HEART OF
عمان
Beautifying Khayyam Street Project, Jabal Al-Luweibdeh
Heart of Amman

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The “Heart of Amman” coffee table book recognizes and celebrates the diversity and culture of the people of Amman dedicated to giving back to their communities and making important contributions to support the cultural, artistic, and social advancement of the city. It sheds light on some of Amman’s remarkable landmarks, the diversity and creativity of its people, and the spirit in which their contributions make Amman a unique, inviting, and culturally rich city.

A city known for its great hospitality and rich cultural heritage, Amman has for centuries served as a key route of trade, merchants, and pilgrims and has given refuge to people in distress in a turbulent region. Amman has become an oasis of peace, stability, and tolerance for many. In spite of regional turmoil and challenges, which were further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the city continues to demonstrate resilience in addressing emergency needs as well as expanding transport and environmental infrastructure.

The “Heart of Amman” coffee table book mirrors the essence of the “Heart of Amman Programme”, implemented in partnership with the Greater Amman Municipality and generously funded by the Government of Japan. The “Heart of Amman Programme” is committed to accelerating economic recovery by building resilient cities and more inclusive societies. Together with our local and international partners, we worked on facilitating broad stakeholder engagement in development towards the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and Jordan’s Economic Modernization Vision.

The Programme targeted Jordanians, refugees, migrants, women and youth with customized interventions aimed at creating economic opportunities to enhance social cohesion and community responsibility and revive the rich landmarks and heritage of Jordan. The participants were provided with extensive training and mentorship for development and entrepreneurship skills that led to the establishment of innovative tech and start-up service. It provided direct opportunities for financial support and on-the-job training, which led to permanent employment in national companies and sustainable income-generating opportunities.

Throughout its implementation, the Programme supported the establishment of more than 52 small and home-based businesses, the scale-up of 13 medium-sized businesses, provided emergency liquidity to 100 small enterprises during the COVID-19 pandemic, provided technical and on-the-job training for more than 600 individuals, and enabled the implementation of over 40 community-driven initiatives. The “Heart of Amman Programme” grew to become a reference for inclusive economic growth, social entrepreneurship, and civic engagement driven and owned by the people and communities of Amman.

Through this book, we hope to reflect the essence of the “Heart of Amman Programme” by shedding light on some of Amman’s remarkable landmarks, the diversity and creativity of its people and the spirit in which their contributions make Amman a unique, inviting and culturally rich city. We thank the Greater Amman Municipality and the Japanese Government for their trust and for providing the opportunity to the individuals and communities who benefited from this timely initiative, especially in conjunction with the pandemic.

I hope you enjoy the book and celebrate the achievements of its heroes with us.

Randa Aboul-Hosn
Resident Representative, UN Development Programme

The “Heart of Amman” Programme is committed to supporting the cultural, artistic, and social advancement of Amman through the implementation of over 40 community-driven initiatives. It provided direct opportunities for financial support and on-the-job training, which led to permanent employment in national companies and sustainable income-generating opportunities.

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Randa Aboul-Hosn
Resident Representative, UN Development Programme
Ever since I arrived in Amman in November 2020 as an Ambassador of Japan, I have been fascinated and inspired by the city’s rich culture and history, the diversity of its people, and their kindness and willingness to support people from all around the world. Amman is also home to Japanese citizens, some Japanese-based companies, and NGOs.

The Government of Japan strongly believes that empowering and protecting people, especially vulnerable ones, is the key to achieving sustainable development and human security. Since July 2019, the Government of Japan has been collaborating with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to support the people of Amman, both Jordanians and refugees from different countries, building socio-economic resilience and providing a better living environment.

I highly appreciate the philosophy of the UNDP programme “Heart of Amman” and I believe that the cultural and historical heritage of any city should be taken into consideration for city planning and development in order to affect change that is in line with the identity and history of its residents.

I am very pleased to see the multi-fold achievements under this programme having strengthened the identity and history of its residents. I was also fortunate to meet many while generating social cohesion and creating pathways towards sustainable livelihoods.

Together with UNDP, I believe that the Heart of Amman programme will further advance these goals and continue making a difference in people’s lives. I am happy that a number of the Heart of Amman programme participants are featured in this book and represent the positive impact achieved through this programme. I hope our collaboration through the “Heart of Amman” and this coffee table book will give a hint of inspiration for many other individuals, encouraging them to join us in contributing to the future of their home city.

H.E. Mr. Kaoru Shimazaki
Former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
November 2020 – October 2022

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The multiplicity of civilizations and cultures of a city throughout ancient history gives the city a distinct character different from other cities. More so for a city with Amman’s unique spirit that combines the nobility of the past through various eras and the diversity of the city’s population in modern history, creating a beautiful mosaic. The “Amman identity” fuses together all the components of the city’s residents and their differences, making Amman an exemplar of coexistence and acceptance of others. Everyone puts forth their best, therefore contributing to shaping the unifying Ammani identity in the best way. Everyone in the city is an Amman and everyone is welcome, so much so that visitors feel a sense of belonging after seeing the coexistence, tolerance, and hospitality Amman has to offer.

The axes of the Ammani identity in general have revolved around a set of deeply rooted constants from the city’s inception to this day. Anyone contemplating the nature of the relationship between Ammanis and their city finds that there is a strong relationship that can be best seen in the city’s spirit and its civil appearance. The axes of the Ammani identity, which were formed and blended throughout history, came together to create the unique Ammani identity that we see today. The most important axis is that Amman is a city of history and culture. A city of hills, coexistence, and stars, Amman also strives to be a green, smart, and sustainable city.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched the Heart of Amman programme in July 2019. The programme aimed to contribute to improving the economic and social realities and the sustainable livelihood of all segments of society in Amman, using innovative methods to respond to today’s challenges. The programme was built on key pillars, the most important of which is the promotion of community-led local development by finding and testing citizen-centered solutions, enhancing social cohesion, increasing resource efficiency for the city of Amman, and promoting the concepts of entrepreneurship among the youth.

The objectives of the Heart of Amman programme are in line with the priorities of the Jordanian Government and the sustainable development goals. The programme adopts a participatory and holistic approach that is keen to involve young men, women, and refugees in devising solutions to challenges and promoting local development through initiatives led by the residents of the targeted areas. These initiatives have contributed to consolidating the principles and values of belonging of all participants and enhancing their role in preserving cultural heritage and valuing their neighborhoods. In addition, the initiatives provide opportunities to gain income and join the workforce through training, rehabilitation, and raising competencies.

Through our cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, we look forward to continuing efforts to contribute to advancing the development process and achieving the sustainable development goals, as the Greater Amman Municipality is always keen to strengthen partnerships aimed at raising the standard of living for the residents of Amman.

The programme on Rania Al-Madhoun’s behalf is launched as part of the EUCB programme and the Sustainable Development Goals, as the Jordanian Government, the UNDP, and the residents of the targeted areas have contributed to consolidating the principles and values of belonging of all participants and enhancing their role in preserving cultural heritage and valuing their neighborhoods. In addition, the initiatives provide opportunities to gain income and join the workforce through training, rehabilitation, and raising competencies.

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Amman is the capital of Jordan and is the largest city in the Levant, the fifth-largest city in the Arab world, and the ninth-largest metropolitan area in the Middle East. Amman is home to about 42% of Jordan’s entire population, which includes 760,000 refugees fleeing conflicts in neighboring countries who found a safe haven in Amman.

This publication is designed to celebrate the rich cultural and human heritage of the city of Amman through the lived experience of its inhabitants and to inspire a greater appreciation for the different traditions and perspectives that make up the city’s fabric. The publication shares the journeys of several of Amman’s residents who are making significant contributions to their communities. Guided by a commitment to diversity and inclusivity, the book features people from a variety of backgrounds, ages, and experiences.

The introduction highlights some community-led initiatives that were implemented by UNDP and its partners as part of the Heart of Amman programme.

The Role of UNDP

UNDP implemented the Heart of Amman programme from 2019-2022 in coordination with the Greater Amman Municipality in the central and eastern parts of the city. The programme, which was generously funded by the Government of Japan, focused on civic participation, youth engagement, employment creation, and preservation of culture and heritage.

The programme leveraged the city’s unique assets, its people, and its cultural diversity to maximize impact and promote the importance of collective action for more resilient and sustainable cities.

At the programme’s core were the community-led initiatives, designed and implemented by UNDP, civil society organizations, partners, and representatives from the community. These initiatives were designed to respond to the needs of residents in the central and eastern regions of Amman. Success was primarily driven by the participants’ determination, their creative ideas, and their resolve to contribute to the improvement of their areas and neighborhoods.

The Heart of Amman programme is a celebration of the vibrant and diverse communities that make up the city, and the innovative projects and ideas that emerged from their collective efforts. In a world that is often divided by differences, the Heart of Amman initiatives offered a glimpse of the shared humanity that unites us all. Whether you’re a lifelong resident or a first-time visitor, Heart of Amman is a tribute to the enduring spirit of this beautiful city and to all the people who call Amman home.

We hope you enjoy this publication as much as we did creating it.

The Heart of Amman Team
Heart of Amman

Introduction

A crowd of citizens in Downtown Amman, April 1921

The columns across from the Roman Amphitheater in the early 1900s

The heart of Amman, September 1940, during celebrations marking the 24th anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt, under the patronage of the Founding Emir Abdullah bin Al-Hussein

A side of the Roman Amphitheater in the early 20th century showing the Roman Amphitheater

Old Amman in the early twentieth century showing the Roman Amphitheater

Amman in the 1930s showing the minaret of the Al-Husseini Mosque, one of the oldest and largest mosques

Old Amman in the early twentieth century showing the Roman Amphitheater

A side of the Roman Amphitheater. Its columns, and architectural buildings in the early 1950s

Pictures courtesy of The Royal Heritage Directorate archives, Royal Hashemite Court.

OLD AMMAN

عمّان القديمة

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Celebrations marking the 24th anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt, in Downtown Amman adorned with flags in April 1940 under the patronage of Emir Abdullah bin Al-Hussein

الاحتفال بالذكرى 24 للثورة العربية الكبرى في وسط مدينة عمّان القديمة التي تظهر مزدانة بالأعلام في أيلول 1940 برعاية الأمير عبد الله بن الحسين

Amman landmarks and buildings in the 1980s

معالم من مدينة عمّان وعمرانها في ثمانينات القرن الماضي
In a mainly male-dominated field, I joined the Jordan Times as the first female sports reporter. As an athlete myself, I felt that it was imperative that the local sports scene, especially regional and international achievements, be covered. I know that Jordan has many athletes who have had a major impact on the sports scene, despite the meager resources afforded to them. I was privileged to be a part of some of those accomplishments, which is why I feel that I need to give back to the Jordanian sports scene. I work tirelessly to tell their stories, highlight their achievements, and shed light on their accomplishments. Writing Jordan's sports history is something I am very proud to be a part of and I feel that it is my duty to give back to the clubs and national teams that have given me, specifically, and Jordan as a whole, so much.

Aline Bannayan

In Amman, I feel at home. A stranger is ready to help you 90% of the time. This attitude sums up Amman.

عمّان تشعرني بدفء المنزل. %90 من الوقت، تجد شخصًا غريبًا مستعدًا لمساعدتك. هذا الموقف يُلَحِّق عقان.
An interior designer by trade, painting Islamic murals is my passion. In 2017, I took my art to a whole new level when I started painting in 3D. When the picture I posted on social media of a 3D door I painted went viral I realized that I had to develop and utilize this skill in a way that can benefit my local community. This idea came to fruition when I painted a 3D crosswalk that looked like it was hovering over the street. The street, which is near a school, had witnessed several car accidents. The piece did what I intended by forcing cars to slow down, decreasing the number of accidents. I found another accident-prone area where I plan to replicate the effect by painting a 3D roundabout-like drawing and I am constantly on the search for ways to use my art to serve my community. Despite the challenges I face finding the materials I need and marketing my work, nothing beats the feeling I get from doing what I love and employing it to give back.

Amman is my city. I love Amman because I have lived my life here.

Abdullah Al-Mahsiri

عبد الله المحسيري
As a shy child, I often found expressing myself with words difficult and dance became my language of choice, the way I truly shared myself. Despite my love for dance, neither I nor my family saw it as a career option. I wanted to study community development and economics because I have a passion for serving people and seeing communities transformed. At the time, I did not realize that I could fulfill my passion for giving back through dance and creativity. Now, I am a dancer and an educator. I have learned that my value and worth do not come from what I do and what I succeed at. I have learned the importance of being my true self, who I was created to be. I work with young people, mostly women, to help them realize that their education does not define them. My desire for every young person is that they know who they are and have the confidence to live that out. I’ve had the opportunity to share this message with different groups of young people in Jordan in ways I never dreamed possible.

