

Yiannis Stournaras, Governor of the Bank of Greece: address made at the opening of the "Museum of Excavation" at the Acropolis Museum Tuesday, 25 June 2024

It is with pride and joy that we inaugurate today this "Museum Excavation".

The Bank of Greece as the exclusive sponsor of the display cases that house the mobile excavation findings that were revealed during the construction of the new Museum Acropolis and during the construction of the metro station "Acropolis".

As you all can now see, the findings include parts of vases, goblets, figurines, hydria, inscriptions, coins and other objects of people's daily life, those who lived through time in that era.

The Bank of Greece has helped to ensure the visual for the audience connection of the ruins of the archaeological site with such everyday objects, which span so many historical periods, to be preserved.

For the record, let me mention that the exclusive sponsorship request submitted to the Bank just two years ago on 22 August 2022, by the Director of the Acropolis Museum, Professor Nikos Stampolidis. According to a relevant museological study, a total of 1,290 objects were selected, which were included in two large chronological sections: 'Before joining the city' (3000 BC – 480 BC) and 'From Life in the City' (480 BC – 1200 AD), and several natural subsections, which track the most important changes in character and physiognomy of the area.

The space that hosts the exhibition was developed at the southern end of the excavation, within the outline of the Museum building, in order to be part of the visitor's journey through its space. It is an oblong space with a surface area of about 210 square meters, with a total wall development of approximately 55 meters, in which the special showcases were placed and constructed. We are really proud that the Bank of Greece, which in the past has helped to highlight elements of Greek culture were able to help.

We gather now to complete this permanent exhibition of the Acropolis Museum, giving the public a space that highlights and interprets the historical past in a comprehensible and didactic way. Thank you very much to everyone gathered here this evening.