

# ***MUHBA***

## History Museum of Barcelona

*“the city’s museum, Barcelona’s mirror”*

Summary of the museum’s new strategic plan

*Barcelona, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008*



**Ajuntament de Barcelona**

Institut de Cultura

**Museu d’Història de la Ciutat**

## **MUHBA, aims**

1. Interactive mirror of the city, constructor of historical knowledge, aesthetic and citizenry appreciation, consisting of:
2. A system for the production and dissemination of knowledge about the city's history and heritage.
3. An exhibition system with a network of three heritage centres with 3 headquarters: Plaça del Rei, Born and Oliva Artés.
4. Programming based on significant issues in the city's history, bringing heritage closer to visitors in many different ways.

# 1. **MUHBA**, an interactive mirror of the city

- **A common storehouse for knowledge about Barcelona:** research, heritage spaces, exhibitions and a varied range of visitors. The historical perspective, alongside the scientific and artistic perspectives, as a crucial way of seeing in order to understand the world in which we live.
- **A museum rooted in the city and open to the world**, driving force behind the *City History Museums Network of Europe* responsible for communicating a historical perspective on knowledge about the world's great cities and handling their heritage.
- **A citizenry laboratory** for natives, immigrants and tourists, allowing them to get to know the city better, with numerous encounter forums, beginning with the *Amics del Museu* (in rapid growth).

# City History Museums in the Construction of Europe

*MUHBA proposes the creation of a  
City History Museums Network of Europe*

## 2. **MUHBA**, the knowledge production system

- An **R+D+i system** organised into three areas: **Research and Debate Centre** (Llibreteria St., “The Museum’s Epicentre”), **Conservation and Restoration Centre** (Zona Franca) and **Historical Documentation Centre + City Archaeological Service** (Born Annexe Building). The Research and Debate Centre and the Historical Documentation Centre will open to the public towards the end of 2008.
- **Applied and basic research system** at the **Research and Debate Centre** linked to universities, cultural centres and local and international museums. The **Documentation Centre**, creator of cartographic instruments for archaeology and history of scientific interest and of use in heritage intervention.
- **Barcelona, exporter of cultural *know how* via MUHBA**: urban history and heritage intervention in Europe and the Mediterranean (the cities, pivotal for the EU), Latin America (urban identity and social cohesion) and Asia (cultural heritage and town planning).

## SYSTEM FOR THE PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE

**Zona Franca Building**

**Conservation and  
Restoration Centre**

**Llibreteria Street Space  
“The Museum’s R+D+i  
Epicentre”**

**Research and Debate  
Centre**

**Born Annexe Building**

**Historical Documentation  
Centre  
Archaeology Service**





## *Llibreteria Street Building*

# **MUHBA RESEARCH AND DEBATE CENTRE**

## **The Museum's R+D+i Epicentre**

Programme in consultation with AHCB-ICUB and local and international cultural and academic centres:

- Stable research groups
- HQ for seminars, courses and study days
- Masters in Heritage Intervention and Landscape
- Experimental exhibitions
- Specialist library and bookshop
- Orientation centre for tour operators (programme BCN differently)



## *Zona Franca Building*

# CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION CENTRE

A world class centre that will systematically organise its archaeological resources and collections, and broaden its field: research agreements, industrial heritage objects from the contemporary city, a new Annual Collections Report to be published.





*Born annexe building*

## **HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION CENTRE CITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE**



### **HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION CENTRE:**

based on the museum's archives (records of archaeological interventions) and other studies and documents, creation of a geo-referenced knowledge system with an open database of conceptual and visual architecture.

### **CITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE:**

Creation of new criteria and instruments in conjunction with the Catalogue Revision Service in order to establish intervention protocols. Archaeological map and special archaeological protection plan. Publication of the annual Archaeological Interventions Report.

### ***3. MUHBA, a nuclear network of heritage centres***

- A core presentation of **Barcelona's history** in three, overlapping discourses taking place across the **Plaça del Rei** (antique and medieval city), the **Born Market** (from the modern city to the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century) and **Oliva Artés** (from manufacturing suburbs to today's metropolis) venues.
- A dialogue between all the museum's centres regarding the way they focus on treating heritage and collections, in order to create a dense panoramic view of Barcelona's historical and artistic journey and its material and immaterial legacy.
- Incorporation of other "associate" centres into the system, such as the roman house in Sant Honorat St. or Casa Amatller.

