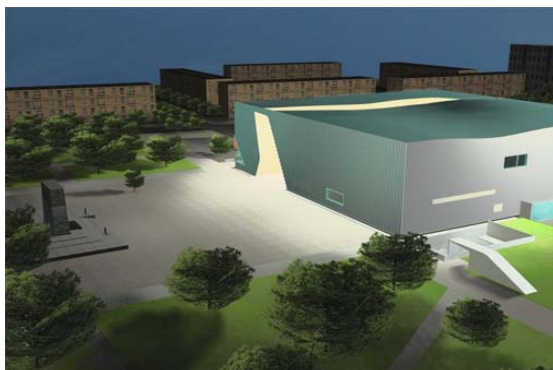


MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF POLISH JEWS  
GROUNDBREAKING PROGRAM  
25-26, 29 JUNE 2007



**MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF POLISH JEWS ANNOUNCES  
OFFICIAL GROUNDBREAKING: TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2007**

**POLISH PRESIDENT LECH KACZYNSKI,  
ISRAELI STATESMAN SHIMON PERES TO ATTEND**

**MUSEUM TO SERVE AS WORLD'S ONLY INSTITUTION TO TRACE  
1,000-YEAR HISTORY OF POLISH JEWS**

JUNE 13, 2007: WARSAW -- With over 10 million Americans of Polish descent and 50% of the world's Jews tracing their ancestry to Poland, the world eagerly anticipates the beginning of construction of this important new cultural institution. After nearly a decade of planning, the Museum of the History of Polish Jews (MHPJ) will begin to rise on the site of the former Warsaw Ghetto, directly across from Nathan Rappaport's Memorial of the Heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Scheduled to open in 2009, the 140,000 square-foot museum will feature eight central galleries dedicated to telling the story of Jews in Poland from the Middle Ages to today. The building is being designed by the Finnish architectural team Rainer Mahlamäki and Ilmari Lahdelma, selected in 2005 after an extensive international competition. The Museum is expected to cost at least \$65 million, not including the real estate value of its 3.2 acre site in central Warsaw.

The exhibitions incorporate state-of-the-art multimedia installations to showcase the museum's permanent collection, and immerse visitors into the variety of experiences. Videos, films, computer-generated holograms, and traditional 3-D scale models in the museum galleries will educate people of all faiths and nationalities about history and tolerance by recounting 1,000 years of Jewish life in Poland.

**June 26<sup>th</sup> Groundbreaking Press Preview Schedule:**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 11:00am – 12:00 pm: | Welcome and Press Briefing by Museum Spokespeople, including:<br>Sigmund Rolat, Chairman of the North American Council of the MHPJ<br>Jerzy Halbersztadt, Director of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews  |
| 12:00 – 1:30 pm:    | Official Groundbreaking Program, featuring:<br>Lech Kaczynski, President of Poland<br>Shimon Peres, Vice Prime Minister of Israel<br>Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, Mayor of Warsaw<br>Kazimierz Ujazdowski, Polish Minister of Culture<br>Marian Turski, Chairman of the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute<br>Performance by the Vienna Philharmonic<br>Performance by the Choir of Polish National Opera |
| 2:00 – 4:00 pm      | Luncheon hosted by Warsaw Mayor Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz   |
| 6:00 – 7:00 pm      | Cocktail reception at the Polish National Opera   |
| 7:00 – 9:00 pm      | Musical performance by the Vienna Philharmonic at Polish National Opera   |

**To: Travel & Culture Editors  
Foreign Correspondents  
Art, Culture, & Travel Writers**

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7:30 – 9:30 pm

Outdoor screening of a 1939 documentary about Jewish life in Poland at the Museum site