

CINQUANTENAIRE PEOPLE

Programming

2023-2024

Cinquantenaire People is a dynamic and participatory program of co-creation and co-learning, focused on two types of projects.

1. FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

INNOVATION PROJECTS

- Exhibition “Towards New Worlds: Belgian exploration through time and space” in the context of King Philippe’s 10th anniversary, 125th anniversary of Belgica expedition to Antarctica, and Belgium’s presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2024.

HERITAGE PROJECTS

- Exhibition “Josef Hoffmann: Beyond Beauty and Modernity”, a collaboration with the Museum Art and History and the Brussels Art Nouveau Year.
- Projects opening the debate around the role of the Museum of the 21st Century (2024-2025).

2. IMPULSE PROJECTS

OUTDOOR LAB

- An inclusive series of participatory events including athletic meetings, community picnics, artistic interventions in public spaces and much more.



MORE INFORMATION ON KEY PROJECTS

EXHIBITION:

TOWARDS NEW WORLDS: BELGIAN EXPLORATION THROUGH TIME AND SPACE

This exhibition aims to raise the awareness of the European and Belgian public on the important role Belgium and its scientists play in global scientific and technological discoveries, past and present. We bring scientists, artists and citizens together for a critical reflection on how these discoveries could develop new ways of being in the world. Thus, the exhibition seeks to reimagine the Cinquantenaire site as sanctuary for innovation and citizens debate on pressing societal issues and to contribute to a necessary paradigm shift.

This interactive exhibition for the general public will be accompanied by scientific and artistic encounters and a public outreach program from December 2023 to July 2024.

EXHIBITION:

“JOSEF HOFFMAN: BEYOND BEAUTY AND MODERNITY”

The exhibition “JOSEF HOFFMANN: Beyond Beauty and Modernity” was originally created by the Applied Art Museum of Vienna (MAK) and will now be shown at the Museum Art & History. Josef Hoffmann was a central figure of Viennese modernism – the exhibition shows his artistic production over a period of six decades, aiming to offer a deeper insight into his ideals and their evolution.

A variety of well-known and lesser-known works from private collections will be on display including design objects, decorative arts, scenography, and much more. The exhibition offers a unique opportunity to discover an artist who believed that beauty was a necessary condition for individual and social transformation.

The exhibition will take place from 6 October 2023 to 14 November 2024 and is a collaboration with the Museum Art and History. It is an important pillar of the Brussels Art Nouveau Year 2023.

MUSEUM OF THE 21ST CENTURY

The project has two ambitions: to redefine the Cinquantenaire site as an inclusive pole for the arts and sciences, and to enable the transformation of the Museum Art and History into a museum of the 21st century, a process launched within the museum in 2021.

Beginning in 2023, we will invite artists, researchers and thinkers for a series of preparatory research projects. The aim of this project is to challenge these artists and thinkers to break new, unprecedented ground and inscribe the encyclopedic museum of the 19th century into current debates about social struggles, gender, inequality, and the ecological transition. These questions and ambitions translate into two closely linked actions.

- A. ARTIBUS (2023-2025): Research & debates: A series of roundtables, meetings and conferences with scientists and researchers from Belgian and international universities, experts in heritage, sociology, ethics, epistemology, ... that feed the conversations around the Museum of the 21st Century.
- B. PROTOTYPE WORKSHOPS (2023-2025): artist residency programs at the Museum Art and History that study and reappraise the museum's heritage and crafts. They will devise prototypes and engage with the museum's collections around a specific theme or technique.



OUTDOOR LAB: 2023-2024 SEASON

An inclusive program of participatory events including sport events, informal meetings, neighborhood picnics, artistic interventions in public spaces and much more, in collaboration with the various social, sports and cultural associations and organizations present on and around Cinquantenaire site, inside and outside Brussels. Only by collaborating with this vast network can we kick off and feed the Cinquantenaire site's transformation process.

- [21 March 2023](#) – Rebirth Day / Terzo Paradiso, a global flash mob by artist Michelangelo Pistoletto, under the artistic direction of Barra Movement.

This marked the start of the renewed collaboration between the institutions at the Cinquantenaire site, which together set in motion the transformation of the site into a new socio-cultural flagship.
- [1 + 2 May 2023](#) – Labor Day in the Park: a collaboration with Brussels Environment

On 1 May, International Labor Day, we want to hear from the park and its surroundings about the daunting work required to ensure its survival. Together with Brussels Environment staff, local activists, researchers, and artists, we will walk, talk and read texts to better appreciate how much work it takes to keep the 300,000 square meters of the park, a former military training ground, alive.
- [18 May 2023](#) – the International Museum Day – Brussels Museums Nocturnes

The Cinquantenaire site and its museums will participate in the Nocturnes of Brussels museums, which takes place in 2023 every Thursday evening from 13 April to 18 May in various museums and cultural art centers in Brussels. Here, you can enjoy a free visit to the “Expedition to Egypt” exhibition or to look at Behind the Scenes of the photographic archives of the pioneering years of Egyptology at the Museum Art & History, to join a guided tour to Military Museum – Autoworld – Museum Art & History or to encounter the artists of BARRA movement at the Pavilion of Human Passions.
- [21 July 2023](#) – Neighborhood picnic during Belgian holiday

On Belgium's National Day, we invite all neighbors and organizations who consider Cinquantenaire site their home to have a picnic together. In a friendly way, we want to brainstorm and dream together about a new future for the Cinquantenaire site, for Belgium, for Europe.
- [KIK's 75th anniversary – as part of Heritage Days](#)

The European heritage sector faces unprecedented and multifaceted challenges – from the impact of an ongoing pandemic to accelerated digital transformation and a climate crisis. At the same time, the sector has demonstrated its resilience and ability to adapt quickly. This makes it clear that the heritage sector is much more than just a sector; it is an extremely relevant vector that helps achieve key ambitions of the European Union.
- [DUDH 75 – December 2023](#)

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (DUDH 75) on 10 December 2023, we are organizing an event together with the Military Museum to draw the attention of the public and our partners to the still much-needed struggle for the defense of human rights in Belgium and abroad.



Through these and other joint actions, we aim to create a new calendar of regular meetings and events on the Cinquantenaire site. This calendar will take on a more concrete form during a series of participatory workshops in the course of 2023. This preparatory participatory work will help initiate the transformation of the Cinquantenaire site.

TOGETHER TOWARDS 2030

