



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Koret Foundation's \$10 Million Grant to Establish the
Koret Center for Jewish Civilization at Tel Aviv University in
Partnership with ANU - Museum of the Jewish People**

To establish a groundbreaking new global education, leadership and research collaborative between Tel Aviv University, ANU - Museum of the Jewish People, and the Koret Foundation

SAN FRANCISCO – The Koret Foundation announced today a **\$10 million grant to establish the Koret Center for Jewish Civilization**, a partnership between the foundation, Tel Aviv University (TAU) and ANU - Museum of the Jewish People (ANU) which will employ a unique educational and cross-disciplinary approach to the challenges of contemporary Jewish thought, social engagement and identity, as well as build dialogue and understanding between Jewish Israelis and those in the diaspora through an innovative approach to teaching about Judaism as an international community.

The Koret Center at TAU, Israel's largest research university, will work to bridge divides and improve relationships between Jewish communities worldwide by centering on the common bonds that have united the Jewish people for millennia. Through an enhanced understanding of Jewish peoplehood from a global and historical perspective, this partnership seeks to strengthen the identity and education of Jews in Israel, the U.S. and globally.

Over the course of the five-year grant, the Koret Center will house and develop joint activities on contemporary Jewish thought, social engagement, and identity. It will reach academics, the general public, and Israeli school teachers through research, academic training and exchange, public events and educational programming. TAU and ANU share a campus, a common vision and now, an integrated partnership.

This collaboration is the first of its kind where a global academic institution, the Chaim Rosenberg School of Jewish Studies and Archaeology at Tel Aviv University, has partnered with a world-class museum and education center, ANU – Museum of the Jewish People and ANU's Koret International School for Jewish Peoplehood (named with a \$10M Koret grant in 2016). This partnership will take a multifaceted, innovative, and coordinated approach to use the individual strengths of each institution and leverage the exponential power of the collective. This groundbreaking structure of collaboration embodies the

deep commitment by TAU, ANU and Koret to lay a foundation that strengthens Jewish connections for generations to come.

Anita Friedman, President of the Koret Foundation, said: “As a Jewish People, we’ve never before faced the types of 21st Century challenges we now face. But we are more hopeful than ever about the future. We know we are on the right path when we see a global Jewish philanthropy, Israel’s largest university, the world’s Museum of the Jewish People and the Israel government all coming together in cooperation with many other Jewish organizations in common cause.”

The Koret Center’s shared programs will produce five online courses on Jewish civilization, provide internships at ANU for 100 TAU students, and establish two Biennial International Conferences of the Koret Center for Jewish Civilization, held at the end of the second and fourth years, with up to 300 live participants, and broadcast worldwide. The Israeli government, acutely aware of the growing disconnect between Israel and global Jewry, will lend critical support to the project. Collaborating with Israeli schools, the Koret Center will provide teachers across Israel with innovative programs and resources to enhance their students’ understanding of Jewish peoplehood.

Tel Aviv University President Prof. Ariel Porat said: “Along with deepening Tel Aviv University’s dedication to fostering diversified and pluralistic Jewish Studies curricula, this new collaboration aligns with TAU’s mission to expand joint programs with leading academic and cultural institutions around the globe. Through the Koret Center for Jewish Civilization, we look forward to fueling valuable new perspectives for understanding the Jewish experience along with our campus partner, ANU, the largest and most comprehensive Jewish museum in the world. We are honored to have the Koret Foundation’s support for this initiative that will bring the latest academic knowledge on Jewish peoplehood to many groups in Israel and around the world.”

Prof. Youval Rotman, Chair of the Chaim Rosenberg School of Jewish Studies and Archaeology at TAU, said: “While many top universities house research institutes for Jewish Studies, the Koret Center will draw on TAU’s interdisciplinary strengths to fill the void when it comes to the study and teaching of Jewish Civilization and its historical significance. By creating a new paradigm for the perception of Judaism’s place in history, today and in the future, the Koret Center also aims to enhance Jewish connectivity worldwide. We are delighted to work with ANU to propagate these new ideas and activities to expand the understanding of Judaism as a diverse, innovative, inclusive and dynamic civilization.”

Leveraging its strong track record and unique take on Jewish Studies, TAU will develop a new international graduate program in Jewish studies, collaborating with two major academic centers abroad in Europe and the U.S., and also offer 325 BA, MA, and PhD scholarships for pedagogy, teacher and leadership training. TAU will establish a Koret International Society of Fellows for 25 postdoctoral students, who will participate in a yearlong research seminar.

Irina Nevzlin, Chair of the Board of ANU - Museum of the Jewish People, said: “A bright future for Israel and the Jewish people depends on how strong and fruitful the relationship between the diaspora and Israel will be. An internal divide is our biggest strategic threat. The only way to guarantee the resilience of this bond is through education, which strengthens our identity and connection to our roots.

“This is a winning partnership between the ambitious vision of the Koret Foundation, the academic excellence of Tel Aviv University and the resources of the ANU Museum and its Koret School for Jewish Peoplehood. It is uniquely positioned to guarantee a very solid educational foundation for generations to come.”

Dan Tadmor, CEO of ANU – Museum of the Jewish People said: “When a leading university, a world-class museum and a global educational center join forces, the possibilities are simply exhilarating. The newly established Koret Center for Jewish Civilization is sure to have a tremendous impact on the way Jewish peoplehood is engaged with globally.”

ANU will expand its Jewish peoplehood education for Israeli public-school educators and young people, supporting instruction for 50,000 Israeli teachers and leadership training for 40,000 professionals and lay leaders. It will establish a J-Hub accelerator to support 60 to 80 Jewish peoplehood projects, capitalizing on ANU visitors to test apps and initiatives developed. It will create an honors program for 240 Israeli high school students. ANU will also serve as the educational and cultural training center for initiatives such as Birthright Israel.

An inaugural ceremony for the Koret Center will take place on Sunday, May 15 during TAU’s 2022 Board of Governors Meeting, with initial activities commencing in the fall.

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About the Koret Foundation

Based in the Bay Area, the Koret Foundation is a private foundation dedicated to creating thriving, vibrant communities. Koret’s work, guided by Jewish values, is committed to elevating the quality of life for all who live in the Bay Area and supporting the vitality of the Jewish community worldwide. The foundation identifies, supports, and strengthens community leaders and key institutions to do the most good for the most people by funding educational opportunities, arts and cultural initiatives, and Jewish community projects.

Learn more: <https://koret.org>

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About Tel Aviv University

Tel Aviv University (TAU) is Israel's largest and most comprehensive institution of higher learning. The University is home to over 30,000 students, including 2,100 international students from over 100 countries. TAU is ranked a Top 100 Innovation University and is among the world's top academic institutions for excellence and innovation.

About ANU

ANU – Museum of the Jewish People connects Jewish people to their roots and strengthens their personal and collective Jewish identity. The Museum of the Jewish People conveys to the world the fascinating narrative of the Jewish people and the essence of the Jewish culture, faith, purpose and deed while presenting the contribution of world Jewry to humanity.