



**“The most ambitious
cultural institution
to rise in Poland since
the fall of communism.”**

Rick Lyman, *The New York Times*

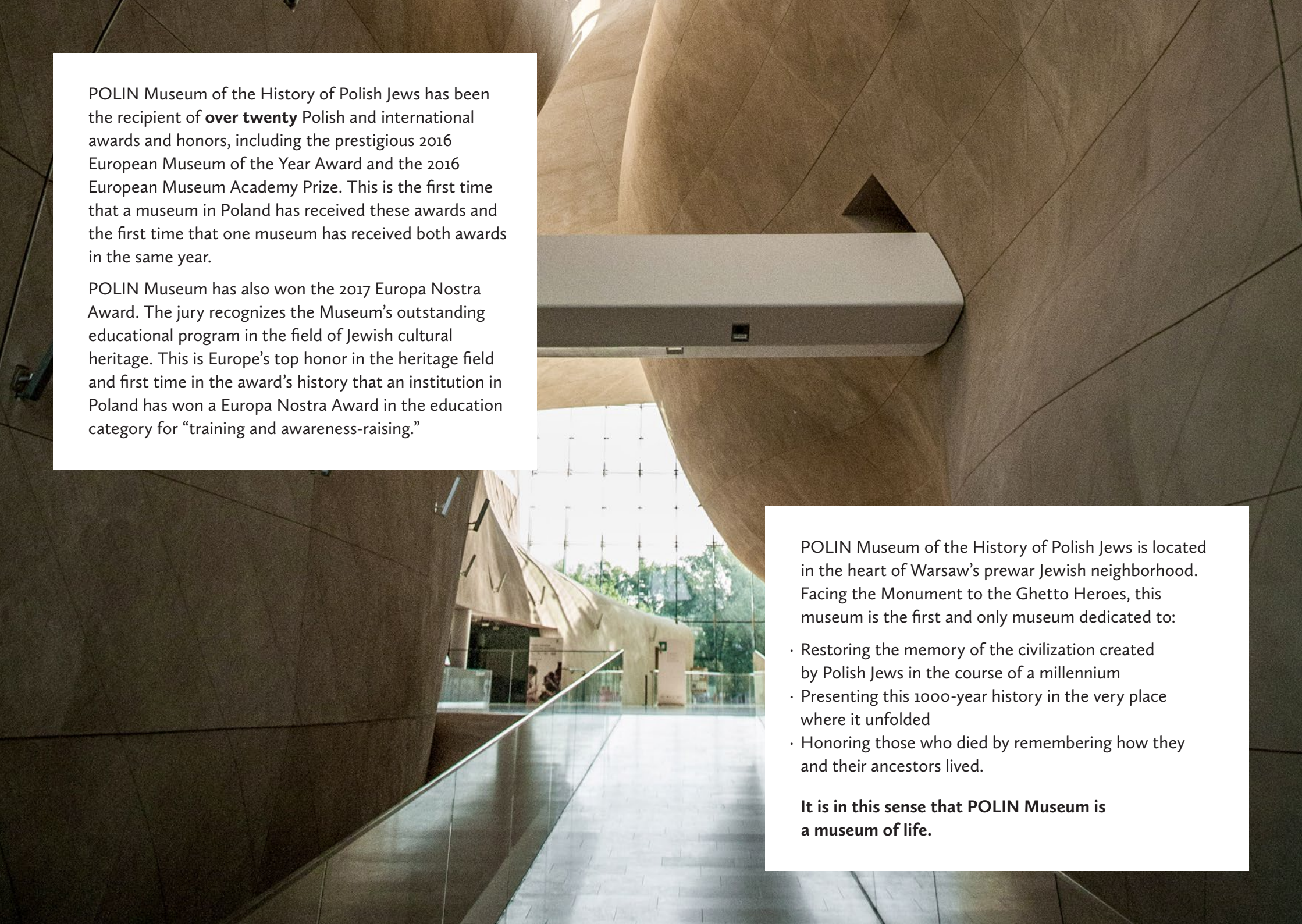
The Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland is the oldest Jewish philanthropic organization in Poland dedicated to preserving and commemorating the history and culture of Polish Jews and their contribution to world culture.

The Association's statutory responsibility is to support POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews and the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute. The Association initiated POLIN Museum in 1993, ran a successful capital campaign, and produced the core exhibition.

The Association continues to work with partners from around the world to raise awareness of this unique place and garner support from an international community of donors.

