

Scope of Activities – Meeting Points

The “Scope of Activities – Meeting Points” program aims at giving shape to the future face of the SNFCC, through creative dialogue between contemporary citizens and the project.

Events are addressed to children and their families, adolescents, the school and university community, visitors with limited accessibility, residents of the surrounding areas, and visitors from all across the city and the country.

Each month is dedicated to a concept that somehow, either literally or metaphorically, defines the three functions that will be fulfilled by the future SNFCC.

Events and workshops are designed by the Visitors Center team, in conjunction with approved organizations and established professionals, who adapt their workshops, lectures or seminars to the Visitors Center.

Activities at the Visitors Center include:

- **“Collecting experiences” game**

The game was designed by visual artist Xara Marantidou, and its main purpose is to encourage children to visit the VC again and again, in order to continue learning about the SNFCC through new activities. Since it is designed for both individual visitors and organized group visits by schools or other organizations, it proposes various activities that develop and expand on the experience of each visit upon returning home or to school.

Activities are divided into 12 folders, each one containing activities that interpret the functions of the SNFCC through a different theme: transparency, the view, materials, the collection, rhythm, history, numbers, passages, scale, light, magic, pause. The activities are creative, open to each child’s interpretation and aimed at cultivating experienced future visitors of the SNFCC rather than consumers of cultural events. As Xara Marantidou remarks: “A visit becomes an experience, gives rise to observation, and recording it turns it into consciousness”.

- **Educational Material**

The Visitors Center team designs educational material to match the requirements of each monthly theme, and which is available to the children and families visiting the center. At the same time, it is used for both school group visits and the scheduled workshops held at the Visitors Center over the weekends on a monthly basis, in conjunction with external partners.

Two such workshops have been designed so far:

- Putting history in order

Children are asked to “tidy up” the events of the history of libraries and put them in the correct order on a timeline on the magnetic wall at the VC. (For upper Primary and Secondary school children.)

- When words meet pictures it’s magic

The game consists of phrases taken from fairytales and stories that include a magical transformation and images. The game can be played in various ways, with the object always being for the children to combine texts and images in a narrative of their own. (For Primary school children.)

Coming soon: Going up and down stairs in literature

Excerpts from literature where the heroes go up or down stairs, as well as pictures of stairs, are the materials children use to create their own landscapes and fantastical maps.

- **Pocket Concerts**

The Greek National Opera presents, at the Visitors Center, on the first and last Saturday of each month, a small “pocket” concert with piano and one or two voices. Through simple and uncomplicated performances, with the new home of the Greek National Opera as their backdrop, solo vocalists and musicians will introduce the National Opera to the new topography being created at the SNFCC.

- **Multisensory workshops: The SNFCC through “different eyes”**

Once a month, adolescents and adults with partial or total loss of sight meet at the VC and set up a construction site of sounds, three-dimensional images and tastes. Stories and objects from the natural environment, music, books and architecture inspire all of our senses and help us to get to know the SNFCC through different eyes. The workshops are designed and run by Fotis Flevotomos, a visual artist, and Fotis Sagonas, an architect.

The March workshop, “Maps and Stories”, has already taken place.

Participants explored the new topography of Faliro Bay in their mind’s eye, using 5 copies of tactile maps, especially designed for the workshop. Then, inspired by recorded interviews of people employed at the SNFCC construction site, describing the challenges, the joys and the emotions aroused by the project, they took part in a game whereby, using tactile cards symbolizing paths, mountains and clearings, they “mapped” phases and stories from their own lives.

- **Technical seminars**

The program includes technical seminars addressed to students and professionals, on technical issues regarding the project's construction, as well as seminars related to educational institutions offering studies in librarianship and information systems.

The first seminar for civil engineers will be held on April 29th, on the topic of "Constructing the SNFCC hill", led by Dia Andrikopoulou.

- **Seminars for educators**

At least one seminar for educators of all levels is held each month. The seminars are aimed at contributing to the dialogue on the educational process and pedagogy, raising new questions and bringing forth new topics for discussion.

The first seminar, entitled "History is not just a lesson – managing the past through cultural programs", was carried out by writer and translator Maria Angelidou.

- **Weekly guided tour of the construction site**

Guided tours of the SNFCC construction site are offered by the SNFCC's associates every Sunday, giving visitors the opportunity to see the work up close, and learn about the progress of one of the most important and complex construction projects ever undertaken in Greece. (Every Sunday, 11:00)

- **The "Journey to the SNFCC" program transports the libraries of Attica to the Visitors Center**

The "Journey to the SNFCC" program, which has now expanded to include 13 additional Municipalities in Attica, and which will run until September 2014, includes "Opera in a suitcase" performances by the Greek National Opera, educational programs, film-making workshops, awareness campaigns on green spaces, all culminating in a scheme offering citizens free transportation to and guided tours of the Visitors Center.