

Towards a new home for the
Palermo Waldorf School

PROJECT VILLA DELLE ROSE



LIBERA
SCUOLA
WALDORF
PALERMO

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PROJECT VILLA DELLE ROSE

TOWARDS A NEW HOME FOR THE PALERMO WALDORF SCHOOL





Il refettorio

CONTENT

Project Villa delle Rose

In 2027, the Libera Scuola Waldorf di Palermo will have a new physical body: **Villa delle Rose**, a former convent in Corso Calatafimi 833. Corso Calatafimi is an important street that is the direct continuation of Corso Vittorio Emanuele, one of the two main thoroughfares that run through Palermo's ancient historic city center.

The Libera Scuola Waldorf di Palermo is a living organism at whose heart is the growing child. The first seeds for the school were planted when it was founded in 1986. Since then, the school has been in continuous evolution. Today, the school has four kindergarten classes, a small creche and the complete elementary and middle school cycle from 1 to 8.

page 6

Project Villa delle Rose

The whole school community strongly wishes for the project "Villa delle Rose". The school needs a stable and bigger home, a home that has the capacity to hold the activities of the classes, a theater, workshop spaces, the teacher training, the many social events and so that we might be able to found our high school.

page 8

Business plan and initiatives

To make our project become reality we have put in place various fundraising initiatives and a capital campaign. Moreover, the members of the association that carries our school have unanimously approved the business plan with its several phases.

page 10



The fountain in the cloister

THE FREE WALDORF SCHOOL OF PALERMO

An evolving story

The Libera Scuola Waldorf di Palermo is member of the Federation of Steiner-Waldorf schools in Italy, belongs to the ECSWE (European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education) and to the network of parents of the Steiner-Waldorf movement in Italy.



The first graduating 8th grade of the Libera Scuola Waldorf di Palermo, 1999



First grade 1996



Eight grade in 2006

The Steiner-Waldorf movement began with the founding of the first Waldorf School in Stuttgart, Germany in 1919. The businessman Emil Molt, owner of the the Waldorf-Astoria cigarette factory, wanted to create a new kind of school for the children of his workers. He turned to Rudolf Steiner who had already begun speaking about a renewal of education. Rudolf Steiner accepted the task and began to organize the entire school, beginning with a triple cycle of lectures dedicated to introducing this new approach to education and to preparing the teachers. From this first Waldorf School sprang forth the worldwide movement for renewal in education that our school also belongs to.

The Libera Scuola Waldorf di Palermo

In 1986, a group of parents formed an association with the intent to open a Waldorf kindergarten and bring Waldorf education to Palermo. The kindergarten was opened in 1987 and, ten years later, the school began carrying the name "Libera Scuola Waldorf". In 2022, a new initiative of the school was opened in a different part of the city: A creche that welcomes the littlest children, thus

answering a growing need for childcare for infants. Since its founding, the Libera Scuola Waldorf di Palermo has been welcoming students regardless of their nationality, religion or social condition.

An evolving story

Today, the Libera Scuola Waldorf di Palermo has two kindergarten groups dedicated to the 3-4 year-olds, two kindergarten groups for older children (4 to 6), the elementary and middle school classes and the creche *Il Giardinetto*. ('Little Garden'). The creche, kindergartens, and elementary school classes are recognized by the state, while the middle school classes are administered as "home schooling" classes. During the school year, the school offers an afternoon music school program with individual lessons, theater and circus workshops. Other extra-curricular afternoon projects have been made possible

through national and European grants. In the summer, at the end of the school year, the school organizes a summer camp open to the children of the school and of the territory. In 2023, the school association (Associazione Libera Scuola Waldorf) was recognized as Ente del Terzo Settore (Third Sector Entity). At the time of printing this brochure, 180 children are enrolled.

School Life

Our school is visited not only by the students during the first part of the day, but also by parents, members, by alumni and friends. It opens its doors to the city with festive events, cultural and social initiatives. The cultural calendar includes meetings, lectures, courses and workshops for children, youth and adults and artistic events. Moreover, the school is home to the Teacher Training Course for Steiner-Waldorf Teachers. In other words, our school is always teeming with life!