## A NETWORK OF CENTRES WITH THREE KEY SITES

The museum's exhibition system is centred around an open, core narrative using three overlapping discourses covering all three key centres:  
Plaça del Rei, Born Market and Oliva Artés

1

### Plaça del Rei

*"From Barcino to  
Barcinona  
and the urban  
splendour of the  
Low Middle Ages"*

2

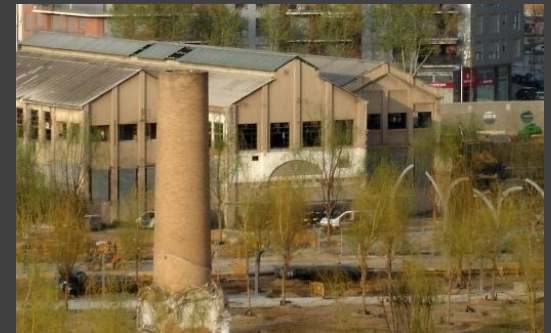
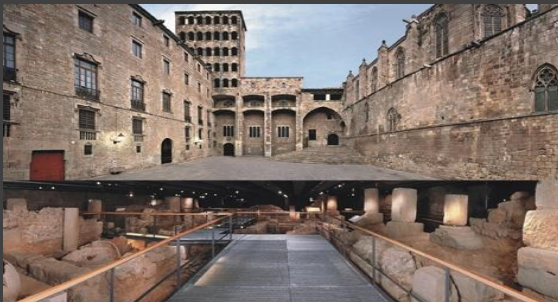
### Born Market

*"From the modern city  
before 1714 to the 18<sup>th</sup>  
century boom, Cerdà's  
capital and the  
Exhibitions"*

3

### Oliva Artés

*"From the  
manufacturing  
suburbs incorporated  
in 1897 to the 21<sup>st</sup>  
century, global  
metropolis"*



# MONUMENTAL ENSEMBLE OF THE PLAÇA DEL REI

*“From Barcino to Barcinona and the urban splendour of the Low Middle Ages”*

Future challenges: incorporate late antiquity (Aula Basilica and Baptistry) and prepare permanent exhibition on the Low Middle Ages





# THE BORN MARKET

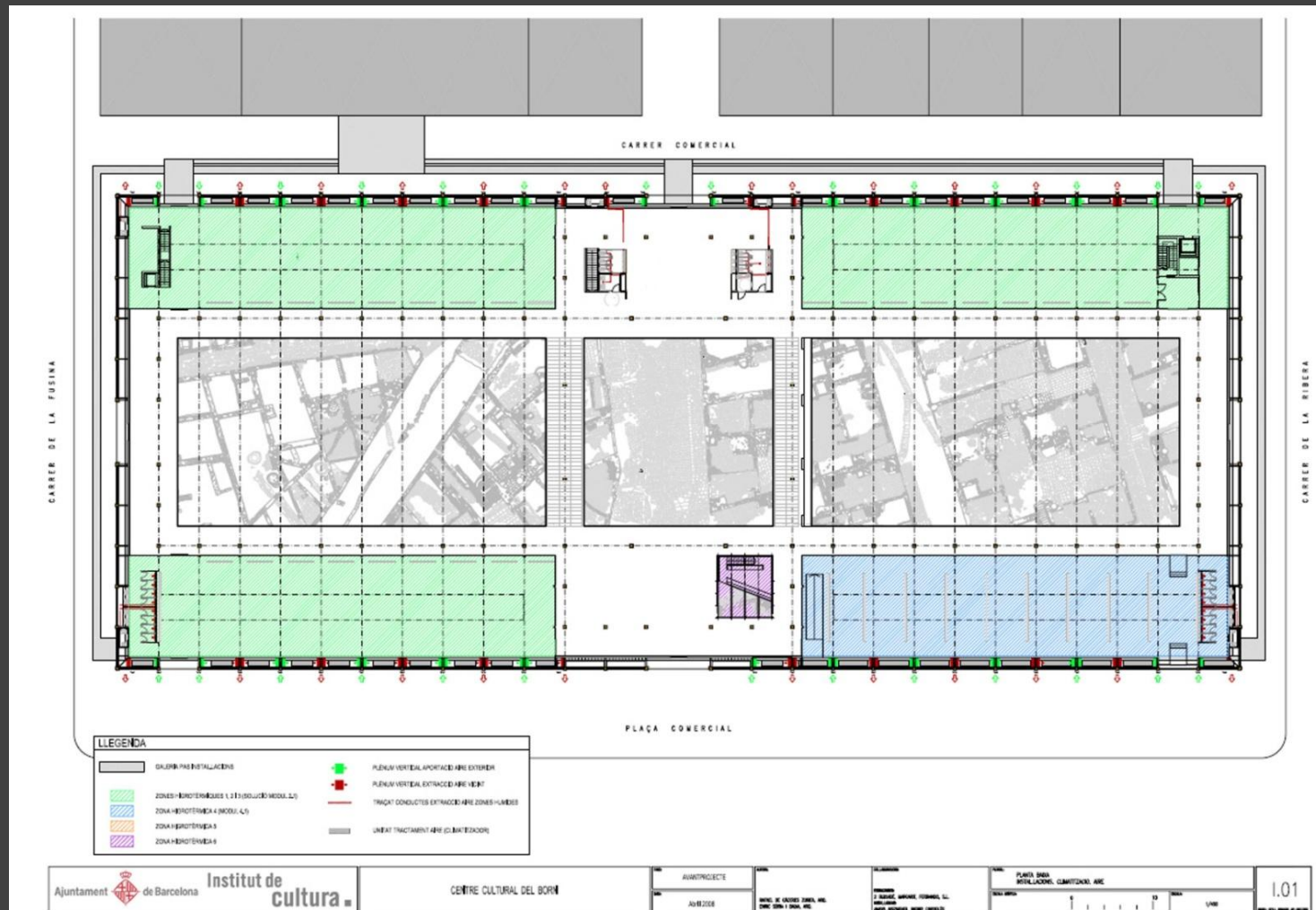
*“From the modern city before 1714 to the 18<sup>th</sup> century boom,  
Cerdà’s capital city and the two Exhibitions”*