In Amman I gained the confidence to be who I am.

Claire Meagan
Six years ago, I had to leave Iraq in fear for my life and chose Jordan as my new home. Being persecuted in my country, when I got here, I was drawn to volunteer and humanitarian work because I felt that this path would help me find and develop myself. The beginning was when I was able to use my degree in chemistry – something the situation in Iraq had made impossible – and I started teaching with the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD). I also gave lectures to the elderly at the Queen Zain Al-Sharaf Institute. Afterward, I had the opportunity to participate in the dialogue sessions of the Heart of Amman Programme, which worked to integrate different nationalities, ages, and races, so it was a great opportunity for me. On a personal level, I make an effort to get to know the locals here because I believe that this is part of my self-discovery journey. Living in Amman, after what I’ve been through, I am proud that I can now grasp the true meaning of humanity.

Amman, in a simple word, embraces everyone. We Iraqis are like a plant that was not planted in this land and needs care and water. We found this in Amman.

Adham Al-Askari

أدهم العسكري

معنٍٍا في كلمة بسيطة هي الحاضر. بالتالي، الديناميك، نحن كيتكينة لا تزروع في الأرض تحاول إلى رعاية وسقاعة وقد حصلنا على هذا من عقان.

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My family arrived at the Mohammed Amin Camp in Jabal Al-Natheef in the early 1950s after the Palestinian displacement. We pass through distinctive neighborhoods, alleyways, and staircases to get to and from the camp, where we live in an extended close-knit family, in loving, caring, and supportive neighborhoods. Though many girls in the community were denied an education, with my passion and my family’s support I obtained a diploma in library science and information, after which I joined Ruwwad as a librarian while pursuing my higher education. As administrator of the children’s program, I’m proud to have influenced children, youth, and parents by endorsing a culture of education based on open and critical thinking, respect for personal narrative and history, and the promotion of the values of diversity and pluralism. I train youth to be our partners. Through my work, I’ve contributed to the development of many knowledge products that employ a variety of mediums in teaching and learning. Witnessing children discover their skills and passion fills me with pride.

Enas Obeidalla
I've been a sanitation worker with the Greater Amman Municipality since 2017 and I'm proud of what I do. I'm active on social media, specifically TikTok, where I post awareness messages, that have been well received by the public, encouraging me to continue. Young people often make comments about my job because many consider it to be difficult and one to be ashamed of, but I've also encouraged many to become sanitation workers. I faced a lot of criticism at first, especially from those closest to me, but I continued working and I didn’t allow what people said to discourage me, and now everyone supports me. I always say that there's nothing to be ashamed of in any profession. Young people should accept whatever work is available to them and you have to love your job and do it well to excel at it.

I feel like a resident of Amman, even though I only work there. Amman is the bride and beauty, and I am proud to work there.

Ahmad Al-Nseirat

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أحمد النصيرات

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As a mother of orphans, my situation is tough. I've been working at the Amman Municipality Butchery since my husband's death, which was difficult at first because my children were young with no one to support them. The work is hard, but I'm happy that I make my own living. Despite many challenges and problems, I've always been a mother and a father to my children, never letting them feel the loss. I'm proud to have raised them and I'm not worried about them if anything happens to me. I know they'll live decent lives and I'll help raise their children when they get married and have children of their own.

Amman is my home and I'd never give it up.

Fouzia Hussein

فؤذية حسين
I love Amman’s beautiful areas and the archaeological sites. I think Amman is the most beautiful city.

A resident of Jabal Al-Joufah, the oldest area in Amman, I work at my father’s shop where I sell tires. I participated in the “Our Neighborhood” initiative, a social pioneer initiative renovating dangerous stairs and planting trees. I won a sum of money to start my own project. I felt like I’d done something for Jabal Al-Joufah that pleased people. My physical disability causes me to walk stiffly, but I’ve overcome my health issue and socialized with people like anyone else. I encourage other people with disabilities to be patient and take advantage of all the opportunities they are given.

أحب عُمان بمناطقها الجميلة وبسبب وجود المواقع الأثرية. أجد أن عُمان أجمل المدن.

أحمد ناصر
I graduated with a degree in English Literature when the pandemic started, and I could not find a job. Since my mother is a handicraft trainer, she trained me for a special project. For four months I learned to make soap, then I started production. Today, I have 3 product lines: Therapeutic, “Spoil yourself with olive oil,” and Therapeutic Perfume. I wanted to be my own person, seek financial independence, and leave a mark on society. The greatest challenge was reaching the target group and explaining my project. The feasibility study was also difficult, and I had to sacrifice my salary to kickstart my project. My mother and I helped empower women by involving them either by teaching them to make soap or selling them soap at lower prices to resell for profit and improve their financial status. What I am most proud of is that I was never discouraged, on the contrary, I was pleased to turn my idea into a reality.
Though I studied English, the Arabic language is my true passion. In 2000, my creative juices came to life, and I published the first of several poetry collections. In 2006, I decided to embark on a new journey by going back to college and getting a bachelor’s degree, master’s degree, and a Ph.D. in Arabic. After teaching at a university in Aqaba I returned to Amman in 2019. As a writer, I feel that I play a role in preserving our beautiful language, therefore I serve the Arab nation as a whole. As an educator, I feel that part of my cultural mission is to find and support my students’ hidden talents. That is why I have mentored many would-be writers, helped them hone their skills, and assisted in getting some of their pieces published in local newspapers. Stemming from my sense of responsibility toward future generations I conduct lectures for college and school-aged students in my free time, in which I deal with topics like time management, the art of writing, and self-development.

Amman is Jerusalem’s twin and my soulmate.
From a young age, my mother taught me the importance of contributing to my society and community. Getting a footing as a young female dealing with very conservative communities wasn't easy. I worked with 65 Syrian refugee families in Irbid, providing support and counseling. I then worked in Eastern Amman for 7 years, during which I worked on raising awareness among women about their rights and I encouraged them to start their own businesses because I believe that when you empower a woman economically you empower a family, and you empower her daughters to do the same. It was important that they know that their opinions and voices matter and that they are heard. Also, my work helped me realize how crucial early intervention is in order to have a sustainable impact, which is why I focus my work more on children, giving them support and encouragement and helping them understand that nothing can stand in the way of their ambitions.

Wherever I go or live, Amman is the start and finish line.

Hala Jurf
As a child, an immune disorder caused my hair to fall out. People looked at me differently after that. I was bullied in school, so I wanted to stay at home, even though I was a social person who loved meeting people and discovering places. But I refused to let this control me. I accepted myself and worked on convincing people that I’m not different. I moved to a public school before high school, then studied architecture because of my love of drawing and design, which helped hone my style. When I read about urban drawing, I discovered a world that uncovers a city’s identity, a combination of humans, trees, and stones. It wasn’t widespread in Jordan, so I shared my drawings on social media because drawing these places drives my curiosity to discover their stories. My love for this field drives me to establish Jordan’s first urban painting community.

I long for locations of origins. I believe that every place has at least one important story worth telling.

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I face society with my dreams and aspirations. They may be big, but my hope and motivation drive me, despite the difficulties. I’m inspired by the saying: “Great pain makes us great.” As a child, I called myself the “critic”, because I wanted to improve society. I believe every house has a story, and every person is a story, sacrifice, and struggle, inspiring us as they overcome their own difficulties. At first, I wanted to be a teacher to impact children. But, once I started working as one, I was hit by the reality that teachers are only expected to finish the curriculum. I became a puppeteer by chance. In college, I started the “Reader Today, Leader Tomorrow” initiative for schools where I was a storyteller and puppeteer, inspiring children and connecting them to nature and animals. I started my work in 2016 and I have managed to visit more than 40 schools since then. I started as a self-taught puppeteer driven by interest and passion, and when the Arabic version of my favorite childhood program started to be filmed here in Jordan, I joined them and learned more about this magical art form.

Heba Mafaddi

I love Amman’s details: the earth, walls, old houses. I feel like they touch and comfort me.

—Heba Mafaddi, Jordanian puppeteer

I'm able to understand scenes of daily life in Amman, to see the city’s architecture and feel the soul of its citizens.

—Heba Mafaddi, Jordanian puppeteer

هبة مفضي

أحب تفاصيل عمان: الأرض، الجدران، بيونها القديمة. أشعر بأنها تلامسني وتطبطب عليّ.
A father of three with a degree in management from The Hashemite University, I was honored to join the Public Security Forces in 2007, climbing the career ladder and ranks. I’m currently a First Lieutenant with the Mass Media and Community Policing Directorate. My biggest challenge was when I joined the Public Security Directorate (PSD), as a young, single civilian choosing military life and had to adapt to it in record time. It helped me that I was familiar with this life because of my late father’s time in the Jordanian Armed Forces. I loved listening to him talk about military life and loving our country. This step changed my life positively, adding discipline, organization, and order, which continues to this day. I’m proud and honored to be in the PSD and represent my country, Jordan, and HM King Abdallah II, as a public security officer. My work focuses on public awareness and security education, so my influence in my circles as a reliable and credible source is huge. I explain and spread credible information and discredit rumors while assisting with any security inquiries.

First Lieutenant
Fadi Al-Turk

Amman is my heartbeat. I was born, raised, and lived my life here. I love Amman.
Heart of Amman

People

A proud single mother, I knew I wanted to be a chef at 11. Married at 19, I suffered physical and emotional abuse. During that time, cooking was my getaway, but I never imagined that it would become my profession. I got a divorce after two years and started studying cooking. Needless to say, my graduation was the happiest moment of my life. I knew that I needed hands-on training and after interviewing with 22 local establishments and being rejected by all of them, I finally secured an unpaid internship. I worked, trained, and studied for two years, persevered, and became an assistant executive chef. At 29, I became the youngest executive chef in Jordan. I advocate for women, helping them find their voices and resist injustice. I taught many women who went through what I did to be financially independent so that they could get out of their abusive relationships. I taught them to start home-based catering businesses, price their products, and where to get quality reasonably priced raw materials. I’m proud that many of them have achieved success but, more importantly, saved themselves.

Amman is a jewel that gave me opportunities and paved the road for me. Amman’s beauty lies in the diverse cultures and countless talents.

Heeba Ayyoub
I graduated from high school in Nablus where I was born. After studying accounting at Alexandria University, I worked in Kuwait. The technological advances I saw pushed me to self-educate in management information systems. I did data analysis and budgets until the Gulf War when I came to Amman. Deciding that I wouldn’t be an employee again, I started my own business. There was a lot of trial and error, but business was good once I understood the market. I went to Palestine in 2000 but soon returned, changed my field, and started from scratch. When my children finished college, I turned to my passion: hiking. My friends and I created a Facebook page that has attracted 6,000 followers. We plan tracks for both professionals and beginners, teaching them about hiking culture and nature along the way. We discovered that people enjoy adventure tourism. Jordan has many unique aspects, such as its climate, attractions, and sites that need promoting, so we play our part in trying to change mentalities about local tourism.

Fuad Masoud
As a female in the traditionally male-dominated field of Taekwondo, I was often told that I looked "too soft" for such an aggressive sport. Thankfully, I had my family’s support, and I didn’t allow the negative comments to deter me. After becoming the only Arab woman to win gold in the Asian Games, I began to see a shift in people’s mindsets. Young girls were happy to see themselves represented on the international stage, even more so after I recently became the first Arab to top the international taekwondo ranking in the under 67 kg category. Many girls decided to take up Taekwondo because they see me as a role model, a responsibility that I do not take lightly. I often meet with young girls and talk to them about the benefits of sports in general and encourage them to grow, excel, and believe in themselves. As an athlete, I have a platform that gives me a certain amount of social responsibility, which I happily take on. I try to spread awareness about cancer by visiting the King Hussein Cancer Center, supporting the patients, and giving them hope for the future.

Juliana Al-Sadeq

I grew up in Amman. I love the atmosphere and people. My connection to Amman is strong.

عبقان هي المدينة التي ترعرعت وكبرت فيها. أحب جوها وناسها. فارتباطي بها كبير.

Juliana Al-Sadeq
The number 6 has been a recurring theme in my life. At 6 years old, Arabic calligraphy became my hobby. I had to buy a pen to practice, which happened to cost 6 piasters. The child within me grew up and I went to work at a sign-making shop, where I trained myself to write until I was able to buy my own brush for 6 dinars. The recurrence continued beyond my tools when I failed in six subjects in the first semester of high school. I had hoped to achieve an overall average of (60%) but fell just short, achieving (59.7%). I studied the art of signage in Germany, and on my return, my brothers and I opened an advertising agency. Everything has a beginning, and mine was when a sign I had taken a photo with in the 1980s was gifted to me. My journey of acquiring old handmade signs began, and I soon realized that I had to share all of them with others. Wanting to create a worthy space for them, I opened the Amman Sign Museum to hold the city’s memories. Signs become windows peeking into these memories, and more than 6,000 monthly visitors get to enjoy them for free.

