



Imagine: The Vision of Kol HaOt

Illuminating Experiences

Phase I involves the development of high quality educational units for tourists and other groups in Jerusalem. This phase has already begun in earnest with the development of a few theme oriented programs including our “Gates of Jerusalem” and “Mapping” units. We now seek to develop more educational units that employ underutilized spaces in Jerusalem as well as focus on topics of personal significance in peoples’ lives (family roots, tzedakah, etc.).

Artists’ Circle

Our intention is to assemble a group of visual and performing artists whose work represents teachable Jewish art. We will give this group an important platform to share and expose their art. In addition, we envision round table discussions and mutual enrichment creating a synergy among them and in the larger Jewish community. About a dozen such artists have already been contacted and are excited about the potential of partnership.

Visual Beit Midrash

We envision a space that weaves together the elements of a Beit Midrash and Gallery – surrounded by the texts of our tradition and at the same time infused with visual inspiration. It is a space that will be four-fold in its use: 1. Special programs will be offered to tourist groups coming to Israel. 2. The space will be used by and for artists—to both exhibit their projects and to work on their ideas. It will be a meeting space for artists to join in dialogue with each other. 3. It will be an address for Jewish educators all around the world to use as a resource in their work. Educators will be trained using the physical space of Kol HaOt. 4. Marketing and sales of works of Kol HaOt affiliated artists through our gallery and shop.

Virtual Community

The creation and development of a website to be used as virtual palate for the integration of the arts and text is an indispensable starting point for Kol HaOt given the power of the web as a networking device. As a means of initially “getting the word out,” we seek to produce a number of brief video-pieces. The idea is to call these works, *divrei omanut*, words of art. Just as numerous websites distribute weekly *divrei Torah*, we aim to send weekly *divrei omanut*. Presentations such as these will help in both introducing and showcasing the artists involved in Kol HaOt as well as introducing the idea among a wider audience.

Jerusalem Cabaret

Spotlighting the performing arts, we envision a Jewish Cabaret where Jewish ideas and values are expressed in high quality, entertaining cabaret-type evenings. Whether drama or music, dance or comedy, we will both showcase carefully hand picked existing performances as well as eventually produce our own performances. Incorporating the culinary arts and the Jewish palate, these experiences will create unique and meaningful evening entertainment for visitors to Jerusalem.

Jewish Journeys

Theme-meals, days and journeys would expand the artistic potential of Kol HaOt – creating an integrated approach to experiencing Israel. Examples abound: a meal, modeled off of Greek symposia meals, set before the gates of the Baram Synagogue in the north, could serve as a powerful tool to internalize and animate learning related to the rabbinic period; imagining ourselves playing out a midrash in Tzipori or by the mosaic of Hammat-Tiverya; or a day devoted entirely to the poets of Israel or early Zionist thinkers.

Traveling Programs

Knowing full well that Kol HaOt cannot exist in a static location, one of its main facets will be exporting programs and artists to North America. Artists/educators will be able share ideas with each other toward putting effective and compelling scholar/artist-in-residence programs together. It is envisioned that Kol HaOt will quickly establish a reputation for unique and substantive educational programming; and that its artist-educators will be engaged to enrich programming in synagogues, day-schools, JCCs, yeshivot and beyond.

Educating Educators

Like any other discipline, there is an art to teaching the nexus between the visual arts and Judaism. Knowing full well that many will be interested in the educational approach we are advocating, we seek to train a cadre of educators that will be able to effectively communicate this approach within their particular communal settings. Master teachers will organize week long programs, both at Kol HaOt's location in Jerusalem and other locations in the Diaspora.

Matchmaking

Kol HaOt will serve as a *shadchan*, matchmaker, between artists who are creating art in the spirit of Kol HaOt and those individuals or organizations who seek to support, foster, and become patrons of such art. This will be accomplished by a section of our website, which will showcase the artists' work, as well as by more personal introductions and connections, once we have built necessary relationships with both artists and potential patrons. Artists and patrons will "float" ideas of projects they hope to bring to fruition.

Bauhaus

We envision creating a school / workshop where the Kol HaOt way of doing Jewish art is fostered. This would combine the training of artisans, the creation of unique works and the production of books, prints, objects, performances and programs to illuminate Jewish life.