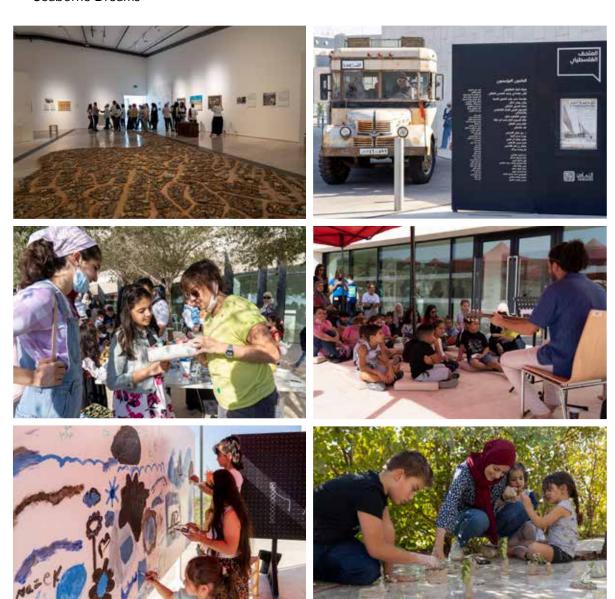


### Open Day at the Museum - Along the Coast: The Swallow's Path, and the Odour of Oranges

The Museum organised an open day on October 8th, as part of the activities of the 'A People by the Sea: Narratives from the Palestinian Coast' exhibition, in which visitors participated in many activities and stations inspired by the exhibition and its artwork.

The open day included the following stations:

- Songs from the Sea
- Fictional Fantasies: Fictional Texts about Emile Habibi's Saraya: The Ogre's Daughter
- Microscopy: New Ways to Explore the Worlds of Sand
- Bus 47: Destinations from Memory
- Dream Catcher
- Freedom Flotilla: Reclaiming the Landscape
- Seaborne Dreams



### Family Day: Olive Harvest and Children's Art Workshop in Partnership with the Visual Arts Forum

On October 15th, the Museum hosted a Family Day celebration of the harvest season, organised in partnership with the Visual Arts Forum and including an art workshop for children to produce a model of the Gaza Freedom Flotilla. The workshop aimed to shed light on the Ship and its history. This representation of the ship was created with numerous artistic tools, in addition to drawing paintings on canvas.



The Museum held a workshop in cooperation with artist Shatha Safadi on November 10th, targeting adults of 18 and older. The workshop provided an overview of the history of this type of printing. Participants learned about this light-sensitive material and were encouraged to create a painting using archival photos of the Palestinian coast from the Museum's digital archive.

### A Return Tour to Al-Manshiyya Neighbourhood - Occupied Yaffa

The Museum, in partnership with the Arab Youth Association - Baladna, carried out a tour entitled Return to the al-Manshiyya Neighbourhood - Occupied Yaffa, on November 5th.







# KNOWLEDGE and RESEARCH PROGRAME

In 2021 the Knowledge and Research programme expanded its scope, holding a variety of activities in fulfilment of the Museum's vision and strategic projects. The events were held from February to June online and then in a hybrid format online and at the Museum. This allowed the programme to connect with new audiences inside and outside Palestine, fulfilling the Museum's transnational mission. The work of the programme for this year focused on the following areas

- Research Grants Project: The Museum signed contracts with researchers that were awarded grants, per the research process which began in early January 2021. The department received 8 out of 17 research paper drafts, with the remaining papers set to be received by the end of January 2022.
- Knowledge and Research Programme: The Knowledge and Research Programme
  held several events throughout the year via Zoom until June, after which they
  were held in person to encourage interactive activities. The events held were as
  follows:

### Book Launch for Inside the Ancient Wall: A Study of Qassim Al-Rimawi's Texts on Holy Jihad

The book was launched on February 10th with a conversation between the author Bilal Shalash and Johnny Mansour, PhD.

### Podcast on the Hejaz Railway

The podcast episode was launched in conjunction with the 'Printed in Jerusalem' exhibition. It was broadcast on the Museum's social media pages on February 28th and was listened to many times on the Museum's SoundCloud channel. This podcast follows the Hejaz Railway, highlighting Palestine's position on its route and its now-extinct physical connection to its Arab neighbours. It was prepared by colleague Haneen Saleh, Communications Officer and researched by colleague Marah Khalifeh, Research and Programme Officer.