Kitchen Crew at the Spring Fair 2023

Our objective: to elaborate a pedagogy that teaches to learn, to learn throughout life from life itself.

Rudolf Steiner

By taking the changing needs that arise out of the physical and emotional phases of the growing child into consideration, Rudolf Steiner's educational approach strives to support the harmonious development of the three soul forces thinking, feeling, and willing.



First grade 2022



Eight Grade 2023

The Three Seven-Year Phases

During the first seven years, the years that belong to the home and to the Kindergarten, the emphasis is placed on the development of the will. Through doing and play, children learn above all what is worthy of imitation. During the second seven years (from class one to eight), the feeling life is nourished under the loving guidance of the teacher, who imbues his teaching with artistic and imaginative elements. During the third seven-year period, the high school years, special attention is placed on the developing faculty of thinking, since at this age adolescents are developing the ability to form independent judgments.

The Kindergarten

Rudolf Steiner's educational approach is grounded in a profound study of the physical and emotional growth of the

child. Children should be allowed to fully experience their childhood throughout every phase of their growth.

During the first seven years of his life, the child is completely sense organ: the small child is open to everything that takes place around it, everything leaves an impression. Our kindergartens offer a place where the little child can grow in a harmonious way, according to its individual development.

The School Curriculum

The teaching of the basic disciplines such as math, reading, writing, geography, history and science takes place in blocks during the so-called "main lesson". Moreover, every subject is brought in such a way that practical, emotional and cognitive aspects may be developed. After the main lesson, during the second part of the school day, the subject lessons take place: English,

German, handwork, eurythmy, music and orchestra, woodwork, gardening, and movement education.

The Social Form

The school is carried by an Association that brings together parents, teachers, staff, and friends of Waldorf/Steiner education in a community experience that is both educational and social.

The association's decisions are elaborated in collaboration and mutual trust by its members. The members share the educational ideals and support the teachers with their trust, weaving the fabric of the social life and participating in the school life which is formed by the following organs: The College of Teachers, the Board of Directors, the Parents. The organs of the school operate inspired by the principles of the three-fold social order suggested by Rudolf Steiner.



Autumn Outing 2022, Kindergarten Circle

PROJECT VILLA DELLE ROSE

A new physical body for our school

Many times the teachers ask the children to sit really close together, no, no, *closer still like biscuits in the oven...* The school's current home in Via Parlatore, which we love so much and which has hosted us for many years, can no longer contain the life of the school and the needs that have arisen around it. For the movement education classes, for example, we go to the park or to the gym of a nearby school; to do woodwork, the students use a garage, while handwork is done in the classrooms, bringing everything needed to each lesson. For the gardening lessons, we leave the school to go to the nearby Villa Whitaker, and our little hall is the place for music and orchestra lessons, for eurythmy lessons, for meetings as well as performances, for lectures as well as concerts and plays and even for the lunch of the middle school students! But it's not just a matter of seeing that we're wearing a dress that's too small. In imagining the new home, we notice how much our physical body has grown and how much more it wants to grow!

The school body is asking to grow towards a high school, with training activities, with afternoon courses and workshops, with larger classes, capable of welcoming more children. We have to change because we have changed.

Time and Space

Villa delle Rose is a convent of the Daughters of St. Anne located in Corso Calatafimi. The first nucleus dates back to 1600 and derives from a donation to the order that has cared for it until today. The complex consists of a horseshoe shaped building, a 17th century church, a larger modern church, and various annexes and has an area of 1700 square meters (about 18,300 square feet). Villa delle Rose is surrounded by ancient citrus groves and has a garden of about 4300 square meters (about 46,300 square feet).

Classrooms for the three seven-year phases

The property needs to be restored and divided in order to accommodate a school. Fortunately, the spaces and the original distribution allow this work. This will create 4 classrooms for kindergartens and 13 classrooms for classes up to the high school.

