



The Pharos Centre

A vision for the Future

Since its inception, in 1998, the Cyprus-based Pharos Arts Foundation has established an international reputation for artistic and cultural excellence. The Foundation's programme includes a regular concert and recital series, an annual Chamber Music Festival, established in 2001, and a Contemporary Music Festival, established in 2009, a music education programme, exhibitions of contemporary art, publishing, and a lecture series on issues of global importance with distinguished speakers.

Our vision is to expand these activities by creating a centre for Art, Culture, and Dialogue in a beautiful setting of ancient olive groves and pine forest at Delikipos. The Centre will provide space for the visual and performing arts as well as a library and accommodation for visiting artists, writers, composers, musicians, and thinkers from all disciplines and backgrounds.

An important element of this Centre would be the Pharos Forum, providing a venue for dialogue and debate on issues that concern us all. Universal spiritual and material progress which we call civilization can only flourish in what has become the global village of the 21st century if we share basic ethical principles and develop a new world view, a paradigm determined by a reverence for life and nature as well as creative expression. The distinguishing characteristics of the Pharos Forum will undoubtedly be its setting and its human scale, bringing people together from all over the world to an intimate natural environment that allows the landscape to work its magic, and gives individuals time to develop genuine friendships and valuable conversations. John McMurray, the Scottish philosopher said 'The purpose of all meaningful knowledge is action, and the purpose of all meaningful action is friendship'. The Pharos Forum will cultivate these crucial notions and offer new collaborative ways of addressing difference and discord – of moving away from private understandings, as Heraclitus would have put it, towards perceptions of unity.

An additional crucial component of the project is the emphasis that would be given to music and the arts. All cultures and religions have expressed their highest aspirations through music and the arts. Sophocles says 'He who neglects the arts when young has lost the past and is the dead to the future'. The Pharos Centre will offer participants opportunities to listen to music-making of the highest order from the western classical tradition as well as other cultures and to engage in dialogue with leading international artists.

The Pharos Centre, situated on an island at a pivotal point between three continents and diverse cultures, will bring together men and women of goodwill to find a common language and to explore ways in which we can develop a saner, healthier and more sustainable world at the beginning of a millennium. If you would like to learn more about the Centre and contribute towards the realisation of our vision, you may contact the Pharos Arts Foundation at info@pharosartsfoundation.org.

