Attachment 6: A glimpse into the future  
1. Regional Recognition   
This year, the Red Star Line Museum submitted a request to the Flemish Government for regional recognition. In anticipation of the definitive decision by the Minister, the museum received a positive counsel:

*The evaluation committee advises the Red Star Line Museum to organise at the regional level. (...). The Red Star Line museum manages a collection of cultural heritage with regional significance. From a historical collection around migration, the museum carries the concept over to the story of migration in today's world. By a participatory activity, both on the level of collecting as well as public works, and the many collaborations with the societal organisations, the Red Star Line museum is deeply embedded within the society and it enhances the social relevancy of the museum. (...) At the level of research, the museum engages in many and diverse partnerships, and herein lies great potential for growth. Presenting and guiding in a public-friendly manner is something the museum emphasises greatly. To this end, the museum delivers good work. (...) The museum also presents itself as a strong contender with participation, the activity with people with an immigrant background, traditional and less accessible target group for museums is praiseworthy. Herein it is an example for the sector.*

3. Future activities

**3.1 The essence of the museum**

*The Red Star Line Museum allows for on the* ***authentic spot*** *of the historic shipping company* ***a universal,*** *connecting story about hope, dreams and pursuit of happiness to come to life by way of personal* ***stories*** *by the emigrants who departed for America with the Red Star Line shipping company at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries.*

Departing from the historic story about the European emigration via Antwerp to America, the museums seeks to stimulate a dialogue about migration from before, now and in the future.

The museum offers an exceptional experience for the visitor because it can fulfil its role upon the **authentic location**: the place where two million emigrants embarked upon a search of a better life. The building itself is like a 'lieu de mémoire' as the point of departure of the collection.

The stories of the passengers that passed through there form the other important cornerstone of the museum: the collection consists of **personal migration heritage,**, in other words, stories of migrants from then and now. In the Red Star Line Museum, it is not 'the story behind the object', but often 'the object behind the story' which counts.

The Red Star Line Museum will further expand this collection with personal, contemporary (threatened) migration heritage. The ambition is to be able to preserve a heritage collection about the individual experience of the migration process both past and present that is unique in Flanders.

* 1. ***Our public & heritage communities***

Participation and diversity constitute an inherent part of the DNA of the museum and shall also be the common thread that runs throughout the museum's activity.

Participation is central to the manner of working. For the Red Star Line Museum, the visitors and heritage communities are no mere spectators, but rather 'participants' with the expansion of the collection of stories and the realisation of exhibitions, heritage products and public activities. For the opening of the museum, a series of participative collection projects were initiated and today as well the museum is implementing projects whereby we are going for comprehensive partnerships & collaborations with the communities with respect to levels of collecting, registering and revealing.

In order to expand the collection on emigrants with contemporary life stories, the museum is working with fieldworkers amongst others. After a fundamental training, they are collecting recent stories within and without the walls of the museum of people with migrant pasts. The stories are added to the collections of the museum and shall be the basis of a number of small and large productions, exhibitions and activities that will be organised between 2019 and 2021 in collaboration with external partners.

From the universal theme of 'migration' and the add-on of 'personal stories' the museum also finds a connection with a diverse public, amongst which are people with a migration background. The museum is engaged in establishing easy accessibility and building bridges towards difficult-to-reach target groups. From the very start of the museum, this has been striven for by entering into collaborations with partners and by implementing accessibility and easy implementation. In the coming years we are planing various initiatives that on the one hand are actively seeking contact within and without the museum walls with a diverse public, and on the other hand initiatives that remove barriers towards participating in the museum community.

The Red Star Line Museum wants to be an open & hospitable home, a meeting place for everyone that can recognise himself in its universal story. The museum also is taking action in order to be a place for practising Dutch for newcomers in our city.

* 1. **First major exhibition in the renovated Shed: Carl De Keyzer exhibition**

From 31 October 2018 until Sunday 27 January 2019, the renovated Shed (‘De Loods’) is showing the exhibition 'Higher Ground' by the Belgian photographer Carl De Keyzer to view.

Where he focused upon the threat of climate change and the rising of the sea levels in his project 'Moments before the Flood' from 2012, he takes this a bit further in 'Higher Ground'. De Keyzer portrays the daily life of people who, driven away by the rising waters, seek their refuge in the mountains. The beauty of his images stands in stark contrast to the underlying story of these new refugees.

Carl De Keyzer was born in Kortrijk and since 1994 is a member of the internationally known photography agency MAGNUM. He has already won many prizes and shows his work regularly in exhibitions within and beyond Belgium. Renowned museums such as the J. Paul Getty Museum (USA), the Victoria and Albert Museum (UK), la Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris and the ICP in New York have works by Carl De Keyzer in their collections.

A guided tour for schools combines the themes of 'migration' and 'climate'. Students discover the concept of 'climate refugee', ponder over the future of our planet and discover that migration is of all times. In combination with the tour, the museum offers a workshop as well.

* 1. **Offering of Activities**

The offering linked to the permanent display is expanded. In a new family game, families follow the authentic story of Bessie Cohen, a young girl of nine who travels to America with her family. Various suitcases are in the museum with tasks and fun facts about the Red Star Line. As the game is afoot, one follows Bessie for destination New York. This game is also offered for English and French-speaking visitors.

The museum begins the new school year with three brand-new guided tours for schools, also for the younger students.

* During 'Little ones at the helm, full speed ahead' (‘Kleuters aan het roer, recht door zee!’) young children discover various stopping points with a guide, listening to exciting stories they gaze at boats from on the deck or they draw what they would put into their luggage.
* 'Mail from afar' (‘Post van ver’) is a renewed interactive guided tour for the elementary schools.
* Linked to the temporary exhibition 'Higher Ground', there is the interactive, guided tour or workshop 'Fleeing from the climate' (‘Vluchten voor het klimaat’) (for 3rd grade lower schools and secondary schools).

The museum is also organising something extra for big and small every Sunday of the month. Families are at the centre also during the school vacations. All information at: [www.redstarline.be](http://www.redstarline.be)

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