Please JOIN US in our efforts to commemorate and transmit the legacy of the civilization created by Polish Jews.





POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews has been the recipient of **over twenty** Polish and international awards and honors, including the prestigious 2016 European Museum of the Year Award and the 2016 European Museum Academy Prize. This is the first time that a museum in Poland has received these awards and the first time that one museum has received both awards in the same year.

POLIN Museum has also won the 2017 Europa Nostra Award. The jury recognizes the Museum's outstanding educational program in the field of Jewish cultural heritage. This is Europe's top honor in the heritage field and first time in the award's history that an institution in Poland has won a Europa Nostra Award in the education category for "training and awareness-raising."

POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews is located in the heart of Warsaw's prewar Jewish neighborhood. Facing the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes, this museum is the first and only museum dedicated to:

- Restoring the memory of the civilization created by Polish Jews in the course of a millennium
- Presenting this 1000-year history in the very place where it unfolded
- Honoring those who died by remembering how they and their ancestors lived.

It is in this sense that POLIN Museum is a museum of life.



viadali nam ojcowie,
rzybył wygnany lud Izraela
aju Polin.

Our fathers told us how the exiles
of Israel came to the land of Polin.

Gdy mizal lud Izraela, że niedola
jego w dół się odnawia ... i że
wtedy skazują go raz po raz
na wygnanie

... ויחזקו חוקיהם ויחזקו
... ויחזקו חוקיהם ויחזקו

When Israel saw how its sufferings
were constantly renewed ...
how the evil authorities followed
expulsion with expulsion.

The multimedia narrative exhibition at the heart of POLIN Museum is a theatre of history. It has been praised internationally as setting a new standard for history museums. This world-class visitor experience was created by an international team of leading scholars and designers. Eight galleries showcase the untold story of Polish Jews from 960 to the present.



POLIN Museum links the history and legacy of Polish Jews to current issues. It offers a unique and transformative experience.

As an educational and cultural institution committed to life-long learning, POLIN Museum stimulates dialogue in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect. As a civic institution committed to democratic values, it contributes to the creation of a robust civil society.

POLIN Museum hosts lively programs — temporary exhibitions, films, concerts, performances, and artist residencies.



POLIN Museum offers a wide array of educational programs for schools, students, families, and the general public.



**WE INVITE YOU
TO SUPPORT
POLIN MUSEUM
IN THE FOLLOWING
STRATEGIC AREAS:**

- I. Core Exhibition
- II. Temporary Exhibitions
- III. Special Projects
- IV. Education
- V. Research and Publications
- VI. Cultural Programs



I. CORE EXHIBITION

POLIN Museum's core exhibition is the only comprehensive exhibition of the history of Polish Jews in the world. This exhibition is the foundation for all major programs and activities of POLIN Museum. Funds are being raised to maintain and upgrade the core exhibition in the years to come:

- Acquisition of key objects and works of art to replace those currently on loan from other institutions and to add objects that will enrich the core exhibition
- Technological innovation, including mobile applications
- Increasing international access to the core exhibition
- Developing a gallery dedicated to Polish Jews in the world that would serve as an epilogue to the core exhibition.



Interactive installation in the *First Encounters* gallery



Maurycy Minkowski (1883–1930), *The Bride*, IWO Foundation, Buenos Aires. Planned acquisition for POLIN Museum

II. TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

Temporary exhibitions are accompanied by conferences, educational and cultural programs, artists' talks, and publications. POLIN Museum opens two major temporary exhibitions a year.

Selected Temporary Exhibitions:

2015

ROMAN VISHNIAC: PHOTOGRAPHY, 1920–1975

Roman Vishniac is best known for the photographs he took in Eastern Europe during the late 1930s. Those iconic images had a great impact on the image of Jewish life in Eastern Europe before the Holocaust. *Roman Vishniac: Photography, 1920–1975* goes beyond these photographs to reveal the diversity of Vishniac's creativity. This landmark exhibition originated as *Roman Vishniac Rediscovered* at the International Center of Photography, New York.

2016

FRANK STELLA AND SYNAGOGUES OF HISTORIC POLAND

This exhibition draws on Frank Stella's fascination with the architecture of wooden synagogues in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Stella, a leading American artist associated with minimalist abstraction, discovered wooden synagogues when he came upon the English translation of Maria and Kazimierz Piechotka's 1959 monograph. This exhibition, the first in Poland to be devoted to Frank Stella's work, was one of the world's top 15 exhibitions in 2016, according to *Hyperallergic*, an American online magazine, and was awarded the prestigious Sybilla award for "Exhibition of the Year 2016" by Poland's Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. The exhibition catalogue was named one of the "Most Beautiful Books of 2016" by the Polish Association of Book Publishers.

