



Ramallah Municipality Centennial Project

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which is now celebrating its centennial anniversary,
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The Ramallah Municipality Centennial Project 2008-2010

The birth of the Municipality of Ramallah, which is now celebrating its centennial anniversary, was in the year 1908. The centennial celebration will not only be limited to the municipality but will extend to include the whole of the city, whose age is much greater.

The municipal council recognised that its centennial could be an opportunity to highlight the city of Ramallah as a distinct Palestinian city – politically, economically, and culturally – and to invite tourism and investors. Work on the Municipality of Ramallah Centennial Project began with efforts to put the city on the world map.

To achieve the goal of transforming Ramallah into a model city in the region, and a city of international calibre, it was imperative that Ramallah experiences a comprehensive renaissance. This renaissance intersects with the overall development plan of the Palestinian National Authority and serves to revive a city that has been deteriorating due to the effects of more than forty years of occupation.

To achieve the dream, the municipality created a vision that addresses several tracks and covers all aspects of life. Each track includes ambitious projects and Programs that aim to transform Ramallah into a world-class city with distinction. This effort is closely linked to the municipality's three-year strategic plan (2008–2010).

With a comprehensive overview of the various tracks of the plan and its projects and Programs, one can easily realise the extent of the municipal council's ambition and the great challenges it faces in order to enable Ramallah to reach the desired goal. The project plan is designed to be implemented over three years, during which time it seeks to achieve the main objectives of the Municipality of Ramallah Centennial Project:

1. Development of infrastructure and environment
2. Protection of cultural heritage
3. Affirmation of culture and science
4. Strengthening of diversity and community participation
5. Institutional development of the Municipality of Ramallah
6. Promotion of tourism and investment



Wein A Ramallah

The Central Celebrations of the Ramallah Municipality Centennial Project

Ramallah Municipality has accumulated extensive experience during the one hundred years since its founding. And given its privileged place – politically, economically, and culturally – the municipality finds itself today qualified to offer a developmental, modern model for weaving together a new and integrated relationship with the broadest segments of society. This vision is an essential part of its project to develop its role and build a healthy and much deeper and transparent relationship with its community.

The Ramallah Municipality's centennial anniversary has served as a starting point towards realising its vision through two linked tracks; the first of which is the municipality's strategic plan for the next three years (2008–2010) as mentioned above. The second track is the plan's objective of including and engaging the broadest segments of the city's community in this vision through a series of activities that are characterised by popular involvement. The location of these activities will be the plazas of the city itself. The activities will be based on a balanced and direct partnership that enjoys continuity and the ability to confront the reality of the Israeli occupation.

An example of these activities is the 2008 Central Celebrations Wein A Ramallah, which will be held by the municipality between 1 and 30 July. The celebrations can be divided into three main themes:

Cultural and Arts Activities

1. The Ramallah Shopping Festival
2. Launching a series of Municipality projects

The preparation for these activities has required the opening of a broad dialogue with civil society organisations, authorities, individuals, and specialised committees that are supporting the project. It has also

required studying the existing and potential capabilities and the effects that result from the policies of the Israeli occupation. In addition, it has required studying the negative role of these policies in hindering the development process. The result was the formulation of a realistic and ambitious Program.

Activities Program

The focus on popular cultural and arts activities proceeds from the Ramallah Municipality's confidence that the cultural field acts as meeting point with the general city community. The 2008 Central Celebrations Program, therefore, has acquired its cultural and arts characteristics based on a broad partnership with the city's public institutions through transforming the spaces and plazas of the city into celebration areas that enhance the public's relationship with its own city. The Program represents various artistic trends and styles that meet the varying community needs. The Wein A Ramallah activities will debut with a special evening that includes the renowned Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish accompanied by the Le Trio Jubran music band.

Through these important activities, Ramallah will welcome participation from other Palestinian cities, particularly Jerusalem – the eternal capital of our state – and the Gaza Strip, as well as visitors from the 1948 Palestine territories. Some activities include The Road to Jerusalem, From the Galilee of Palestine to Ramallah, Gaza on My Mind Evening, The Dabkeh Festival, with the participation of a number of groups from various Palestinian cities and villages.

