



Oxford International Brigade Memorial Committee

A Community Memorial in Malgrat de Mar

To remember the ship “Ciudad de Barcelona” 1937 – A project for unity!

By The Friends of Ciudad de Barcelona.

And to create a **Solidarity Park International Arts Festival** at Malgrat de Mar, a small town just to the north of Barcelona in Catalonia

Solidarity Park is a memorial for the International Brigaders of the Ciudad de Barcelona, a ship that was sunk by fascists in the Spanish Civil War in 1937. An international community project has built a monument to this important historical event.

Thousands of people have participated in the project which has brought together the international and local communities, involved school students and used art and participation as a method to create a living memory.

The intention now is to use this foundation to continue bringing artists, young people and different communities together by developing an annual Solidarity Park International Arts Festival. It will not only remember the role of the International Brigades but unite us today in the struggle against the far right.

The Brigadistas stood for solidarity, justice and freedom; for an equal world for all humanity. In this time when far right intolerance and repression is growing again, it is



more important than ever that we combat bigotry and blame towards foreigners, immigrants and refugees.

The International Brigadistas came from across the globe in the late 1930s to stand alongside Republican Spain in the civil war, united to stop the rise of the fascist far right.

On 30th May 1937, the Ciudad de Barcelona, a ship bringing around 300 Brigadistas from France, was sunk by a fascist torpedo just off the coast of Malgrat de Mar, Catalonia. 45 International Brigaders and many others perished in the attack. Many were rescued by fishermen from nearby Malgrat de Mar and went on to serve in the Brigade in the defence of the Spanish Republic. But many were trapped in the ship, and witness accounts say that the Brigadistas sang the Internationale as the the ship sank.



(More Info on historical events:www.ciudaddebarcelona1937.wordpress.com)

These heroes gave their lives for the dream of a better world for all. They were not defending a country they were fighting for an idea: Complete equality for all humanity.

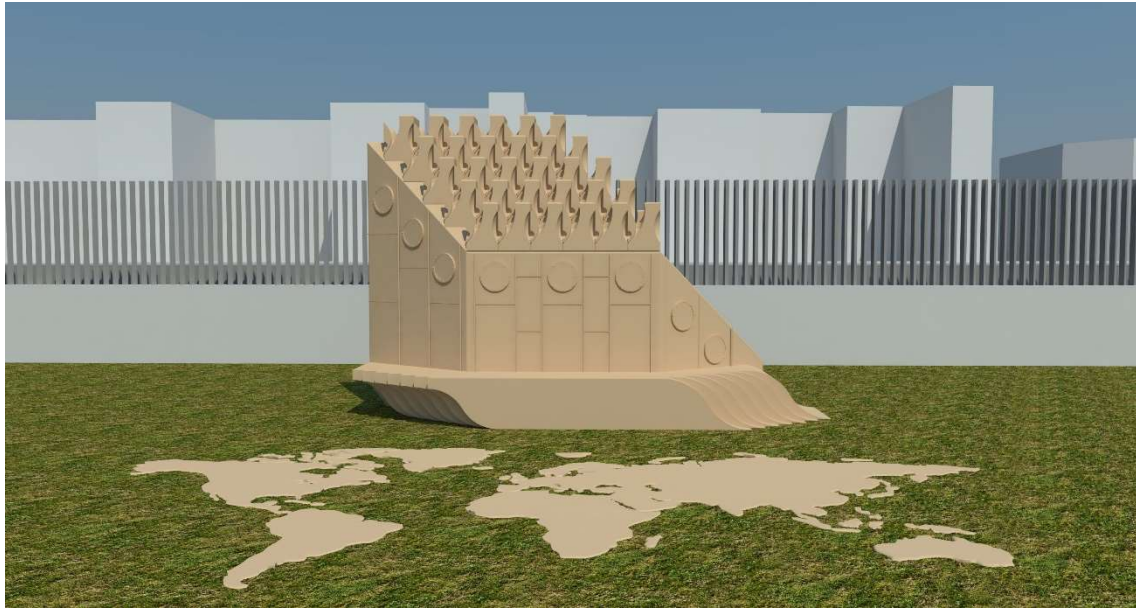
We must not forget them or the local people they came to stand with. What they all fought for are valuable lessons in today's world.

What will the Memorial be like?

Robert Macdonald, the artist, drew his inspiration from the reports of the Brigadistas singing the Internationale as the boat sank. It is almost complete now (June 2022).

The art work consists of 60 sculpted figures depicted singing aboard a conceptual ship, which has seating designed as waves. Each sculpted figure will be identical in form, representing the unity of the struggle of the Brigadiers, but each will have individual carved features thus expressing the diversity of us all.

Included on the sides of the sculpted monument will be "community portholes". They will be stone carved windows to the past, telling the story of the wider events of the day. It is intended that these will be designed by local secondary school students.



The real ship may have sunk, but this conceptual ship will not, instead it will be riding high across a stone patio map of the world, thus making it a symbol of the resilience of human solidarity.

And the future?

Solidarity park is visualized to be a place of use where people could sit, interact and contemplate on these valuable lessons of the past.

How is the Oxford International Brigade Memorial Committee involved?

Acknowledging the Internationalist spirit of the the Solidarity Park, the Friends of Ciudad de Barcelona decided to invite Socialist choirs from across Europe to perform at Malgrat de



Mar to raise awareness of the project, the raise funds for the creation of an International Arts Festival and to celebrate the substantial completion of the Ciudad de Barcelona memorial.

Our very own Didcot Red Kite singers decided to don their sombreros and

sandals and join 11 other socialist choirs, almost half of whom were from beyond Spain.



OxIBMComm's Ciaran and Tracy raise the roof (except there wasn't one) with their rendition of **Bandiera Rossa**

The OxIBMComm made a modest contribution to the Red Kites travel costs.

By all accounts, the festival was inspiring. The sense of solidarity, of comradeship and of internationalism was palpable and everyone had a wonderful and unforgettable experience.

One choir, from Malmo in Sweden said they would like to come to Oxford to perform at our memorial at St Clements. Quite an honour and one to which we should extend welcome as soon as possible.



Above: The Red Kites at Malgrat de Mar representing the solidarity of the Oxford International Brigade Memorial Committee and the IBMT and all anti-fascists everywhere. Below: Another of the eleven choirs that sang at Malgrat



More Information (next page)

Join the Facebook group – stories, full gallery of images, designs, regular updates on process and on how we spend the money. “Ciudad de Barcelona 1937 Memorial” www.facebook.com/groups/1613273978897986

Website of Campaign - <https://solidaritypark.com>

<https://ciudadbcn37.wordpress.com>

Further information on the events of the day

<https://ciudadbcn37.wordpress.com/history-links/>

Interview with artist on project -

<http://badartworld.net/index.php/2017/05/22/heroic-volunteers-of-freedom/>

Gallery of Images of the Project - <https://ciudadbcn37.wordpress.com/images/>

More information on the artist – www.robmac.eu

For campaign resources and contact email - Ciudadbcn37@gmail.com

link to Sample of free song "ciudad de Barcelona" <https://youtu.be/vMrQNsLqsul>

Colin Carritt - June 2022