Frank Stella and Synagogues of Historic Poland,
temporary exhibition, 2016

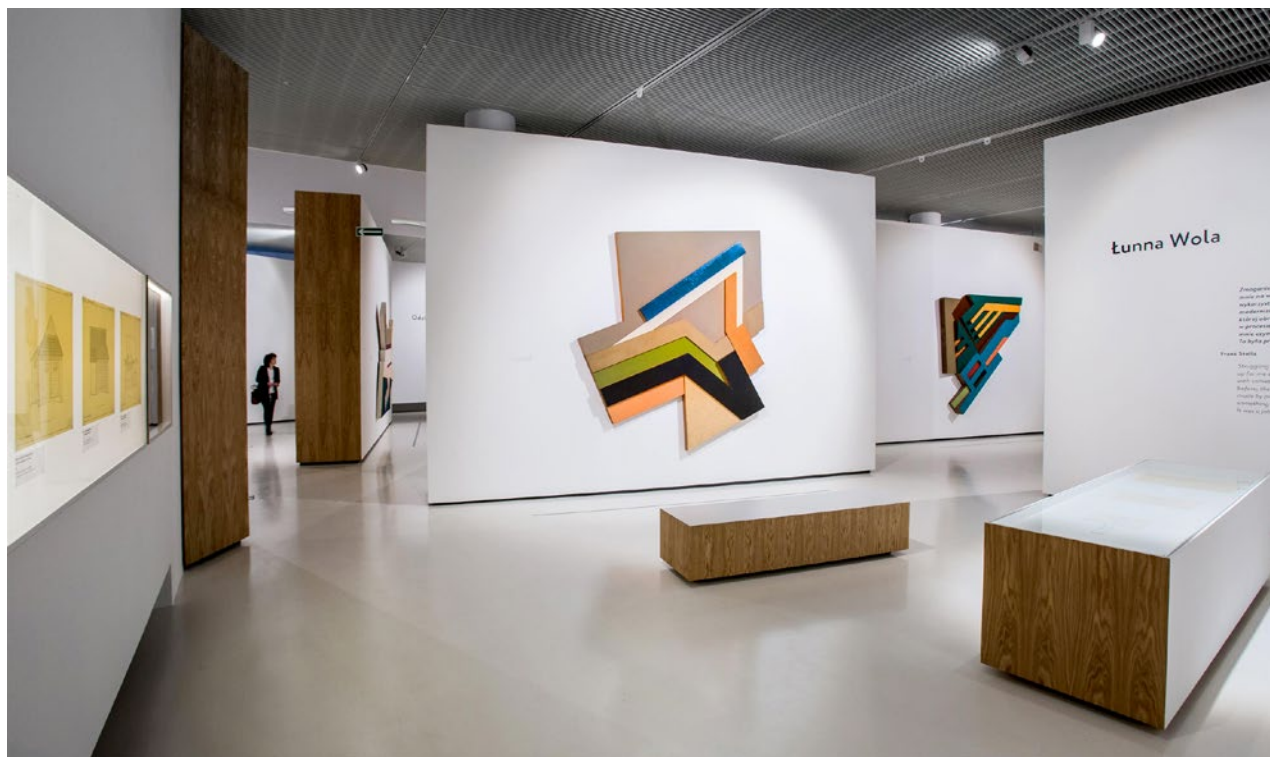
2017

JUKEBOX, JEWKBOX: A JEWISH CENTURY ON SHELLAC AND VINYL

This musical journey through the 20th century features the Jewish composers, lyricists, performers, record producers, and inventors who created the music that millions of people the world over love and remember. A special section is devoted to the story of this music in Poland and is accompanied by its own catalogue.

BLOOD: UNITING & DIVIDING

The exhibition focuses on the history of blood as a symbol in Judaism and Christianity — how blood unites and divides individuals, communities, and nations across centuries of cultural history, from rituals described in the Hebrew Bible to 21st-century genetic science. POLIN Museum has adapted a celebrated exhibition created by the Jewish Museum London to reflect the experience of Polish Jews and to better serve our Polish and international audiences.