Program Colour Codes:

- Cultural and Arts Activities
- Concurrent Events
- Ramallah Shopping Festival

Date	Event
Tuesday 1/7/2008	Mahmoud Darwish Ramallah Cultural Palace, 8:00 p.m. Public screening: Outside square of the cultural palace, live broadcasting by Al Jazeera, Accompanied by Trio Jubran
Wednesday 2/7/2008	Artistic Performance- Sabreen Kids Club Rashed Al Haddadin Square (Ramallah Municipality), 8:00 p.m. In cooperation with Sabreen Association For Artistic Development and Ramallah Municipality Youth City Council
Thursday 3/7/2008	“Al Seerah wal Maseera” Film The Life of Artist Isma’eel Shamout Ramallah Cultural Palace, 7:00 p.m. In cooperation with the Palestinian National Center for Education and Culture
Friday 4/7/2008	Music from Ramallah Shadi Zaqattan, Imad Al Serfi, Mohammad Qattati Rashed Al Haddadin Square, 8:00 p.m.
Saturday 5/7/2008	60 Years of Al Nakba: The Galilee of Palestine Zaman Group Rashed Al Haddadin Square, 8:00 p.m.
Sunday 6/7/2008	Artistic Workshop for Kids Family Park, 4:00 p.m. In cooperation with the Young Artists Forum

<p>Monday 7/7/2008</p>	<p>Opening of the Permanent Exhibition Al Mahatta Gallery, 6:00 p.m. Organized by 'Al Mahatta' Gallery</p> <p>Opening of 'Masharef' Exhibition Ramallah Cultural Palace, 6:30 p.m. Organized by 'Shatha' Group</p>
<p>Tuesday 8/7/2008</p>	<p>Opening of Palestine International Festival for Dance and Music 2008 – Popular Arts Center Fire of Anatolia – Turkey Ramallah Cultural Palace, 8:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Wednesday 9/7/2008</p>	<p>Palestine International Festival for Dance and Music 2008 – Popular Arts Center Shab Faudel- Algeria Ramallah Cultural Palace, 8:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Thursday 10/7/2008</p>	<p>Palestine International Festival for Dance and Music 2008 – Popular Arts Center Tameem Al Barghouti – Palestine Ramallah Cultural Palace, 8:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Friday 11/7/2008</p>	<p>Palestine International Festival for Dance and Music 2008 – Popular Arts Center Issa Boulos – Palestine Ramallah Cultural Palace, 8:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Saturday 12/7/2008</p>	<p>Palestine International Festival for Dance and Music 2008 – Popular Arts Center Quilapayun- Chile Ramallah Cultural Palace, 8:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Sunday 13/7/2008</p>	<p>Artistic Workshop for Kids, 4:00 p.m. In cooperation with the Young Artists Forum</p> <p>Palestine International Festival for Dance and Music 2008 – Popular Arts Center Palestinian Popular Dance Troupe - Palestine Ramallah Cultural Palace, 8:00 p.m.</p>

Monday 14/7/2008	<p>Palestinian Dabkeh Festival Ramallah Cultural Palace – Outdoor venue, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. In cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Culture</p>
Tuesday 15/7/2008	<p>Palestinian Dabkeh Festival Ramallah Cultural Palace – Outdoor venue, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. In cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Culture</p> <p>Launching of the ‘No smoking Campaign in Coffee shops for Minors’ Organized by Ramallah Municipality Youth City Council</p>
Wednesday 16/7/2008	<p>Musical Performance: Samba (Confusao) and Ramallah Scouts – Joint Performance Ramallah El Tahat, in front of the Ottoman Courthouse 7:00 p.m.</p>
Thursday 17/7/2008	<p>Slingshot Hip Hop Film (Hip Hop in Palestine) Followed by local Hip Hop Performances (Dam, Arbiat, Gaza rap) Ramallah Cultural Palace, 6:00 p.m. Sponsored by Heinrich Böell Foundation</p> <p>Pygmalion of Palestine City Center, 6:00 p.m. In cooperation with Al Mahatta Gallery</p> <p>DJ Ipek Rashed Al Haddadin Square, 9:00 p.m. In partnership with Goethe German Institute – Ramallah</p>
Friday 18/7/2008	<p>Running Marathon Ramallah Orthodox Club, 9:00 a.m. In cooperation with the Ramallah Orthodox Club</p> <p>Wishah Group Performance Rashed Al Haddadin Square, 8:00 p.m.</p>
Saturday 19/7/2008	<p>Pygmalion of Palestine City Center, 6:00 p.m. In cooperation with Al Mahatta Gallery</p> <p>‘Wein A Ramallah’ Official Celebrations Ramallah Cultural Palace, 8:00 p.m.</p>