Amman, a comforting city that falls asleep to fresh memories and wakes up to the footsteps of those looking for its rarities. I am happiest when I return to the city, free of the fatigue of life.

Gazi Khattab
I started making crochet purses when my children lost their jobs due to the pandemic. I began selling them to friends and acquaintances and found that there was a demand for my products. I soon had the opportunity to participate in the Heart of Amman Programme, which was a huge shift for me. It took me out of my shell where I stayed for two years working at home alone. I benefited from working with them and met people from other nationalities, specifically Iraqis, whose suffering I didn’t know much about. I was scared at first because of my lack of experience compared to the other participants, but they were kind, and I didn’t feel any distinction. We were able to pay off our debts thanks to the financial incentive they gave us. We also gained leadership and listening skills. I am proud to be my own woman and to have raised and educated my children. I now help refugees and guide them to where they can receive support.

Amman is everything to me. I love it. I stroll the city’s different areas daily.

Khitam Al-Zaghaba

 عندما فقد أولادي وظائفهم خلال فترة الوباء وبات الوضع صعبًا للغاية، بدأت العمل في حياكة الحقائب. بدأت ببيع القطع إلى الأصدقاء والمعارف لكن سرعان ما وجدت إقبالًا كبيرًا على القطع التي أنتجتها. ثم أتيحت لي فرصة ثمينة تمثلت في مستشاري في برنامج "قلب عمّان" والذي تمكنت من إحداث تغيير ملموس في حياتي. إذ أدركت من وقوعنا الذي لم نتكشف عنه كثيرًا من الأماكن المظلمة في البيت. ولقد استفدت كثيرًا من عقل مهمنا جدًا جدًا من خلالهم إلى خصوصيات أخرى، ولذا تمكنت من كتابة تجربة بسيطة، حيث أعطج كل الشباب معيًا بمهمة جميع كتب الحافز في الحياة، فأعطج كلهم خدمة، أخصوصًا الذين يعانون. ولقد شعرنا بذلك، فقد أصبحنا مسؤولين عن بناء بعض الدور من خلال فهمنا معنا أنفسنا، ولقد حققت هذه الخطة مهاراتنا في العمل، وإدراكنا أيضا خطواتنا قبل الفوضى والاستغلال، أظهرت لنا مشروط نحن نحن أن نعمل في تجربة المجان، ومتابعتهم وأنا، أننا أساس الآخرين. ولذا نحن نستطيع مساعدتهم.
A Jordanian father of five girls and four boys, I believe strongly in the power of books, something I realized at a very young age. As a child in the fourth grade, I used to come here after school to sell newspapers. Back then newspapers cost 1.5 piasters but are now 25 piasters, and magazines cost 4.5 piasters and are now 2 JODs each. I rented the Cultural Kiosk 64 years ago, to spread the knowledge and power that books carry. These simple walls enabled me to ensure that all of my children received an education, and no words can describe what this place means to me. Royals have visited this kiosk and His Majesty the King awarded me gold and silver medals. I am proud to have played a role, no matter how small, in promoting a culture of reading in Amman, which I consider a part of me.

Hasan Abu Ali

Be as loyal to this city as you can. Amman is beautiful, people only need to appreciate it.
Amman is like a small neighborhood where sympathy, vulnerability, and problem solving is shared. If you fall, you find someone to lift you up.

I had a normal childhood until I was diagnosed with cancer for the first time and my life and my outlook changed forever. After beating cancer for the second time, I realized that I would never be truly healed until I stopped allowing the stigma of “cancer patient” to define me. That is when I decided to help those fighting the same fight because I knew that no one would understand what they are going through the way I would.

I started with a simple idea to support in small ways within my meager means. When I realized that the work was bigger than just one person, I started “Lammit Amal”, an initiative aiming to help children battling cancer emotionally and financially. We utilize social media to share their stories, their hopes, their dreams, and, with the help of donations from good-hearted people, we try to bring them a little joy. The number of people who are eager to step up and volunteer their time for our different projects never ceases to amaze me.

"Amman is like a small neighborhood where sympathy, vulnerability, and problem solving is shared. If you fall, you find someone to lift you up."
Like many youths, I became a pharmacist to make my father proud, but after five years, I felt that I could do more. Years of research revealed a lack of local quality specialty coffee roasters, which drove me to open Dimitri’s. Starting from scratch meant that the road was tough, but I was able to build a strong local brand that had positive associations. Being a strong believer in sharing what I have been blessed with drove me to insist that our workforce be comprised of locals. I also wanted to support women, which is why our offices, factory, and central kitchen employ women, with many of them being able to work from the comfort of their own homes. Finally, stemming from my belief in the important role persons with disabilities play in society, they are an integral part of our factory and almost every branch because I want to show them, their families, and society that they are capable of being productive if given the opportunity.

Hisham Abu Baker

In facing impossible challenges, only people who love Amman are able to change the city for the better.
My story with photography began at the age of 12 when my aunt gave me my first camera. I started studying accounting but dropped out in the last semester to follow my passion for photography, which I had already taken a course in during my second year, then I officially started working in photography. In 2002, I went to Lebanon to study photography. Originally, I was supposed to do one semester, but my studies extended to 3 years because I discovered that the field is vast and requires time to fully grasp its scientific and technical aspects. When I returned to Amman, I started teaching photography and working for a company specialized in trading professional photography equipment, in addition to working as a freelance photographer. In 2007, I decided to give up everything and establish my own business “Darat Al Tasweer” the first institution in the region fully dedicated to photography, aiming to build a community of local art photographers. In 2012, I established “Fann wa Chai” a cultural space that aims to bring culture and arts to people through a public space that is open to all.

Linda Al Khoury
Amman is a story! I remember it differently than what you see. Amman is the Roman Theater, Amman is Philadelphia Hotel, Amman is the stream, Amman is warm, which feels like a true mother.

Born in 1967, I’m a father of four girls and a boy. I grew up in the Al-Wehdat Refugee Camp and always worked to better my situation, recognizing that learning and education were the way to achieve that. When I graduated high school, financial difficulties prevented me from completing my studies so, I worked with an optician until I saved up enough money to obtain an optician's diploma from Iraq. Knowing how difficult life can be in the refugee camp, I work to give back to the community I belong to and am honored to have an impact in the refugee camp by volunteering and serving my community, including participating in free medical days where I would give free eye exams. In addition, as a member of the Al-Wehdat Club, I am able to serve local and surrounding communities across Jordan and I have participated in several activities supporting those in need, including planning and taking part in activities for orphans.

Ihsan Yasein

أه، عمّان حكاية. أذكر عمّان بشكل مختلف عن ما ترونه اليوم. عمّان المدرج الروماني القديم وعمّان فندق فيلادلفيا وعمّان السيل وعمّان الحنونة والتي تشعر بأنها الأم الحقيقية.
I had a lot of free time, so my daughters encouraged me to do something related to sweets. At first, I made some samples for my son’s school using only quality ingredients. The teachers liked my work, so they spread the word and I started getting more orders. Unfortunately, when the pandemic hit, my work came to a halt, but I was able to get past it, and now I prepare food for several organizations. In addition, during one of my visits to the Noor Al Hussein Center with my son, I was offered a scholarship to join a vocational training course. I was happy because I felt that the doors were opening again. The city is a gem, and we live with grace here.

Manal Naser

أحببت عمان منذ أن جئت إليها من الكويت. هي جوهرة. ونحن نعيش بنعمة هنا.
In 2010 I developed cancer, and after a period of treatment, doctors had to amputate my leg. About a year after completing the treatment, I knew I needed a passion to live for and to have a mission. I thought that it was my duty to support cancer patients because I was one of them, and to show them that nothing is impossible. My passion to excel drove me to what I'm doing: mountain and rock climbing. I climbed Mount Kilimanjaro and the base camp of Mount Everest, as well as Jordan's highest peak. In 2018, I organized the “My First Step” campaign supporting Palestinian refugees after funding for UNRWA schools was cut off - I raised $150,000. Lack of support has been the biggest challenge I have faced, as well as society’s prejudgment. My biggest goal is to climb the world's seven peaks and reach the South Pole.

Jarray AlHawamdeh
Jarrah AlHawamdeh
جراح الحوامدة

I’ve lived my whole life in Amman, which is distinguished by the people, places, and food.

عشت حياتي كلها في عمان، وهي تتميز بناسها وأماكنها وطعمها.
After spending my early years in Japan, I attended middle school and high school in Switzerland. I studied fashion design in New York and then pursued my design career in Italy. In 2008, I visited Jordan as a tourist. It was a convenient stop as I toured other Middle Eastern countries, but I fell in love with Jordan. I volunteered at a psychosocial program through a Japanese NGO, providing vocational training to Syrian refugees with the aim to release some of their tension and bring harmony to the refugee and host communities. To create some financial benefits, I tried to give them design advice, which led to the creation of a product line that helped these refugee women earn some income. The problem was that projects that are funded by NGOs always came to an end, that’s why I registered mine as a nonprofit. As an Asian woman trying to start a business, I faced ridicule and, of course, the language barrier was quite challenging, but I persevered because I believed in what I was doing.

Amman is a unique place and is livable. I call Amman the oasis of the Middle East.

Mei Hayashi

People 79
In 2010, my friends and I went cycling, which was difficult because I have polio. I started thinking about how to alter the bike to accommodate my condition when I saw a custom bike in a movie, which intrigued me. I discovered it cost $5,000, so I decided to make one myself. I made the first prototype in 2017. This remained a hobby until I received a grant from the EU, enabling me to open a shop and license my own company, Jo Theeb Jordan. I started making bicycles for adults and children with disabilities to accommodate their individual needs. As a kid, I had to drop out of school in 10th grade because there was no elevator to my classroom on the third floor. After that, I worked in different fields, including collecting bicycles for a shop that paid 15 piasters per bike. The joy of giving a disabled child something that uplifts them and makes them and their family happy is priceless.

Amman has always been different. I can't imagine the world without Amman. The city is in the heart of every Jordanian and every foreigner who lives here.

Khaled Al Amr

خالد العمر
Teaching is my passion. Starting as an English teacher, I worked my way up to more specialized teaching. I attended training courses, had the privilege of meeting some of the pioneers of this field, and obtained a master's degree in teaching English to non-native speakers. When the security situation in Syria began to deteriorate, my husband and I sought new opportunities and made Jordan our new home. In 2016, I joined the British Council's LASER project, Language and Academic Skills for Syrian Refugees, which was funded by the European Union. Through the two-year project, I worked with Syrian refugees in camps and community centers across Jordan, teaching them English at different levels. I also help Syrian refugees who received scholarships from Jordanian Universities to improve their English language skills to ensure that they keep up with their studies and, therefore, maintain those scholarships. Today, I continue to teach English and raise awareness of its importance among students and teachers in Jordan.

Amman looks and smells like Syria. The people look like us. The city's shelter and safety remind me of home. Amman is beautiful and welcoming.

Najla Ridah
I am a social activist in the field of youth development in particular. I opened Ezwitti in 2015 after trying to help a homeless man Downtown. I wasn’t satisfied with the quick and temporary solutions we all have to help those in need. I thought about implementing the idea as a restaurant, although I’m not a restaurateur. Ezwitti is a social restaurant that seeks to achieve social solidarity or economic solidarity. The restaurant is based on the principle of the “host” who buys a meal, the “guest” receives a free meal, and the “volunteer” facilitates the process. Our volunteers are university students, foreigners, and Arabs visiting Jordan. During the pandemic, we had to close, and we now have fewer “hosts” than “guests” of a diverse age group, especially day laborers. I see our impact when I see the “guests” treat Ezwitti as their home and give back what their means allow for. Also, you cannot distinguish the “host” from the “guest” because they all sit together.

