



Τρόπος ζωής για μια ζωή



1921–2021
Εκατό χρόνια XΑΝΘ
YMCA of Thessaloniki
one hundred years

PRESS RELEASE

One century of YMCA Thessaloniki 100 years together, together as one an anniversary linked to Thessaloniki's civil society

In 2021, the YMCA of Thessaloniki completes 100 years since its founding; a century of action and of contribution to people, society and the city.

On the occasion of this anniversary, we celebrate one hundred years of innovation, collaboration, and contribution against the backdrop of history and with our sights set on the future. We highlight the milestones, values and moments that defined the YMCA's trajectory and forged its people. We remember the future, we chart the present and we envisage YMCA Thessaloniki facing the challenges of the future, planning the next one hundred years.

The centennial's symbolic message – **"Together as one"** – marks a historical trajectory that spans one (1) century while underscoring the essence and the significance of the ideals that YMCA Thessaloniki has been promoting all these years.

One century of YMCA Thessaloniki.

One hundred years of innovation, collaboration, contribution.

One hundred years against the backdrop of history, with sights set on the future.

One hundred years together; together as one.

One with YMCA Thessaloniki.

One with people, one with society.

One with the city, one with the world.

One with sport, with camping, with volunteering, with creativity, with culture.

Together as one. *With the team, with the collaboration it brings, and with personal growth.*

In the context of this celebration, in addition to a strong communication campaign, a series of festivities and social projects are in the works. These start in September, the birth month of the YMCA Thessaloniki, with emblematic, extraverted events targeting the general public. Each is directly linked to the pillars of action, the programs, and the people who represent YMCA Thessaloniki and its national and international reach. Also planned are individual actions of immediate social value. The development of the pandemic and its surrounding circumstances will be the deciding factor on whether the initial, tentative plans for the festivities will be adapted or rescheduled as needed.

As noted by YMCA President, Ioannis Sossidis, *"This is a program of events by the YMCA and its volunteers, for the city, for society and for people. These events will carry the message of our celebration through the ideals and the values we have been advocating for 100 years."*

The President of the Centennial Committee, Vicky Papadimitriou, added, *"we have designed a celebration around the following key pillars: the anniversary, the history and the future. In this way, the centennial milestone inspires us to reminisce as well as reflect and rethink, so we can envisage and plan our next 100 years of contribution to civil society – always with the same values, always with people at its core, always together."*

Delineating the role and the contribution of YMCA Thessaloniki to shaping civil society in Thessaloniki and further afield for the past century, its anniversary becomes a landmark not only for YMCA Thessaloniki but for the city in itself; a reason to celebrate and to rethink volunteering and social contribution in the city.

pillars of the events/actions program

**for most of the actions, planning includes the potential to stream online, in hybrid format, or to adapt based on the development of the pandemic and conditions at the time. The duration of the program could be extended into 2022, subject to the pandemic.*

***more details about each individual event will be announced in due time, in the lead up to their date.*

central events

The main program of the celebration of the 100 years of YMCA Thessaloniki will be based on three main pillars: the celebration, the history and the future.

celebration

A series of celebratory events will mark the YMCA Thessaloniki birthday week (**August 30 to September 5**), leading up to the birthday (the day of signing of the founding document – September 2, 1921) with music, arts and cinema events in the YMCA building and around it, as well as with the presentation of the publication of the Historical Album commemorating the anniversary, and the creation of the new Records and Research Center. This celebratory week will culminate in a celebration-presentation of YMCA Thessaloniki programs to the general public, which will at the same time showcase those values which are crucial to tomorrow's civil society.

the history & the future

Two principal events are planned for the months of **October and November**, in two different directions: a scientific conference tracing YMCA Thessaloniki's history in conjunction with the city in the first four decades of the 20th century, and an international forum featuring speakers invited from Greece and abroad, with the participation of volunteer organizations from the regions of Macedonia and Thrace, on the topic of volunteering in the 21st century and future challenges for civil society, approached through the lens of UN's 17 sustainable development goals.

department actions

Additionally, every pillar of action presents current-day YMCA Thessaloniki (**Sport & Wellbeing, Camping & the Environment, Education & Culture, Nursery & Kindergarten, People & Society, Folklore Dance Group, the Kalamaria & Asvestochori Branches, International Relations & Executive Training, Basketball Museum**), and contributes to the celebration with distinct contributions.