# Born Market , agora museum

70 years ago Plaça del Rei and the museum defined a programming profile that remained consistent for more than half a century. The Born Market, a local and metropolitan public space and at the same time, between its milestone archaeological site and the market itself, the museum's second, major venue, it is a centrepiece around which the 21<sup>st</sup>-century museum project will be oriented.

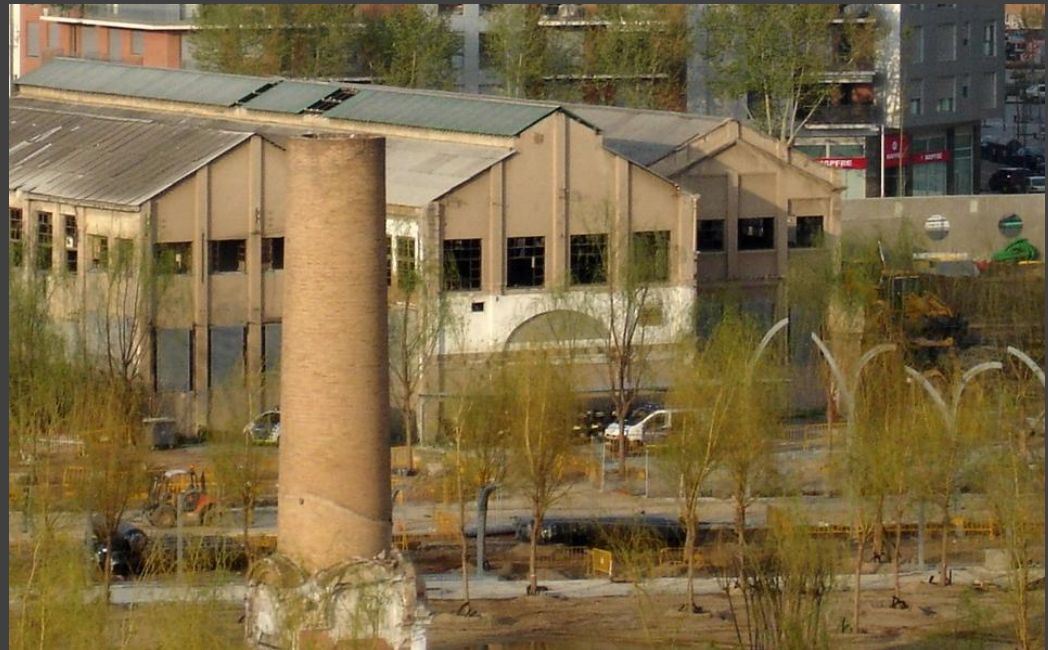


# OLIVA ARTÉS



From the manufacturing suburbs incorporated in 1897, linked to the heritage of the Poblenou district, to the conversion of the peripheries into part of the metropolis during the 20<sup>th</sup> century right up to the 21<sup>st</sup>-century city.