أنا ناشط اجتماعي في مجال التنمية الشبابية تحديداً. أفتتحت Ezwitti في 2015 بعد أن كنت أحاول مساعدته. كثرت حالات الهاجرات في البلد ذات يوم وأنا كنت أقابلها. الفكرة جاءت في إيطاليا. أدركت أننا جميعاً نمتلك حلولًا سريعة ومؤقتة. قرأت عن مقهى في إيطاليا حيث يدعو الناس الآخرين على القهوة. ففكرت في تنفيذها على شكل مطعم، رغم أن هذا ليس مجالي. Ezwitti هو مطعم اجتماعي يسعى إلى تحقيق قيمة التضامن الاجتماعي أو التكافل الاقتصادي بشكل يحفظ كرامة الإنسان. المطعم قائم على مبدأ "الناشط والمتقدم" حيث يشتري "الناشط" الوجبة ويحصل "المتقدم" على وجبة مجانية. لدينا المتطوع الذي يسهل العملية بين الاثنين. المتطوعون كثر من طلاب جامعة وأجانب وعرب. عزويت في الحياة. إغلاقنا بسبب وباء كورونا اضطررنا إلى الإغلاق وعدد من الزعماء الذين ألقوا رأي وثيقة المطعم بعدد من الوقت. حرصنا على حل مشاكلهم. نحن نسعى لجعل Ezwitti منزلهم وهم يقدرون ما يمكنهم تقديمه من حيث "الناشط" و"المتقدم". يمنحنا الأمل."
I would visit my friend at the library regularly, always leaving with a stack of books to tide me over until the next visit. That’s when everyone noticed my passion for books. Twenty years ago, I started my career in books at the Amman International Book Fair. You could say that starting a career in books was inevitable. Working in different bookshops in Downtown Amman has helped develop my love for books. The atmosphere is beautiful, and you are given the opportunity to deal with all kinds of like-minded people. I also believe in giving back, which is why I volunteer as often as I can. My friends and I visit nursing homes to keep the elderly company and, of course, read to them. Giving back gives me a sense of pride and I feel that my job with books is an extension of that because I talk to people about the books they select and help guide them to find the perfect book for them.

Nancy Al-Refai

I love Amman very much. The faces of people in Downtown during the day, night, and holidays are etched in my mind. I feel that Amman is Jordan’s soul and it’s always beautiful.

أحب عمان جدًا. لقد حفظت وجوه الأشخاص في البلد في الليل والنهار والأعياد. أشعر بأنها روح الأردن وهي جميلة في كل وقت.
I studied vocational training and worked in electrical wiring, but work was slow. I heard about the Heart of Amman Programme, registered, and took their training on how to establish a project. With the support of the initiative, I initially opened a building and electrical supplies shop, which I soon upgraded to become a specialized shop for building materials. Now I have an employee who stays in the shop while I go to project sites. I also bought my own car and tool kit after having to rent them in the beginning. I faced difficulties building networks that would help me get more business, but I persevered and finally built the relationships I need. I sometimes have difficulty finding the materials I need but continue to hustle to grow what I built from scratch. I am proud to have become a role model for those around me after I hired my brother and some of my unemployed friends.

Mohammad Khalaf Al Ali

I love Amman because I grew up here and I completely belong to the city.

أحب عمان لأنها حيث نشأت وانتمائي كله لها.

محمد خلف العلي
I’m a fashion designer and artist from a very artistic family. I studied business administration and computer programming, then design - four years after launching my brand. When I started, there weren’t many courses available, and I had the necessary skills but, after my brand grew, I took several courses to stay up to date. Seven years ago, I opened my workshop, but I failed and had to go back to doing the work myself. A few years later, I tried again after securing an important contract that I couldn’t fulfill alone. I reopened the factory with fewer staff. My team, whom I trained well, is comprised of women from disadvantaged areas. We slowly grew from six ladies to 25 before the pandemic. When the restrictions were lifted, I was able to bring back 18 of them and we are currently training more. I am proud to have been able to help the women of Jabal Al-Natheef secure a steady income for their families, which gives them a sense of accomplishment as productive members of society.

Amman is everything. It’s home.

Petra Orfali
I studied nursing and worked at a café after graduating. I love dancing, music, acting, modeling, and volunteer work—all new things that excite me. I hate routine and love diversity; I usually find myself liking something after trying it. All the challenges I faced were actually positive experiences for me because I enjoy facing the odds. I volunteered at refugee camps, where I improved my communication and team skills and learned to help the less fortunate. I also worked with a renowned organization on a project training people with mental disabilities to manage a café, make coffee, and deal with customers. I can honestly say that this was one of the best projects I've ever worked on, and I realized that anything you do becomes a part of your repertoire, even if it is not what you set out to do at the beginning. Jordan has a large Somali community and Jordanian generosity makes us all feel at home.

Amman is beautiful. No matter where I may travel, I will miss the city. My best memories were made here, making Amman a big part of my life.

Mohammad Karboush
محمد كربوش
After spending 15 years in the corporate world, I decided to make a drastic change and pursue my passion, music. As Administrative Manager at the National Music Conservatory, I launched the children’s orchestra with the ultimate goal of spreading the love of music. The orchestra was different in that it did not only include the conservatory students but underprivileged children from the local community were also encouraged to join free of charge. The orchestra gave these children the chance to develop their talents and express themselves in a healthy environment, helping them to stay out of trouble, and teaching them teamwork and respect. Many of these children would express themselves in a violent manner but being part of the orchestra has taught them discipline and self-control. They have also learned to interact and build friendships with people of different social levels. The positive impact extends to their families as well. Where in the beginning many of them considered music a waste of time, they are now proud of their children and have learned to appreciate their talent and their music.

Rana Rizkallah

My friends, family, career, and future are here. Amman is a unique place with all the history it holds.
Though beautiful, I knew that my neighborhood was in dire need of renovation work. That is why, when I was introduced to the “Haritna Ajmal” initiative, I jumped at the opportunity. I worked with four others on restoring different areas in our neighborhood and beautifying them within our limited resources. We painted walls and doors, and cleaned up an empty lot, turning it into a playground that was a safe area for little kids to spend their days. After that success, I applied to Heart of Amman I and was fortunate to be selected among 50 other proposed projects. The educational sessions they offered were key in helping me establish my dry-cleaning business. When the pandemic threatened to destroy what I had built, the UNDP provided the necessary support that enabled me to keep my doors open. I am proud that I am a self-made man, who was able to build something positive despite the obstacles and difficulties I have faced.

Mohammad Silwadi

Simply put, Amman is my home. Amman is beautiful with everything in it.
I studied music but, when I graduated, opportunities for musicians were scarce, and I preferred the cultural management field. My journey was long, and I worked in several fields, beginning with the Jerash Festival at its peak. You could say that's when I established myself in cultural management. A founding member of Fawanees Theatre, I also worked in television production and festival organization, until my brother, composer Tareq Al-Nasser, and I founded Rum Group. Starting with seven musicians, we grew to 60 at our last concert at the Roman Theatre in Downtown Amman. In 2012, I founded Tajalla, a project that brings culture and the arts to our community. I started visiting the governorates for music, arts, and cultural heritage projects. People’s reactions to our Shurufat project, where we performed in front of old buildings Downtown, were unforgettable and a validation of why we do what we do as we were able to achieve our ultimate goal of connecting passersby to Downtown and highlighting the area’s unique identity.

I نشأ بالأساس كالموسيقي، إلا أنني شعرت بأني أفضّل العمل في الإدارة الثقافية، لا سيما وأنّ الفرص المتاحة للموسيقيين كانت قليلة جدًا عندما تخرجت. كانت رحلتي طويلة، وعملت في مجالات عدة، بّدّية في هوران جرش عندما كان في أوجه، إذ بُنِّعت الفنون إلى بناء تأسيس نفسي في الإدارة الثقافية من هناك. كنت من الأعضاء المؤسِّسين لفرقة فوانيس، وعملت في الإنتاج التلفزيوني، وإدارة المهرجانات، وأخيرًا أُسسْتْ نادي تجالي بهدف تقديم الثقافة والفنون بشكل قريب لمجتمعنا وأهلنا، وبدأت بالتوجّه إلى المحافظات في مشاريع تُعنى بالموسيقى والفن والموروث الثقافي. لا يمكنني نسيان ردّة فعل الناس تجاه مشروع موسيقى شرفات الذي قدمنا من خلاله عروضًا أمام المباني القديمة في وسط البلد، فقد جعلهم يشعرون برابط مع هذا الجزء من عمّان، وقد ساهمت في إبراز هويّته المحلّية.أعمال المصمم، كان هو الموسيقي، إلا أنني شعرت بأني أفضّل العمل في الإدارة الثقافية، لا سيما وأنّ الفرص المتاحة للموسيقيين كانت قليلة جدًا عندما تخرجت. كانت رحلتي طويلة، وعملت في مجالات عدة، بّدّية في هوران جرش عندما كان في أوجه، إذ بُنِّعت الفنون إلى بناء تأسيس نفسي في الإدارة الثقافية من هناك. كنت من الأعضاء المؤسِّسين لفرقة فوانيس، وعملت في الإنتاج التلفزيوني، وإدارة المهرجانات، وأخيرًا أُسسْتْ نادي تجالي بهدف تقديم الثقافة والفنون بشكل قريب لمجتمعنا وأهلنا، وبدأت بالتوجّه إلى المحافظات في مشاريع تُعنى بالموسيقى والفن والموروث الثقافي. لا يمكنني نسيان ردّة فعل الناس تجاه مشروع موسيقى شرفات الذي قدمنا من خلاله عروضًا أمام المباني القديمة في وسط البلد، فقد جعلهم يشعرون برابط مع هذا الجزء من عمّان، وقد ساهمت في إبراز هويّته المحلّية.
I started as a theater director and scenographer in Jordan. In 1999, I worked with the Arab Theater Training Center and the Young Arab Theater Fund as they collaborated to establish alternative theater spaces in Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and Bahrain. The first was the Garage Theater in Alexandria, and the second was the Al-Balad Theater in an old cinema in Downtown Amman. I led the renovation and reopening of the theatre and have been its executive director since 2005. It was the first independent theater and cultural center to host diverse local, regional, and international artists, as well as many projects such as Hakaya Festival, Al-Balad Music Festival, and Baladak Street Art Project. In July 2017, we moved to the Philadelphia Cinema in Jabal Amman, which will open to the public in the summer of 2023. I believe that, as artists navigating our relationship with Amman, we’re compelled to contribute to enriching its artistic and cultural life and create independent art spaces for Jordanian artists.

We work and strive to make Amman a vibrant city always full of theatre and art.

Raed Asfour

useppe An Noun عيّن عقان
مدينة نابضة دائمًا بالمسرح والفن.
Amman is rooted in who I am, in my heart of hearts. Amman is home and there’s a comfort here that I don’t feel anywhere else.
Growing up in an automotive business family, I’ve always been into cars, though I was more interested in the automotive design and history side. During the years I lived in the United States, I ventured into restoring classic and historic cars. It’s because of this experience that, upon my return to Amman, I had the honor of being tasked by HM King Abdullah II with establishing the Royal Automobile Museum. This opened the door for me to the world of museums, which in turn led me into the heritage field – something I find very interesting. I started as an automotive historian, then I became director of the museum, after which I conceptualized and designed the interiors of other museums. I became the director of the Royal Heritage Directorate at the Royal Hashemite Court, working on the presentation of 100 years of Jordanian heritage. From my previous life in Los Angeles, I realized that there was a gap in presenting Jordan’s contemporary history, which is what we are trying to do now: To educate, remind, and inform.

Amman to me is opportunity and community.

Raja Gargour
My love for art was awakened during trips to museums and exhibitions with my father, a proud Armenian who instilled the love of my Armenian and Jordanian heritages in me. Ten years ago, a friend predicted that I would one day become an artist in the true sense of the word. That same week, my friends and I enrolled in art classes with a prominent Iraqi teacher who taught us the basics and the true meaning of art. Soon after, he arranged for an exhibition for all of his students, which was well received by all who attended. Knowing the true power of art, I wanted to share it with those less fortunate, which is why my door is always open to underprivileged women interested in learning this beautiful skill. Beyond my art, as a woman who experienced a difficult marriage and whose two daughters, unfortunately, did as well, I have now taken it upon myself to be an advocate for women going through the same thing, to be their voice, and to raise awareness about women’s rights.

Amman means a lot to me being my home and my city. The scent of Amman, the air, the earth give me life.

Sirvart Ghazarian

Arabic Translation:

عُقان تعني لي الكثير. هي بنيتي ومدينتي. أعيش على رانحتها ورائحتها هوانها وترابها.

سيرفرت غزريان
I love the people of Amman. I feel at ease here. Amman is my city, and it resembles me.

I am a person with a disability who is limitless. Hypoxia at birth caused cerebral palsy and muscle weakness and doctors didn’t expect me to live past the age of 13. My mother rejected this prognosis and worked tirelessly to defeat the odds. She insisted that I attend mainstream schools, not schools for people with special needs, because she and my father wanted me to accept my differences and assimilate into society from a young age. I suffered bullying in school but was able to come out of the experience stronger. Though doctors said that my mental capacity would be below average, I graduated from high school with honors and studied software engineering. Today, I am a motivational speaker, which includes giving four TEDx speeches, and an activist advocating for the rights of people with disabilities. I’ve become somewhat of a social media influencer on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok and I use my platforms to be the voice of people with disabilities and will continue to fight for their right to a better life.
Reading was my only window to the world in the boarding school I attended in Jerusalem as a child. Back then I never dreamed of becoming a writer since I had no local role models to inspire me. Original Arabic stories were not easily accessible, so I made up stories for my younger siblings and was encouraged to write them down. When a number of my stories were accepted by a well-known publisher, I took it as a sign that I was on the right career path. I started to write for children in the late 70s when children’s book publishing in Jordan was still in its infancy. Since then, I have written a range of picture books that deal with everyday childhood issues. I collected old oral Arabic nursery rhymes and produced them with music and animation thus preserving them for future generations. I also wanted to fill the gap in Arabic children’s literature, so I later launched an easy-to-read Early Reader book series and wrote and published a number of young adult novels.

