

POLIN Museum Education Department

The POLIN Museum Education Department develops and implements educational activities including: guided tours, workshops, walks, courses, training sessions, exhibitions, educational publications, debates, meetings and conferences for schools, families, persons with disabilities, experts and wide audiences. We run the *King Matt's* Family Education Area, the Menorah InfoPoint and *The Museum on Wheels* project. We are also responsible for numerous international educational projects such as: cooperation with the March of the Living, USC Shoah Foundation, the Ministry of Education of the State of Israel, as well as several Norwegian institutions within the predefined *Jewish Cultural Heritage* program.

Preserving the memory, shaping the future is the educational mission of POLIN Museum. We combine historical education with civic and anti-discriminatory one. We do believe that getting acquainted with the rich and dramatic history of Polish Jews not only deepens our knowledge, but also teaches us respect towards other religions and cultures, helps us combat xenophobia, and prepares the youth to exist within a contemporary diverse society. We work in line with Janusz Korczak's pedagogy—we respect the rights of children and youth, and we treat them as partners. During classes, our educators allow for a free exchange of opinions and experiences while making sure that the viewpoints and emotions of each and one of our guests are treated with respect.

Our main goal is to reach young people. We see teachers as the Ambassadors, the so-called multipliers, of our mission; therefore, we strive to make our educational materials available to all of them, and to invite them to the Museum and to participation in the programs that we offer.

We want our educational programs addressed to adults to encourage reflection on cultural, religious and social diversity, and to provide our guests with historical knowledge as well as tools to combat prejudices and stereotypes. We lower the barriers as far as access to education is concerned by developing innovative, wide-reaching programs: social campaigns, online projects or travelling exhibitions. Thus, we create a rich offer for people with disabilities, members of marginalized groups and minorities.

In recent years, POLIN Museum was awarded many prestigious international prizes, including the title of 2016 Museum of the Year and the European Museum Academy prize. The juries of the above-mentioned competitions stressed the high quality and wide range of our educational projects, pointing to, among others, the *Museum on Wheels* exhibition and the rich program of workshops. The *Jewish Cultural Heritage* long-term comprehensive educational program, financed by the Norway Grants and the EEA Grants, was awarded the European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra 2017.