MMB

Research Strategy of the Bratislava City Museum

2026–2030

MÚZEUM MESTA BRATISLAVY
MUSEUM CITY BRATISLAVA

1. INTRODUCTION

The Bratislava City Museum is entering a new phase in its scholarly and public role. In recent years, the institution has undergone a gradual organisational transformation, including the establishment of a dedicated Research and Collections Division. This development has created the conditions for a systematic approach to research activity, which is becoming an integral component of the museum's mission alongside collections development, conservation, and public engagement.

To date, research activity within the museum has largely been dispersed across individual curators and departments. This has resulted in a wide range of valuable outputs, including scholarly publications, exhibitions, and important contributions to the understanding of Bratislava's history. However, these activities have not been guided by a unified framework capable of establishing a long-term trajectory for the Bratislava City Museum as a research institution. The need for a new research strategy therefore arises from several key drivers:

- to secure formal recognition of the Bratislava City Museum's capacity to undertake research and development activities;
- to align scholarly activities with the *Bratislava City Museum Development Plan 2028*;
- to establish a methodological framework that connects the city's past with the challenges of the present;
- to strengthen the museum's credibility as a research actor at municipal, national and international levels;
- to integrate the thematic strands of the *Turning Points* project (Interreg VI-A Slovakia–Austria 2021–2027) into the museum's research programme.

The Research Strategy for 2026–2030 defines the museum's framework and vision for research, sets out its strategic priorities and methodological principles, and establishes a system for the evaluation and development of research activity. The strategy is implemented through an Action Plan, which translates its strategic objectives and priorities into a series of specific research activities, timelines, and defined outputs. Progress in delivering the Action Plan is monitored and evaluated on a regular basis. Where justified, the Plan may be revised, provided that any amendments remain consistent with the Strategy's overarching direction and core objectives.

2. CONTEXT AND FOUNDATIONS

Mission and Vision of the Bratislava City Museum

According to its founding charter and the *Bratislava City Museum Development Plan 2028*, the Museum's primary mission is **to acquire, professionally manage, research, utilise and make accessible to the public its collections, and to develop a knowledge system relating to the history of the capital city of the Slovak Republic**. Looking towards 2030, the Museum's vision is to establish itself as **an open, inclusive and respected museum** that brings together scholarly research, the stewardship of cultural heritage, and active public dialogue. The establishment of a dedicated Research Department within the Research and Collections Division has created new opportunities for systematic interdisciplinary research into the contemporary city and recent history. At the same time, the Museum is developing a new acquisitions strategy and initiating research activities within the framework of the *Turning Points* project. Across its public programme, the Museum has already adopted curatorial approaches that engage with contemporary social challenges and concerns. In this context, there is a need to articulate a shared research perspective that will provide an intellectual framework for the Museum's outputs, strengthen institutional coherence, and further consolidate its role as an active and trusted partner contributing to the shaping of public discourse within the city. To this end, the Museum has strategically adopted the concept of **resilience**, which provides an effective framework through which these ambitions can be realised while advancing the Museum's mission in service of the public.

Contemporary anthropological research on cities represents a highly dynamic field that brings together classical urban anthropology with more recent developments in socio-cultural and visual studies. Research on cities, including Bratislava, increasingly focuses on historical memory and identity, ethnic diversity, urban transformation and gentrification. Particular prominence is given to multimodal approaches to urban research, understood as layered and multi-perspectival

ways of studying urbanity, as well as to participatory ethnography, transnationalism, and the field of critical heritage studies.
The Bratislava City Museum operates with a relatively small research team whose capacities are necessarily limited. For this reason, the Strategy is based on a **selective approach to research priorities**, concentrating on a limited number of key themes while making the fullest possible use of external partnerships with universities, grant-funded projects, and international collaborators.
The Museum's ambition is not only to develop and strengthen such partnerships but also, over time, to expand its own research capacity in response to evolving research needs and emerging societal and scholarly challenges.