<p>Sunday 20/7/2008</p>	<p>Artistic Workshop for Kids, 4:00 p.m. In partnership with the Young Artists Forum</p> <p>Opening of “Riwaq in Ramallah” Exhibition Old Municipality Building, 7:00 p.m. In cooperation with Riwaq Center for Architectural Heritage</p> <p>Urban Cafes Project “Ramallah Il Tehta, Rukab Street, Qasr Hamra, Hisbah), 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. In partnership with the Engineering Department Birzeit University</p>
<p>Monday 21/7/2008</p>	<p>Gaza ala Bali Events (Gaza On My Mind) Rashed Al Haddadin Square, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Theatrical Street Performance – Ashtar Theatre Ramallah, City Center, 6:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Tuesday 21/7/2008</p>	<p>Musical Performance – Simon Shaheen and Al Qantara Ramallah Cultural Palace, 7:00 p.m. In partnership with the Arabic Music Festival organized by Yabous Productions</p> <p>Theatrical Street Performance – Ashtar Theatre Amari Camp, 6:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Wednesday 22/7/2008</p>	<p>Open Sports Day for the Disabled (Paralympics) First Ramallah Group, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. In partnership with the Palestinian Paralympics Committee</p> <p>Alexis Pope Performance Ramallah Cultural Palace, 7:00 p.m. In partnership with Goethe German Institute – Ramallah</p> <p>‘Arts and People’ Exhibition Ramallah city streets, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. Supervised by Al Mahatta Gallery</p>

<p>Thursday 24/7/2008</p>	<p>Musical Performance – Taisir Masrieh and Maram Group for Eastern Music Ramallah Cultural Palace, 8:00 p.m. In partnership with the Arabic Music Festival organized by Yabous Productions</p> <p>Kite Festival Ramallah Municipality Playground – Al Tirah, 4:00 p.m. Ramallah Municipality Youth City Council</p>
<p>Friday 25/7/2008</p>	<p>Opening of Exhibition: “5 minutes from home” Al Quds Airport – Qalandia The International Academy of Art-Palestine, 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Saturday 26/7/2008</p>	<p>Opening of Ramallah City Exhibition First Ramallah Group, 8:00 p.m. In cooperation with the First Ramallah Group</p> <p>Volunteer Work: An International Camp In Partnership with Birzeit University</p> <p>Launching Ramallah Shopping Festival</p>
<p>Sunday 27/7/2008</p>	<p>The Palestine Circus School Performance Ramallah – Al Manara Square, 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Local Music Rashed Al Haddadin Square 9:00 p.m.</p> <p>Ramallah Shopping Festival</p>
<p>Monday 28/7/2008</p>	<p>Palestine Youth Orchestra Performance Ramallah Cultural Palace, 7:00 p.m. Organized by the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music</p> <p>Ramallah Shopping Festival</p>
<p>Tuesday 29/7/2008</p>	<p>“Road to Al Quds” Project In Partnership with Sabreen Association For Artistic Development</p> <p>Ramallah Shopping Festival</p>

Wednesday 30/7/2008	Concluding Ceremony Ramallah Shopping Festival
Thursday 31/7/2008	Musical Performance - Natacha Atlas Rashed Al Haddadin Square 9:00 p.m. Ramallah Shopping Festival
1/8 - 6/8	Ramallah Shopping Festival





Cultural and Art Activities

1. With the presence of the eminent Palestinian poet **Mahmoud Darwish**, Ramallah Municipality officially launches the Central Centennial Celebrations 'Wein A Ramallah.' During this official launch, Darwish will be reciting exclusive unpublished texts. The reading will be accompanied by the vibrant music of The Trio Jubran
2. For a warm night of music and art, the Children Municipality Council and **Sabreen Arts Club** are holding a special event for the sole entertainment of the students of Palestine.

The event is organized by the Children Municipal Council and Sabreen for Artistic Production

3. **Film: Assera Wal Massera: Ismail Shammout**, a refugee who fully lived the Palestinian experience, and went on to tell the story through art. Dispossession, exile, identity, suffering, perseverance, and struggle are all predominant features of his brilliant oil paintings and his remarkable way of advocating for his people's cause. To commemorate his brilliance, his son Bilal presents a film depicting Ismail's journey.

The event is organized in partnership with the Palestinian National Committee of Education and Culture

4. For the second time in Ramallah, **ZAMAN** is proudly performing their original mixture of folkloric songs and rhythms, presented by Yazid, Anan and Fadi on the guitar, Wahab playing the Kanoon (Traditional Arabic



string instrument), Hamada and Abed on the Oud & the Bass, Fadel on the Drums, Mohammad on the Percussions, and the unique voice of Sohel.

5. **“Colouring Ramallah”** - To grant Palestinian children a venue and a voice for their thoughts, The Children’s Workshop offers an opportunity for children to express their sentiments towards the city of Ramallah through murals, clay making, puppets and other artwork.

The event is organized in partnership with the Young Artists Forum

6. **Permanent Exhibition Program** This Program entails a permanent exhibition that is open throughout the year, and consists of a variety of diverse artistic work created by both Palestinian and foreign artists, which are updated periodically. The Program is part of Al Mahatta Gallery’s vision, and includes various activities such as children’s workshops and discussions that aim to increase the level of knowledge on Palestinian plastic and visual arts.

