



POMIĘDZY

ochroną a komercjalizacją

CONFERENCE

Bridging Stewardship and Commercialization: Jewish Heritage in Kazimierz

Event description and program as of June 3, 2026*

**Subject to change*

DATE:

Monday, June 29, 2026

LOCATION:

Galicia Jewish Museum, Krakow, 18 Dajwór Street

ORGANIZERS:

- Taube Center for Jewish Life & Learning Foundation
- Galicia Jewish Museum
- Institute of Jewish Studies at the Jagiellonian University

CONFERENCE PARTNERS:

- FestivALT
- JCC Krakow
- European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage (AEPJ)
- Jewish Culture Festival in Kraków



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**JEWISH
CULTURE
FESTIVAL**



**Funded by
the European Union**

EVENT DESCRIPTION:

The conference will be centered around the broadly understood Jewish heritage of Kraków, encompassing both its tangible and intangible dimensions. Key thematic areas and discussions will include the protection and conservation of this heritage, the creation of narratives and educational initiatives, and the methodology of academic research, as well as diverse approaches to heritage management. The proceedings will be structured into three thematic panels, culminating in a comprehensive wrap-up session.

PANEL I. Jewish Heritage in Kazimierz – Protection and Conservation:

This panel will focus on the three key pillars of managing Kraków's heritage in the 21st century: the protection of tangible historic monuments, their conservation in accordance with current conservation policy and doctrine, and the appropriate forms of using these sites. Special attention will be given to the specific challenges and opportunities arising from dynamic spatial and functional transformations within the district. This includes the growing intensity of tourist traffic and the associated investment pressure, while taking into account the special significance of this historic complex for the Jewish community.

PANEL II. Jewish Heritage in Kazimierz – Narratives, Education, and the Transmission of Heritage:

This panel will explore the creation of authentic, evidence-based narratives and the development of corresponding educational programming. Discussions will examine the intersection of diverse pedagogical methodologies in heritage education and their implementation across various sectors, including primary and higher education, heritage tourism, and academic research. Key thematic concerns will include effective strategies for utilizing tangible and intangible heritage to construct and transmit these narratives. Furthermore, the panel will address the critical responsibility of custodians and stakeholders to respond ethically to the evolving landscape of Kazimierz, navigating the challenges and opportunities presented by contemporary socio-spatial transformations within the district.

PANEL III. Jewish Heritage in Kazimierz – Heritage Management:

This panel will explore the practical dimensions of engaging with Jewish heritage in Kraków within the contemporary landscape of the 2020s. A primary objective is to present

Taube Center for Jewish Life & Learning Foundation

3/5 Tłomackie St., 00-090 Warsaw, POLAND

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Tel.: +48 503 330 753; @mail: centrumtaubego@centrumtaubego.com

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the diverse perspectives of key stakeholders, including leading non-governmental organizations and prominent members of the local community. Representatives will address the multifaceted challenges encountered by institutions responsible for managing tangible heritage, as well as those developing narratives centered on intangible heritage. These discussions will be situated within the critical framework of preserving the symbolic integrity of a space that holds fundamental significance for both the local and global Jewish communities. The proceedings are intended to facilitate the formulation of practical recommendations for enhancing heritage management, strengthen inter-institutional cooperation, and establish a sustainable networking platform for all stakeholders.

WRAP-UP SESSION – Roundtable discussion of participants and stakeholders:

The proceedings will culminate in a comprehensive "roundtable" wrap-up session, moderated by designated conference observers and heritage specialists from outside the local community. This session is intended to facilitate a synthesis of the proceedings, enabling the joint identification of critical shared challenges and establishing a foundational framework for developing a potential consensus among participants regarding the future trajectory of the district. A primary objective of this session is to strengthen the effect of Panel III in the formulation of practical recommendations designed to enhance inter-institutional cooperation and establish a sustainable networking and communication platform for all stakeholders.

CONFERENCE GOAL:

The impetus for this conference was a discussion panel organized by the Taube Center during the 2025 Jewish Culture Festival in Kraków, titled *Between Custody and Commercialization: Jewish Heritage in a Tourist City Space*. The critical insights generated during that session inspired the organizers to hold a dedicated forum for more rigorous and in-depth reflection on these multifaceted issues.

The primary objective of this conference is to convene a comprehensive assembly of stakeholders to engage in a rigorous and multifaceted examination of the preservation and optimal utilization of Jewish heritage in Kazimierz. This forum is intended to facilitate the joint

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identification of critical challenges, including the systemic barriers and obstacles encountered by various entities in their respective activities. The proceedings will enable the formulation of strategic recommendations for inter-institutional cooperation and the development of authentic, evidence-based narratives, while establishing a foundational framework for protecting and promoting Kraków's Jewish heritage with integrity and respect amidst dynamic commercialization. These deliberations will carefully consider the diverse interests and perspectives of the local community, residents, and business owners.

A primary intended outcome of the conference is the establishment of a sustainable networking and collaboration platform, facilitating strategic cooperation between leading institutions and non-governmental organizations. This initiative is designed to gather stakeholders whose activities center on or intersect with the broadly understood socio-spatial environment of Kraków's Kazimierz and its multifaceted Jewish heritage.