A general perspective on the recent history of Barcelona.





## Oliva Artés, interior



A factory floor in the shape of a basilica with three work areas and a mezzanine floor along the outer sides.

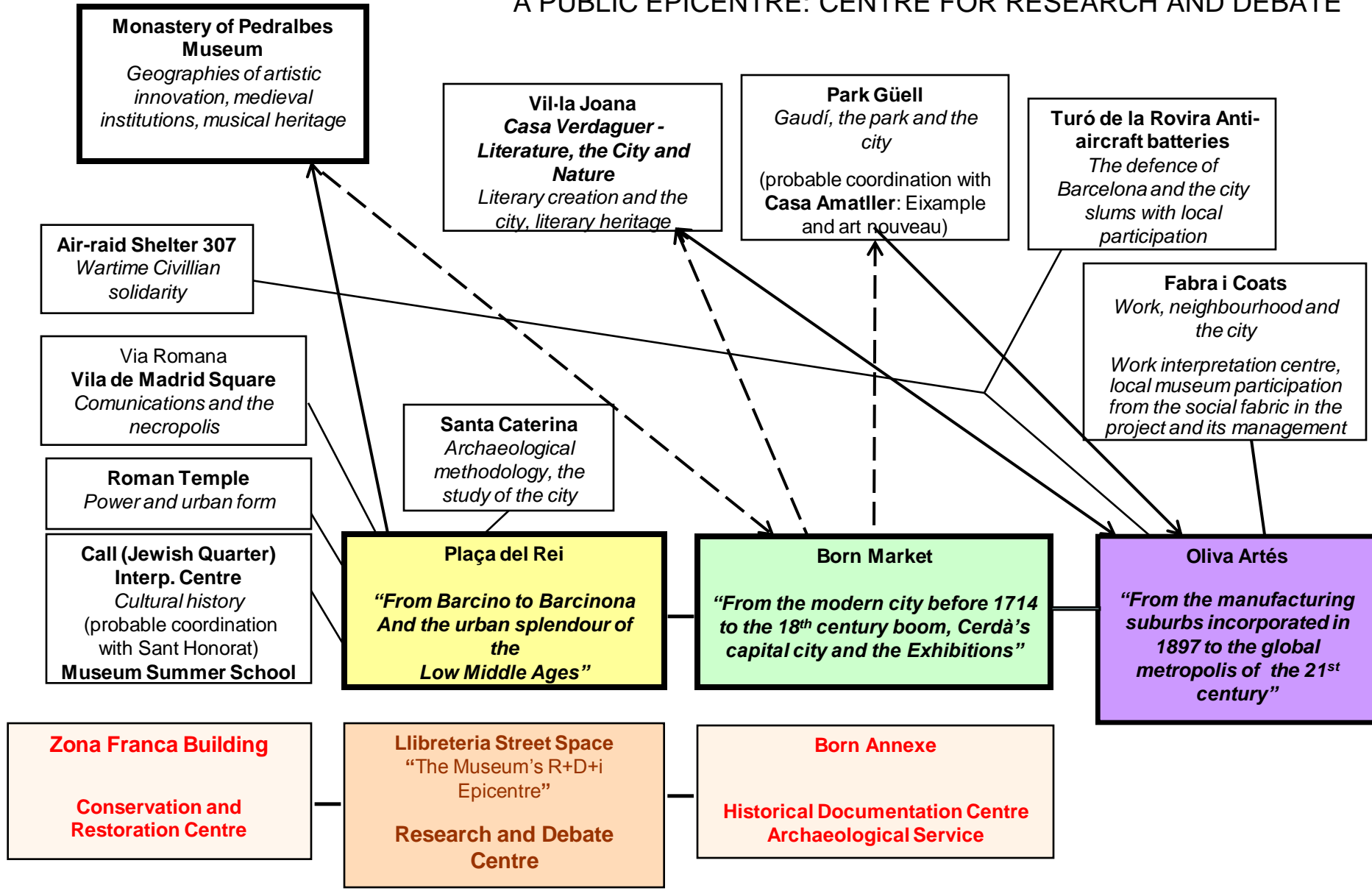


# MUHBA, GENERAL STRUCTURE

A TRINUCLEAR NETWORK OF THREE MUSEUMS (black)

A SYSTEM OF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION (red)

A PUBLIC EPICENTRE: CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND DEBATE



