

## **FEATURES OF OUR MUSEUM**

Hand Computer in 5 languages  
Elevator and WC for disabled visitors  
Information Kiosks  
Cafeteria  
Conservation workshop and carpet washing pool  
Parking area

## **HISTORICAL JOURNEY TO OUR MUSEUM**

### **HISTORICAL JOURNEY FROM FORMER LAW SCHOOL TO VAKIFLAR MUSEUM**

A new era has started with the establishment of Grand National Assembly of Turkey on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1920, announcement of Ankara as the capital city on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1923 and proclamation of the Republic on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1923. The needs that the new polity brought have caused new structure types to come up in fields of politics, education, health, culture and etc. In the first years of the Republic which are called as 1<sup>st</sup> National Architecture Period, motifs from traditional architecture were used on façades. While this concept continued, in 1927, effects of Modern Architecture which will settle in 1930's have started.

In the late 1927, Directorate General for Foundations has started to build a large primary school at the north of today's Ministry of Culture and Tourism. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs in those days) However, it is understood from the documents that this structure was allocated as Law School and the telegraph building which was in service of Law School was kept as dormitory.

The structure which was used by Ankara Mufti's Office until 2004 was evacuated in April 2004, restored by Directorate General of Foundations to be used as museum and opened as Ankara Foundations Works of Art Museum in 2007.

The building has gone through several restorations according to requirements in time until today. It is understood from examinations that changes like adding eaves were made in time.

There exist exhibition rooms, administration rooms, library and showroom at the upper floors. There exist depots, cleaning and conservation laboratory and a multi functional exhibition room at the ground floor. Various examples of Traditional Turkish Handicraft like carpet, kilim, candlestick, oil lamp, wooden samples, calligraphy, manuscripts, clocks and photo cameras are exhibited in the museum.

Using this building, which was built as an educational structure in the first years of the Republic, as a museum for cultural purposes is a very important work of Directorate General of Foundations both for Ankara to have another museum and for this building to be protected and perpetuated.

## **FUTURE OBJECTIVES**

Our objective is to change the present museum concept and gain prestige by laying new working fields, to affect cultural life of Ankara as part of these activities and to breathe new life into this environment. These will be possible by redefinition of target audience, diversification of long and short term working fields and conversion of museum to an educational area.

It is aimed to narrate our ancestors which established foundation civilization, inform new generation and awaken foundation-conscious.

It is aimed to prevent smuggling, protect and preserve the objects which were kept in depots for years and provide them to meet with public.

It is adopted to make our museum the driving force of cultural sector in our country and Ankara by contributing to world and Turkish culture with new concepts developing day by day.

Acting from the principle of tending to target audience from different segments of the society, our museum will undertake the tasks like education, information, building up national conscious in society, providing people to become aware of universal values.

As being a cultural association, profound and permanent collaborations will be made with institutions which claim to hold the cultural accumulation of our country. (Private museums, state museums, local administrations, universities)

## **DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR FOUNDATIONS AND MUSEUM CURATORSHIP**

Museum curatorship is an important field which requires altruism and labor in spiritual and material meaning. Museums are windows of cultures that are opened to the world.

One of the most important thrusts of Directorate General for Foundations in the recent years is its efforts in the field of museum curatorship.

When looked at the history of foundations, it can be seen that museum curatorship activities has started centuries ago. Tradition of donating sacred objects to religious places which exist in the nature of Turkish and Islamic society has continued in the Republic Era. When these objects gain quality of being historical in time, they always become an issue of the relevant organization. To prevent them from being stolen from mosques, protect our cultural heritage, deliver them to posterity, enlighten our cultural

history, prevent deformation of motifs and help our men of letter; they were protected by efforts of art loving administrators and art historians.

The first museum which had many objects collected from mosques and masjids was opened under the name of Evkaf-ı İslamiye Museum (Museum of Islamic Foundations) in Süleymaniye Mosque Soup Kitchen in 1914. It was transferred to Ministry of Education later and its name was changed to Turkish and Islamic Works Museum. It was moved to İbrahim Paşa Palace in 1981.

In 1967, Turkish Construction and Works of Art Museum (Türk İnşaat ve Sanat Eserleri Müzesi) was established in Amcazade Hüseyin Paşa Külliya with collection of objects including stone, wood, tile and metal which were left over from monuments and artifacts repaired by Directorate General for Foundations. Art of Writing Museum was opened in the same year. It was moved to Beyazıt Madrasah in 1984 and its name was changed to Turkish Calligraphic Arts Museum.

Carpets and kilims which accrued in years were collected and brought to basement of 4<sup>th</sup> Foundation Block of Offices and İstanbul Yeni Mosque Hünkar Kasr (Palace of Sultan). Carpet Museum was opened in Blue Mosque (Sultanahmet) Hünkar Kasr in 1979. Kilim and Flatweavings Museum was opened at the south basement of Blue Mosque in 1982.

Restructuring studies of these 4 museums in Istanbul are still continued today. Some of the structures like old mansion house, madrasah, dervish convent and dervish lodge which are handled with the consciousness of protecting monuments are evaluated as museums. We are set to work to open a museum to every Regional Directorate in respect of the decision of our Directorate General.

By courtesy of these museums, sacred objects which have gained quality of being historical are exhibited in an adequate environment. They are identified and assorted in terms of cities that museums will be established in. Furthermore, cultural foundation properties which were given provisionally to Ministry of Culture and Tourism are amongst these items.

In Konya, Sahip Ata Dervish Convent which is one of the important structures of Seljuk Era and which is a museum itself was opened as “Sahip Ata Foundation Museum”. In Tokat, Dervish Lodge Building which is described to be the oldest wooden dervish lodge in the world and Muslu Ağa Mansion was opened as “Mevlevihane (dervish lodge) Foundation Museum”. In Kastamonu, women’s section of Şeyh Şaban-ı Veli Kulliyeye which is an example of Ottoman civil architecture was opened as “Şeyh Şaban-ı Veli Foundation Museum”. In Edirne, Selimiye Dar’ül Kur’a (school which taught Quran in Ottoman Era) was opened as “Selimiye Foundation Museum”. All of the structures mentioned above are restored by Directorate General for Foundations and opened as museums in 2007.

The restoration of the building which was first built to be a law school and later used in various functions was made by Directorate General for Foundations and opened as Ankara Vakıflar Museum on 7 May 2007.

The studies and efforts to open “Haseki Sultan Foundation Museum” in Haseki Kulliyeye in İstanbul are still continued.

Restorations of structures to open museums are still continued. For example; in Kayseri Gıyasiye Şifahiye Madrasah to be “Gevher Nesibe Foundation Museum”, in Bursa Emir Sultan Turkish Bath to be “Emir Sultan Foundation Museum”, in Sivas Gök Madrasah to be “Gök Madrasah Foundation Museum”.

In this context, “Regulation of Museums of Directorate General for Foundations” which is prepared to layout the functioning of the museums that are and will be established has been published in the Official Gazette on 6 February 2007.

Directorate General for Foundations which follow up the efforts and studies in the field of museum curatorship both in Turkey and in the world has accelerated its efforts with the catch phrase “25 Museums in 25 Regions”.

The main purpose of museum curatorship efforts of Directorate General for Foundations is to contribute to refreshing the “Foundation Civilization” which set the pace for centuries, to be instrumental in building the bridge between past and future, to transfer to posterity by providing permanence in museum curatorship.