The Auditorium Theater

The larger church, with an audience capacity of about 250 will become the auditorium theater for performances, concerts, music and eurythmy lessons.





Workshops and Studio Spaces

In one of the annexes the woodwork shop will finally find a real home. Another building will host the handwork room with all the necessary equipment, such as sewing machines and materials with ample and adequate storage and work spaces. The high school project calls for more workshop spaces (metalwork, sculpture studio, bookbinding...). All these will be created in time.

Social Life and Guest House

In the spaces of Villa delle Rose, our school community will be able to better experience our social life. On the top floor, a few rooms will be able to welcome lodging guests such as course participants, volunteers, and visiting teachers and speakers.

As soon as the purchase is completed, the restoration work will begin, which we expect to last about two years.



Garden and Orchard

The outside spaces are planted with ancient citrus trees, roses, a large cedar tree, an ancient pine tree and mediterranean shrubs. The gardens will be divided into an area for the kindergartens, one for the school classes, and into an area for the teaching garden.

From a structural point of view, the buildings do not require interventions, but adapting and redistributing the spaces, the renovation of electrical and plumbing systems, work on doors and windows and bathrooms are necessary.

We expect to complete the construction work by September 2027: forty years after the opening of our first Kindergarten.



Dining Area and Kitchen

The dining area, which will be hosted in the ancient and light-filled refectory of the convent, will be suited for seating all school children for their lunchtime meal. Moreover, the large kitchen opens onto a lovely outside patio, the perfect place for conviviality during the fairs and other festive school events.



The Main Entrance on Corso Calatafimi



ECONOMIC PLAN AND INITIATIVES

If they are roses, they will bloom!

For many years, the Libera Scuola Waldorf di Palermo has been looking for a new home. Various groups of parents and teachers conducted this search in the past, visiting many different places. This long-cherished desire became a reality in 2023, when we realized that we would not be able to remain in our current location and that the (now obligatory) change required a courageous impulse.

This impulse was felt by the entire school community who approved the purchase of Villa delle Rose unanimously and adopted the economic plan to raise the necessary funds.

Economic plan

EXPENSES	Value	Notes
Purchase Price	€ 950.500	
Real Estate Agency	€ 46.384	
Notary Fees	€ 4.000	
Restructuring	€ 450.000	estimated
Mortgage cost and other expenses for the first three years	€ 110.000	
Total	1.560.844 €	
Rounded Total	1.600.000 €	

INCOME	Value	Notes
Bank Mortgage (80%)	€ 764.400	
Sale of owned property	€ 220.000	
Donation Fiammetta Borsellino	€ 100.000	
Internal Fundraising Associazione Libera Scuola Waldorf	€ 40.000	
Donation "Freunde der Erziehungskunst Rudolf Steiners"	€ 200.000	
Donations from parents, teachers, friends of the School	€ 150.000	To be acquired within 4 years
Fundraising other	€ 129.600	To be acquired within 4 years
Total	1.600.000 €	

The Capital Campaign

The community of the School has started a capital campaign exclusively aimed at the purchase of the school building entitled *DoniAmo la Scuola Waldorf*. The campaign has raised €167,000 to date.

Among the donations received, the donation of Fiammetta Borsellino stands out: Fiammetta is the daughter of Paolo Borsellino, one of the magistrates who was killed by the mafia in 1992, in the infamous bombing of Via D'Amelio. Last year, Fiammetta and her family were finally awarded the reparation payment and decided to donate the entire sum to the Villa delle Rose Project, a gesture not only of great generosity but also of immense moral value.

The *Freunde der Erziehungskunst Rudolf Steiners*, a German Foundation that supports Waldorf education in the world share in the project and will support us with a generous gift.

Initiatives

To support the purchase of our new home, other fundraising initiatives have been created, such as the Flea Market, curated by the parents' group, which is held in autumn and spring; the Theatre Workshop for adults and the Workshop on the Nature Table, which are both held by teachers.