Amman is the city I know and feel like I belong to.

Taghreed Najjar
A professor told me that those who want success must emerge from the base where they grew up. There is no better place than Amman to make my base.

My family and teachers supported my painting talent, and when I was in the sixth grade, my teachers often gave me the key to the art room and asked me to teach my classmates. In middle school, I participated in local and international competitions and won a bronze medal in India. When I was a little older, I held an art exhibit, which the Mayor of Amman visited, and bought all my paintings. I was blessed to be able to study art at college thanks to a sports scholarship and after college, I held several art exhibitions. I also obtained a Higher Diploma from Paris, and the Institute of Antiquities supported me during my master’s studies. I worked with their team and participated in their digs, and my drawings of the excavated pieces were used in their research. After hours, my creative juices would pump as I explored the villages we visited, painting different landscapes, buildings, and people. I was intrigued by how prominent women were in these villages and I ended up with 70 paintings of women weaving, cooking, and harvesting crops. I showed them all in an exhibit titled “Women in Jordanian Villages.”

Salam Kanaan

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My family and teachers supported my painting talent, and when I was in the sixth grade, my teachers often gave me the key to the art room and asked me to teach my classmates. In middle school, I participated in local and international competitions and won a bronze medal in India. When I was a little older, I held an art exhibit, which the Mayor of Amman visited, and bought all my paintings. I was blessed to be able to study art at college thanks to a sports scholarship and after college, I held several art exhibitions. I also obtained a Higher Diploma from Paris, and the Institute of Antiquities supported me during my master’s studies. I worked with their team and participated in their digs, and my drawings of the excavated pieces were used in their research. After hours, my creative juices would pump as I explored the villages we visited, painting different landscapes, buildings, and people. I was intrigued by how prominent women were in these villages and I ended up with 70 paintings of women weaving, cooking, and harvesting crops. I showed them all in an exhibit titled “Women in Jordanian Villages.”

Salam Kanaan
I moved to Amman from Bethlehem when I got married. I attended a boarding school in Ramallah, which many Jordanian girls attended, so I had friends when I came here after getting married. My husband received a scholarship to Arizona, and I volunteered at one of the Native American museums there because of my interest in all heritages. This is where I learned to pay attention to details when inquiring about things. On returning to Amman, I wanted to focus on Palestinian and Jordanian textiles and costumes, not only the embroidery but the living stories behind them. Therefore, I began to collect genuine examples of the attire of each geographical area in Palestine, afraid that they would be lost. Today, I have the largest collection of Arab dresses, displayed in a private museum called Тiraz: Widad Kawar Home for Arab Dress. I often open my door to mentor writers, journalists, researchers, and museums on the value and importance of Arab textile heritage. I have also held exhibitions and written books to build awareness of our heritage and as a means to preserve it. For me, it is all about female empowerment as masters of their profession, and their costumes were part of their pride and identity.

Widad Kawar

Amman is a mosaic of different people that make up a peaceful and integrated whole. I hope it will stay that way since things are so different today.

Widad Kawar

I نقلت إلى عمان من بيت لحم عندما تزوجت ولأن فتيات أردنيات كثيرون ارتدن المدرسة الداخلية التي التحقت بها في رام الله كان لدي صديقات عدة عندما جاءت إليها. فأنا كانت لدي صديقات من فتيات أردنية أخرى تخرجت من نفس المدرسة، حيث كنت أعرفها. عند عودتي من التوطين في أحد متاحف الأمريكيين الأصليين، كانت لدي فهماً جيدًا للتواصل مع الأشخاص الذين يعيشون هناك. وعند عودتي إلى عمان، أدركت أن التفكير في التفاصيل، خاصة أثناء البحث عن الصناعات والصناعات المختلفة في فلسطين، كان من المهم أخذ ذلك في الاعتبار. كذلك، فقد كنت أشعر أنني يمكنني أن أتعلم الكثير من المهارات عن طريق العمل مع الشخصيات المختلفة في فلسطين، بما في ذلك النساء. في النهاية، كانت أشعر بالفخر والاعتزاز بالعمل الذي أقوم به في متحف طراز: بيت وداد قعوار للثوب العربي.
I love Amman because of the people. I find it fascinating that there is only one degree of separation between you and anyone in the city.

Sanad Abu Assaf

أحب عمان بسبب أهلها. عمان بالنسبة إليّ شيء غريب لأنه بينك وبين أي شخص في عمان هناك شخص واحد.
I’ve traveled a lot but when I return to Amman, I feel like a child returning to her mother after being apart. Our love for Amman is in our hearts.

Born into a military family, I studied mechatronic engineering at the University of Jordan. Graduating with honors, I joined the Gendarmerie Forces and worked on a project in the Telecommunications Directorate until the security forces were merged in 2020. Moving to the Public Security Directorate, I became the Social Gender Counsellor. I tend to link challenges to transitions. The first of these challenges was when I moved from civilian to military life, where there is a different meaning to obligation and discipline. The second one was successfully balancing home and work life. And the third one was my decision to participate in the peacekeeping forces, being away from my family and living a different lifestyle. The pandemic posed yet another challenge, with online learning for my two children who were in their crucial early years. At that time, the directorate’s work was also essential, and I was registered in the Promising Security Leaders Program. However, I successfully balanced them all. I am proud to be a mother, wife, daughter, sister, aunt, colleague, and employee, capable of giving to everyone. My influence comes from my community and leadership role. People consider us a reference for credible information.

Captain Wojood Alsyaideh

Sawrta khitir la nakna summa ood o equon yikun ka oomass 4eff yubool o e Amman. Bubu giba aqim, mizroo fik Faqoonin.
My art started as a form of anger management but developed to be so much more after I met a group of artists who introduced me to the art of graffiti. That’s where it all started and, 11 years ago, I was the first to paint murals in Amman. In the beginning, people rejected my work, but they eventually came around and Amman is now the Arab World’s street art capital. I’ve taken the lead in establishing the Museum of Street Art in Al-Hashimi, a residential complex of 50 buildings where local and international artists were invited to paint murals. This project has reflected positively on the community in several aspects. For one thing, my work has helped raise awareness around art and the important role bright colors play in improving mental health. I have also seen firsthand how my work has inspired local residents to work on themselves be it through learning English so that they can communicate with the tourists visiting the area or by registering in art classes so they themselves can contribute to beautifying their local community.

Amman is where you are never alone. That’s why I always come back.

Suhaib Al-Attar
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Abu Darwish Mosque, prominently located in East Amman’s Jabal Al-Ashrafiyeh, is one of the oldest mosques in Amman, dating back to 1962. The mosque was named for Haj Mustafa Hassan, a Circassian agricultural engineer known as “Abu Darwish,” who built and personally drew the blueprints for the mosque, overseeing the furnishing and construction with stones specially brought from Al-Ruwaished in the north and Ma’an in the south.

The mosque’s architectural style embodies Islamic Damascene architecture, with a building distinguished by a combination of black and white stones, in addition to the simplicity and flow of its design. The mosque also includes a library housing thousands of antique books, as Abu Darwish wanted the mosque to be a house of worship and knowledge.

The mosque’s distinctive location allows it to be spotted from various areas of the Jordanian capital, which is why the Greater Amman Municipality has developed and promoted it as an architectural and historical masterpiece, increasing and encouraging commercial activity, and creating an attractive tourism and shopping environment. The mosque’s capacity has been increased to more than 7,000 worshippers.

بُني مسجد أبو درويش في ضاحية جبل الأشرفية، وهو من أقدم المساجد في عمان، حيث يعود تاريخ بنائه إلى العام 1962. وُلد هو دوو سبي نما بتسمية المسجد إلى المهندس الزراعي الشركسي الحاج مصطفى حسن، المدعو “أبو درويش”， والذي قام بتشييده ورأسه يرسم المخططات الهندسية مستخدماً حجرات خصوصاً من الرويشد في الشمال ومعان في الجنوب.

يجد المسجد أبو درويش موضع أبرز في جبل الأشرفية الذي يقع في عمان الشرقية، ويعد من أقدم المساجد في عمان، حيث يعود تاريخ بنائه إلى العام 1962. وقد تسميته المسجد إلى المهندس الزراعي الشركسي الحاج مصطفى حسن، المدعو “أبو درويش”， والذي قام بتشييده ورأسه يرسم المخططات الهندسية مستخدماً حجرات خصوصاً من الرويشد في الشمال ومعان في الجنوب.

يُجسد الطراز المعماري للمسجد من العمارة الإسلامية دمشقية، حيث يتميز بتكامل الطراز الذي يُعد من البناء من الحجرة باللونين الأبيض والأسود، إضافة إلى ذلك فإن المسجد يتميز بطابع بسيط وانسيابي. إضافةً إلى ذلك فإن المسجد يحتوي على مكتبة تحفة تضم الآلاف من المخطوطات الحياة، حيث كان أبو درويش يهتم بجعل المسجد داراً للعبادة والعلم في آن واحد.

ومن ثم يجد المسجد من موقع مميز بحيث يمكن رؤيته بسهولة من مختلف مناطق العاصمة عمان، وقد عملت أمانة عمان الكبرى على تطوير مسجد أبو درويش حتى يتمكن من إبرازه كتحفة معمارية وتاريخية تقوم من إبراز كتلة معمارية تشجع الحركة التجارية في المنطقة، وتشجع أيضاً على تطور وتفوق هذه المساجد الاستيعابية الفائقة.

كتبت، إلى أكثر من 7,000 مصلّ.
Al-Jahith’s Treasury (Khazanat Al-Jahith) is an iconic library in the cultural heart of Downtown Amman that has for decades contributed to enriching the cultural life in Jordan.

The library dates back to the last century when Mamdouh Al-Maaytah moved this family business from Jerusalem to Amman after 1948. With this move, the first lending library in Jordan was established.

Famous for allowing its visitors to buy books and then exchange them for small amounts, the library was named after one of the most prominent writers of the Abbasid era, popularly known as Al-Jahith, who died, according to several historians, when a huge pile of books fell on him.

When Mamdouh passed away in 1993, his sons - namely the late Hisham Al-Maaytah - inherited his business and worked on building the library’s three kiosks in Downtown Amman, where intellectuals and writers used to sit and discuss literature and politics in the 1940s and 1950s.

King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein supported the library’s rehabilitation after a fire in 2018 destroyed the library’s main kiosk and, with it, more than 10,000 ancient books and manuscripts. The cultural landmark reopened in 2021 thanks to royal support along with the contributions of many entities and individuals of the library’s loyal customers.

Al-Jahith’s Treasury is one of the most important landmarks in downtown Amman, which has, over the years, contributed to enriching the cultural life in Jordan.

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The Amman Citadel is an archeological site in the center of Amman’s Downtown area, located on an L-shaped hill, one of the seven hills that originally constituted Jordan’s capital.

With a long history of occupation by many great civilizations, the hill holds evidence of inhabitation since the Neolithic period and was fortified during the Bronze Age. The city became the capital of the kingdom of Ammon and later came under the sway of empires such as the Neo-Assyrian Empire, the Neo-Babylonian Empire, the Ptolemies, the Seleucids, the Romans, the Byzantines, and the Umayyads.

After the Umayyads came a period of decline until 1878, when the former city became an abandoned pile of ruins, only sporadically utilized by Bedouins and seasonal farmers. Despite this gap, the Amman Citadel is considered to be among the world’s oldest continuously inhabited places.

Most of the structures still visible at the site are from the Roman, Byzantine, and Umayyad periods. The major remains at the site are the Temple of Hercules, a Byzantine church, and the Umayyad Palace. The Jordan Archaeological Museum was built on the hill in 1951 displaying many different artifacts that were discovered during excavations throughout Jordan.
Amman residents know that getting from Rainbow Street in the First Circle to the Grand Husseini Mosque Downtown can take more than an hour by car, while the same trip can be completed on foot, via a network of stairways, in just a few minutes.

Amman was historically known as the City of Seven Hills, in reference to the chain of hills that formed, until the early 1980s, what is now East Amman. These have been Jabal Al-Qusur, Al-Joufah, Al-Taj, Al-Nozha, Al-Nasr, Al-Natheef, and Jabal Al-Akhdar, until the city began to expand exponentially toward the west to include more mountains, such as Jabal Amman, Jabal Al-Hussein, and Jabal Al-Luweibdeh. This unique topography of the city forced the inhabitants of the ancient mountains, throughout the different eras, to build stairways enabling them to move between the foothills and peaks of these mountains. This is how Amman’s historic stairs became part of the city’s urban features and characteristic landmarks.