III. SPECIAL PROJECTS

March '68 → This interdisciplinary project commemorates the 50th anniversary of the anti-Zionist campaign of March 1968 and its repercussions. Oral histories, photographs, and POLIN Museum's postwar collection provide the basis for a temporary exhibition at POLIN Museum, a traveling exhibition, and online exhibitions, and for enriching the postwar gallery in the core exhibition. The project includes an international conference, publications, and educational and cultural programs.

Expanded Geography: Polish Jews in the World → This ambitious installation presents the story of Jews around the world whose families once lived in the historic territory of Poland: where they went, what they took with them, and what they created in their new homes. An estimated 9 million of the almost 14 million Jews in the world today have roots in this territory. This story reconnects them to the 1000-year history of Polish Jews. This final gallery, an epilogue to the core exhibition, should open in 2019.

POLIN Museum Acquisitions Fund → Collection development is a high priority for POLIN Museum. The acquisition of objects and works of art will allow us to enrich the core exhibition and provide a basis for temporary exhibitions, research, education, and cultural programs. By forming a unique and high quality collection, POLIN Museum will strengthen its position as a world-class institution. Quality acquisitions will also place POLIN Museum in a strategic position to secure loans for its exhibitions from museums interested in borrowing works from our collection.

Daffodils Campaign → This educational program and social action takes place annually on April 19, the anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising, since 2014. Hundreds of volunteers raise public awareness about the uprising by disseminating paper daffodil badges on the streets of Warsaw. Daffodils were the flowers that Marek Edelman, a leader of the Jewish Combat Organization, would bring to the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes to commemorate the uprising.

Volunteers with paper daffodils, April 2016



Expanded Geography: Polish Jews in the World. Epilogue to the core exhibition



IV. EDUCATION

POLIN Museum offers comprehensive educational programs for schools, students at all levels, and the general public. The Museum partners with educational and research institutions in Poland and abroad.

PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS

POLIN Museum's offer for schools focuses on historical subjects and citizenship education and meets the requirements of the national core curriculum for specific grades.

Most of the educational activities take place in the core exhibition and are free of charge.

Our education program includes workshops, walking tours, and meetings with the witnesses of history as well as videos filmed in the core exhibition that reach hundreds of schools.

The Museum's conferences, training sessions, and seminars offer an opportunity for teachers to deepen their understanding of the history of Polish Jews.

The Ambassadors Program engages teachers in the creation of the Museum's educational program.



Polish-Israeli Youth Exchange, August 2014

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS

POLIN Museum's interdisciplinary educational programs reach students in Poland and abroad through summer schools, internships, international exchange programs, and college courses in partnership with universities. These programs deal not only with the history of Polish Jews but also with cultural and religious diversity. As an open access institution dedicated to lifelong learning, POLIN Museum also offers educational programs for adults and for people with disabilities.

Faces of Diversity, Education in Action → A program that includes artist residencies, **Multicultural Warsaw**, and **Ours – The Stranger – The Other**, a series of open workshops and discussions.

Courses for professional groups → Anti-discrimination courses for police officers, judges, and attorneys.

Polish-Israeli Youth Exchange → An intensive program for college students.

POLIN Meeting Point → Students from Poland, Israel, and Germany work together on diverse educational and artistic projects. Supported by the Education Fund of the Nissenbaum Family Foundation.

Survivors and Rescuers → High school students make short movies based on their interviews with survivors and rescuers. The movies are premiered at POLIN Museum and featured on the Museum's website.



Anti-Discrimination Course
for Professionals

MUSEUM ON WHEELS

The Museum on Wheels travels across Poland to towns with less than 50,000 inhabitants. The doors open to an instant exhibition and rich program of educational activities prepared together with local partners.

OPEN MUSEUM

We serve people with disabilities through special sign language, audio-description recordings, typhlographics, customized tours, and lesson plans for disabled students.

KING MATT'S FAMILY EDUCATION AREA

In 2015 POLIN Museum launched a fabulously colorful space for children and their parents. Educators and artists base all activities here on Janusz Korczak's ideas, which combine learning and creative play in a family atmosphere. There are culinary workshops, theatre performances, films, concerts, activities related to Jewish holidays, and meetings with interesting guests.



Museum on Wheels



King Matt's Family Education Area

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATORS

POLIN Museum's Educational Center partners with institutions in Poland and abroad to support encounters, exchange of experiences, and networking.

POLIN Academy Summer Seminar (PASS) → A weeklong program of workshops, lectures, city walks, and study visits for educators from Poland and abroad. Participants explore the core exhibition and develop educational materials for an international audience.