The event is organized by Al Mahatta Gallery

7. **Shatha**, a non-profit Palestinian association that promotes walking in the beautiful mountains and valleys of Palestine, represents a growing trend in Palestine towards walking in nature as a sports pastime. Such a trend is part of the general public awareness regarding recreation and athletic exercise. Known as a “cultural capital”, the group considers walking



as one of the most popular and significant sports, since it meets one's need for independence, self-reliance, originality, and protection of the environment.

Through the efforts of Issa Freij, Emil Ashrawi, Bassam Mohr, Gerard Hurton, and Karen Sears, Shatha Group has managed to document and invoke the natural landscape in Palestine, which will be displayed at an exclusive photographic exhibition titled '**Masharef**'.

8. The value of Ramallah resides not only in the city, but rather extends to encompass the entirety of its surrounding suburbs and villages. In an attempt to rejoice the culture of Palestinian cities, Wein A Ramallah presents a series of **Dabkeh and Folkloric Performances** from a variety of cities and villages in the West Bank, in different locations throughout Ramallah.
9. The Children Municipal Council declares a **NO SMOKING CAMPAIGN**, banning smoking in coffee shops and restaurants for minors as well as prohibiting stores from selling cigarettes to minors.

The event is organized by the Children Municipal Council

10. Seven musicians and acrobats from the samba performance group '**Confusao**' of Bremen, Germany, will be working with musicians from Palestinian scouts on a samba performance, which will bring forth a fusion between the traditional scout music and the Samba, making way for the only opportunity for Ramallah people to experience the possibility



and richness of a joint venture between two distinguished masterpieces.

The event is curated by Alia Rayyan

11. **A film by Jackie Reem Salloum, 'Slingshot Hip Hop'** braids together the stories of young Palestinians living in West Bank, Palestine 1948, and Gaza as they discover Hip Hop and employ it as a tool to surmount divisions imposed by occupation and poverty. From internal checkpoints and Separation Walls to gender norms and generational differences, this is the story of young people crossing the borders that separate them.

The event is organized in partnership with the Heinrich Böell Foundation

12. **The Palestinian Pygmalion** - This project consists of a display of persons adopting the nature of sculptures (in colour and fixed position), who will be centered in various central locations in the city of Ramallah. This idea stems from the lack of visual arts pictures in the main squares of Ramallah, and attempts to provide a visual interpretation of the Palestinian people who live under numerous chains and limitations.

The performance is curated by Al Mahatta Gallery

13. **DJ IPEK IPEKCIOGLU** - Eklektik BerlinIstan is a groovy mixture of Middle Eastern, Asian, Balkan folk and dance music, fused with Berlin electro, Breakbeatz and Pop. Through her sets, DJ Ipek takes her audience on an aural journey through the cultures and music of Turkey, North-Africa,



Persia, the Balkans, Greece, and Bollywood, as well as carefully planned escapades to the UK and USA. Her hybrid and characteristic sound “Eklektik BerlinIstan” provides surprising breaks to the steady course of club music. Such a musical phenomenon is key to the diversified atmosphere of our historical Ramallah.

The event is organized in partnership with the Goethe-German Institute Ramallah

14. On the occasion of the Central Centennial Celebrations, **Riwaq Center for Architectural Conservation** joins us in a special exhibition of their pioneer role in the preservation and rehabilitation of Ramallah's cultural heritage. The exhibition will display the outcomes of various projects that were executed by Riwaq in the city and present Riwaq's book titled: Ramallah; Buildings and History, which was published in 2002.

The event is organized in partnership with Riwaq: Center for Architectural Conservation

15. **URBAN CAFES** - The main philosophy of the project is to intercept Ramallah's crowded public spaces with several venues exclusively made for cafés, in order to interrupt the normal city structure and create spaces of curiosity where dialogue may naturally commence over a cup of tea or coffee. The fundamental anchor of the project is the triangle of dialogue between the academia of space represented by the students of architecture, the administrators of the space represented by the municipality and the users of the space represented by the people.



The event is curated by Dr. Yazeed Anani and is organized in partnership with the Architecture Department, Birzeit University

16. **Gaza Ala Bali (Gaza On My Mind)** - Gaza, one word that ignites a storm of emotions, depictions, and utter sadness. No matter how far, no matter how long, Gaza will always be on our minds, and in our hearts. In an attempt to bring Gaza back to Palestine, Central Centennial Celebrations presents the **Gaza Project**.
17. Known for their great productions and their contribution to the revival of the Palestinian theatrical movements, **Ashtar Theatre** will be organizing a summer school, which will adopt the form of street theatre. The end production will be performed under the umbrella of 'Wein a Ramallah' celebrations, and will fill the streets of Ramallah with talent and hope.