### Book Launch 'Jerusalem Lives in the Stories of the City and People' and the 'Jerusalem Lives' Exhibition Catalogue

The launching event for the books 'Jerusalem Lives in the Stories of the City and People', and the 'Jerusalem Lives' exhibition catalogue was held via Zoom on March 17th. Hosted by the editor of both books, Salim Tamari, PhD, Chair of the Board of Directors, Omar Al-Qattan, and Director General Adila Laïdi-Hanieh, PhD. The event enjoyed many participants via Zoom and many views on the Museum's YouTube channel.



Book Launch 'Thorough surveillance: The genesis of Israeli policies of population management, surveillance and political control towards the Palestinian minority'

The book launch was held on April 21st and hosted by the author, Ahmad Sa'di, PhD, in coordination with Director General of the Palestinian Forum for Israeli Studies (MADAR), Honaida Ghanim, PhD. The online launch had 15 participants, with 604 views on Facebook live and 32 views on the Museum's YouTube channel.



### Symposium: Political and Cultural Space in Palestinian Coastal Cities

Speakers included artist Rana Bishara, author Rasha Hilweh, researcher Nadim Karkabi, Journalist Rabie Eid, and poet Asmaa Azaizeh.

The symposium was held on July 28th as a prelude to the opening of the 'A People by the Sea' exhibition. The discussion highlighted the political and cultural spaces inside the 1948 Palestinian Territories, particularly the coastal cities, and explored their different political and cultural movements. The event reached seventy-four views on YouTube and 1,000 views on Facebook live. Six people attended live while eleven attended online.

### The Worlds of Rashid Hussein Podcast

The Museum, in partnership with Sawt platform, broadcast The Worlds of Rashid Hussein podcast on July 28th with colleagues Marah Khalifeh and Haneen Saleh. It interrogates the effects of the Nakba on his life, his poetic and political careers, and his militant engagement.

### Inaugural Symposium of the Exhibition 'A People by the Sea': The Palestinian Coast in the Imaginary: Dialectics of History and the Novel

The inaugural symposium of the exhibition 'A People by the Sea' was held on September 22nd with the participation of novelist Ibrahim Nasrallah, critic Antoine Shalhat, history professors Adel Manna and Mahmoud Yazbak, exhibition curator Inass Yassin, and Museum Director Adila Laïdi-Hanieh.

The event focused on the construction of consciousness and the shaping of the Palestinian imaginary on the Palestinian coast, historically, geographically, and culturally. It began with an intervention by Nasrallah and was followed by a discussion between Nasrallah and Shalhat on fiction and history. Professor Manna's intervention focused on Akka, Daher Al-Omar, the All-Palestine Government, and Palestine as a lost paradise. Professor Yazbak discussed the cultural scene in Yaffa in the late Ottoman period. The symposium concluded with a discussion among Yassin, Manna, and Yazbak on history and art. The symposium was held on-site at the Museum and online.

### 'Open Gaza: Architectures of Hope' Book Launch

The book launch held online on October 6th hosted several contributors, including Yara Sharif, PhD, Deen Sharp, PhD, Sara Roy, PhD, Nasser Golzari, PhD, Hala Naji, and Adila Laïdi-Hanieh. The event was attended by on-site participants and received many views online. Inspired by the innovations and experiences of the people of Gaza, this book brings together environmentalists, urban planners, activists, and scholars to offer hopeful architectural solutions to envision a better place for Gazans and Palestinians. Open Gaza engages with the Gaza Strip within and beyond the rationalities of siege and warfare. It considers how life can be improved despite restrictions imposed by the Israeli blockade, away from the absurdities of violence and war.

### Lecture 'Unforgettable: Palestine in Two Thousand Years of Documentation'

The lecture was held on October 24th at the Museum and online. Hosted by Salman Abu Sitta, PhD and Johnny Mansour, PhD, the event discussed Abu Sitta's ongoing project of documenting Palestine. Through his encyclopaedic projects, Atlases of Palestine (1877, 1948, 2000) and Atlas Palestine (1917-1966), Abu Sitta has drawn a Palestinian map that documents 50,000 localities. Abu Sitta aims to shape the future of Palestine by proposing a return plan and reclaiming the land. The lecture was attended in-person as well as online.