Aiming at bringing to the fore the dynamic range of programs and YMCA Thessaloniki's social contribution, the individual departments thematically link their object of focus to the celebrations for the 100 years, presenting more than 100 actions inspired by the YMCA Thessaloniki principles and values, as well as its areas of activity.

100 social actions for YMCA Thessaloniki's 100 years

In the context of the celebration and of the annual planning of the YMCA of Thessaloniki, of its departments and volunteers, 100 actions of social value are planned, with the goal of highlighting the primary value and principle of the YMCA: volunteering, contributing and directly participating in society.

YMCA THESSALONIKI 100

YMCA THESSALONIKI GOVERNING COUNCIL

Ioannis Sossidis, President

Dimitrios Gkanakis, First Vice President

Michael Kalfidis, Second Vice President

Vasileia Tsikina, Secretary General

Nikolaos Logothetis, Treasurer

Executive Committee Members: Georgios Goulielmos, Panagiotis Petras

Governing Council Members: Alexia Aidona, Eleni Athanasiadou, Ioannis Voucharas, Georgia (Giouli) Vrochidou,

Evangelos Galousis, Eva Lada, Nikolaos Lamprou, Athanasios Mavroulis, Dimitrios Mitsopoulos, Vasileia Nezi,

Evangelos Ntinopoulos, Athanasia Panti, Konstantinos Paksimadas, Angelos Synadakis, Ioanna Tzika, Evangelos

Tsiouras, Georgios Chalvatzakis

YMCA THESSALONIKI CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

President: Vicky Papadimitriou

Members: Makis Ananiadis, Tasos Georgantzis, Maria Dialyna, Konstantinos Koulouzakis, Kelly Mimikopoulou, Andy Panagiotidou, Lenio Papantonopoulou, Stellina Trioanou

HISTORICAL ARCHIVE OF YMCA THESSALONIKI COMMITTEE

President: Konstatinos Plastiras

Members: Antonis Godis, Iordanis Zafeiriadis, Stathis Amanatidis, Antonis Tournas, Kimon Dimitriou

YMCA DEPARTMENTS

General Manager: Vasileios Ioannou

Administrative Support and Development Department / Head: Ath. Mpegkas

Marketing & Communication, Fundraising Department / Head: Chr. Giasimaki

Programs and Branches Operation Department / Head: Dim. Pappas

Kalamaria Branch / Head: M. Charalampidou

Asvestochori Branch / Head: M. Datseri

Executive & New Volunteer Training Department, International Relations / Head: E. Symeonidou

Education Department / Head: D. Zikopoulou

Action & Social Contribution Department / Head: Ar. Tzoni

Sport & Sports Center Department / Head: Dim. Karaiskos

Basketball Museum / Head: Elefth. Theodoroudi

CELEBRATION VISUAL IDENTITY: Semiotik Design Agency (SDA) | Dimitris Koliadimas

VIDEO SPOT: Chara Iakovidou, Motion Graphics Designer

For more information

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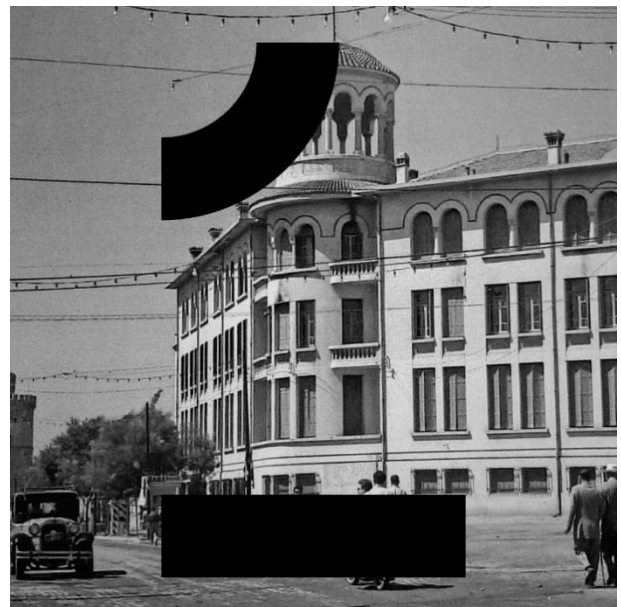
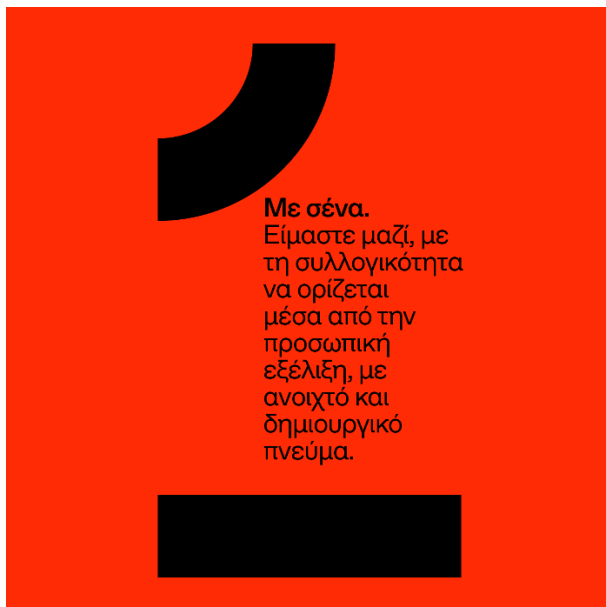
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one hundred years

