



The Realization

Experience with other, similar projects is available. According to this, project funding is possible with considerable funds from the state, which describes museums as preservers of our cultural heritage, as places of learning other than schools, places of communication and intercultural meeting places. Because the demographic and societal changes require an extension and specialization of the offer. The House of the History of the Jews of Baden meets these criteria.

The current operating costs of the facility are at least partially covered by the activities of the society (Förderverein). Due to the significance of the History House, state funds will also be available for this purpose.

Members of the board of trustees (advisory board) of the society will be high-ranking personalities from politics, economy, science and culture, who will also communicate the uniqueness of the House of History to the outside world and promote this Bruchsal flagship and our city.

The House of the History of the Jews of Baden strengthens Bruchsal as a central centre and increases the attractiveness of the city centre.

Comments on the proposal of the Förderverein

The considerations of the Förderverein regarding the connection use of the synagogue property have already advanced very far. They show what outstanding possibilities this inner-city "fillet piece" offers for the development of our city.

The suggestions of the citizens for the subsequent use of the area are taken into account, because most of these suggestions favour the commemoration, a museum for the Jews in Baden as well as the memory of Jewish personalities.

The granddaughter of the former synagogue servant suggests a memorial garden, which can be realized in the area of the synagogue foundation walls. This foundations must remain in place as a reminder of what happened. The synagogue should not be desecrated a second time.

There is a unique opportunity to create something unique on a centrally located site, a flagship project. Bruchsal must not miss this opportunity.

For the site of the synagogue land, only a development that does justice to the historical challenge as well as the social necessity can be considered:

The House of the History of the Jews of Baden



HAUS DER GESCHICHTE der Juden Badens

A FLAGSHIP PROJECT FOR BRUCHSAL

© Förderverein Haus der Geschichte der Juden Badens e.V.
V.i.S.d.P.: Dr. G. Majewski, Kübelmarkt 24, 76646 Bruchsal

Bank details: Volksbank Bruchsal-Bretten eG,
IBAN: DE03663912000000268151 BIC: GENODE61BTT

www.geschichtshaus-badischer-juden.de
kontakt@geschichtshaus-badischer-juden.de

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Haus der Geschichte der Juden Badens: © Erwin Weil
Gemeinschaftshaus Yachad: © Julia Mues

A proposal of the Förderverein Haus der Geschichte der Juden Badens e.V.
(House of the History of the Jews of Baden)

Why Bruchsal?

A House of the History of Baden's Jews is unique in the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, a flagship project unique in southwestern Germany with an effect beyond Baden.

No other city has such a historic site as Bruchsal. No other municipality had the chutzpah to build a fire station on the site on which the local synagogue, burnt down in 1938, had previously stood. A process unprecedented in Germany.



How are we supposed to deal with our history anymore?

Before the expropriation in 1939, the synagogue and the land were owned by the Jewish community for 150 years. The synagogue was destroyed 80 years ago and dishonoured 65 years ago by the construction of a fire station.

There is no reparation. What happened cannot be undone. But a sign can be set. A sign of remembrance, of reconciliation, but also against the omnipresent racism, against any form of discrimination, against xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

Ideas and Considerations

The focus of the History House is on exhibition rooms in which the contributions and merits of Jewish fellow citizens to the history, culture, politics, science and economy of Baden are honoured. There you will find answers to questions such as, for example: How did Jews and Christians live together? Where are their common religious roots? Explicitly, the House of History should not be a place of remembrance of the Shoah (Holocaust).

Modern museums no longer see themselves merely as exhibition venues. The Haus der Geschichte der Juden Badens (House of the History of the Jews of Baden) radiates as open house of encounter, experience, learning and research into the entire region.

The proximity to research institutions opens up the possibility of scientific and didactic cooperation through conferences, training courses or meetings. The rooms in the Haus der Geschichte that have been set up for this purpose can also be used by the nearby business school or by associations.

The house is also a meeting place for young people. They can meet here - independent of religion, provenience, language, nationality or skin colour.



A reading café on the ground floor and a roof terrace round off the offer. This roof garden gives visitors to the House of History a phenomenal view as far as the Palatinate Mountains.

Bruchsal, the city of short distances

The Haus der Geschichte is only a few minutes walk from the railway station. There are excellent parking facilities in the immediate vicinity.

About 90,000 tourists visit the Bruchsal Castle every year. There have been discussions for years about how to arouse this interest in the city centre with its diverse shopping possibilities and high-quality gastronomy.

A castle promenade combines our unique baroque castle as an attraction in the outskirts of the city and the flagship project Haus der Geschichte (House of History) in the city centre.

Bruchsal has a lot to offer

The new monument at Otto-Oppenheimer-Platz makes Obere Kaiserstrasse more attractive overall. Another destination for guests is the Bruchsal Jewish cemetery with the Tahara House (Bet Tahara).

The children and grandchildren of Baden Jews visit the homeland of their ancestors more and more. The House of History is an important meeting point for them, as it gives them an insight into the lives of their ancestors.

The History House offers good jobs, especially for scientists and scientific personnel. More visitors in Bruchsal's inner city means growth for trade and hospitality.

A special exhibition on Bruchsal Jews?

The Bruchsal Jews were of great economic importance for the city. They were active in tobacco and hop wholesale, Otto Oppenheimer was a cloth wholesaler. Important industrial enterprises were founded by Jews such as maltings, the Falk stove factory or the Katzauer paint factory.

The Meerapfel family ran a tobacco and cigar business in Untergrombach. The ancestors of the Schrag family are from Obergrombach. Many capable merchants and lawyers, but also talented composers and writers come from this family. The Bruchsal department store of the Knopf family ('s Knopfe-Eck) was one of 30 branches throughout Baden, Alsace and Switzerland.



Dr. Ludwig Marum, member of the Reichstag, grew up in Bruchsal. Prof. Dr. Fritz Hirsch is an honorary citizen of this city. Dr. Rudolf Kusel, member of the Baden state parliament, was a court judge in Bruchsal. The respected painter Leo Kahn was born in Bruchsal.

The success of Jewish emigrants can also be remembered in the House of the History of the Jews of Baden. The Sulzberger family from Heidelberg was and is the editor and publisher of the New York Times, and Bankhaus Julius Baer still bears the name of the founder from Heidelberg today. The famous Carlebach family of rabbis and musicians also comes from there.