

21st June 2005

Ms Rickie Burman
Director
The Jewish Museum
Raymond Burton House
129-131 Albert Street
Camden Town
London NW1 7NB

Jean Rickie

I am delighted to have this opportunity to write with regard to the proposed development plans for the Jewish Museum.

Over the years, we have been grateful to the museum for its help in a number of different areas. One aspect of our work involves assisting teachers of Religious Education with planning programmes. The Jewish Museum has been invaluable in this respect, offering expert guidance, engaging with the pupils and providing an excellent introduction to Jewish life. The provision of space to eat kosher lunch has been particularly helpful.

Similar programmes have involved students, those training for the Christian ministry and adult groups. The professionalism and expertise of the staff have ensured that all these occasions are successful. This is particularly important when one considers that this may be the only time the visitors have the opportunity to experience aspects of Jewish life and faith.

The proposed expansion is most encouraging, since this will enable us to increase the numbers and nature of parties we bring and recommend. The provision of a shop for the purchase of materials will also be of real benefit to non-Jewish teachers who otherwise find it difficult to find educational aids which are helpful and varied.

Since our work is centred on the promotion of tolerance through real understanding in our society, a centre which is pleasing to visit, educationally sound and expertly run contributes greatly to appreciating 'the other' and working towards greater social cohesion.

Kind regards
Margaret

Sr Margaret Shepherd nds
Director



*Making
Dialogue
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15 July 2005

Rickie Burman
Director, The Jewish Museum
Raymond Burton House
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London NW1 7NB

RECEIVED 18 MAY 2009

Dear Mr Burman

Thank you for your letter of 12 July 2005 to Clifford Stewart. He has asked me to reply.

We recognise the continuing importance of your work for race and community relations particularly at this difficult time. We especially note the museum's work in seeking to educate young people about the consequences of prejudice and intolerance and your efforts to draw parallels in Jewish history with the experiences and contribution of immigrant communities more generally.

The CRE was pleased to be involved in your recent exhibition *Closing the Door? Immigrants to Britain 1905-2005* marking the centenary of the 1905 Aliens Act and we trust that the museum will continue to go from strength to strength.

We wish to encourage all projects that seek to play a positive role in strengthening inter-community relations and to promote mutual respect and understanding between people of different races and faiths. The fact that much of your work is aimed towards young people is to be commended.

We would urge as many people as possible to view your exhibitions and are delighted that you have now acquired additional presence which will hopefully allow you to accommodate even more school visits.

Yours sincerely

Paul Mrazek
Deputy Director
London and South of England Region



11 June 2008

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RECEIVED 11 JUN 2008

Jewish Museum

I write in strong support of the Jewish Museum's application in relation especially to its Holocaust related work. The exciting redevelopment of the Jewish Museum at the Camden site, supported by a massive grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (which requires matching funding), will lead to one if not the most important Jewish museums in Europe. Right from the start in the early 1980s, the Jewish Museum in London was at the forefront of education concerning the Holocaust and refugees who came to Britain during the Nazi era. This was reflected in innovative and really first class exhibitions (permanent and temporary), covering experiences ranging from the Kindertransport through to the survivors who came to Britain after the Second World War. All these exhibitions and displays were accompanied with sensitive and stimulating education packs and they made an impact across the whole of the United Kingdom. Holocaust education is now firmly established in Britain. The Jewish Museum has, more than any other body in Britain, been responsible for this development.

With the quality of its previous permanent and travelling exhibitions, I have no doubt whatsoever that those which are planned for the new permanent exhibition will be of similarly high standard – indeed, some of the intended displays build on previous material but will add to it and provide the latest in interactive technology to bring in the visitor further. What is crucial to the success of its work so far in relation to the Holocaust and refugees is that they are placed in the context of the Jewish experience and Jewish history so that the visitor will understand the humanity of those who were persecuted and avoid treat them simply as victims.

This, then, is a truly exciting moment in Jewish museology in Britain and beyond. The newly integrated Jewish Museum in Camden will be of vital importance in representing the Jewish experience to both a Jewish and a non-Jewish audience. I recommend its application without reservation and with the greatest possible enthusiasm.

Professor Tony Kushner, Director, Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/non-Jewish relations, University of Southampton



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RECEIVED 18 MAY 2000

27th June 2005

Dear Rickie,

I am writing in support of your application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Both your current locations provide an excellent resource for schools and the wider community. Their integration will enhance the provision, giving greater cohesion to the contrasting collections. I have received positive feedback from Camden schools about their visits to the Albert Street museum. Teachers comment favourably about the quality of the exhibitions and the expertise of the education staff. Teachers have also commented positively about the Holocaust Education Gallery at the Finchley site. At present schools may only be able to visit one of the sites. Integration on one site will enable schools more easily to cover more aspects in one visit. The creation of a dedicated education centre will further enhance the quality of their visit.

The permanent exhibitions provide a valued resource to support the Camden Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education as well as the National Curriculum programmes of study for history and citizenship. The temporary exhibitions highlight either key aspects of specific subjects or wider cross-curricular topics and other ethical issues. For example, the current exhibition – Closing the Door? – addresses the citizenship programme of study but also covers key aspects of cultural diversity, identity and prejudice. I understand that you would like the museum to be a forum for interfaith dialogue. This would be a welcome additional resource in the borough.

In summary the proposals would be an exciting addition to Camden, as an education resource and a cultural venue. It would supplement the number of nationally and internationally renowned museums already located in Camden. You would be providing on the one hand a unique resource with a clear focus and supporting expertise but also a venue and forum for a wide range of activities to promote dialogue and diversity.

I wish you every success and am willing to provide further support if required.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Adams
(Acting Head of the Inspection and Advisory Service)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Acting Director
Yvette Stanley