One century of YMCA Thessaloniki.

One hundred years of innovation, collaboration, contribution.

One hundred years against the backdrop of history, with sights set on the future.

One hundred years together; together as one.



** With you. We are together, with collaboration defining personal growth, with an open and creative spirit.*

On the anniversary of one century of trajectory, we highlight the milestones, values and moments that defined the YMCA's history and formed its people.

We remember the future, chart the present and envisage YMCA Thessaloniki faced with the challenges of the future; we plan the next one hundred years.

together as **1**

We are together, with collaboration defining personal growth, with an open and creative spirit.

one with you and with history

For one century, YMCA Thessaloniki charts a path shared by the city and its people.

one with you and with the future

YMCA Thessaloniki envisages, plans, innovates with its sights set on the challenges on tomorrow.

one with you and with people

People have been at the core of YMCA Thessaloniki in the previous as well as for the next one hundred years.

one with you and with society

The YMCA Thessaloniki of volunteering, of families, of refugees keeps its arms open to contribution and solidarity.

one with you and with the city

One building, one square. Primarily, a time-honored, indestructible bond with the city and its people.

one with you and with the world

μαζί, together, ensemble, juntos, insieme, yhdessä, zusammen, samen, 一起, ساتھ ایک یکدیگر با سویا، ساتھ

one with you and with sport

15 sports, countless trophies, participants of all ages. Always the same values: wellbeing and sportsmanship.

one with you and with basketball

YMCA Thessaloniki brought the sport to Greece in 1919 – a heritage that inspires the athletes of tomorrow.

one you and with nature

YMCA Thessaloniki teaches us to love nature and to appreciate our invaluable contact with the environment.

one with you and with camping

At the YMCA of Thessaloniki, characters are forged, memories made, friendships for life formed.

one with you and with culture

The YMCA of Thessaloniki is where personal expression and collective creation coalesce.

one with you and with creativity

YMCA Thessaloniki offers a space for inspiration, expression and ideas, where talent shines.

one with you and with children

Baby steps at the YMCA Thessaloniki turn into a confident walk to adulthood, on the path to society.

one with you and with the family

YMCA Thessaloniki is itself a big family for parents and children – for all its people.

one with you and with the youth

YMCA Thessaloniki bestows experiences, fuels dreams, and lays strong foundations for the future.

one with you and with experiential learning

Here, knowledge is linked to practice, and participation and experience become part of the educational process.

together with you and with volunteering

Volunteering is YMCA Thessaloniki's underlying foundation, the value it cultivates and its very strength.

one with you and with refugees

From the early 20th century to today, the YMCA of Thessaloniki offers a home to those who need it.



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tentative schedule of the events and actions

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central events

August 30-31 & September 1 @ Municipal Garden Theatre

CINEMA/MUSIC FESTIVAL

As a prelude to the date of the anniversary, a three-day cinema and music festival around the YMCA Thessaloniki: from sportsmanship to life in nature and to social contribution, three screenings discuss topics that have been linked to the YMCA's primary pillars of action. The films are accompanied by music performances by groups which include older and newer members of YMCA Thessaloniki.

September 2 @ YMCA Thessaloniki & Municipal Garden Theatre

BIRTHDAY

We celebrate the day of birth with a multifaceted spectacle at the YMCA building and with a concert by the Thessaloniki City Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Charis Iliadis, who will present a program inspired by the history, the present and the future of the YMCA, as well as its principles and values, and its pillars of action.