Previous Activities and Experience

The Bratislava City Museum has a long-standing tradition of specialist research across a broad range of fields. These include archaeological investigations, from Bratislava-Rusovce and the Roman site of Ancient Gerulata to Bratislava-Devín and the Devín Castle complex, as well as other locations across the city. The Museum has also undertaken extensive historical and architectural research associated with the conservation, restoration and professional care of historic buildings within its custodianship. Equally significant has been archival research into the history of Bratislava from the medieval and early modern periods onwards, focusing in particular on the development of crafts and trades, viticulture, urban governance, emerging industry, and the city's cultural and social life. Alongside these activities, curatorial research has explored key individuals, events and themes relating to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. An important component of the Museum's research activity is the materials-based research undertaken by the Conservation Department, which contributes to the understanding, preservation and professional care of collection objects. Curatorial outputs encompass a wide range of subjects, including urban development, social structures, transport, education, civic life and related themes. The objective of the new Research Strategy is to advance both the selection and the interpretation of research topics through the application of interdisciplinary approaches and the establishment of a unifying research framework that will provide a coherent intellectual identity for the Museum's research activities. Research conducted at the Museum remains closely linked to the development of its collections. While research themes have at times reflected the particular expertise of individual staff members and institutional priorities, resulting in a degree of thematic fragmentation, a consistent and unifying focus has been the microregional context of Bratislava and its surrounding area.

Vision

Contemporary museum discourse is re-evaluating the functions of museums and opening up new ways of engaging with collections that are relevant, inclusive and responsive to the needs and interests of diverse audiences. The Bratislava City Museum is an active participant in these developments and in shaping contemporary museum practice. While the interpretation of its collections has traditionally been grounded in historical perspectives, increased attention is now being directed towards bridging this established focus with contemporary history, particularly the period since the second half of the twentieth century, which remains underrepresented within the Museum's collections. **The Museum has therefore identified identities, civic engagement and transformations as the principal thematic axes of its research programme.**

The Research Department seeks to build upon the potential of the Museum's collections through their analysis and systematic expansion, encompassing not only the acquisition of tangible artefacts but also the documentation of intangible heritage rooted in collective memory. By embracing new research themes and participatory approaches, it aims to generate knowledge and interpretation that reflect current debates within museum practice and heritage scholarship. The interdisciplinary approach adopted by the Museum extends beyond the historical study of objects within the context of their original production and use. It also incorporates reflexive historical research that examines the ways in which these objects have subsequently been represented, interpreted and remembered. Both dimensions are situated within the wider social context of the periods under investigation and the specific context of the historical actors involved.

Key historical events are understood as reference points through which contemporary issues can be examined within their broader historical trajectories. From an anthropological perspective, the Museum investigates the interplay of social, economic, political, ethnic and cultural factors within a specific urban environment. Through case studies focused on everyday life and lived social realities, research will explore the ways in which resilience is created, sustained and transmitted in Bratislava and its wider region, whether in historical, ethnocultural, community, urban, environmental or institutional forms.

Alongside the principal research themes of identity, civic engagement and transformation, an equally important question concerns how contemporary issues can be communicated effectively to diverse audiences in a digital age characterised by unprecedented access to information. The digitisation of museum collections, participatory and inclusive approaches, the sharing of interim research findings, and a commitment to ethical practice form an integral part of the Museum's strategy. Together, these principles provide a framework for exploring these themes in greater depth and for establishing a robust and transferable methodological approach to future research.

Challenges and Needs

- **A strategic approach to research themes:** it will reduce thematic fragmentation and strengthen the Bratislava City Museum's institutional profile and public relevance.

- **Documenting the Present:** the need to document the historical dynamics of change within Bratislava and its wider microregion through the lens of shifting social, cultural, economic, political, geographical and climatic conditions, with the focus on the evolving urban infrastructure and architectural fabric of the city (planning and development processes) and its ethnic composition.

- **Acquisitions Strategy:** it should build upon the strengths of the existing collection while supporting its continued growth in alignment with the Research Strategy. Emphasis will be placed on continuity, strategic collecting, and the systematic identification and addressing of gaps in the representation of the Bratislava microregion.

- **Collaboration:** the Museum seeks to establish more firmly embedded partnerships with universities and research institutions in order to expand its research capacity. The Research Department will build upon existing research initiatives focused on the urban environment of Bratislava and contribute to their further development, interpretation and dissemination.

Expectations of the Strategy

The new Research Strategy is intended to provide:

- **a unifying methodological framework based on the concept of resilience,** interdisciplinary and collaborative approach that enables connections to be made across different areas of social science research;

- **a set of thematic research strands** aligned with the areas defined within the *Turning Points* project: identities, civic engagement and transformations;

- **a strategic mandate for the development of a new permanent exhibition;**

- **alignment with the Acquisitions Strategy,** enabling research activities and collecting practices to inform and reinforce one another;

- **the continuation of archaeological research,** particularly at the sites of Bratislava-Rusovce, Ancient Gerulata, Bratislava-Devín and the Devín Castle complex;

- **an evaluation mechanism** comprising indicators, and periodic review processes to ensure the sustainability of research outcomes;

- **outputs** (plan for presentation of both interim and comprehensive results) delivered through scholarly articles, publications, conferences (both organised by and attended by Museum staff), and exhibition projects

3. METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK: RESILIENCE

Why Resilience

The Bratislava City Museum requires a shared methodological framework capable of informing its research, exhibitions and public programmes. The concept of **resilience** offers a robust analytical lens through which processes of social change and transformation can be understood and interpreted.