The event is organized by Ashtar Theater

18. One of the most significant Arab musicians, performers, and composers of his generation, **Simon Shaheen Trio & Guest Artists** join the Central Centennial Celebrations 'Wein A Ramallah' with an outstanding musical performance.

The event is organized in partnership with the Arabic Music Festival organized by Yabous Productions

19. The **"Paralympics Day"** is an all inclusive sports day that aims at integrating the marginalized groups of society into the rest of the



Palestinian community through the organization of various activities that allow the equal engagement of both able and disabled persons.

The activities include a 2 km race, a game of handball for the blind people, an open tennis table competition, and grand a basketball game for people in wheelchairs

The event is organized in partnership with the Palestinian Paralympics Committee

20. Pianist, singer, composer, **Alexis Pope** is an artist acknowledged as much for his restless creativity as for his unsurpassed virtuosity as a performer. Pope will develop a series of workshops specifically aimed at integrating the work of Palestinian poets and philosophers into his performance for the Central Centennial Celebrations, which will portray an expressive and experimental fusion of beautiful and charismatic sounds.

The event is organized in partnership with the Goethe-German Institute Ramallah

21. **Art and People** - This art exhibition represents the Palestinian plastic arts movement in the streets of Ramallah. The exhibition attempts to create an atmosphere of interaction between people and art through a mobile exhibition displayed in the streets in order to strengthen the sense of visual culture among the Palestinian society.

The exhibition is curated by Al Mahatta Gallery



22. **lbhar** (Navigation), the new CD of MARAM Oriental Ensemble, is a musical trip that embraces sounds and melodies through the oriental coasts of the Mediterranean. Maram, in fact, is the fusion of Palestinian, Italian and Argentinean musicians, who will offer a musical contribution through diversity and indefinable unification, and open new horizons of dialogue between cultures.

The event is organized in partnership with the Arabic Music Festival organized by Yabous Productions

23. The skies of Ramallah will be filled with colours and joy as Palestinian kids, youth, and adults gather to fly hundreds of kites during the **Kite Festival**, organized by the Children Municipal Council, exclusively for Wein A Ramallah.
24. **Jerusalem Airport: 5 Minutes from Home** - This exhibition is based on the research documentary film by director Nahed Awwad entitled “5 minutes from Home” that attempts to retrace the time of the Palestinian ownership of Qalandia Airport, known previously as Jerusalem Airport, and which is now the desolate place adjacent to the infamous Israeli military checkpoint and base in Qalandiya.

Researcher and Filmmaker: Nahed Awwad

Curator: Reem Fadda

The event is organized with the support of A.M Al Qattan Foundation



25. **The First Ramallah Group** and the Ramallah Municipality will capture the essence of Ramallah through a series of photos and the screening of past Ramallah Summer Festivals.
26. The most recent and refreshing initiative in Ramallah is - **The Palestinian Circus School**. The idea for the show “Circus behind the wall” is taken from the real life of Palestinians who are separated from their water, their land, their past and their loved ones by the segregation wall. We see sisters being separated; loved ones not able to reach each other any longer. All things in reach of the circus are being used to overcome the barriers: juggling balls, a trapeze, and stilts. We see acrobats, a clown or jugglers dancing the life. The wall does not discourage them to live, to communicate, to move, to dream and to fight for a free land.

The performance is organized by the Palestinian Circus School

27. When the **Palestine Youth Orchestra (PYO)** was established in 2004 as an orchestra-in-exile for Palestinians from all over the world, they stated their fervent wish to perform in Jerusalem within 5 years. In 2008, on the fifth anniversary of its founding, the PYO is realizing this dream, and bringing scores of young Palestinians to their homeland, many for the first time in their lives. To mark the occasion, and in the year of the 60th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba (catastrophe), this orchestra of young Palestinians is joining with the Collegium Musicum of the University of Bonn, Germany, in a special Program celebrating Jerusalem. Three soloists will sing songs about this special city, from Zahret al-Mada'in, made famous by Fairouz,



to Stephen Adams' song, the Holy City. In tribute to Jerusalem's Armenian community, the Gayane Suite by Armenian composer Aram Khachaturian completes this exciting event.

The event is organized and supported by the Edward Said Conservatory of Music and is performed under the umbrella of "Wein A Ramallah"

28. **The Road to Jerusalem** - Wein A Ramallah and the Ramallah Municipality dedicate parts of our celebrations to Jerusalem: the eternal capital of Palestine. In light of the current closure and isolation of Jerusalem from the eyes of Palestinians, The Jerusalem Project will seek to bring Jerusalem to Ramallah, through a series of cultural, artistic, and social events.



