



MINSK CITY HISTORY MUSEUM is a constantly expanding museum network, which currently includes 9 objects:

- Mikhail Savitsky Art Gallery;
- Leonid Shchemeliov Art Gallery;
- Loshitsa Manor Museum;
- Minsk City Hall;
- Museum of the Minsk Horse Tram;
- Carriage Museum;
- Archaeological Museum "Upper Town";
- Art Salon "Upper Place";
- Ivan Misko Workshop Museum.

These are the exhibitions that reflect both the historical and cultural heritage of the city. At present, the museum staff is preparing a new permanent exhibition dedicated to the Soviet stage in the history of Minsk – 1920s–1990s.

The city museum as a phenomenon differs from other institutions of the type. In addition to performing standard museum functions, city museums fulfill a number of unique tasks. They have a special commitment to the urban community: to be a center for the accumulation of urban history and heritage, to reflect the intergenerational experience of citizens, to be a platform for exchanging ideas on improving all aspects of city life and urban space. Taking this into account, it is extremely important for the museum to be open and accessible to families with small children, senior citizens, people with cognitive and mental disabilities, wheelchair users, which means that it should be a comfortable, friendly space for each category of visitors.

It is a difficult task to create such an environment and atmosphere, but without fulfilling it, a city museum cannot perform two of its main functions – representing the city and its inhabitants and exercising the right of all categories of citizens to participate in the cultural life of the city.

In accordance with the social protection policy of the Republic of Belarus, the museum is constantly working to improve the inclusiveness of the museum facilities and participating in a citywide dialogue with representatives of vulnerable groups of the city's population. Here are a number of activities that were undertaken in this regard:

- Entrances to the buildings of the Archaeological Museum "Upper Town", Minsk City Hall, Mikhail Savitsky Art Gallery are equipped with permanent ramps.
- The Mikhail Savitsky Art Gallery and Minsk City Hall are equipped with elevators for visitors.
- The building of the Loshitsa Manor Museum is equipped with a caterpillar stairlift.
- The Museum of the Minsk Horse Tram and Carriage Museum do not have elevation differences that are an obstacle for people with mobility disabilities.
- The Mikhail Savitsky Art Gallery has a toilet for disabled people.
- Within the framework of the project "Invisible Paintings" since 2017, the painting by People's Artist of Belarus Leonid Shchemeliyov "Winter Outside the Window" has been exhibited in the Leonid Shchemeliyov Art Gallery in a tactile interpretation with annotation for the hearing impaired and unique audio equipment for the visually impaired and blind.
- Free tours and other events in the museum are offered to people with disabilities, children with special needs and other vulnerable groups. The museum is in constant dialogue with them about ways to improve the inclusiveness of the museum facilities.
- Exhibition project "Fashion. Music. Youth "(2021) involves not only visual perception of the display, but also tactile interaction with the exhibits. Furthermore, visitors can play the record of their choice (auditory perception) and smell fragrance strips with Soviet perfume (olfactory perception).
- Some branches have interactive zones for visitors with children and recreation areas for elderly visitors and people with disabilities.

We strive to remove all the obstacles that stand in the way of those wishing to visit the museum and hinder the dialogue between the city residents and the museum. This task cannot be completed in full without attracting additional funding.



1. Project name: "Museum for Everyone"

2. Project implementation period: 36 months

3. Applicant organization: State Institution "Minsk City History Museum"

4. Project purpose: creation of a friendly and barrier-free environment in the museum facilities for all categories of visitors.

5. Tasks planned for implementation within the framework of the project:

- ensuring the accessibility of exhibition areas for people with disabilities;
- creating conditions for organizing events for physically impaired people, people with developmental and mental disabilities;
- adapting information posted on the museum's Internet resources for people with hearing and vision impairments;
- adapting visual information in the museum facilities for blind and visually impaired people;
- designing and arranging creative zones and recreation areas in large museum branches;
- cooperating with public organizations representing the interests of target groups.

6. Target group:

A wide range of citizens, including:

- visually impaired people;
- people with hearing impairments;
- wheelchair users and people with mobility impairments;
- people with developmental disabilities and mental disorders;
- families with children of preschool and primary school age;
- elderly people.

7. Brief description of activities within the framework of the project:

- creating an inclusive version of the museum's website for visitors with visual impairments;
- adding subtitles to videos on the museum's YouTube channel;
- providing sound and tactile interpretations of exhibits;
- improving the existing system of audio guides in the museum branches;
- duplicating visual information in the exhibition areas (labels, explanatory texts, signs) in Braille;
- supplementing the exhibition space with tactile walking surface indicators;
- installing folding and stationary ramps, stairlifts in multi-level exhibition areas;
- designing and arranging creative zones in large branches;
- organizing recreation areas for elderly and physically disabled people in the exhibition space;
- visualizing the results of humanitarian aid on the museum's Internet resources.

8. Total funding (in US dollars):

Donor contributions – 32,600

Inclusive version of the website (for visitors with visual impairments)	270
Tactile walking surface indicators	10,600
Stencil for installing tactile walking surface indicators (4)	120
Telescoping ramp (2)	450
Folding ramp (2)	300
Solid ramp	200
Stair lift (2)	7,200
Installing stair lifts	320
Labels in Braille	3,750
Sound interpretations of exhibits	2,500
Tactile interpretations of exhibits	6,000
Designing creative areas (designer service)	720
Designing recreation areas (designer service)	170

Co-financing – 4,500

Adding subtitles to videos on the museum's YouTube channel	150
Translating subtitles to videos on the museum's YouTube channel (Russian, English)	240
Installing tactile walking surface indicators	1,100
Installing folding ramps	500
Installing a solid ramp	350
Furniture for creative areas	720
Furniture for recreation areas	1,440

9. Expected results:

- creating conditions for further cooperation in the format of exhibitions, events, tours with public organizations working towards protecting vulnerable categories of the population;
- improving awareness of the museum displays among population groups who, for one reason or another, have limited access to museums;
- increasing the attendance of the museum by the above listed categories of citizens;
- promoting social inclusion and integration of people with disabilities.

10. Location of the project: State Institution "Minsk City History Museum", Minsk, Republic of Belarus, official website minskmuseum.by

Branches: Mikhail Savitsky Art Gallery (15, Svobody Square), Loshitsa Manor Museum (8-2, Chizhevskikh Alley), Archaeological Museum "Upper Town" (6, Cyril and Methodius Street), Minsk City Hall (2A, Svobody Square), Museum of the Minsk Horse Tram (6A, Cyril and Methodius Street), Carriage Museum (8, Cyril and Methodius Street).

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