Over recent decades, resilience has become an established concept across a wide range of disciplines, from ecology and psychology to history, cultural studies and beyond. The ways in which societies adapt to their environments and respond to adversity have long been a central concern of cultural and social anthropology. Theories of social adaptation may therefore be regarded as important precursors to contemporary understandings of resilience, while adaptation itself is now widely recognised as one of resilience's defining characteristics.

The concept of resilience enables the Museum to interpret the history of Bratislava not only through narratives of trauma and victimhood, but also through the strategies of action, survival, adaptation and transformation.

For the Museum, this approach creates opportunities to:

- interpret challenging periods of history, including war, authoritarian regimes and migration, without resorting to reductive narratives of victimhood or uncritical heroisation;

- to engage critically with contemporary societal challenges, such as the environmental crisis, increasing social polarisation and declining trust in institutions;

- strengthen public discourse within the city by foregrounding individual and local histories, civic engagement and community-based strategies of survival;

- position the Museum as a contributor to democratic resilience, capable of providing historical context, fostering empathy and encouraging critical reflection.

Content of Future Research Activities

Research informed by the concept of resilience will focus on the following thematic areas:

- **historical resilience** – research will examine how people have responded, and continue to respond, to totalitarianism, discrimination, social exclusion, war, migration, poverty, and environmental challenges. The Museum will look beyond historical narratives of the twentieth century, including resistance during fascism, everyday life under repressive regimes, and dissident movements, to identify and document contemporary stories of courage, solidarity and civic action, including the examples emerging from marginalised communities, local activism, minority movements, and individuals confronting the challenges of the present day;

- **cultural resilience** – this area of research explores the capacity of communities and individuals to preserve and transmit cultural identity, language, customs and artistic practices in times of threat, disruption or forgetting. The Museum will investigate how traditional and alternative cultural practices have been shaped by political, economic and urban transformations, the symbolic roles played by objects, everyday artefacts, practices of remembrance and rituals, and how such expressions continue to be reinterpreted and revitalised through community initiatives, cultural activism, the recovery of ancestral memory, sustainable craft traditions and queer cultural practices;

- **community and urban resilience** – as a living and evolving city, Bratislava experiences ongoing changes that shape everyday life, from political and economic transitions to climate-related challenges and processes of gentrification. Research will examine how urban neighbourhoods and their inhabitants have responded to loss, displacement, deindustrialisation and neglect, and how various forms of solidarity, neighbourhood networks and resistance have emerged. Particular attention will be given to the formation of collective memory, the preservation of local attachments to place and home, changing perceptions of what is considered worthy of preservation, and the ways in which contemporary urban communities respond to displacement, environmental risks and the erosion of public space;

- **institutional and environmental resilience** – the Bratislava City Museum seeks to reflect critically on its own capacity to respond to

changing climatic, political and technological conditions. This strand of research will explore how the Museum has navigated different historical regimes, transformed its institutional identity, and reconsidered its collections and interpretations of history over time. It will also examine how principles of sustainability, openness and inclusion can be embedded in research, exhibitions and educational programmes, and how the Museum can contribute actively to the development of a resilient city by serving as a partner in critical inquiry and democratic dialogue.

From a methodological perspective, resilience will be understood as a dynamic process manifested in both individual and collective responses to change, crisis and disruption. It is conceived not only as a driving force but also as the outcome of collective memory, lived experience, and the social, cultural and material practices through which individuals and communities sustain continuity, restore stability and create meaning.

The principal focus of research will be the socio-cultural dimensions of resilience, particularly the ability of individuals, communities and society as a whole to respond to historical, social, economic, political, environmental and climatic change.

The Museum regards diversity as one of the fundamental conditions of resilience, encompassing social, cultural, generational, gender, professional, ideological and experiential perspectives.

Within this framework, human beings are understood as cultural and social actors who are not merely passive recipients of historical circumstances but active creators of meanings, relationships, survival strategies and forms of everyday adaptation.