September 2 @ YMCA Thessaloniki

PUBLICATION OF COMMEMORATIVE HISTORICAL ALBUM

YMCA OF THESSALONIKI 1921-2021: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF LIFE AND ACTION

A special event to present this commemorative tome, which highlights one hundred years of potent action through unpublished photographs, documents and materials sourced primarily from the YMCA Thessaloniki Historical Archive. The project of the new Records and Research Center at the YMCA Thessaloniki will also be presented.

September 4 or 5 @ YMCA Thessaloniki Park

YMCAing #child #teenager #adult

A celebration-presentation of YMCA Thessaloniki's programs to the general public, which also highlights those values that are essential to civil society of tomorrow, where personal growth is defined by collaboration, and the person by the team; from communal living at the camp to sportsmanship, creativity as a means of expression, and volunteering as a driving force of social contribution. YMCAing becomes a path – for the child, the teenager, the adult – leading to active contribution as citizens of the Thessaloniki of tomorrow.

October @ Avlaia Theater

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON HISTORY

A scientific conference with the goal of tracing and showcasing the history of YMCA Thessaloniki in the context of the city and of its contribution to the youth. Scientists and researchers from Greece and abroad will be invited to speak, presenting in their addresses the most important aspects of the history of the city and of the YMCA Thessaloniki in the first four decades of the 20th century. In addition to the conference will be held an exhibition of documents, photographs and historical records. The proceedings will be published in the form of a series of short scientific studies with the title "History Notebooks".

November @ YMCA Thessaloniki

INTERNATIONAL FORUM: the Civil Society of Tomorrow

This action aspires to become the most substantial extraverted action of YMCA Thessaloniki, creating a platform for volunteer organizations from the regions of Macedonia and Thrace to come together, communicate and collaborate on the topic of volunteering in the 21st century and future challenges for civil society. Centered around the UN's 17 goals of sustainable development (e.g. Environment & Climate Change, Digital Age & Artificial Intelligence, Sustainable Cities & Communities, Strong Institutions & Justice, Gender Equality, etc.) and with the participation of speakers from Greece and abroad, this forum seeks to bring to the fore the power of active citizenship, of society, and of volunteer organizations in the sustainable development of societies in the next 100 years.

December

HONORARY AWARDS CEREMONY

The culmination of the festivities for YMCA Thessaloniki's centenarian will be the Formal Dinner at the end of the year which will feature honorary awards, distinctions and official guests.

department actions

Furthermore, each pillar of action will contribute to the celebration through specific contributions and themes. Some examples include:

June – July

YMCA World Challenge | June 6 (INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)

Photography competition: "together as one"

June – August

1 with the camping way of life (CAMPING & THE ENVIRONMENT)

"YMCA100 – Together as one" theme days for all camp sessions

September 18 & 19

1 with KALAMARIA | 1 with ASVESTOCHORI (BRANCHES)

YMCA Thessaloniki's branches in the Municipality of Kalamaria and in the Municipality of Pylaia-Chortiatis celebrate the centenary alongside local society and alongside the programs that stand out in each branch.

September

3 generations of games (NURSERY & KINDERGARTEN/TOGETHER AS A FAMILY)

Showcasing the special element of intergenerational participation in YMCA Thessaloniki, we are introduced to the games of the past 100 years.

September – October

the faces of sport | photography exhibition (SPORT & WELLBEING)

One of the most recognizable departments of YMCA Thessaloniki meets its most recognizable ambassadors.

September – December

around the YMCA of Thessaloniki (PEOPLE & SOCIETY/WALKING THE CITY)

A tour of the building, the square and the surrounding area, parts of the city that have been linked to and defined by its 100 years of history.

**in collaboration with Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage*

October 28

one dance, one embrace for YMCA Thessaloniki (FOLKLORE DANCE GROUP)

A symbolic meeting of dance groups, YMCA staff and YMCA members which will create a circle of dancers, surrounding the YMCA building.

November – December

crowdfunding by the youth for the youth! (EXECUTIVE TRAINING)

The Executive School celebrates the centennial by raising money to offer to the youth of the city on behalf of the youth of YMCA Thessaloniki.

December

1 century in 100 thespian minutes (EDUCATION & CULTURE)

A theatrical journey to the most important parts of YMCA Thessaloniki's history, irrevocably linked to the very history of the city.

year 2022

oral history program – documentary (BASKETBALL MUSEUM)

People's relationship with the YMCA is based on one main pillar: experience. And the history of the YMCA is closely linked to its people. The goal is to create a documentary using their personal histories and oral accounts.

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