

Jerusalem Olympics 2048

Rival religions, warring social classes and conflicting nationalities will unite and rise together on the global stage by communally hosting the Olympics in their city, Jerusalem. By having a common, non-religious, unifying goal, all citizens of the city will be able to unite to entertain the world. All people of Jerusalem regardless of social status, economic background and ethnicity will unite around the prospect of being placed on a global stage. Justice will arise as transparency to the world will make all people of Jerusalem accountable for their actions.

This New Jerusalem of 2050 will be one of peace and resolution. The infrastructure and economic boost left in the wake of the Olympic Games will fuel a thriving group of re-energized people. The Olympic spirit of good sportsmanship, competition and unity will stay with the people of Jerusalem and provide a mindset of peace, backed by concrete infrastructure. Economic and civic improvement, both important byproducts, only exists to bolster the changing of minds of the people in the city and across the world.

In order to promote the Olympics and the spirit thereof, Jerusalem will become an international city, for this international event. Both Palestinians and Israelis will share this city as their own.

The preparation for the 2048 Olympics will respond immediately to the division of the groups of people in the city of Jerusalem. The preparation for the Olympics will manufacture modern, non-religious sites on a scale that does not yet exist in Jerusalem. The modernity of the games and preparation for them will help give the current generation a sense of pride and unity in a timely way. Their focus will be directed away from divisive history and towards a unifying future.

Solid, concrete architecture will give the people tangible landmarks. These will be points to rally around that all can enjoy. Economic incentives and civic improvements will arise organically from the physical architecture. Symbolic infrastructure, while intriguing can never have the influence of massive built areas that take time and effort to construct and occupy physical time and space. Four sites comprise the major areas of construction for the city. These four areas are the Teddy Stadium area, the Hebrew University campus on the west side of the city, the YMCA site and the Mount Scopus site. Also several civic projects will be undertaken to aid in transportation across the city and between sites.

Teddy Stadium

Existing Teddy Stadium will be vastly enlarged to account for larger crowds and larger events. There area west of the stadium will be converted into a pedestrian park that will cross over the highway to allow for better access to the existing mall. A tennis complex will be added that will encompass a smaller tennis stadium as well as improvements to the existing courts. Gymnasias as well as practice fields will be added to the site. Parking structures and mixed used buildings will make the site viable before, during, and after the Olympic Games.

Hebrew University

Hebrew University Stadium will be significantly updated and enlarged. New dormitories will be constructed, allowing for the housing of athletes during the games and increasing the potential student body for the school.

YMCA

The empty lot west of the YMCA will be converted into a state of the art natatorium for all aquatic events. After the games the building can be annexed by the YMCA to increase its capacity.

Mount Scopus

The valley below Mt. Scopus and adjacent to the Mormon University will be converted into a large community park with multiple athletic fields and complexes. These additional structures will serve as training facilities and competition venues.

Transportation

Major improvements to existing roads will be made to help alleviate transportation issues before and after the games. Jaffa Road will undergo a series of improvements to serve as a main artery for the city. Mass transportation systems including a light rail will be introduced to provide better access across the city and between Olympic sites.

The project will be implemented in a series of phases in order to achieve the desired results. The first phase of the project is projected to last until 2020 and suggests that peace negotiations take place in order to agree upon the status of Israel and to establish an identity for both the Palestinian and Israeli people. The second phase, lasting from 2020-2030, provides time for the social, political, and economic redevelopment and growth of Israel whether it remains as a single or a split state. This phase will only be able to occur once the first phase has been completed. The final phase incorporates the planning and construction of the facilities and improvements needed to host the Olympics.

Using the Olympic Games as a vehicle for economic and civic growth is not a new concept. The Games have been proven to boost the economies of cities such as Atlanta and Sydney. Having Jerusalem as the host city would put the Olympics in a city known for unrest. Jerusalem is certainly not prepared for such scrutiny. Implementing the long term plan now, will acclimatize the people and the world that Jerusalem can indeed pull together and be as viable a candidate for the Olympics as any other city, if not the ideal city because of its international status. Preparing the city for an event over 40 years in the future will give ample time to the generations to make the Games a reality.

The commitment to host the Olympics will foster the cooperation of these groups of people and will require a series of positive negotiations. The Olympic Games provides both nationalities the chance to work towards a non-religious, non-political goal which will provide a great sense of pride and unity for the country.