**POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews**

**Quotes**

*Who is the Museum for? For everyone – to give all people the opportunity of meeting a Jewish community that offered world civilization fabulous thinkers, leaders, scholars, writers, musicians and painters.*

**Marian Turski**

Chairman of the POLIN Museum Board, Deputy Chairman of the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland, Holocaust Survivor

*Why does the Museum have to be created? Because it is Polish history.*

**Marek Edelman**

Member of the Command of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising,
Member of the Polish Committee to Support the Museum

*This Museum will be a place of tolerance. Once, Poland was a multinational country.*

*The old world stands before us once again. It is now even more necessary than ever.*

**Andrzej Wajda**

Film Director, Academy Award Winner, Member of the Polish Committee to Support
the Museum

*With full responsibility I can say that the Core Exhibition will truly be a remarkable event. It will allow visitors to get to know the thousand-year history of Jews on Polish lands as well as their contribution to Polish culture, history, and society. There will also be no shortage of controversial subjects. But that goes for all good exhibitions, and I hope that the ensuing discussions and polemics will contribute to a better understanding of the past.*

**Prof. Małgorzata Omilanowska,**

Republic of Poland’s Minister of Culture and National Heritage

*Peoples that lose their memory, lose their life. The Museum is being created so that we remember.*

**Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz**

Mayor of the City of Warsaw

*Jewish cultural and religious traditions thrived in Poland for hundreds of years … longer than anywhere else. That speaks for itself and the Museum immortalizes that priceless legacy.*

**Zbigniew Brzeziński, Ph. D.**

Political scientist, United States National Security Advisor to President Jimmy Carter

*I hope I will live to see the arrival of Jewish youth and other touristsat the Museum of the History of the Polish Jews to explore the wonderful history and achievements of the Jewish people, as well as their contribution to the history and culture of Poland, Europe and the world.*

**Prof. Władysław Bartoszewski**

Secretary of state in the Chancellery of the Chairman of the Prime Minister and Plenipotentiary for International Dialogue

*There is no history of Jews in Europe without Poland. Just as there is no history of Poland without the Jewish community that lived in this country for centuries. It is here that the fates of these two nations became inextricably linked—in good times and in bad, in times of hardship and tragedy. Poland was a “Paradisus Iudaeorum”, a friendly shelter for Jews, but it was also where the Nazi genocide was carried out. It is on Polish soil that the Germans perpetrated the Holocaust. The Museum has produced an extraordinary exhibition that provides a vivid narrative about the life of a great community, about its centuries-old traditions and practices. Both known and little-known aspects of its religious and secular life are on show, in addition to a collection of original artifacts and documents. The exhibition encourages reflection, highlighting the poets, prominent scholars, gifted musicians and others who have helped make Poland known throughout the world. It also encourages us to remember the millions of ordinary men and women from towns and villages of whom no trace now remains. This is a great exhibition about a people who once lived among us, about a nation murdered. A unique museum has arisen in Warsaw. Nowhere else in the world will we find such an extraordinary and unforgettable exhibition.*

**Prof. Adam Daniel Rotfeld**former Republic of Poland’s Minister of Foreign Affairs,
member of the POLIN Museum Board

Your Core Exhibition focuses upon the remarkable story of the Jews of Poland. Theirs is a narrative of 1,000 years of Jewish life, including magnificent creativity, often in the face of adversity, side by side with Polish neighbors. These epic chapters of Jewish, Polish, and human endeavor concluded most tragically during the Shoah with the nearly total annihilation of Polish Jewry and the total destruction of their civilization. This crucial story indeed merits comprehensive, accurate, and insightful portrayal in your Museum.

**Avner Shalev**

Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, Jerusalem

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