Through the lens of resilience, research will focus on significant milestones and turning points associated with Bratislava and its wider microregion, examining how these developments have shaped the lives of individuals, communities and the urban environment over time.

The research programme will be grounded in mixed-methods research, combining in-depth and long-term qualitative inquiry with available quantitative data, including demographic statistics, as well as methods drawn from visual anthropology, such as photography and film. Historical research will form an integral part of this approach and will involve systematic engagement with primary sources and scholarly literature, including archival research in national, municipal and institutional archives, the study of collections held by memory institutions, historical newspapers and other contemporary sources. These materials will be critically analysed and interpreted within their wider social and historical contexts.

The Museum will also seek to employ multimodal urban research methods, integrating audiovisual documentation with mapping techniques, digital platforms and participatory approaches that actively involve city residents in the research process. As each research topic requires specific methodological tools, detailed methodologies will be developed individually within dedicated research proposals and project frameworks.

The research team is committed to adhering to recognised standards of research ethics in the handling of sensitive information, including the principles set out in *The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity*, the protection of anonymity where appropriate, and compliance with GDPR requirements.

Resilience in the Practice of the Bratislava City Museum

- **In research** – resilience provides a framework for in-depth interdisciplinary, and increasingly multidisciplinary or transdisciplinary, research. It supports the use of methodologies tailored to specific research questions, drawing on mixed qualitative and quantitative methods, archival research, collections-based research, and other appropriate approaches. A specific research question may also call for disciplinary, multidisciplinary or transdisciplinary approaches. The latter may be particularly relevant to participatory research involving local communities and other non-academic actors in the co-production of knowledge.

- **In collections development** – research findings will inform the development of the Museum's collections, guiding the acquisition and documentation of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage that bears witness to strategies of survival, solidarity, adaptation and transformation.

- **In curatorial practice** – resilience encourages a nuanced approach to historical narratives. Rather than relying on simplified binaries of victim and perpetrator, curatorial interpretation will foreground the agency of individuals and communities who actively shaped solutions and visions.

- **In exhibitions and programmes** – the concept of resilience provides a basis for creating spaces that encourage empathy and reflection while avoiding both the traumatisation and uncritical heroization.

Benefits for the Bratislava City Museum and the City

- The concept of resilience will provide the Bratislava City Museum with a distinctive **research identity**, which will be recognisable in the exhibitions and public programmes.

- It will strengthen the Museum's role as **a civic institution and urban actor**, one that brings historical perspective and social context to contemporary challenges. The framework will foster closer connections between research, exhibitions and audiences, ensuring that the Museum operates not in isolation but in active dialogue with the people and communities of Bratislava.

4. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES TO 2030

PRIORITY 1. THE BRATISLAVA CITY MUSEUM AS A RESEARCH AND INTERPRETIVE INSTITUTION

Aim

To strengthen the Museum's identity as an institution that systematically generates new knowledge about the history of Bratislava through rigorous scholarly research and translation of research findings into the interpretation of its collections, exhibitions and public programmes.

How this will be achieved

- Embedding the concept of **resilience** as a shared methodological framework for research, collections development and public presentation.

- Maintaining continuity in scholarly research and stewardship of archaeological sites and other heritage assets in the Museum's care.

- Concentrating selectively on three principal research themes – identities, civic engagement and transformations – that provide intellectual coherence across the Museum's research activities.

- Strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration by establishing mechanisms for the regular dissemination and exchange of research findings, both interim and completed, in partnership with departments responsible for communications, public programming, museum documentation etc.

PRIORITY 2. A NEW PERMANENT EXHIBITION ON THE HISTORY OF THE CITY

Aim

To develop and deliver a new permanent exhibition that offers a critical and inclusive interpretation of Bratislava's history, including

the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Grounded in historical and anthropological research, the exhibition will reflect the Museum's core themes of identities, civic engagement and transformations, while employing the concept of resilience as its overarching interpretive framework.

How this will be achieved

- Developing **a robust research base on the identities of Bratislava**, examining changes in the city's population, the evolution of urban identities, and the ways in which residents experienced and responded to periods of crisis through focused case studies.
- Undertaking audience research to better understand visitors' expectations, interests and needs.
- Preparing the exhibition concept and script, defining the exhibition´s key messages.
- Launching an architectural design competition and developing a detailed implementation plan for the exhibition.

The curatorial approach will emphasise the moment of catharsis. Visitors should leave with an experience that is both emotionally resonant and intellectually stimulating.