Today, Amman stairways, some of which date back to the Roman era, are among the capital’s key tourist destinations. They tell the stories of old Amman families and the most prominent notables, most of whom these stairways have been named after, including Daraj Al-Kalha, Asfour, Mango, and Al-Bilbeisi. Many of the city’s stairways have turned into cultural and artistic platforms that attract Amman’s residents and visitors alike and bring together intellectuals, musicians, poets, graffiti artists, and photography enthusiasts, especially after several of them underwent maintenance and restoration as heritage sites - some even decorated with colorful umbrellas.
As the kingdom’s oldest mosque and the capital’s first urban project, the Grand Al-Husseini Mosque in Downtown Amman is a prominent religious and historical landmark and an architectural masterpiece. With a distinguished location in the middle of four main streets connecting the old suburbs of Amman, the mosque is surrounded by old markets still frequented by both citizens and tourists, such as Souk Al-Sukkar (translated to The Sugar Market) and Al-Bukhariyeh Market.

Al-Husseini Mosque was constructed on the ruins of an old mosque built in the 7th century by the second Caliphate Omar bin Al Khattab. Prince Abdullah I ordered the construction of the mosque following his arrival in Amman and the establishment of the Emirate of Transjordan in 1921. He named the mosque after his father Al-Sharif Hussein bin Ali, leader of the Great Arab Revolt. Constructed over three years and completed in 1927, Al-Husseini Mosque underwent restoration twice in the past century. In 2019, following a fire, His Majesty King Abdullah II instructed the rehabilitation of the mosque in a manner befitting the Islamic and historical status and preserving the architectural style.

The mosque boasts two large minarets and a large square featuring a water fountain with exquisite inscriptions, surrounded by stone seats for worshippers to perform ablution. The façade is adorned with rose marble and the walls with Islamic motifs. The mosque also houses a center for teaching the Holy Qur’an and a library that includes ancient religious, historical, and artistic books.
Hejaz Railway

In 1900, Sultan Abdul Hamid II announced his intent to build a railway to strengthen the Ottoman Empire’s grip and control over the areas the railway passes through and to reinforce his religious position by facilitating the travel of Muslim pilgrims to the Holy Land. The railway would run from Damascus to Medina, passing through Jordan and Palestine, and would benefit from the latest European technology at the time. Official and popular committees were formed in most Islamic countries to raise needed funds to finance the railway.

The railway reached the Jordanian capital in 1903. The large number of buildings constructed on site and the total area of its premises, covering more than 50,000 square meters gave the Amman station special importance. The Ten Arches Bridge is among the most prominent long-standing architectural monuments built to serve the railway. In 1908, the pilot trip from Damascus to Medina via Jordan was celebrated, taking only a few days instead of about 45 days by camel. The railway continued to transport pilgrims and goods between Damascus and Medina for nearly nine years until the line was sabotaged in Jordan during World War I. The railway to Hejaz was cut off, despite restoration efforts.

The Hejaz Railway Line Project was a major infrastructure and cultural project transporting soldiers, goods, and ideas along Darb al Hajj al Shami. Work began in 1999 to establish a museum inside the Amman station to preserve the heritage of the Jordan Hejaz Railway. The museum houses more than 250 items, including mural paintings depicting the evolution of trains, from the first railway steam locomotive designed in England in the 18th century to the latest technology in this field, materials that were used or are still used in operating trains, and a model showing the railway’s route and stations. Work began in 1999 to establish a museum inside the Amman station to preserve the heritage of the Jordan Hejaz Railway. The museum houses more than 250 items, including mural paintings depicting the evolution of trains, from the first railway steam locomotive designed in England in the 18th century to the latest technology in this field, materials that were used or are still used in operating trains, and a model showing the railway’s route and stations.
Public stairs are an integral part of the urban fabric and heritage of the city of Amman, which is in harmony with the hilly terrain. Among the most famous of these stairs is Al-Kalha Stairs, a 112-step shortcut that connects Downtown Amman from King Hussein Street, near the famous Central Café, to Nimr Al-Adwan Street in Jabal Al-Luweibdeh, a few steps from Darat Al Funun.

Having gone through many a name change, the stair's official name according to the Greater Amman Municipality is the Downtown Amman Gate. However, local residents have, since the 1930s, only known them as Al-Kalha Stairs, named either after Al-Kalha Restaurant, which was located at the foot of the stairs, or in another version, as per the family name of a former mayor of that neighborhood.

More than just a public pathway, Al-Kalha Stairs is a destination, a public space that reflects the changes Amman has witnessed since the 1920s when the city was still a small town. The most unique shops and cultural spaces include the Qatayef Abu Ali shop, which was opened in the 1960s and is still serving the famous Ramadan sweets throughout the year; Jadal for Knowledge and Culture, which has been a cultural incubator and a space for creative interaction in the old city center since 2012; and the non-profit Ezwitti restaurant, a social solidarity project providing a space for strangers to buy decent meals for one another.

A few years ago, the Greater Amman Municipality rehabilitated the stairs by carrying out maintenance of the steps and adding a metal handrail. Street artists have turned the Al-Kalha Stairs' walls into a vivid canvas for their poetry and murals. Today, the stairs have become an open public space for holding musical and cultural events that attract residents and tourists of all ages.

Dr. Kalha Stairs

Dr. Kalha Stairs

一心一意的续写的一个发泄，也许在我们的生活。也许在我们的生活。
The Museum of Parliamentary Life is one of the first models of parliamentary museums around the world, aiming to highlight the efforts exerted by the Hashemite leadership over the past decades in establishing and building Jordan.

Located in the old Parliament building near the First Circle in the Jabal Amman area, the museum was the locale where the martyr King Abdullah I bin Al-Hussein declared the independence of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on May 25, 1946. King Talal bin Abdullah and King Hussein bin Talal also took the oath of office there.

The museum was established in 2010 but was first opened to the public in April 2016 as part of the Great Arab Revolt Centennial celebrations and coinciding with the anniversary of forming the first legislative council on April 2, 1929, marking the launch of Jordan’s parliamentary life. The museum building was used as the Parliament between the years 1947 and 1978 and witnessed the adoption of the Constitution in 1952 and the decision to unite the East and West Banks. Through the historical building and unique items on display, the museum showcases an integral part of Jordan’s political and social history, telling the story of the progress of accumulative parliamentary work and the development of the kingdom.

متحف الحياة البرلمانية

يُعد متحف الحياة البرلمانية أحد النماذج الأولى للمتاحف البرلمانية حول العالم، ويهدف إلى تسليط الضوء على الجهود التي بذلها قادة الأردن في تأسيس وبناء الأردن.

أقيم المتحف في مبنى البرلمان القديم في منطقة جبل عمّان، الدوار الأول، وهو الموقع الذي أعلن فيه الشهيد الملك عبد الله الأوّل ابن الحسين استقلال المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية في 25 أيّار/ مايو 1946. وادّى الملك طلال بن عبد الله والملك الحسين بن طلال اليمين الدستورية في مكانه.

تأسّس المتحف في عام 2010 ولكن افتتحت لأول مرة للجمهور كان في نيسان/ أبريل 2016 في إطار الاحتفالات بالذكرى المئوية للثورة العربية الكبرى، وتزامناً مع ذكرى انعقاد أول مجلس تشريعي في الثاني من نيسان/ أبريل 1929، حيث شهد إعلان الدستور عام 1929، وقرار توحيد الضفّتين الغربيّة والشّرقيّة. ومن خلال مبناه التاريخي ومقتنياته الفريدة، يعرض المتحف جزءاً محورياً من تاريخ الأردن السياسي والاجتماعي، ويدور قصة تقدّم العمل البرلماني على مدى السنين، وتطور المملكة منذ تأسيسها.
The National Library of Jordan was established in 1994 to replace the Jordanian National Directorate for Libraries and Documents and serves as a processing center for archived government documents, with the purpose of preserving Jordanian history.

Located in Arjan, across from the Ministry of Interior, the National Library’s current responsibilities include maintaining a national bibliography of all the books published in Jordan, collecting documents in the possession of ministries and official departments and institutions, as well as documents related to the Kingdom and its heritage, supervising public libraries and setting librarian standards to improve their services, and maintaining links with organizations in Arab, Islamic and foreign countries that are specialized in the field of libraries, archiving, and documentation.

For those interested in Jordanian political and administrative history, the National Library has a selection of government documents, dating from independence until the late 1980s, available both on the premises and on the website. The library also boasts a sizable and well-preserved collection of periodicals spanning the greater Arab Middle East for the latter half of the 20th century.

National Library of Jordan

المكتبة الوطنية الأردنية

تأسست المكتبة الوطنية الأردنية في عام 1994 لتحل محل الدائرة الوطنية الأردنية للمكتبات والوثائق، حيث تكون مؤسّسة لتحفّزوثائق الحركة المحفوظة بمضمون الحقوق.

وهي مقرها الكائن في عرّاج، مقابل وزارة الداخلية، وتعمل دائرة المكتبة الوطنية في مستودعات متنوعة في بينها المحفوظات الصاخبة وطنية لجميع الكتب المنشورة في الأردن وجمع الوثائق الموجودة لدى الوزارات والدوائر والمجلسات الرسمية العامة، وذلك للمحافظة على محتواها وترقّيها وإشراف على المكتبات العامة ووضع التعليمات لتطوير خدماتها، والحفاظ على روابط مع المنظمات في الدول العربية والإسلامية والأجنبية المتخصصة في مجال المكتبات والوثائق والتوثيق.

تتيح المكتبة الوطنية الأردنية للباحثين السياسي والإداري الأردني إمكانية الاطلاع المباشر أو عبر موقعها الإلكتروني على مجموعة مختارة من الوثائق الحكومية، والتي يعود تاريخها إلى الاستقلال وحتى أواخر الثمانينيات، وذلك يختص دائرة المكتبة الوطنية بمجموعة محفوظة صحفية من الدوريات المحفوظة باللغة العربية في النصف الثاني من القرن العشرين.
A few steps away from the bigger Roman Amphitheater in Amman’s Downtown, the Odeon Theatre, or the Winter Theater, stands on the northeastern side of the Roman Forum Square. Built in the 2nd century AD, the Odeon is a small theater that was mainly used for music, poetry recitals, and debates.

The semicircular seating space has a capacity of about 500 seats in nine rows. The stage building used to be richly decorated with friezes and niches and has a vaulted interior gangway, which connects to the stage via three doors. Archaeologists believe that the Odeon was most likely an acoustic roofed theatre, shielding the audience and the performers from weather conditions.

They also believe that the severe earthquake that struck the city of Amman and other regions of the Levant in 1927 was the reason behind the destruction of a large part of the Odeon Theatre, especially the high façade. The amphitheater was restored almost ten years ago, in addition to the surrounding area in Hashemite Square, where concerts and poetry readings are held today, in continuation of the Odeon’s historical role.

على بعد خطوات من المدرج الروماني الكبير في وسط مدينة عمان القديم، وتحديدًا في الجانب الشمالي الشرقي من ساحة الندوة الرومانية، يقع مسرح الأوديون، أو المسرح الشتوي، وهو مدرج روماني صغير تُبُني في القرن الثاني للميلاد. تُقام عليه العروض الموسيقية والقراءات الشعرية والمناقشات.

تتّسع مساحة الجلوس نصف الدائرية في مسرح الأوديون لحوالي 500 متفرّج مقسّمين إلى تسعة صفوف، وكان مبنى المسرح مزينًا بالأفاريز والمنافذ، كما أنه كان يحتوي على ممر داخلي مقبّب يُفصل المسرح عبر ثلاثة أبواب. ويعتبر مسرح الأوديون سقفًا مؤقتًا كان يحمي المسرح الجلوي من الظروف الجوية.

كذلك يُعتقد أن الزلزال الشديد الذي أصاب مدينة عمان ومناطق أخرى من بلد النيل عام 1927 كان السبب الرئيسي في تدمير الجزء الشمالي من مسرح الأوديون. تم ترميم المدرج قبل عشر سنوات تقريبًا بالإضافة إلى المنطقة المحيطة به في الساحة الهاشمية حيث تُقام فيه اليوم العروض الموسيقية والأنشطة الثقافية حيث تُدارًا لدوره التاريخي.

Odeon Theater

مسرح الأوديون
One of the oldest and most famous churches in Amman, the Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation was established in Jabal Al-Luweibdeh in 1963, after Monsignor Nehmeh Al-Samaan, the Patriarchal Vicar in Jordan moved to live in the same neighborhood, which had already been inhabited by many Christian families.