Palestine Festival for Music and Dance 2008

The Popular Arts Center dedicates the Ramallah events of the “The Palestine International Festival for Dance and Music 2008” to Wein A Ramallah: The Central Celebrations of the Ramallah Municipality Centennial Project.

1. Like a river flowing back to its source, the **Fire of Anatolia** constitutes a unique project that traces its sources back to Anatolia’s ancient mythological and cultural history.

The dream of many years of Mustafa Erdogan started in 1999 as the “Sultans of the Dance”, which recruited 90 talented young dancers to embark on an extensive journey.

The Fire of Anatolia is one of the best dance groups worldwide, and has toured in many countries world-wide, including Germany, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, China, the USA, the UK, France, Egypt, Jordan, Hungary, Italy, Siberia, Qatar, Lebanon, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, Russia, Japan, and Greece.

2. **QUILAPAYUN** emerged in Chile in 1965, at the initiative of three students and with Eduardo Carrasco as its Director. On an artistic level, the group’s fundamental value is based on its decisive contribution to the modernization of the popular music of the continent. Their compositions mix folk music with popular music, and the academic with the experimental. Consequently, QUILAPAYUN is today one of the best known Latin-American music groups in the world. QUILAPAYUN’s music has crossed the five continents of the world and received the same warm welcome in the United States, Europe, Japan, Australia, and of course in its native Chile and Latin-America.

Up-to-date, Quilapayun has continued its renovation of traditional

Latin-American music. The lyrics continue to narrate the fundamental aspects of life and to express sensibility to the injustices faced by Man in today's world.

3. **Fauvel Belloua** - better known to fans as Fauvel - was born to immigrant parents from Algeria on June 6th 1978 in a Paris suburb. It was Fauvel's grandmother who was largely responsible for putting the young boy in touch with his Algerian roots and teaching him traditional Rai rhythms during the summer holidays. At the age of 12 he was already singing with local stars ' Les Etoiles du Rai '. Fauvel soon built up his own repertoire and began performing as a support act with a number of top French music stars. His first album 'Baida' sold over 300,000 copies and Fauvel was crowned 'The Little Prince of Rai.'

Today, the lyrics of Fauvel's songs emulate important social causes, expressing the hopes and frustrations of a whole generation of French-born Algerians.

4. **El-Funoun Palestinian Popular Dance Troupe** was established in 1979 by a small number of enthusiastic, talented and committed artists. Since then, El-Funoun has been throned as the leading Palestinian dance company. In Palestine, as well as among Palestinians in exile, El-Funoun has achieved an unprecedented popular recognition; in fact, quite a few of the Troupe's songs and dances have become household tunes. Since its inception, El-Funoun has aimed at expressing the spirit of Arab-Palestinian folklore and contemporary culture through unique combinations of traditional and stylized dance and music. The Troupe's repertoire comprises folkloric dance forms, called "dabkeh", in addition to more elaborate choreographed forms that embody El-Funoun's own unique vision of Palestinian dance.

El-Funoun believes in building cultural bridges with the world, both to have a healthy exchange of experience, ideas and techniques and to

present the long-suppressed Palestinian culture before other nations.

5. **Issa Boulos and the Middle Eastern Music Ensemble** - The Middle Eastern Music Ensemble performs original modern music that relies in its composition and performances on the “maqam” employed throughout the eastern Mediterranean basin. The music selected for this performance is composed by Issa Boulos and is performed by the ensemble in the traditional fashion. The pieces encompass much variation in “maqams” and percussion, while the performance also includes solo (taqaseem) and jamming pieces (irtijalat).

The ensemble is made up of Ibrahim Atari on the ‘Qanun,’ Yusef Zayed on percussion, Mohammad Najem on the Clarinet and Nay, Issa Boulos on the ‘Oud,’ and a guest violinist.

6. **Tamim Al-Barghouti** is a Palestinian poet born in Cairo in 1977. He received his PhD in political science from the U.S. Boston University in 2004, and, as assistant professor, taught political science at the American University in Cairo. He authored two books in his field; the first is in Arabic and is entitled ‘Benign Nationalism: Egyptian Nation State Building under Occupation,’ and is published by Dar Al-Kutub Walwatha’eq Al-Qawmiyya, Cairo, 2007. His second book is in English and is entitled ‘The Umma and The Dawla: The Nation State and the Arab Middle East,’ published in London by Pluto Press, 2008.

Tamim authored five poem books in standard Arabic and colloquial Palestinian and Egyptian Arabic.

