

The Kytherian Migration Monument at Agia Pelagia

Kythera has an extraordinary history of emigration. Kythera's sons and daughters have emigrated to all corners of the world for centuries. Agia Pelagia was the embarkation point for their journey to a new future in Australia, the United States, Alexandria and Smyrna. Many farewelled their parents, friends and families for the last time and never returned to their homeland again.

Their decedents in Australia and the United States in particular, have forged successful communities with strong linkages back to Kythera. They wish to honour their predecessors with a piece of art that will both educate the viewer but also cause the descendants to reflect on their families' intergenerational journey. In collaboration with the Municipality of Kythera, the Kytherian Associations/Brotherhoods/Societies of Australia and the United States of America have commenced an initiative to erect a Monument that will pay tribute to the Kytherians that emigrated to all the corners of the world.

The monument is envisaged to be a focal point for visitors to the island, particularly decedents of those that emigrated where they can visit the monument find the name of their predecessor and look out towards the wharf where they left Kythera. Visitors will then be able to visit the proposed new Immigration Museum that, if it progresses, will be built approximately 100m from the monument.

We envisage the monument will feature in photographs, articles, visitor guides, websites around the world and will be a landmark for Kythera.

The monument will reflect -

- the journey Kytherian emigrants made to build a better future in foreign lands
- the sacrifices they made for their families
- the support they and their decedents continue to provide the island
- a focal point for their decedents to visit
- an important site where local Kytherians, other Greeks and foreign visitors can learn about this important part of the island's history

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How can I add my family names to the Statue/Monument?

Everyone from around the world will have the opportunity to incorporate their family names onto the statue/monument.

As part of the fund raising effort, Kytherians from around the world are invited to include the names of their predecessors who emigrated abroad on the statue/monument. The following information will be included –

- The name of the individual
- Their family paratsoukli (nick name)
- The year they left Kythera

Each name will cost \$100 Australian Dollars.

All names will need to be submitted online at the following website - www.trybooking.com/BQPFA

2. How will the name be presented?

Name (Paratsoukli) YEAR

[subject to change]

3. What happens if I don't have the paratsoukli or year of departure?

That's OK. The paratsoukli and year are not mandatory. Only the family name will be incorporated.

4. In what language should I submit the names?

In either Greek or English

5. How many names can I include for the A\$100?

One name per A\$100. If you would like to include two names, eg husband and wife, that will require 2 entries of A\$100 each –ie a total of A\$200

Each name will be separate

You will have the opportunity to leave a perpetual mark on this historic monument with the names of your predecessors that left the island

6. Where will the names be displayed?

The competition to select the winning design and artist is not yet finalised. The winning design and how the names will be displayed will be announced once decided.

7. Can I add a name after the close date?

At this stage, the closing date is yet to be decided. You can continue to add names at this stage.

8. Can I make a financial contribution to the project beyond just submitting names?

Yes. We welcome benefactors. Naturally, all benefactors will be acknowledged appropriately. Please contact us if you would like to make a financial contribution

9. Who is managing the funds collected?

The Kytherian Association of Australia, a registered and regulated charity in Australia, will be collecting and managing all the funds and payments.

10. What will happen with the funds if the project does not go ahead?

We are very confident that the project will go ahead as planned. In the unlikely event that the project does not proceed for any reason, the Kytherian Association of Australia will refund all monies received supporting the project

11. Is this project part of the Immigration Museum of Kythera?

No. This is a project organised by the diaspora Kytherians through their Associations in Australia and the United States.

We hope however to collaborate with the proposed Immigration Museum of Kythera when it is formally established and share the project information collected for their archives.

12. Who is involved in the Steering Committee?

Professor Angelos Antonopoulos - Dean Athens School of Fine Arts,

Phil Samios – President Kytherian Brotherhood of Canberra,

Peter Coroneo – President Kytherian Association of Queensland,

Vikki Fraioli – President Kytherian Society of Canberra and

Barbara Zantiotis – representative of Kytherian Association of Australia.

For more information please contact the KAA office at admin@kytherianassociation.com.au

Visuals