# Third Annual Museum Conference 'Palestine: Producing Knowledge, Producing Futures'

The Museum held its third annual conference on December 8th, in partnership with Birzeit University's Department of Social and Behavioural Science and Mada al-Carmel, the Arab Centre for Applied Social Research in Haifa. Conference speakers included: Scholars and academics Beshara Doumani, Abaher el-Sakka, Khaled Furani, Rana Barakat, Salim Abu Thaher, Ala Alazzeh, Lena Meari, Mohanad Mustafa, and Mai Albzour. Also presenting: Curator Ahmed Al-Aqra', playwright Amer Hlehel, and poet Ali Mawasi. Proceedings took place in the conference hall of the Said Khoury Building for Development Studies at Birzeit University.

The conference was organised in accompaniment to the Museum's current exhibition 'A People by the Sea: Narratives from the Palestinian Coast (1748-1948).' The exhibition follows several specific themes, including the rise of Akka in the mid-18th century and the rise of Yaffa in the 19th century accompanying the growing European influence in the mid-19th century, which led to the Nakba in the twentieth century.





'Palestine: Producing Knowledge, Producing Futures' provided a foundation for a reading of the Palestinian coast today, repositioning it within the wider socio-political and cultural Palestinian context. The conference focused on processes of Palestinian knowledge production and posed a set of questions, such as: How do we think about Palestine, and how do we research it? How is Palestine produced and reproduced in research? As well as addressing discourses of indigeneity and cultural and political approaches to settler colonial studies. Many attended in person while others participated online.

### Research Partnership with the University of Cape Town

On July 6th, the Museum signed a research partnership agreement with the University of Cape Town in South Africa to implement a two-year research project (July 2021-July 2023) on the topography of the Occupation in the West Bank. The project will include the examination of the similarities and specificities of the Palestinian experience and the experience of Apartheid South Africa.

The research project includes a series of workshops as well as research, field visits, mobility exchange, and creative transfer. The objective was to undertake a museographic approach to preserving, documenting, and exhibiting the history of spoilation of the landscape through a design-based approach on how to conceptualise and display the transformation of the topography of occupation. An open call was published at the end of November aimed at artists and researchers in Palestine, South Africa and beyond. The first workshop was held over 4 days via Zoom. Participants presented the research they will develop through the project.





# The Palestinian Museum Joins the Arab Council for Social Sciences

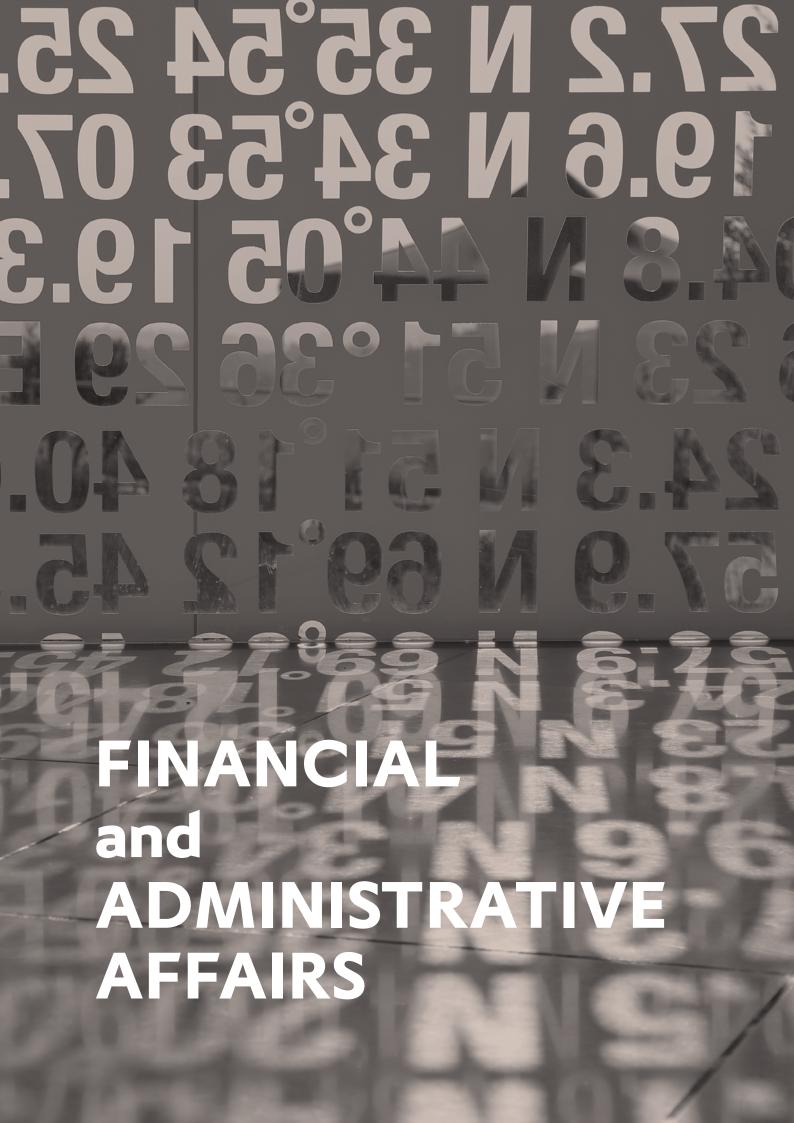
The Museum became a member of the Arab Council for Social Sciences in Beirut, effective May 2021.

