The Jerusalem Foundation was established in 1966 by the legendary Mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek. Over the last five decades, and through more than 4000 initiatives, the Foundation has touched the lives of all of Jerusalem’s more than 900,000 residents from all of the city’s communities.

Today, the Jerusalem Foundation’s mandate is as relevant as ever. The global pandemic, which resulted in a health and economic crisis, has impacted us all and has brought into sharper focus some of the existing issues in Jerusalem. The social fabric of the city has been tested and challenged, and the need for communal strength is more pressing than ever.

Our plan for 2030 will close social gaps and support the most vulnerable populations in the city. The pandemic impacted cultural life in Jerusalem. Going forward, we will continue to promote creative culture, supporting cultural institutions to innovate and adapt to the new reality. The future of Jerusalem will be determined by its young leaders and we continue to support the development of the next generation in the city.

We can take pride in the Foundation’s half-century of achievement that has shaped the modern city’s landscape even as we continue to adapt to the evolving needs of Jerusalem’s diverse population and invest in its development.
The Jerusalem Foundation of Canada was established in 1970 to assist in and support the relief of poverty and distress in Jerusalem for all residents of the city, from all communities and cultures. The Foundation further supports educational and religious projects which are exclusively charitable. The Jerusalem Foundation of Canada also establishes and maintains multi-use recreational facilities in the city and promotes the establishment of schools, libraries, theatres, concert halls, museums, hospitals, clinics, elderly centres and more.
Projects that Make a Difference
Canada House

Canada House in Morasha is a dynamic community centre serving Jerusalem residents of all ages. Dedicated by the Jerusalem Foundation of Canada in 2013, Canada House is a vibrant nucleus of programming, that is constantly buzzing with energy and where young and old, religious and secular, students and entrepreneurs, new immigrants and veteran Israelis – residents of the Morasha neighborhood and beyond – interact with and learn from each other as they build their lives in Jerusalem.

Canada House is home to the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews Community Services Floor which addresses the needs of the elderly and youth of the Morasha neighborhood. Its facilities include: The Reitman Seniors Centre; the Gorman–Shore Learning Centre; the Freedman Teen Club and Youth Services; the Weisfeld Computer Centre; the Italian Friendship Garden in honor of Anthony Tafuro.

Canada House is also home to the Koschitzky Young Adults Centre, the official young adults’ centre of the city of Jerusalem. It serves as the central headquarters for programs and projects to advance the personal, social, communal, and professional goals of Jerusalem’s young adult population. Facilities include: The Kimel Information & Activity Centre; the Wynn Business Centre; the Yaacov Gladstone Leadership Development Centre for the Ethiopian Young Adults Community; the Gideon-Wyler Volunteer Centre.
Teddy Park

Teddy Park in the Mitchell Parks & Gardens is located right beneath the walls of the Old City and opposite Jaffa Gate and honors the Jerusalem Foundation’s founder and legendary Mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek. The centerpiece of the Park is the Hassenfeld Family Sound and Light Fountain and the open and inviting area welcomes Jerusalem visitors and residents alike, within its elements and beautiful landscape. The Azrieli Promenade leads into the Sharp Square at the entrance to Teddy Park and the Centre of the World sculpture is lit from below at night, highlighting the Tower of David just above. The Sonshine Wall of Honour contains the names of many Canadians who contributed to the establishment of this important Jerusalem landmark. The Gorman Shore Gate and Etel & Benjamin Wolf Gate lead into the heart of the Park.
Jerusalem Cultural Quarter

Jerusalem’s Cultural Quarter is an essential part of the strategy to transform the city by bringing more young people into the city centre with academies, schools and culture institutions that will impact the communal and economic strength of Jerusalem. Jerusalem’s Cultural Quarter stretches across the city centre from the Jerusalem Arts Campus and Muslala Terrace in the Clal building near the Machaneh Yeduda Market to the new campus of the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, along the Canada Pathway to the Naggar Musrara School of Art and Society and across to Teddy Park and the Old City and HaMiffal Arts Space, adjacent to the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. The development of the new campuses and relocation of art and academic academies to the Cultural Quarter have brought increased collaboration and interaction between these institutions and the local businesses and communities and the significant urban development has led to commercial expansion triggered by the new activity and growth.
Canada Pathway and Culture and Community Fund

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Jerusalem Foundation of Canada established the Canada Community and Culture Fund. This fund supports two critical areas in Jerusalem: ongoing needs for vulnerable populations of all ages, and the recovery of the cultural sector which has been decimated by COVID. The Jerusalem Foundation, working in close cooperation with Mayor Moshe Lion, ensures that funds raised will be distributed to the most relevant and vital projects as the situation on the ground continues to change and evolve.

Support for the Canada Community and Culture Fund will be recognized along the Canada Pathway, located in the centre of Jerusalem and linking Canada House from Shivtei Yisrael Street to Ein Chet below and the Naggar Musrara School of Art and Society on the new Harary Campus. The Canada Pathway is adjacent to Jerusalem City Hall and the Old City and the Jerusalem Inukshuk sculpture stands at the entrance to the Pathway.
Bezalel Academy of Art and Design – new campus

The Bezalel Academy of Art & Design was founded in 1906 and is Israel’s oldest institution of higher learning – over the years, the academy has grown into one of the most prominent institutions of fine arts, design and architecture in Israel. It offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in fine arts, architecture, ceramics, industrial design, jewelry, photography, visual communications, animation, video and film and history and theory.

The Academy’s new campus is located in the centre of Jerusalem just across from Canada House and the Canada Pathway. It is the heart of the developing Cultural Quarter and is scheduled to open in October 2022, providing a new base for its 2,500 students and 500 faculty members. Bezalel brings together education and artistic activity and is a home to students from all population groups in Jerusalem. The Canada Visual Communication Gallery will link the Bezalel Campus and the Canada Pathway and will be another incredible example of the connection of Canada to Jerusalem.
Shared Living and Education

At the Jerusalem Foundation’s initiative, over 50 non-profit and civil society organizations joined together to create the Jerusalem Tolerance Coalition, a coalition of dozens of organizations, institutions, agencies and initiatives that work to advance shared living in the city.

The Shared Living Hub is Jerusalem’s first hub for social change organizations and initiatives promoting cross-communal and cross-cultural dialogue in Jerusalem, serving as a meeting point for the organizations that make up the Jerusalem Tolerance Coalition.

The Max Rayne Hand in Hand School for Bilingual Education is dedicated to promoting Jewish-Arab education, using a bilingual curriculum that encourages pupils to strengthen their own cultural identity while promoting understanding, tolerance and respect for religious, cultural and ethnic differences.

The National Library of Israel serves as a unique resource for Jerusalem and beyond and the Jerusalem Foundation has a strategic partnership with the Library in the spheres of education and shared living. It is an unparalleled meeting place between people and ideas and between generations and cultures.
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