PRIORITY 3. AN OPEN AND INCLUSIVE BRATISLAVA CITY MUSEUM

Aim

To develop the Museum as an active civic institution that works collaboratively with communities, documents contemporary life, and promotes multi-vocal interpretations of the past.

How this will be achieved

- **Undertaking historical and anthropological case studies**, for example focused on a single building, street or neighbourhood.
- Employing oral history, participatory research and visual documentation methodologies.
- Strengthening engagement with underrepresented and marginalised communities, including Roma communities, migrants, LGBTQ+ people, people with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness.
- Promoting greater transparency and democratisation of the collection.

- **Examples of Implementation**
- Improving the accessibility of the Museum through the removal of physical barriers and the adoption of inclusive language.
- Collaborating with communities on the development of small-scale exhibitions and digital interventions (participatory ethnography).
- Developing travelling exhibitions in public spaces that explore the sounds, routes, and stories of particular neighbourhoods through multimodal research methods.
- Undertaking participatory research on subcultures, for example through documentary film projects.

PRIORITY 4. RESPONSIBLE COLLECTIONS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Aim

To manage and develop the Museum's collections in a manner that is professionally rigorous, sustainable, and closely aligned with the institution's research priorities.

How this will be achieved

- Continuing the systematic digitisation of the collections and developing accessible databases.
- Advancing preventive conservation and environmentally sustainable practices within the Museum's storage facilities.
- Ensuring that new acquisitions reflect the Museum's research priorities and contribute to the interpretation of resilience.
- Evaluating collections through the lens of institutional resilience, examining how their meanings, interpretation and uses have evolved over time.

Examples of Implementation

- Digitising collections relating to the history of the twentieth century and making them accessible through online platforms.
- Collecting objects and documentary materials associated with civic engagement since 1989.
- Implementing environmentally sustainable collections storage practices, including measures to reduce energy consumption and optimise climate-control systems.

- Documenting intangible cultural heritage (including collective memory) and tangible cultural heritage through audiovisual recordings to improve accessibility for underrepresented groups.

5. GOVERNANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION

Organisational Framework

The Research Strategy of the Bratislava City Museum will be implemented within the **Research and Collections Division**. Its successful delivery will be a shared institutional responsibility involving the following units and partners:

- **Research Department** – coordination, development of research methodologies, the delivery of major research projects, and collaboration with partners.
- **Collections Department** – responsible for specialist research relating to individual collections, as well as the implementation of focused research projects and subject-specific scholarly activities.
- **Bratislava City Museum Library** – providing support for research, access to research resources, and the systematic compilation of bibliographies.
- **Documentation Department**
- **Digitalisation and Digital Services Department**
- **External Specialists** – historians, cultural anthropologists, ethnologists, archivists, archaeologists, heritage professionals, specialists from the natural and technical sciences, conservators, and other experts engaged through research projects, and grant-funded initiatives.

Scientific Advisory Board of the Bratislava City Museum

Establishing a **Scientific Advisory Board** as an advisory body that will:

- ensure the methodological quality;
- evaluate the implementation of the Research Strategy and its associated Action Plans;
- assess the alignment of new initiatives with the strategic priorities;
- strengthen connections between the Bratislava City Museum and external academic and research partners.

The Scientific Advisory Board will meet at least twice a year, with one meeting dedicated specifically to the interim evaluation of research activities.

Collaboration and Partnerships

- **Institutional Level:** collaboration across departments and organisational units within the Bratislava City Museum.

- **Professional and Academic Level:** partnerships with universities, including Comenius University, the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, and the Slovak University of Technology, as well as the Slovak Academy of Sciences, specialist committees of the Association of Museums in Slovakia, the Nation's Memory Institute, civic associations, and networks of state and specialised archives, museums and galleries.

- **Municipal Level:** cooperation with city institutions, including the Bratislava City Hall, the Bratislava City Gallery, the Bratislava City Archive, the Bratislava Metropolitan Institute, the Bratislava Cultural and Information Centre, the Bratislava Municipal Heritage Institute, and the Bratislava City Library.

- **International Level:** partnerships established through the *Turning Points* project, cooperation with other city museums across Europe, including those in Vienna, Prague, Brno, Kraków and Warsaw, as well as with international professional networks such as ICOM and CAMOC.

- **Community Level:** collaboration with local communities, schools and non-profit organisations.

Implementation Mechanism

- **Annual Work Plans** developed in line with the Strategy, which will provide detailed frameworks for the delivery of individual research activities.

- **Biannual Reports** presented to the Museum's leadership and the The Scientific Advisory Board.