### Media

Throughout the year, the Museum received extensive media coverage. 70 pieces were published in the local and international media, the most prominent of which include:

- Eight full pages and a photo of the Museum on the cover of the spring special issue of the American Artforum Magazine dedicated to museums worldwide.
- 36 news articles in local and international media, including in Gulf Today and Houstonian Magazine.
- 10 news pieces by local and Arab media on the thobe (embroidered dresses) campaign that included filming by Dubai TV and interviews covering the success of the campaign to return the thobes home.
- Media coverage of the launch of the 'A People by the Sea' exhibition from 15 local, Arab, and international channels.
- Media coverage of the third annual conference included 11 pieces of news coverage in Arab and local newspapers and websites.
- A special media tour of the 'People by the Sea' exhibition.
- A promotional video of the 'A People by the Sea' exhibition aired on all social media platforms, as well as two ads published in e-flux and This Week in Palestine.
- An article on the Palestinian Museum was published in the newsletter of ICOM's International Committee of Ethnographic Museums.
- Special coverage of the collections room on social media.







The Palestinian Museum was founded by Taawon, which began work on the idea of the Museum in the late 1990s. The construction of the Museum began in 2012, and since then it has been the flagship project of its mother institution, Taawon. As such, Taawon's financial reports include all details concerning the Museum. These reports have been audited internally and externally and are available to the public on the Taawon website.

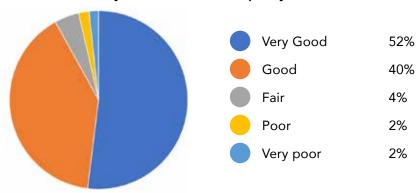


### Visitor Relations (January - December 2021)

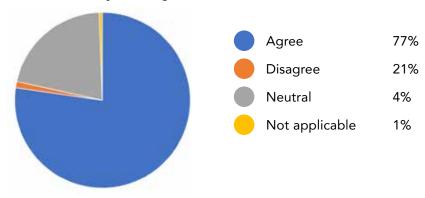
The 2021 Progress Report includes visitor evaluations of the current 'A People by the Sea: Narratives from the Palestinian Coast' exhibition, as well as the number of visitors for both this exhibition and the 'Printed in Jerusalem: Mustamloun' exhibition. The number of visitors during the transition period between exhibitions is based on gift shop and cafeteria visitor count and event ticket sales.

### Selections from visitor evaluations of the 'A People by the Sea: Narratives from the Palestinian Coast' exhibition

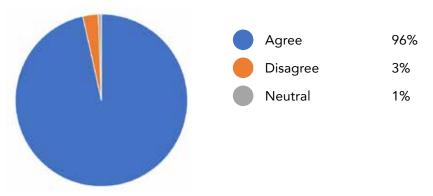
Q1: How would you rate the overall quality?



