

Akko Community Hub

THE BACKGROUND

Akko is a beautiful port-city located in Northwest Israel on the Mediterranean coast. It's a short 1.5hr drive from Tel Aviv and is a quintessential symbol of Israeli coexistence – home to a mixed population including Jews, Christians, Muslims, Druze and Bahai (30% Arab, 60% Jewish). A city that boasts many remarkable sites and promises tourists a memorable experience is somehow ranked in the 4th socio-economic cluster on the national scale. Residents suffer from social, economic and cultural disparities, with a negative migration and a declining sense of community and neighborhood pride.

THE SITUATION

The Mandatory Quarter neighborhood was once the vibrant beating heart of Akko located close to the beach and the old city, with booming local businesses and diverse cultural offerings. Today, the neighborhood struggles significantly – crime has increased, businesses have shut down, and there is a lack of community resilience, personal security, trust among residents and a significant fracture among religious communities.

THE NEED

To restore the Mandatory Quarter neighborhood back into an attractive, safe, and flourishing community, we must create a strong social network and infrastructure for community life to attract new residents, offer a high quality of life, resolve tensions, and strengthen community resilience and connections among diverse populations.

THE SOLUTION

As part of OR Movement's commitment to building a united, stable, and safe future for all citizens of Israel we invest in Community & Bridge Building initiatives to establish a strong foundation for future growth in the Negev and Galilee. A key component of our Community & Bridge Building initiatives are **Community Hubs**.

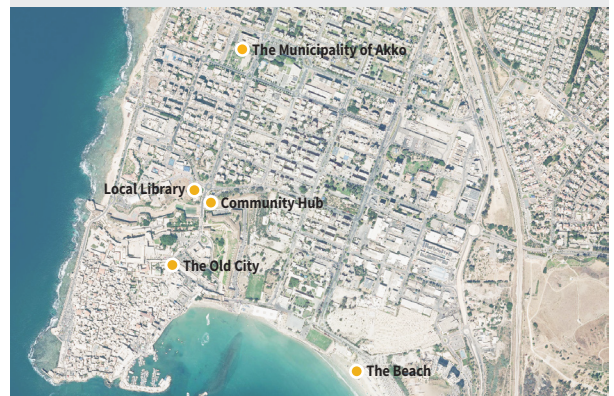
Community Hubs are part of our COMMUNIHOOD model, which is a 360° approach to transforming a periphery neighborhood into a self-sustaining, resilient, and attractive community for existing and new residents.

A Community Hub is a social and cultural public facility that is the epicenter of a neighborhood, serves the needs of a community, generates income, and assimilates residents into the local environment through initiatives, programming, joint discourse, and shared experiences to improve overall quality of life.

THE MANDATORY QUARTER COMMUNITY HUB

The Community Hub in the Mandatory Quarter neighborhood will build bridges between Jewish and non-Jewish communities, foster a sense of collaboration while solving core regional issues, strengthen community resilience and personal security, generate neighborhood income, offer vibrant community life, and attract a strong population to improve the neighborhood.

LOCATION:



FEATURES:

- Meeting and Workshop Rooms
- Food Truck
- Cafe
- Outdoor Yard/Community Garden
- Office Space for Mediation

SOCIAL PROGRAMMING:

- Resident Forums
- Workshops (art, culture, education, etc.)
- Community Initiatives (local business fairs, etc.)
- Cultural Events (local exhibitions, etc.)
- Training (leadership, language, entrepreneurship, etc.)



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WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

1

FROM VISION TO ACTION

Monthly community and cultural events bring together **100+** residents from the neighborhood and greater community.

2

DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & COLLABORATION

A group of **12 community members** from diverse religions and backgrounds execute community initiatives in the neighborhood and partake in **5** training sessions per year. Weekly community meetings for all residents.

OUR MISSION

Akko becomes the capital of the Western Galilee, an example of effective cross-cultural programming and bridge building, and the home to tomorrow's leaders.



OUR PARTNERS: Akko Municipality, Alan B Slifka Foundation, Shusterman Family Philanthropies



EXPECTED IMPACT

SHORT-TERM IMPACT (1-2 YEARS): 6,000 residents will have indicated an increase in their quality of life, relationships, and connectedness to the community. Thousands of residents from the city will partake in Community Hub programming.

LONG-TERM IMPACT (5-7 YEARS): The Mandatory Quarter neighborhood will be revitalized and become a vibrant hub of activity with thriving local businesses and diverse cultural offerings.

CAPITAL BUDGET

Building Renovations	\$200,000
Yard Planning	\$25,000
Equipment & Furnishings	\$25,000
Akko Municipality Income	\$100,000
Total Cost	\$150,000

We are asking for a donation of \$150,000 to break ground on the project