# MUHBA, INTERVENTIONS IN PROGRESS AND AT PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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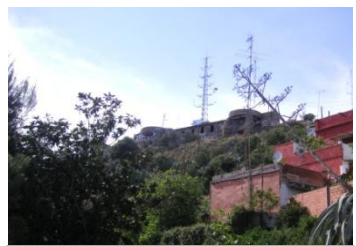
**Monastery of Pedralbes Museum**  
 Restore the Sant Miquel chapel and prepare a new presentation of Ferrer Bassa's work



**Casa Verdaguer - Literature, the City and Nature**  
 New use and new museography at the project stage, jointly with the Collserola Consortium



**Park Güell**  
 New museum project "Gaudí, the park and the city", work in progress



**Turó Rovira Anti-aircraft Batteries**  
 Renovation work on the batteries in progress, museum project with the local district



**Via romana Plaça Vila de Madrid**  
 Renovation work and museum project in progress



**Fabra i Coats**  
 Work, neighbourhood and the city  
 Renovation of the power systems + work interpretation centre, phase 1, with the participation of the social fabric

**The Call (Jewish Quarter) Interp. Centre**  
 Cultural history (probable coordination with Sant Honorat)  
 Museum Summer School



**Plaça del Rei**  
 Aula basilica + baptistry, phase 1  
 "From Barcino to Barcinona And the urban splendour of the Low Middle Ages"

**Born Market**  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
 "From the modern city before 1714 to the 18th century boom, Cerdà's capital and the Exhibitions"

**Oliva Artés**  
 DRAFT PROJECT  
 "From the manufacturing suburbs incorporated in 1897 to the 21st century global metropolis"



# Fabra i Coats

## *“Work Interpretation Centre”*

Based in a factory that bound a neighbourhood together and formed a substantial part of the city:

A new generation, local museum with 1000 m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition and activity space and with the participation of the Sant Andreu district and its social and cultural fabric in the project and the management of the facility.



Fabra i Coats, Interpretation Centre  
and Boiler Room



Fabra i Coats Power System







Fabra i Coats: company, work and neighbourhood





# Vil·la Joana

*“Casa Verdaguer - Literature, the City and Nature”*

## **A new museum project**

Together with the Collserola Consortium: from a literary construction of the city to the town planning concerns of the nineteenth hundreds and the creation of the parks system.

## **A Space for Literary Creation**

A House of Literature for Barcelona with writers-in-residence and stable programming about literary heritage (such as the Vil·la Joana mornings)



# Park Güell

*"Gaudí, the park and  
the city"*

New museum project in  
Guarda house to reposition  
Gaudí and his world in  
relation to and in contrast  
with other modernists.

Probable coordination with  
the Casa Amatller  
restoration project:  
rethinking the links  
between the Eixample and  
the modernists





# Anti-aircraft Batteries, Turó de la Rovira

*“The defence of Barcelona and informal growth”*

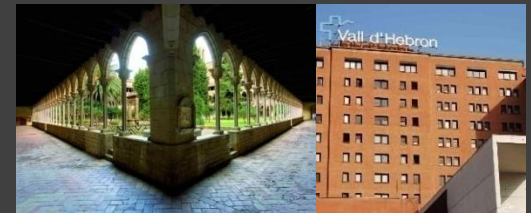
The defence of Barcelona, the first city in the world to suffer massive bombardment, memories of the war and the unplanned city that spread in the post-war period: slums.

A project in collaboration with the local district and its social and cultural organisations.



## 4. MUHBA, renewing public programming

- Research and debates
- Temporary exhibitions
- Visits and tours
- Education
- Publications and communication
- Social network



**Museu d'estiu  
a Ciutat Vella  
Casal per a  
nens i nenes**

UNA PROPOSTA DE CASAL PER A NENS I NENES DEL DISTRICTE DE CIUTAT VELLA. UN CONJUNT D'ACTIVITATS, ORGANITZADES PELS TRES MUSEUS, PER APROXIMAR-SE A LA HISTÒRIA DE BARCELONA, PER ENRIQUIR-SE EN EL PATRIMONI I PER APROFITAR I ALEGRIAR EL SPAIATGE DE LA CIUTAT I A CONÈXER LA SEVA GENT.