### Q2: Was it easy to navigate the exhibitions?



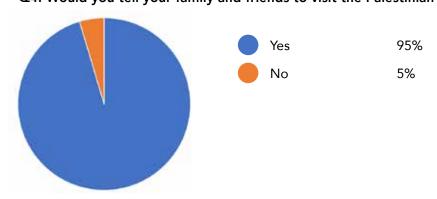
### Q3: Did you enjoy the topics covered in the exhibitions?



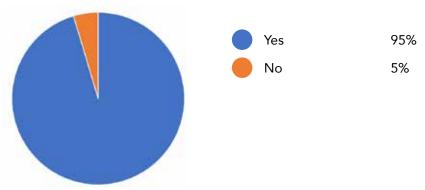
### **VISITOR RELATIONS**



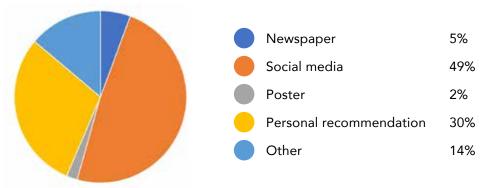
Q4: Would you tell your family and friends to visit the Palestinian Museum?



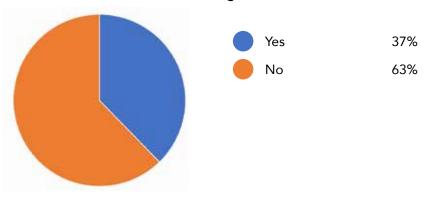
Q5: Would you encourage your friends or family members to visit the Museum?



Q6: How did you learn about the exhibition?



Q7: Was there an exhibition tour guide?



### Visitors according to age group

Visitors Age	Visitors count	Percentage (%)
17 and under	53	2.5
18-25	1512	70
26-30	172	8.4
32-40	215	10.2
41-60	152	7.6
61 and over	33	2.3

### Visitors according to country

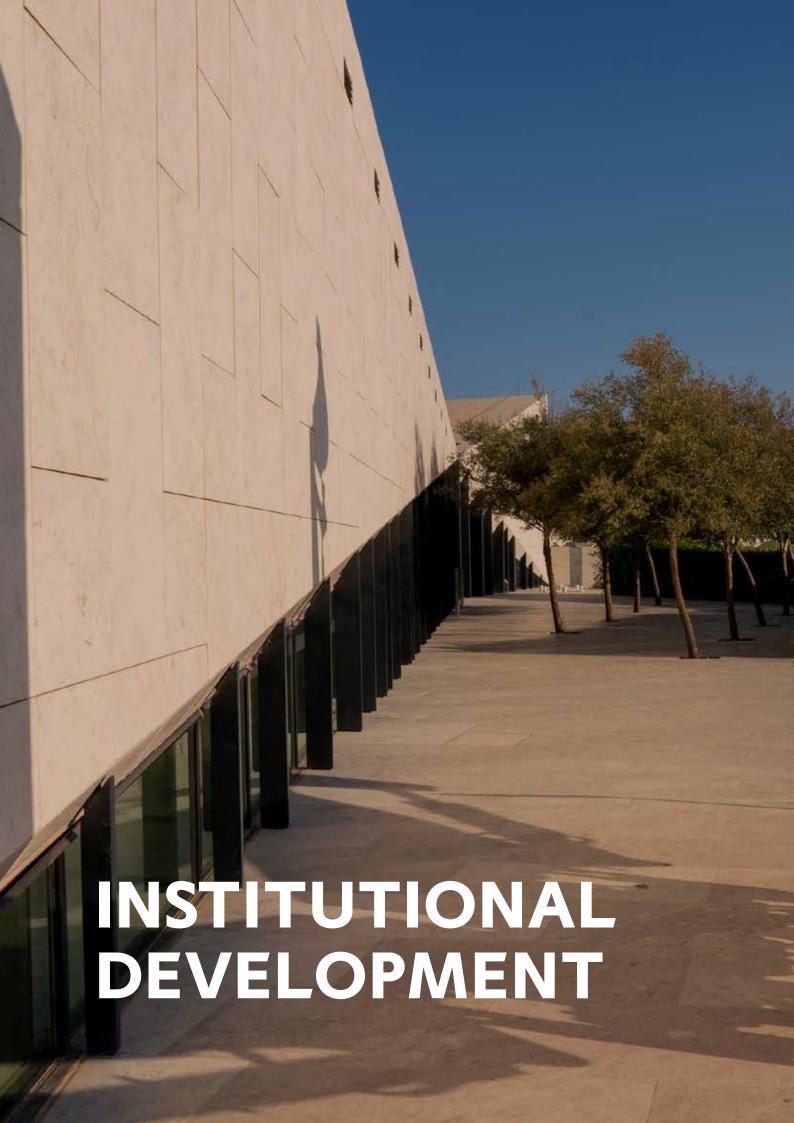
Country	Visitors count	Percentage (%)
Palestine	1870	97.7
United States	14	0.7
Italy	11	0.5
United Kingdom	10	0.5
France	8	0.4

