

We are the Nativity



Reinventing Public Spaces in Bethlehem
إعادة تصميم وإستخدام المساحات العامة
في مدينة بيت لحم



Since 2019, the “Reinventing Public Space” project aims to gradually change mobility behaviors and unleash the potential of walking in the territory. Thanks to the support of the Agence Française de Développement, the Place de la Nativité, dedicated to parking, will be transformed into a public space for all. A creative approach with cultural and participatory urban planning tools is implemented to imagine and test future developments with the inhabitants.

By its location, size, shape and use, the Nativity Square is the only large-scale public space in the city and plays a unique role in the life of the city. It is the setting for many religious, social and political gatherings and events. During the Christmas celebrations, the Nativity Square becomes the beating heart of local life.

The question of living together is at the heart of this urban transformation. The aim is to gently modify the perception of this emblematic space and to initiate its reappropriation by all.

An exhibition of portraits, entitled “We are the Nativity Square”, was created by Elias Halabi, a local photographer, to show the diversity of uses and users and to promote the plural identity of Bethlehem. Each portrait is accompanied by a quote to express the symbols and perceptions of the Square by the citizens.

This dive into the daily life of the inhabitants of Bethlehem offers a renewed perspective on this city with a universal spiritual dimension.

The exhibition offers a snapshot of local reality, from the coffee vendor to the schoolgirls, the priest or the imam. Each character offers us to discover moments of life, far from the clichés or fantasies projected on this thousand-year-old city.



Photographer: Elias Halabi









بيت لحم - Paris
باريس - Bethléem



Donors:

The project is being implemented by Bethlehem Municipality in cooperation with Paris Municipality through the funding of the French Development Agency. The exhibition which is part of the project is funded by the French Consulate through the French Institute in Jerusalem.