Partnership with March of the Living → Every year March of the Living (MoL) brings tens of thousands of young participants to Poland to commemorate the Shoah. They also discover the 1000-year history of Polish Jews and meet their Polish peers. POLIN Museum, together with MoL of Canada and the United States, organize *Pay It Forward*, a highly successful one-week summer seminar for educators and guides. Participants share experiences and plan and evaluate MoL's future visits to POLIN Museum and its core exhibition.

Teaching with 21st-century Testimonies → An international course in partnership with the USC Shoah Foundation, repository of the largest collection of video testimonies of survivors and witnesses of the Shoah, that prepares teachers to use these testimonies in the classroom.

Cooperation with Yad Vashem and Israel's Ministry of Education → Training Israeli tour guides and implementing programs for Israeli youth visiting Poland.

International Seminars for Teachers and Educators → A partnership with Mémorial de la Shoah, CENTROPA, Yad Vashem, and Falstad Center.



Jewish Cultural Heritage: Projects, Methods, Inspirations, conference, June 2016



POLIN Academy Summer Seminar (PASS)

V.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

POLIN Museum supports the development of a new generation of scholars in the field of Polish-Jewish studies:

- Doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships
- Doctoral seminar
- Distinguished lectures
- Research workshops
- Publications
- Conferences
- Travel grants

GLOBAL EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAM

GEOP aims to support the development of Polish-Jewish studies in collaboration with scholars and institutions of higher learning in Poland, North America, Israel, and other countries.

GEOP is supported by the William K. Bowes Jr. Foundation and the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture.

RESOURCE CENTER

The Resource Center serves visitors interested in genealogy, local history, and the conservation and digitization of photographs and documents. Expert staff assist visitors in accessing one of the largest collections of databases related to Jewish history and genealogy in Poland.

In 2016, more than 6,000 people visited the Resource Center. Several hundred more connected online, and many more sent queries by email.

ORAL HISTORY

POLIN Museum has recorded over 2,000 interviews and continues to expand the collection. This material is a resource for future exhibitions and educational programs. The public can access the collection both in POLIN Museum's Resource Center and online.

VIRTUAL SHTETL

The Virtual Shtetl portal presents the history of local Jewish communities in Poland and the region, from small towns to large cities, through a vast collection of documents, maps, photographs, films, and other materials.

- About 22,000 people from across the globe are registered users
- Virtual Shtetl has formed a network of partner portals, museums, and genealogical communities
- 1.7 million unique viewers per year



VI. CULTURAL PROGRAMS

As an institution that is open, creative, and committed to promoting diversity, POLIN Museum produces high-quality cultural events that reach diverse audiences. Almost 30,000 people participated in over 100 cultural programs in 2014.

THEATRE → Performances in collaboration with the best theatres and artists, as well as productions made by others, together with related workshops.

MUSIC → Concerts for diverse audiences. Sinfonia Varsovia performs regularly in POLIN Museum's state-of-the-art auditorium, where we also host concerts in connection with the most important music festivals — Jazz Jamboree, Warsaw Autumn, and the New Jewish Music Festival, among others. We also organize panel discussions and workshops on music, and produce music CDs and videos.

CINEMA → Feature and documentary film series, film premieres, and partnerships with the Jewish Motifs Festival and the Warsaw Jewish Film Festival.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND LECTURES → Open debates on contemporary Jewish issues, book launches, and conversations with witnesses of history.

Concert of Sinfonia Varsovia, conducted by
Maestro Krzysztof Penderecki, commemorating the
70th Anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising, April 2013



Warsaw Jewish Film Festival at POLIN Museum, November 2015



POLIN AWARD

The POLIN Award was inaugurated in 2015 to recognize outstanding contributions to the commemoration of Polish Jews, their history and civilization. Each year POLIN Museum honors outstanding individuals and organizations that are dedicated to protecting the memory of the history of Polish Jews. Candidates are nominated by the public.

The POLIN Award Gala, an annual autumn event at POLIN Museum, marks the anniversary of the opening of the core exhibition.



Winners and finalists of the 2016 POLIN Award

**Join us to help POLIN Museum
realize its full potential.
Every donation matters!**

Donate Now

Wire transfer information:

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POLIN
THE EUROPEAN
MUSEUM
OF THE YEAR

A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

**Ministry of
Culture
and National
Heritage of
the Republic
of Poland.**



CITY
OF WARSAW



ASSOCIATION OF
THE JEWISH HISTORICAL
INSTITUTE OF POLAND