This is what has happened so far, but there is still a long way to go and there will probably be obstacles to the realization of the project that parents and teachers want to carry out for the children and young people of Palermo, with love for the future generations.

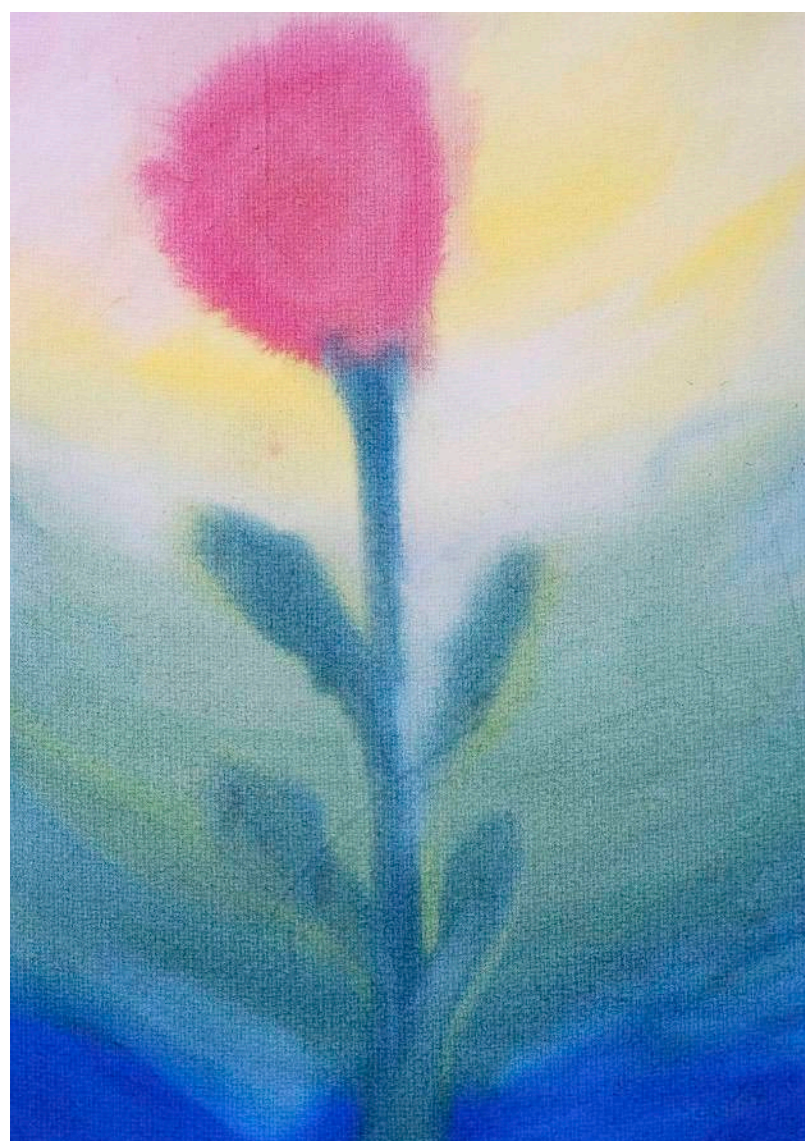
To reach our goal, we still need to raise **215,000 euros over the next 4 years**.

Therefore, your support, whether large or small, will give us even more enthusiasm to move forward, more strength to overcome the difficulties that will come, more certainty in believing that yes! Our roses will bloom!

Donations can be made through issuing a bank transfer to the **Associazione Libera Scuola Waldorf ETS C.F. 97127420822**
IBAN:IT57Y050180460000017270141
at Banca Etica, Palermo. Please use "donazione liberale" as the reason for the payment issued.

In Italy, donations to our school are tax-deductible. If your international charitable donation is tax-deductible in your country (ask your accountant!), please contact us and we will provide you with the necessary receipt.

Thank you for your generosity!



Painting by a student in the 5th grade, 2023