LOGISTICS & FORMAT

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:

- **1** Keynote speaker
- **3** Introductory panel speakers
- **15** Panelists (5 per panel)
- **Approximately 50–60** invited attendees/audience members are participating in discussions.

FORMAT:

Three panels concluding with a roundtable **wrap-up session**.

Each panel includes:

1. **Introductory presentation:** Outlining the topic by an introducing expert; 10–15 minutes.

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2. **Panelists' statements:** Four to five free-form individual presentations by panelists related to the topic, up to approximately 10 minutes each.
3. **Moderated discussion:** Approximately 30 minutes of discussion among the panelists.
4. **Wrap-up:** Q&A session with the audience, approximately 15 minutes.

LANGUAGES: Polish and English (simultaneous translation provided)

PREPARATION SCHEDULE:

- **Confirmation of speakers/panelists:** May 17, 2026
- **Closed registration for participants:** April 17 – May 17, 2026
- **Open registration:** From May 18, 2026

*subject to change

PROGRAM*:

MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2026 [8:30 AM – 6:00 PM]

8:30 AM — Participant registration opens

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM — Welcome remarks by representatives of the three partners:

- Director **Helise Lieberman**, Taube Center
- Director **Tomasz Strug**, Galicia Jewish Museum
- Professor **Maciej Tomal**, Institute of Jewish Studies at the Jagiellonian University (UJ)

9:10 AM – 9:30 AM — Opening keynote address:

- **Ruth Ellen Gruber**

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[9:30 AM – 11:30 AM]

PANEL I

Jewish Heritage in Kazimierz – Protection and Conservation:

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM — Introductory presentation – Panel I

- Professor **Monika Murzyn-Kupisz***, Institute of Geography and Spatial Management, Jagiellonian University (IGiGP UJ) * pre-recorded address

9:45 AM – 9:55 AM — Panel introduction by the moderator

9:55 AM – 10:55 AM — Position statements by panelists (up to 10 minutes each)

- Professor **Bogusław Krasnowolski**, Social Committee for the Restoration of Kraków's Historic Monuments (SKOZK)
- **Ruth Ellen Gruber**
- **Katarzyna Urbańska**, Lesser Poland Voivodeship Conservator of Monuments
- **Marek Grochowicz**, Municipality of Kraków (UMK)

10:55 AM – 11:15 AM — Moderated discussion among panelists

11:15 AM – 11:30 AM — Q&A session

11:30 AM – 11:45 AM — Coffee break

[11:45 AM – 1:45 PM]

PANEL II

Jewish Heritage in Kazimierz

– Narratives, Education, and the Transmission of Heritage:

11:45 AM – 12:00 PM — Introductory presentation – Panel II

- Dr. **Edyta Gawron**, Galicia Jewish Museum

12:00 PM – 12:10 PM — Panel introduction by the moderator

12:10 PM – 1:10 PM — Position statements by panelists (up to 10 minutes each)

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- Dr. **Michał Niezabitowski**, Museum of Kraków
- Dr. **Ewa Węgrzyn**, Institute of Jewish Studies, UJ
- Dr. **Agnieszka Legutko**, Columbia University
- **Michał Zajda**, Socio-Cultural Association of Jews in Poland (TSKŻ), Kraków Branch
- **Adam Musiał**, Independent Educator

1:10 PM – 1:30 PM — Moderated discussion among panelists

1:30 PM – 1:45 PM — Q&A session

1:45 PM – 2:30 PM — Lunch break (catered)

[2:30 PM – 4:45 PM]

PANEL III (HERITAGE MANAGEMENT)

Jewish Heritage in Kazimierz – Heritage Management :

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM — Introductory presentation – Panel III

- Dr. **Aleksandra Janus**, SWPS University

2:45 PM – 2:55 PM — Panel introduction by the moderator

2:55 PM – 4:10 PM — Position statements by panelists (up to 10 minutes each)

- Dr. **Paweł Szczepanik**, Municipality of Kraków (UMK)
- **Robert Gądek**, Jewish Culture Festival (JCF) in Kraków
- **Tomasz Strug**, Galicia Jewish Museum
- **Olga Adamowska**, JCC Krakow
- **Magdalena Rubenfeld**, FestivALT
- **Zach Mojsze**, Cafe Bund

4:10 PM – 4:30 PM — Moderated discussion among panelists

4:30 PM – 4:45 PM — Q&A session

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4:45 PM – 5:00 PM — Coffee break

[5:00 PM – 6:30 PM]

WRAP-UP SESSION

– **Roundtable discussion of participants and stakeholders:**

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM — Moderated wrap-up session

With the participation of the audience and observers—specialists in heritage protection and inter-institutional cooperation within heritage protection:

- Dr. **Milena Milošević Micić**, University of Belgrade
- Dr. **Agnieszka Jabłońska**, Urban Memory Foundation
- **Marc Francesch-Camps**, AEPJ
- **Yoav Rossano**, Consistoire Israélite du Bas-Rhin
- **Andrea Ausztrics**, Zsidó Kultúra 2028

Following a brief discussion, the conference observers will present their remarks and preliminary assessment, thereby concluding the program.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Accompanying Events:

Discussion panel "*Guardians of Jewish Heritage*" and related walking workshops organized by the Taube Center as part of the 35th Jewish Culture Festival in Kraków (on July 2, 2026).

Deadline for completing the post-conference evaluation survey: July 31, 2026

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