In October 1960, work on the church foundations began on land donated by Wasif Pasha Al-Basharat, recipient of the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, whom the late King Hussein bin Talal had granted the title of Pasha. On May 12, 1963, Patriarch Alberto Gori inaugurated the church with the participation of parishioners and Christians from all over Jordan.

In 2011, on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the church, and with generous donations, maintenance and renovation of the church began and continued over a period of 14 months, after which the building’s exterior and interior were completely restored.

The church remained the headquarters of the Patriarchal Vicar in Jordan until 1991 before moving to the Al-Sweifieh. The parish is active with councils, youth movements, fraternities, scouts, and choir. The office of Caritas Jordan is also located in the parish.
Dating back to the second century AD, the Roman Nymphaeum is located on Saqf Al-Sail Street in Downtown Amman, close to other Roman landmarks, such as the Roman Amphitheater, the Odeon Theater, and the Citadel.

The structure is considered to be the biggest public building constructed during the Roman era in Philadelphia, as Amman was once called by the Greeks, as a memorial and a public space where citizens meet for leisure and recreation and to collect their daily water supply. Built directly on the edge of a water stream, the water used to gather in the Nymphaeum’s main basin after falling in the form of waterfalls from the upper part of the building and then flow to the lower part.

The Amman Nymphaeum is a half-octagonal building of symmetrical design with a restored length of 68 meters. The lower part was built on barrel vaults, while the second floor consisted of three large apses with two rows of smaller niches designed to host marble statues - a number of which were discovered at the site, embodying the mythical water nymphs, where the place’s name came from, and are displayed at the Jordan Archaeological Museum. The interior walls of the building were covered with marble slabs and contained a 600-square-meter, three-meter-deep swimming pool, in addition to a large platform believed to have been used as a theater.

In 2018, the newly rehabilitated Roman Nymphaeum Archaeological Park was opened to the public after the completion of a 3-year project to turn the location into an outdoor museum and performance space.
A famous landmark in the Jordanian capital, Amman’s Roman Amphitheatre is a 6,000-seat theatre that dates back to the Roman period when the city was known as Philadelphia.

The theatre is located at the foot of Jabal Al-Joufah, on a hill opposite the Amman Citadel, and flanks the new Hashemite Plaza from the south. A Greek inscription on one of the pillars indicates that this amphitheater was built during the rule of Emperor Antoninus Pius in the second century AD.

The theatre is divided into three horizontal sections. Two side entrances exist at ground level, one leading to the orchestra and the other to the stage. The rooms behind these entrances now house the Jordan Museum of Popular Traditions on one side and the Jordan Folklore Museum on the other.

The highest section of seats, even though far from the stage, offers excellent sightline, while the actors can be clearly heard, owing to the steepness of the cavea.

The theatre is now used as a venue for cultural activities and musical concerts.

Roman Theater

Yellowed Roman landmark in Amman. A famous landmark in the Jordanian capital, one of the earliest monuments in the area – a 6,000-seat theatre built during the period when the city was known as Philadelphia.

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The theatre is now used as a venue for cultural activities and musical concerts.
The Children’s Museum Jordan was established in 2007 in Amman through the vision of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah to provide a space to unleash children’s imagination, learn and explore through play, questioning, and innovation. As a non-formal educational institution, the museum aims to develop children’s cognitive, social, emotional, motor, and language skills through its educational exhibits and programs and has established itself as a key partner in supporting the development of the educational process in the early years.

The Children’s Museum is in itself, a creative space that is spread over 8,500 square meters and houses more than 185 interactive educational exhibits in its Exhibit Hall and Outdoor Area, in addition to numerous educational facilities such as The Art Studio, Tinkering Studio, Library, Secret Garden, and the Tiny Tot’s Room.

The Museum offers children unique cognitive experiences and an interactive learning environment that allows children between the ages of 1 to 12 years to freely explore and learn through play and self-exploration using their own senses and curiosity to discover new things. The museum also offers year-round interactive educational programs in the topics of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM), visual arts, and literacy. The museum also organizes celebrations, shows, camps, and specialized courses and workshops. To read more about the museum, please visit (www.cmj.jo)

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تأسس متحف الأطفال الأردن في العاصمة عمّان عام 2007 كمؤسسة للتعليم غير الرسمي وكأول متحف أطفال متخصص في الأردن بهدف دعم نمو الأطفال المعرفي والاجتماعي والثقافي والفنني، تجسدًا لرؤية الملكة رانيا العبد الله العظيمة نسبيًا لقوة فكر الطفل. وهو يهدف لفتح باب التعلم داخل الأطفال وهم يتنشأون، ويساهم في خدمة العالم التعليم باللعب والابتكار، ويتكامل من خلال مجموعة متنوعة من الفنون والثقافة، وتكون المنهجية أساسًا في تطوير وتوسيع حدود التعليم داخل وخارج غرف التدريس.

ويوفر متحف الأطفال تجارب معرفية فريدة وبيئة تعليمية تفاعلية داخل قاعة المعروضات والمكتبة والحديقة السرية ومكتبة الصغار، ومساحات أخرى متعددة من خلال مشاركتها في محتوى الحياة اليومية للفن والتصميم والعلوم والفنون. تمنح الأطفال من سن 1 إلى 12 فرصة لحرية التعلم من خلال المشاركة في برامج تفاعلية تعليمية في مجالات مختلفة، مثل علوم الطبيعة والتكنولوجيا، الهندسة والفنون والآداب، ويلوح لها أن يوجد إمكانية للتعلم الفعال من خلال الابتكار والابتكار. وهو يوفر محتوى تعلم في مجالات مثل العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلفة. وهو يركز على محتوى تعليمي في مجالات متعددة، بما في ذلك العلوم والفنون والهندسة والطبيعة في مدارس مختلف
Work began on the establishment of The Jordan Museum by a royal decree in 2005 and was officially opened in 2013 to be a comprehensive national museum of history, antiquities, and political, social, and cultural life in Jordan from the Stone Age to Jordan’s modern era. The museum is located in the center of Amman within a cultural complex that is also home to the Greater Amman Municipality building and the Hussein Cultural Center.

In addition to preserving the national heritage and the role played as a center of knowledge and learning, The Jordan Museum aims to tell the story of Jordan and serves as a starting point for Jordanians and visitors alike to explore the cultural sites in the kingdom cities, countryside, and desert through an integrated and interactive experience.

The prominent Jordanian architect, Jaafar Touqan, designed The Jordan Museum building to reflect the connection to Jordan’s past and present with the future. The exhibition space encompasses much of the museum’s 10,000 square meter building, with almost 2,000 artifacts loaned from the Department of Antiquities on display, documenting around 1.5 million years of human presence on the land of Jordan, from prehistoric times to the modern era. Through the three main galleries: Archaeology and History, Traditional Life, and Modern Jordan, The Jordan Museum tells the ‘Story of Jordan’ both chronologically and thematically, utilizing graphics and interactive spaces.

The Jordan Museum
متحف الأردن
INITIATIVES

مبادرات

Heart of Amman I
Your Tank Is Full Initiative
Youth Imprint Initiative
Spotlight Initiative
Our Neighborhood is Safe Initiative
Our Stairs are More Beautiful Initiative
Your Child is Your Responsibility Initiative

Heart of Amman II
Amman Women Products
Cultural Gatherings
Discovering the Heart of Amman
One Thousand and One Bags
Paper Reusing and Notebooks Production
Abq Al Qalb
Amman Storytelling
Second Hand Clothing Shop
Murals
Cultural Park
UNDP adopted an area-based approach to socioeconomic development with a focus on inclusive participation and community empowerment. Through the Heart of Amman Programme, UNDP worked on building resilience and inclusive societies by promoting social cohesion and citizen participation in socio-economic development.

The Heart of Amman Programme sought to provide resilience-based development solutions for local economic recovery, including green economy opportunities, tourism promotion, entrepreneurship, and business development. Fundamentally, the Programme embraced a mid-to-long-term approach to self-reliance and local area development, including refugees, migrants, and women to ensure no one was left behind.

Through the multiple phases of the Programme, UNDP continued to expand the scale of its partnerships through strategic engagement with key stakeholders including with government, civil society organizations, and communities with the aim of expanding and maximizing the impact of interventions. Activities under the Heart of Amman Programme were interlinked and built on and complemented government efforts to improve living conditions, enhance social integration, and create sustainable income-generating opportunities.

An important component of the programme were the community led initiatives that employed community-based approaches to addressing challenges by empowering and mobilizing communities to contribute to the development and advancement of their neighborhoods. The initiatives adopted a participatory and citizen-centric approach, which promoted inclusive economic integration and helped bridge differences among the diverse demographic groups residing in Amman.

The Programme, which was generously funded by the Government of Japan, was implemented over three interlinked phases - starting in 2019 and ending in 2022 - covering a number of locations in the center and east of Amman and reaching over 1,500 participants.

Initiatives
A community-based environmental initiative to raise awareness on the importance of reducing water consumption and eliminating wasteful practices in Al-Akhdar neighborhood. The idea came in response to the increased water bills reported by the local residents, consequently understanding the importance of water conservation.

The name, Your Tank is Full, came from the problem of frequent water cuts and insufficient water supplies for local households. This can be partially attributed to the lack of skills required for simple maintenance procedures for tanks and house water networks.

Within 14 days, the team designed and implemented the initiative’s activities under the supervision of relevant experts and in cooperation with government agencies. These activities involved field visits that directly targeted 130 households in the area, selected in cooperation with the Zakat Fund. These households were provided with health kits (including awareness leaflets, masks, gloves, disinfectants, sterilizers, etc.). Also, 60 owners of small shops located in the area were visited as part of the awareness campaigns and were provided with brochures and tools to support adherence to health and safety protocols. Awareness brochures were also distributed to 500 shoppers at Khirfan Street and the densely populated Al-Masawrah neighborhood.

A youth initiative in Jabal Amman, which aimed to support government efforts to urge people to adhere to health standards in order to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus. The initiative aimed to spread awareness of the importance of adhering to safety standards through limiting socializing and observing social distancing, as well as employing ways to protect against infection under the guidelines approved by the Ministry of Health and official authorities.

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The initiative included visits to 500 households to improve their knowledge about the types of technical problems related to water tank maintenance, floats, and water networks, and how to fix them. In addition, 150 households were visited to assess their water networks, fix leaks, install water-saving devices, and train them on ways to reduce water consumption. The households were selected based on criteria set in collaboration with community-based organizations.

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A community-based environmental initiative to raise awareness among the residents of Jabal Amman about energy-saving behaviors and techniques, that would help reduce the electricity bills of households in the area and contribute to reducing environmental pollution.

The initiative team, supported by relevant specialists, designed and implemented a campaign to raise community awareness about the different methods of reducing electricity consumption. The campaign included visits to 500 households, to distribute leaflets containing direct tips for reducing energy consumption. In addition, traditional lighting systems were replaced with energy-saving ones for 100 households selected in cooperation with community-based organizations in the area. Finally, a mural was painted to deliver a number of awareness messages calling for reducing electricity consumption and switching to renewable energy in order to preserve the environment.

The initiative contributed to reducing the electricity bill in a number of households and encouraged participants to become active members in their communities.

An environmental community initiative that was designed and implemented by 4 young women from the Tariq Ibn Ziyad neighborhood in Jabal Al-Nathee. The location was unsafe due to the high risk of falling. The steps were also run down and required renovation. As a result, the spot witnessed several traffic accidents and children falling off the side. Under the guidance of specialized contractors, the participants conducted rehabilitation work and mobilized and involved some of the area residents. Activities included a comprehensive clean-up campaign, removing accumulated building wastes, and demolishing and removing damaged infrastructure under the supervision of the Greater Amman Municipality.

Participants built a new wall, installed a metal railing, and planted trees. They also conducted maintenance work on the stairs and installed railings, diverted rainwater, painted a retaining wall, and conducted maintenance work on sidewalks and curbs. On completion, the participants raised community awareness about the importance of a safe and clean environment, maintaining safety, and sustaining their achievements. The initiative directly benefited 50 households and 3,500 families along with sustaining their achievements. The initiative contributed to reducing the electricity bill in a number of households and encouraged participants to become active members in their communities.

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An environmental community initiative that contributed to the rehabilitation, maintenance, and beautification of the Wadi Al-Sorour neighborhood stairs, which are used by 5000 residents. 400 steps were renovated and maintained making them safer. Maintenance work was also conducted on the supporting walls, in addition to beautifying the surrounding area, making it greener and more attractive to tourists and residents. The staircase is one of many overlooking the Downtown area and connects Al-Ashrafiyah and Abu Darwish Mosques to Downtown Amman, which serves tourists and local residents. Volunteers mobilized residents and requested that the Amman Municipality’s Yarmouk District contribute towards furnishing the stairs. Their request was approved, and railings and metal trash cans were added to the stairs. Residents and volunteers also planted trees in empty lots and added an aesthetic touch with artistic geometric drawings, making the neighborhood more attractive.