- **Biennial Reviews** – reviewing objectives and, where appropriate, supplementing or adjusting priorities in line with available capacities and societal developments.

Link to the Acquisitions Strategy

- Research priorities will serve as one of the key considerations in assessing collections acquisition decisions.

- New objects or entire collections will be acquired primarily where they strengthen the Museum's core research themes (identities, civic engagement and transformations).

- Close collaboration between curators and researchers in the selection, acquisition and development of the collections.

Risk Management and Sustainability

- **Staffing Risk:** the research team is currently small → mitigated through the strengthening of external capacity and partnerships. In the short term, an increase in internal research capacity is also envisaged, which should contribute to reducing this risk.

- **Financial Risk:** dependence on project-based funding → addressed through the diversification of grant funding sources and participation in international funding calls.

- **Institutional Resilience:** the Strategy itself acknowledges the need to adapt to changing conditions (political, societal and environmental).

6. EXPECTED IMPACT

Impact on Research and Scholarly Knowledge

- New insights into the history of Bratislava in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.
- The generation and dissemination of new knowledge on ongoing areas of research relating to earlier periods of Bratislava's history, presented through engaging formats and in collaboration with the Collections Department.
- Strengthening interdisciplinary approaches.
- The application of interdisciplinary research methods, verification of the current state of knowledge, and the generation of new insights concerning selected periods associated with the Ancient Gerulata site and Devín Castle.
- Stability and sustainability in interdisciplinary archaeological and heritage research through the continuous implementation of scholarly and research activities related to the care of the national cultural monument of Devín Castle and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ancient Gerulata.
- Publications and outputs that contribute both to scholarly discourse and to wider public understanding.
- Building the reputation of the Bratislava City Museum as a respected research institution at national and international levels.

Impact on Society and the City

- Greater accessibility of knowledge about the history of Bratislava for its residents and visitors.
- Support for **critical thinking and democratic values** through the presentation of historical examples of resistance, solidarity and civic courage.
- Strengthening the city's identity through multi-vocal and inclusive historical narratives.
- Creating opportunities for communities to co-create research and the presentation of the city's history.

Impact on the Bratislava City Museum as an Institution

- Strengthening the Museum's credibility and standing in relation to the city and its partners.
- Supporting the development of the Bratislava City Museum's profile as a community museum.
- Establishing a unifying framework that provides the Museum with a clear **research identity**.
- Preparing and delivering a new permanent exhibition on the history of Bratislava.
- Delivering a programme of exhibitions, publications and professional events (conferences, lectures and discussions).
- Strengthening links between research, collections development and outputs.
- More effective planning and evaluation of the Museum's activities.

7. CONCLUSION

The Bratislava City Museum Research Strategy 2026–2030 represents the first comprehensive framework enabling the Museum to position itself as both a **research institution and a civic institution**. It builds on the *Bratislava City Museum Development Plan 2028* and aligns with the thematic strands of the *Turning Points* project, while extending beyond its timeframe and providing a vision through to 2030.

The key methodological framework is the concept of **resilience**, which makes it possible to interpret the history of Bratislava through the lens not only of crises, but also of responses and adaptation. This framework brings together three thematic strands – identities, civic engagement and transformations – and provides a solid foundation for research, collections development and the presentation of collections, with the aim of deepening understanding of the city's historical layers, everyday life, processes of modernisation and cultural diversity.

Strategic Priorities to 2030:

1. The Bratislava City Museum as a research and interpretive institution;
2. The development of a new permanent exhibition on the history of the city;
3. An open and inclusive museum in dialogue with communities;
4. The integration of research and collections development activities.

The success of the Strategy will depend on effective implementation, collaboration with partners, and continuous evaluation. The Action Plan 2026–2030 will translate these priorities into specific actions, timelines and indicators.

This document seeks to strengthen the position of the Bratislava City Museum as a museum that understands the city's history not solely as the past, but as a dynamic source of knowledge and reflection through which it actively contributes to public dialogue and applies historical perspectives to the search for solutions to contemporary societal challenges.

RESEARCH STRATEGY OF THE BRATISLAVA CITY MUSEUM 2026–2030

Prepared by:
Ľubica Kollárová
Jana Jablonická Zezulová

Graphic design:
Simona Hojsíková

Typeface:
Suisse Int'l

The Bratislava City Museum is an institution founded by the Capital City of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava.

MÚZEUM MESTA BRATISLAVY
CITY MUSEUM BRATISLAVA