# Research and Debates

- **General approach:** Systematic organisation of the work process “from the idea to the research, exhibition and publication”
- **Grants** in collaboration with the *Cercle del Museu*
- **Research Groups:**
  - Archaeology and Heritage
  - Urban History
  - The City and the Environment
  - Museums and Education
- **Permanent Urban History and Heritage seminar**
- **Themed, expert study days**, meeting point for specialists, **international courses** and **specialist seminars**, such as Barcelona, trading city (Atlantic ship), Industrial Barcelona, Military Heritage (the issue of the walls).
- **Masters in Heritage Intervention and Landscape**, in collaboration with the UAB
- **Conference Cycles** linked to temporary and permanent exhibitions
- **Barcelona, city debate:** programmes in the local districts ,created in collaboration with local scholars

## Proposed Temporary Exhibitions

- Slums. The informal city (08)
- Transnational Barcelona. Connected citizens (08-09)
- Barcelona and the *Jocs Florals* (09)
- The Cerdà Plan, the city's driving force (09-10)
- Water and the City. Two millennia of water courses (10)
- Barcelona's Markets, the Born Market (11)
- Paris-Barcelona. The iron that forged modernity , at Oliva Artés (11)
- Barcelona, trading city (the low-medieval city, presentation of the recently discovered ship, 11-12)

# Visits and Tours

Reconceptualisation of visits and tours: constructing questions and ways of seeing as a method.

## *Visits system*

- Restructuring around themes and not by audience type
- ***Sunday Mornings***: incorporating *know how* into the new “guided visits” given by experts
- New programme ***The Beautiful Cure***: aimed at the elderly and hospital patients (in concert with Vall d’Hebron Hospital)

## *Tour system (with the collaboration of the CCCB)*

- **The Barcelona Grand Tour**: new system of tours for the whole city, which together, offer a perspective on the challenges facing the city in the light of its historical journey.



# Oliva Artés and Poblenou's Heritage Ensemble

From the 18<sup>th</sup> century cotton fields to the significant initiatives of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, from industrial district to urban centre. Tours that will include a diverse range of factory sites (Farinera del Clot, Torre de les Aigües, etc.) and the Poblenou ensemble.

## MUHBA



Oliva Artés



# Education

- **Breaking the barrier between education and culture** working from within schools and in direct dialogue with teachers.
- “***Patrimonia’m***”, a project aimed at 11 –13 year-olds in which each participating centre adopts a vestige of the city’s heritage.
- “***Apropia’t de la ciutat***”, a new systematic education programme for the 4 years of compulsory, secondary education: *personal representations (locale-based biographies)*, artistic representations (*the museum’s collection*), urban representations (*personal journey through the city*) and political representations (*the ways the city has been governed through history*).
- “***Guided Research***”, a new, post-compulsory, programme worked out with schools for working on heritage issues (*archaeological digs, monuments and museum collections*) concerning the museum itself and the city’s heritage.
- “***Museum Summer School for Children***”, constructing citizenship during free time: the city’s formal and historical grammar, the grammar of citizenship. New programme for children from the Ciutat Vella district jointly with the **Picasso** and **Frederic Marés** museums.

## Publications and Communications

- **Books:** reorganised into three series: '*Documents*', '*Archives*' (including catalogues) and '*History Museum Monographs*' (beginning with the series "The City of the Born Market. Barcelona 1700", edited by Albert Garcia Espuche. First volume to appear June 18<sup>th</sup>).
- Strengthen the two periodicals, *Quarhis* and *Conservation and Restoration Notebook*.
- **Museum Bulletin**, a key publication for raising questions concerning the city's history.
- **MUHBA website**, the public, museum professionals and academics. Interactive debate and search features, internationalised system.
- Connection between the library and the bookshop (opening of the La Central del Museu d'Història bookstore, June 12<sup>th</sup>), in order to strengthen reflection and work on the history of cities.



# Social Network

- The museum – meeting place for researchers and historians.
- The museum – place for public debate on subjects of general interest, with a historical perspective.
- The museum – a citizen's club, with various forums. Renew the programme of activities and visits offered by the *AMICS DEL MUSEU*.
- The *CERCLE DEL MUSEU*: supporters and ambassadors for the museum, the sponsorship of civil society for research, teaching, the collections and heritage projects.
- BARCELONA, HISTORIC CITY DEBATE: Programme for the 10 local districts, with the participation of the social and cultural fabric (the museum has venues and interpretation centres in eight of the city's ten districts)

A satellite night view of Barcelona, Spain, showing the city's lights against a dark blue background. The lights form a dense pattern of yellow and white dots, with some larger, brighter clusters. The city's coastline is visible, and the surrounding areas are less densely lit.

# ***MUHB***

## **The City History Museum of Barcelona**

*“the city’s museum, Barcelona’s mirror”*

Extract from the City History Museum of Barcelona’s Strategic Plan, *MUHBA – Barcelona, June 2008*