## Visitors according to gender

Gender	Visitors count	Percentage (%)
Male	760	35.5
Female	1336	62.5
Prefer not to say	41	2

### Visitors according to Palestinian city

City	Visitors count	Percentage (%)
Akka	3	0.15
Bethlehem	88	5.1
Bir Al-Saba	1	0.05
Haifa	12	0.6
Hebron	132	7.3
Jenin	21	1.2
Jericho	11	0.55
Jerusalem	290	14.5
Nazareth	23	1.15
Nablus	88	4.4
Qalqilya	8	0.4
Ramallah and Al-Bireh	1043	58.1
Ramleh	2	0.16
Salfit	32	1.77
Tubas	7	0.33
Tulkarm	29	1.6
Umm al-Fahm	2	0.1
Yaffa	6	0.3
Gaza	10	0.5



### **Approval of New Policies**

2021 was dedicated to the development of the Museum's internal policies per its new legal status. These policies were prepared by the Museum's Financial and Administrative Manager after careful analysis and then audited by the Deloitte firm. They were then reviewed by the Museum's Director and the Auditing and Compliance Committee and subsequently approved and adopted by the Board of Directors:

- 1. HR Policy
- 2. Procurement Manual
- 3. Financial and Accounting Manual
- 4. Anticorruption Policy
- 5. Child Protection Policy
- 6. Conflict of Interest Policy
- 7. Antiharassment Policy
- 8. Reporting Unlawful Acts and Antiretaliation Policy
- 9. Whistleblowing Policy

### Museum Registration in Palestine

The Palestinian Museum - Non-Governmental Association was registered as a branch under the Department of Foreign Associations - the Ministry of Interior in Palestine under the number (QR-0291-F) on 06/23/2021, as a non-profit association based on the decision of the Minister of Interior No. (50) dated 06/23/2021. Dr Mamdouh Aker was recognised as the representative of the association's branch in the State of Palestine.



### Strategic Planning

On May 20th, 2021, an agreement was signed with Solutions for Development Consulting Company to carry out strategic planning for the Museum for the years 2022-2024. A summary of the consulting firm's completed strategic work is as follows: The strategic plan (programmatic and administrative) covers three years (2022-2024) and defines the Museum's future path based on a commitment to the Museum as a concept and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The plan was developed after an in-depth analysis of the Museum's activities, its current policies, strategic work plans, and the internal and external environments in which the Museum operates. In addition, a participatory approach was utilised that included Museum senior management, staff, members of the board, and the President of Birzeit University, Beshara Doumani, in a series of meetings held at the Museum throughout the summer.



This list includes individuals and institutions who spared no effort supporting the Museum in a variety of ways. We take pride in their support and generosity and extend to them our utmost thanks and gratitude. We are happy to introduce them here in alphabetical order.

#### **Individual Donors**

Osama Al-Khouribi
Julia Cher
Randa and Maher Kaddoura
Adila Laïdi-Hanieh, PhD
Ghalia and Omar Al-Qattan
Hani Al-Qattan
Lina Al-Qattan
Najwa Al-Qattan
Laila Qaddumi
Yasmine Qaddumi
Nadia Sehweil
Nureddin Sehweil

#### **Donor Institutions**

Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
Arcadia Fund
Bank of Palestine
The British Council
The French Consulate
The Swedish International Development Agency through the A.M. Qattan Foundation
Taawon
University of Cape Town

### **Networking Meetings and Partnerships**

Museum Director visits France at the invitation of the French Consulate General: As part of the cooperation agreement between France and the Museum, Director Adila Laïdi-Hanieh was invited to visit several international cultural institutions and museums in Paris and Marseille. She met there with the following:

Lazare Eloundou, Head of the Department of Culture and Museums at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); Peter Keller, Director General of the International Council of Museums (ICOM); Valérie Guillaume, the Director of the Carnavalet Museum; Education Department Officials at the Musée d'Orsay; Hana Chidiac, Curator for the Middle East, and North African Collections at the Quai Branly- Jacques Chirac Museum; Institut des Cultures d'Islam in Paris; Jack Lang, President of the Institut du Monde Arabe, and the Institute's Museum, exhibitions, and external communications officials; The tour of Marseilles included a meeting with Jean-François Chougnet, Director of the Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations (MuCEM) and officials in MuCEM's education, exhibitions, external relations, collections, and curation departments. Dr Laïdi-Hanieh also participated in the 'Creating Art in the Arab World' conference organised by MuCEM, where she presented a lecture on the Palestinian Museum.

Crowdfunding Events: The Museum received all boxes containing the collection of embroidered heritage dresses (thobes) from the United States that were donated by the Committee for the Preservation of Palestinian Heritage in Washington (CPPH) to the Museum, funded by a crowdfunding campaign that took place at the end of 2020.



#### **Events**

- Two special events were organised for the Palestinian community in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, with the participation of members of the Museum's Board of Directors. The events were attended by around 40 people each and included a detailed presentation on the Museum and its projects and achievements.
- A special event was organised at the Museum to celebrate the completion of the shipment of the embroidered dresses (thobes) from the United States to Palestine. Cultural institutions, media representatives, donors, individuals, and companies that contributed to the campaign were invited. A special tour explaining details of the thobes and their accessories was given to all attendees. The event was attended by the Minister of Culture, Atef Abu Saif, Ms Maha Rabie via Zoom from the United States, and Mr Abed Al-Samih Abu Omar, the original owner of the thobes collection.









### The Palestinian Museum Staff

Museum Director General Adila Laïdi-Hanieh, PhD

Director General Office Manager **Manar Brighith** 

Research, Knowledge, and Programmes Department Marah Khalifeh

Publications Unit Hala Shrouf Bader Othman Rawan Nemer

Educational Programme Sara Zahran Lana Obaida

Curatorial Department Ruba Totah Malak Abdelwahab Nadine Aranki

Curation and Collections Baha Jubeh Bara Bawatneh Salma Abu Mariam

Public Programmes and Production **Obour Hashash**  Exhibition Production **Khaled Shaar** 

Public Programme and Activities
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Bashaer Shawer

Media and Public Relations Haneen Saleh Duha Dkeidak

Graphic Design Lena Sobeh

Photography Audio/Visual Content Hareth Yousef

Development and Partnerships Samer Makhlouf Safaa Halahla Ahed Bakir

Administration and Finance Nakhleh Al-Qare'

Procurement and Accounting
Naser Yousef
Mohammad Hawari
Laureena Shaheen

Administrative Affairs Reem Diab Saleem Azar Visitors and
Gift Shop Management
Rina Khatib
Jane Mukarker
Abdel Qader Ibrahim
Amjad Abdulrazak

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Nasri Ishtayeh Heba Musleh Osama Hamda

Facilities
Bashar Ammar
Ayman Tubeileh
Amjad Altauslog

Wadee Bader

Support Staff
Zakaria Badwan (1985-2021)
Ahmad Barghouti
Ragheb Yaqoob
Ribhi Barghouthy
Abdel Qader Ibrahim
Omar Kallab
Odeh Bayatneh
Karam Maloukh
Malek Tleib
Makseem Kanaan
Mohammad Omar
Nidal Shoaibi



The Palestinian Museum - Non-Governmental Association is dedicated to supporting an open and dynamic Palestinian culture nationally and internationally. The Museum presents and engages with new perspectives on Palestinian history, society and culture. It also offers spaces for creative ventures, educational programmes and innovative research.

The Palestinian Museum is a Swiss-registered non-governmental association with a branch in Palestine.

#### The Palestinian Museum

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email: info@palmuseum.org

Facebook: The Palestinian Museum

Twitter: @palmuseum Instagram: palmuseum

Visit the Palestinian Museum Digital Archive: www.palarchive.org

The Palestinian Museum won the 2019 Aga Khan Award for Architecture and is LEED-certified Gold by the U.S. Green Building Council.