Volunteers and neighborhood elders met with residents - specifically those living near the stairs - to raise awareness and urge them to keep the neighborhood clean and maintain the initiative’s achievements.

The team responded to the appeals of mothers in the Al-Akhdar neighborhood to alleviate the negative psychological impacts on children due to school closures during the pandemic. The team consulted with specialists to design the initiatives and activities to strike a balance between the use of electronic devices and other activities that would contribute to developing their personalities and skill sets.

The initiative leveraged social media platforms like Facebook to raise awareness and reach the largest number of parents and children, reaching 37,900 followers and 90,400 posts over 14 days.

The initiative’s page included awareness and educational messages developed by specialists and presented in a way that is attractive to children. The team organized a competition to promote partnership between parents and children in joint activities within the family (e.g. cooking, art, drawing, singing, etc.) The posts were received and published on the page, allowing followers to evaluate them and 75 children won prizes. Ten awareness sessions targeting 50 households were also held on ways to motivate children and fill their free time with participatory activities.

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Amman Women Products

To create a platform on social media for local female producers within the Downtown Amman area, focusing on food products and other homemade products to create linkages with market outlets and customers.

Cultural Gatherings

To create a space for the elderly people of Downtown Amman to share their knowledge, experiences, old stories, and pictures with youth by arranging social gatherings for heritage preservation and maintaining the old traditions of Amman.

Discovering the Heart of Amman

The idea is based on organizing community tourism experiences within Amman to promote the city’s cultural diversity and heritage sites, as well as to improve social cohesion and enhance knowledge and experiences related to the environment, food, and different lifestyles.

One Thousand and One Bags

Reusing plastic bags by using them as threads to develop marketable products such as baskets, shopping bags, and coasters. Programme participants were trained to produce new products by using plastic threads to generate income.

Paper Reusing and Notebook Production

Reusing A4 paper with clean backsides by folding them and transforming them into notebooks after adding a cover of Amman pictures (stairs, old markets, tourist places, people...) with paper dividers including different stories from Amman.

Initiatives
Initiatives

Abq Al Qalb

Kids and adolescents (6-18 years old) with vision impairment were trained by the well-known artist Suhaib Abq Al Qalb on painting and drawing through utilizing the sense of smell. Several drawings were included in the notebooks produced under the recycling paper initiative.

Amman Storytelling

Using storytelling as a tool to document the stories of Amman and its residents as well as reviving the role of Hakawati in documenting local old stories. The initiative has two main components: 1) Documenting the stories in a booklet and electronically by meeting with and interviewing residents of Amman. 2) Storytelling by the Hakawati, delivered by well-known storytellers and interviewing residents of Amman. 

Second Hand Clothing Shop

Organizing a monthly event to sell second-hand clothing by equipping a space at a partner community-based organization. Participants collected second-hand clothes for free, cleaned and sold them during events in a presentable way with affordable/symbolic prices. The revenue generated from the sales was used to support the purchase of medication or to cover educational fees for the most vulnerable members of the community.

Artists trained participants on mural painting skills. Two murals were painted in different locations. The themes were based on the Heart of Amman Programme objectives, which focus on social responsibility, community initiatives, social cohesion, inclusive economic integration, vocational training, and women empowerment.

Cultural Park

Participants made tables and chairs from used and recycled material to create communal spaces at the Greater Amman Municipality Park in Ras Al-Ain. A specialist worked with participants to make chairs and tables in cooperation with the Greater Amman Municipality. Cultural activities for families and kids including storytelling, hosting poets, and playing classic board games such as Snakes and Ladders and chess were organized in the park.
The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN’s global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience, and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP partners with people and governments at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain inclusive economic growth, and to build resilience to ensure the Sustainable Development Goals.

WHO WE ARE

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 SDGs are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 SDGs are designed to respond to Jordan overarching development challenges and to support government priorities including the Economic Modernization Vision. The Programme focuses on three main portfolio:

- Prosperous and productive People
- Green and Safe Future Pathways
- Holistic and Transformative Systems and Capacities

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UNDP’s Country Programme (2023 - 2027) was designed to respond to Jordan overarching development challenges and to support government priorities including the Economic Modernization Vision. The Programme focuses on three main portfolio:

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- Holistic and Transformative Systems and Capacities

The UNDP Jordan country office supports the Government’s efforts in alleviating poverty by encouraging new and equal economic opportunities, enhancing gender equality and female economic empowerment, and promoting innovation, green economic growth, and a circular economy. UNDP works on creating inclusive and decent employment pathways by fostering an enabling environment for businesses and investment growth, strengthening governance and regulatory frameworks, promoting financial inclusion, and supporting the development of entrepreneurship and social enterprises in Jordan. The core of its Programme strategy embraces a mid-to-long-term approach to self-reliance for all, with a focus on youth and vulnerable communities.

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UNDP supports the environmental sustainability. Development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability. It must ensure that actions today do not harm future generations, especially the young. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 SDGs are designed to respond to Jordan overarching development challenges and to support government priorities including the Economic Modernization Vision. The Programme focuses on three main portfolio:

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The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN’s global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience, and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP partners with people and governments at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain inclusive economic growth, and to build resilience to ensure the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNDP’s Country Programme (2023 - 2027) was designed to respond to Jordan overarching development challenges and to support government priorities including the Economic Modernization Vision. The Programme focuses on three main portfolio:

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The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 SDGs are designed to respond to Jordan overarching development challenges and to support government priorities including the Economic Modernization Vision. The Programme focuses on three main portfolio:

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UNDP works in about 170 countries and territories, helping to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and exclusion, and build resilience so countries can sustain progress. As the UN’s development agency, UNDP plays a critical role in helping countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Japanese Embassy - Jordan is a bilateral mission in Amman, which was established in 1974. The embassy plays an important role in development, cultural affairs, and contacts with the local Jordanian press. The Japanese Embassy in Amman is headed by H.E. Mr. Okuyama Jirô - Ambassador of Japan to Jordan.

The Municipality of Amman works to provide distinguished municipal services that focus on the environmental, health, organizational, and infrastructure dimensions while preserving Amman’s identity, cultural heritage, community development, and attention to the human dimension through planning and optimal investment of resources and building partnerships with stakeholders.

The Business Development Center (BDC) is a Jordanian non-profit development organization, established in 2004, dedicated to accelerating local economic development, inspiring entrepreneurs and SMEs. BDC is committed to making a better life for all Jordanians.

The King Hussein Foundation, Founded in 1999 by Her Majesty Queen Noor, the King Hussein Foundation aims to foster equitable access for Jordanian and regional citizens to socio-economic, educational, health, and cultural opportunities for women, youth, and the marginalized to enable them to contribute meaningfully to national and regional development.

Government of Japan
Government of Italy
Greater Amman Municipality
Ministry of Planning
Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship
Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities
Jordan Hejaz Railway Corporation
UNDP’s implementing partners for their efforts in ensuring the success of the Heart of Amman Programme activities: The Business Development Center, King Hussein Foundation, Education for Employment, LOYAC.

Italian Agency For Development Cooperation
Global Environment Facility - Small Grants Programme
Turath Architecture and Urban Design Consultancy
Heart of Amman community and youth
Impact Hub Amman
Community-based organizations who supported the sustainability of the programme
Private sector entities who supported the employment of Heart of Amman youth
Seven Circles for developing this book
Picture: Yara Mubaidin, Rima Al Mehsen, Ohoud Bayaidah, Silke Handley, Rula Kattan
Glossary

3D Painting: 3D painting is when you paint a texture straight onto a 3D model.

Aesthetic: Concerned with beauty or the appreciation of beauty.

Arabic Calligraphy: The artistic practice of handwriting and calligraphy based on the Arabic alphabet.

Armenian: A native of Armenia, or a person of Armenian descent. The Indo-European language of Armenia is spoken by around 4 million people and written in a distinctive alphabet of thirty-eight letters.

Boarding School: An educational institution where children live within premises while being given formal instruction.

Bullied: Seek to harm, intimidate, or coerce someone perceived as vulnerable.

Cancer: A disease in which some of the body’s cells grow uncontrollably and spread to other parts of the body.

Cerebral Palsy (CP): A group of disorders that affect a person’s ability to move and maintain balance and posture. CP is the most common motor disability in childhood. Cerebral means concern with the brain. Palsy means weakness or problems with using the muscles.

Circassian: A member of a group of mainly Sunni Muslim peoples of the north-western Caucasus.

Crochet: A process of creating textiles by using a crochet hook to interlock loops of yarn, thread, or strands of other materials.

Cultural Management: The process of cultivating and scaling work culture inside an organization.

Data Analysis: A process of inspecting, cleansing, transforming, and modeling data with the goal of discovering useful information, informing conclusions, and supporting decision-making.

Entrepreneur: An individual who creates a new business, bearing most of the risks and enjoying most of the rewards. The process of setting up a business is known as entrepreneurship.

Facade: The front part or exterior of a building.

Facebook: An American online social media and social networking service owned by Meta Platforms.

Friezes: A horizontal paper strip mounted on a wall to give an affect similar to that of a sculpted or painted frieze.

Graffiti: Writing or drawings made on a wall or other surface, usually without permission and within public view.

Hiking: A long, vigorous walk, usually on trails or footpaths in the countryside. Walking for pleasure developed in Europe during the eighteenth century.

Hypoxia: Hypoxemia (low oxygen in your blood) can cause hypoxia (low oxygen in your tissues) when your blood doesn’t carry enough oxygen to your tissues to meet your body’s needs. The word hypoxia is sometimes used to describe both problems.

Immune Disorder: Immune system disorders cause abnormally low activity or over activity of the immune system. In cases of immune system over-activity, the body attacks and damages its own tissues (autoimmune diseases). Immune deficiency disorders decrease the body’s ability to fight invaders, causing vulnerability to infections.

Internship: A period of work experience offered by an organization for a limited period of time. Once confined to medical graduates, internship is used for a wide range of placements in businesses, non-profit organizations, and government agencies.

Islam Murals: Islamic art encompasses the visual arts produced since the 7th century CE.

Kiosk: Refers to a small, temporary, stand-alone booth used in high-traffic areas for marketing purposes.

Mental Health: Includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being and affects how we think, feel, and act.

Minaret: In Islamic religious architecture, the tower from which the faithful are called to prayer five times each day by a muezzin, or crier. Such a tower is always connected to a mosque and has one or more balconies or open galleries.

Mosaic: A pattern or image made of small regular or irregular pieces of colored stone, glass, or ceramic, held in place by plaster/mortar, and covering a surface. Mosaics are often used as floor and wall decoration and were particularly popular in the Ancient Roman world.

Mosque: Any house or open area of prayer in Islam, from the Arabic word masjid meaning ‘a place of prostration.’

Motivational Speaker: A speaker who makes speeches intended to motivate or inspire an audience.

Murial: A painting or other work of art executed directly on a wall.

Niche: A specialized segment of the market for a particular kind of product or service.

Optician: A technical practitioner who designs, fits, and dispenses lenses for the correction of a person’s vision.

People with Disabilities: A disability is any condition that makes it more difficult for a person to do certain activities or effectively interact with the world around them socially or materially.

Physical Disability: A physical condition that affects a person’s mobility, physical capacity, stamina, or dexterity. This can include brain or spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, respiratory disorders, epilepsy, hearing and visual impairments, and more.

Polio: A viral disease that can cause paralyzing injuries, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, respiratory disorders, epilepsy, hearing and visual impairments, and more.

Polioymelitis: commonly shortened to polio, is an infectious disease caused by the poliovirus. In about 0.5 percent of cases, it moves from the gut to affect the central nervous system, and there is muscle weakness resulting in flaccid paralysis.

Prototype: An early sample, model, or release of a product built to test a concept or process.

Puppeteer: A person who manipulates an inanimate object, called a puppet, to create the illusion that the puppet is alive.

Recycling: The process of converting waste materials into new materials and objects.

Street Art: A visual art created in public locations for public visibility that has been associated with the terms “guerilla art,” “independent art,” “post-graffiti,” “neo-graffiti” and guerrilla art.

Taekwondo: A Korean form of martial arts, characterized by punching and kicking techniques, with emphasis on head-height kicks, jumping spinning kicks, and fast kicking techniques.

Vocational Training: Education that prepares people to work as a technician or to take up employment in a skilled craft or trade as a tradeperson or artisan. Vocational education is sometimes referred to as career and technical education.
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ذا ما تعني عقان بالنسبة إليك؟
PEOPLE, LANDMARKS & INITIATIVES
FROM THE HEART OF AMMAN

ناس ومعالم ومبادرات من قلب عمان