

Success for Knossos 2025 Fundraising Campaign

After four years of fundraising, I am delighted to announce the successful conclusion of our major capital campaign, Knossos 2025. The formal legal agreement with the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, which will be our partner in the forthcoming construction project, was signed on 28 December 2022.

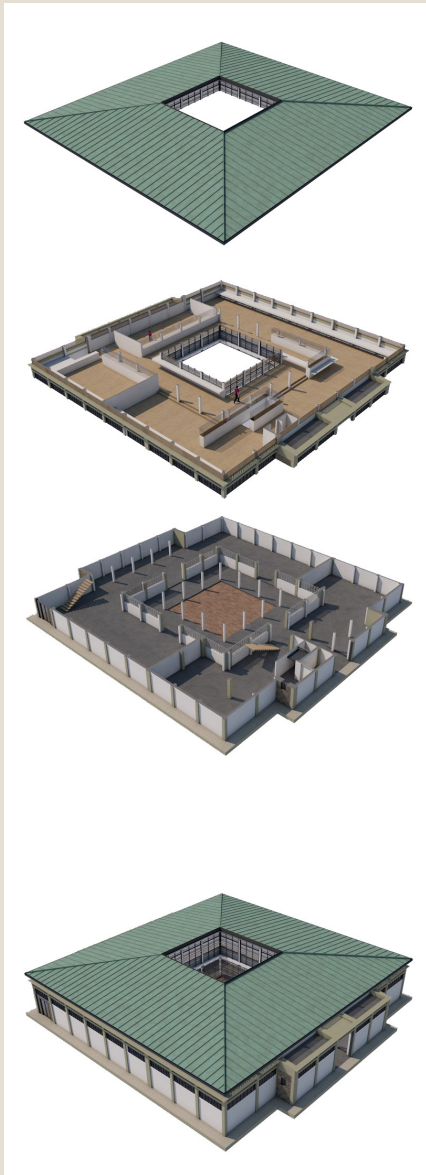
This project has been an aspiration for the BSA for many years and we have now reached our target. Donations, both large and small, have been received from many individuals and charitable trusts. Our four year fundraising campaign had made impressive progress, despite the interruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, but was still far from reaching its necessary goal. We are proud to reveal that the major donor whose transformational pledge enabled us to move into the final stage of the appeal during summer 2022 was the Packard Humanities Institute.

Informal discussions with the Packard Humanities Institute on a plan to build a new Knossos Museum remote from the site, go back more than ten years. Although that project did not come to fruition, we were delighted that the PHI offered to switch their support to our new project, providing more than half of the total cost. Their support really has been critical for the project.

The BSA has received tremendous support from the Greek state, especially the Central Archaeological Council, the Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion and the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports. This is a very exciting time for the BSA and for Greek archaeology.

We are enormously grateful to everyone who has so generously supported us and promoted the project including our project patron

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Victoria Hislop and our staff and volunteers in Athens, Crete and the UK. The project now moves from its fundraising phase to its delivery stage.

We want to protect the site’s unique legacy for everyone. The funds raised will ensure the complete redevelopment of the Stratigraphical Museum, doubling its size with a new mezzanine floor offering over 700m² of study and storage space. This will preserve more than 100 years of artefacts excavated at Knossos and other sites in Crete for study by students and international academics. New laboratory space for ceramic analysis and bioarchaeological research will be created and our collections will be digitised to become an online resource for researchers. The new Museum will also be a centre of academic engagement with local communities, making scientific knowledge accessible to the public.

The BSA’s long history at Knossos has played an important role in the academic development of generations of archaeologists. As we embark on the next chapter of its history, we are sure that the BSA’s new facilities at Knossos will become one of the most significant hubs for archaeological research in the Mediterranean.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating everyone who has devoted so much time and energy to the fundraising campaign — especially Professor John Bennet (BSA Director from 2015 to 2022), the current Director, Professor Rebecca Sweetman, Knossos Curator Dr Kostis Christakis, BSA Administrator Tania Gerousi and our development team.

*Professor Roderick Beaton, FBA
Chair of the British School at Athens*