Launching of Development Projects

As previously mentioned, the Ramallah Municipality Centennial Anniversary has acted as a starting point towards implementing a development plan that stretches over three years. Wein A Ramallah will be used as an opportunity to launch a series of projects related to the Ramallah Municipality. Some of these projects include: the Street Naming and Numbering Project, the Town Theatre Rehabilitation Project, the Restaurants Area Rehabilitation Project, the President Yasser Arafat Square Project, the Science Museum Project, the City Centre Rehabilitation, and the National Library project.

Rehabilitation of the Municipal Theater - The Municipal Theatre of Ramallah, which was founded in the 1960s, has contributed significantly to Palestinian history. It has hosted national events and public rallies as well as the Palestinian National Front and the National Guidance Committee (Lajnat al-Tawjih al-Watani) during the 1970s.

The present rehabilitation project aims to revitalize the theater through modernizing its facilities and equipment in order to expand the possibilities for cultural and artistic events. It is worth mentioning that the Ministry of Finance in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Governance have supported the preliminary stage of the project. The Municipality of San Fernando of Spain, the Twin of Ramallah, has also contributed to financing this project.

Historic Water Springs Restoration Project - Ramallah has more than ten prime historic water springs, which were a major source for providing the city's residents with potable water throughout history. Through this project, the municipality seeks to restore these springs and preserve them structurally and functionally. This would provide the possibility of using natural sources of water again and in a safe, healthy, and environmentally friendly way, in addition to preserving the historical value of the springs.

Work on Ein Mizrab was recently accomplished through the participation of 'Project Hope' which is comprised of a number of volunteers of the Ramallah Community in the Diaspora.

The National Sports Center for the Disabled - The municipality has designated a plot of land on which to build a national sports center for the disabled, in cooperation with the General Union of the Disabled. The project includes specialized gymnasiums and training centers for people with special needs. Presently, one of the strategic aims of the municipality is to set a number of rules and regulations protecting the rights of individuals with special needs.

Measuring Citizens' Satisfaction Project - Through modern techniques, this project aims to study and measure the satisfaction of citizens regarding the services provided by the Municipality of Ramallah. This study can form a reference and compass that will help the municipal council to take decisions in various developmental areas. The Municipality of Ramallah is considered a pioneer in this area, being the first in the area to launch such a project. The results of the study will be made public during the Wein A Ramallah events.

Al-Manara Parking Complex - For the purpose of regulating traffic in the center of the city and finding a solution to the parking crisis in the center of Ramallah, the municipality seeks to establish Al-Manara Parking Complex at the historical site of the Conciliation Court. For this purpose, the municipality purchased a piece of land adjacent to the historic court building and will construct a multi-storey building for private parking, in addition to the inclusion of a number of commercial shops. The results of the design competition will be made public during Wein A Ramallah events.

The Street Naming and Numbering Project - This includes provision of names for all main and secondary streets of the city, along with the posting of street signs. A specialized committee has already begun to work on the project with representatives of various segments of the local community. The naming stage has been completed.

The National Library - The Municipality of Ramallah has designated a piece

of land, 4–5 dunams, on which to build a national library. The library will include a comprehensive collection of books, magazines, films, musical CDs, and educational games for children. It will also be equipped with internet service, modern communication technology, various event and activity halls, an art gallery, a cafeteria, parking, etc. It is hoped that the completed project will become an architectural landmark.

PECDAR is committed to financing the studies and design plans necessary for the project.

A National Museum of Science will be constructed to monitor scientific concepts and phenomena and introduce visitors to a variety of sensory experiences through hands-on exhibits. This project will serve multiple segments of the community, particularly school students.

The (CCC) Consolidated Contactors Company is committed to finance the first stage of the project which will be implemented in partnership with Al Nayzak Association.

The City Center Development Project - This project will be jointly implemented by the municipalities of Ramallah and Al-Bireh, and includes a study of traffic in the city center, an expansion of sidewalks, the rehabilitation of streets, the possibility of identifying pedestrian-only streets, the implementation of a study of the waste collection system, the beautification of the city center, the organization of the signs and banners of commercial shops, and the provision of general advertising spaces based on modern standards

This project will be funded by the European Union and through both the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Local Governance.

One Stop Shop - The Municipality of Ramallah has designated a site in its old building to host a wide range of client service centers. This will grant citizens easy access to the services of several institutions and companies without the need to move between various headquarters and branches.

The project aims primarily to revive life in the old city of Ramallah. It includes offices for the Municipality of Ramallah, the Jerusalem District Water Authority, the Jerusalem District Electricity Company, the Post Office of Ramallah, and the Palestine Telecommunications Group

with its three companies (PALTEL, Jawwal, Hadara). The site will also include ATM machines of four banks (the Arab Bank, the Cairo Amman Bank, Al-Quds Bank for Development and Investment, and the Bank of Palestine).

Jacques Chirac Street - Jacques Chirac Street extends from the area of the Slaughter House to the new building of the Young Men Christian Association (YMCA). This Street was named after French President Chirac in honor of his role in strengthening friendship between both the Palestinian and French people. This project will be implemented with the support of the Ministry of Finance and in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Governance.

Launching of Navigation System - The navigation system is a computerized system that is linked to satellite. Such a system enables its users to locate their position in the area covered by this system through using a special receiver. This system also enables its users to identify the proper routing in order to reach the desired destination. This project was developed with the efforts of Birzeit University students and was adopted by the Ramallah Municipality.

The launching of projects will be announced in local newspapers

Ramallah Shopping Festival

Wein A Ramallah also aims to organize a shopping festival in order to support our national market and industries as well as to revive the internal economy of the city throughout the period of the activities. Currently, agreements with private tourism companies are in progress in order to motivate Palestinians from the Green Line areas (1948 Palestine territories) to visit Ramallah during the Festival.

The participation of the private sector in the Central Centennial Celebrations through supporting the various activities and through the Shopping Festival is considered an exceptional opportunity for integrating this sector into the development process at the level of the local government institutions of Palestine in general, and the Ramallah Municipality in particular.

The local shops participating in the Ramallah Shopping Festival will be announced in the local newspapers

Management Mechanism of the Municipality of Ramallah Centennial Project

Early in 2007, the Municipal Council took the decision to advance preparations to celebrate the first centennial of the Ramallah Municipality. The municipal council and the executive management held internal brainstorming sessions to prepare the vision and the concept of the project, which resulted in the preparation of an initial work plan for the project. These sessions were followed by additional extensive brainstorming sessions with the participation of experts in various fields within the local community. This effort formed a nucleus for the committees, which were later deemed as Supportive Committees for the Centennial Project.

In order to ensure the completion of the ambitious plans included in the

Centennial Project, it was decided to provide the project with a specialized team, whose members hold various professional backgrounds. To do so, it was also agreed to contract professional individuals and companies in the various areas.

The Municipal Council

Janet N. Michael, Mayor of Ramallah Municipality

Mahmoud Abdallah, Eng.

Khaldoun Khader, Eng.

Fadwa Barghouthi

Samir Amireh

Ghattas Bosheh

Adnan A. Faramand

Wael A. Kassess

Kamel M. A. Jbail

Nehaya Hamad

Rabie Rabie, Adv.

Fuad Husary

Dr. Fahed Habash

Haj Faisal Daras

Dr. Ghazi Hanania

Centennial Project Administration:

Ahmed Abu Laban / General Manager of Ramallah Municipality,
Project Manager of the Municipality of Ramallah Centennial Project.

Hanna Atallah, Project Coordinator of the Municipality of Ramallah
Centennial Project.

Executive Management of Municipality (also working on Wein A Ramallah)

Nahla Qourah / Director, Cultural Department

Jad Qandah / Director, Services Department

Maha Shehada Rantisi / Director of Public Relations Department

Wein A Ramallah Team:

Fatin Farhat / Coordinator of “Wein A Ramallah”

Heads of Support Committees:

Sultan Habboub / Security and Order

Saqer Hantasha / Volunteers

Assad Hussari / Troupes Affairs

Ryad Hamad / Transportation

Azar Abdallah / Purchase

Khalid Ghazal / Services

Administrative Affairs / Norma Abdalla, Rana Habayeb

Technical Affairs / Muhannad Abu Hamdia

Technical Affairs / Charlie Shunnara

Centennial Project Staff:

Wael Al-Haj / Events and Projects Coordinator

Hala Joudeh / Projects Coordinator

Jumana Dabis / Funding Coordinator

Hama Fraij / Administrative Assistant

Zeina Soudi / Executive Assistant

Special Thank You:

Naser Afash, Ashraf Salhia, Muhammad Sarari, Saed Abu Zeid, Salama Rafidi, Muhammad Abdel Al, Murad Safi, Naief Hariri, Khaled Hammad, Jalal Il Bawwab, Ibrahim Hasouna, Khader Imbaied, Dawoud Armoush, Badr Armoush, Abuallah Wishahi, Abdel Munem Hanfia, Raed Abdel Al, Muhammad Faqih, Raed Faqih, Usama Musleh, Hanan Rafidi, Marleen Khalil, Hanan Shunnara, Raed Dar Yousef, Issam Nasrallah, Basem Shunnara