

Global Antique Market in Ankara

A City Where Time and Stories from Around the World Converge

Proposal Overview

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| Proposal by | Ankara Global Antique Market Committee |
| Target Audience | Embassies and Cultural Centers in Ankara |
| Event Name | Global Antique Market in Ankara |
| Frequency | Monthly (12 times a year) starting March 2026 |
| Venue | Historic and cultural district of Ankara city center (CerModern Square, Hamamönü, Ulus, etc.) |
| Participants | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Embassies and cultural centers in Ankara- Artisans and antique collectors from various countries- Turkish antique dealers, bookstores, art merchants, and artists- Local citizens, tourists, media, and student communities |

Background and Motivation

Ankara, the capital of Turkey and a hub of politics, administration, and diplomacy, is home to numerous diplomatic missions. However, it has been consistently pointed out that Ankara lacks cultural tourism content compared to Istanbul.

Despite this, the city demonstrates a high level of public interest in artistic sensitivity and antique culture through monthly traditional antique flea markets. This event is planned as an effort to elevate this local foundation to a global level.

The Global Antique Market is not merely a venue for buying and selling goods but a platform for cultural diplomacy and national branding. Through antique products that carry memories of time and traces of civilization, participating countries will showcase their history and culture.

Unlike conventional cultural diplomacy programs focused on exhibitions and performances, this event enables embassies to directly participate and exhibit or sell their iconic antiques. This innovative concept of “curating diplomacy through time” can establish Ankara as a central city for cultural diplomacy.

Antiques recommended or held by embassies represent their national identity, philosophy,

artistic sense, folklore, and industrial history, forming a “miniature museum” that deeply moves citizens and tourists alike.

The event, designed for broad audiences—citizens, tourists, diplomats, youth, and families—will stimulate local economic cycles and contribute to forming the identity of Ankara as a vibrant cultural city.

Program Composition and Details

I. Basic Program Structure

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| Ambassador's Antique Zone | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Embassies set up booths to exhibit and sell antiques reflecting their culture, history, and aesthetics- Information panels, brochures, and videos explain the heritage to the public- Example: Japanese lacquerware from Edo period, Victorian tea sets from the UK |
| Global Art Antique & Craft Zone | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Craftsmen and antique experts from around the world exhibit traditional crafts and vintage items- Includes interactive elements like artist talks and live demonstrations |
| Turkish Antique Heritage Zone | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Local Turkish antique dealers, bookstores, artists participate- Items include Ottoman relics, Seljuk-style artworks, early Republic-era objects- Accompanied by traditional music and folk performances |
| Cultural Exchange Events | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Traditional costume experiences and photo zones- Tasting booths for international snacks and beverages- Musical instrument experiences- Tea and coffee sampling- Kids' craft kits and missions for family visitors |

II. Special Programs

- “Tea Cups of the World”: Traditional tea sets from various countries on display with tea-tasting events.
- “Treasures of a Century”: A themed zone featuring antiques over 100 years old, representing national legacies.
- Antique Appraisal Show: Live antique appraisal sessions and lectures by international and local experts.
- Kids' Global Antique Explorers: Educational content for children with mission books, stamps, and cultural adventures.

Embassy Participation Process

- Official invitation → Briefing session → Participation confirmation → Booth design submission

- Embassies select and exhibit antiques from their country or affiliated collectors
- Items may be sold or exhibited only
- Each country operates its own booth (collaborative booths allowed)
- Recommended to include multimedia, brochures, and promotional content
- Booth setup and administration support provided with cooperation from Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Expected Benefits for Embassies

- Expand cultural diplomacy beyond performances and cuisine to include antiques as a deep, symbolic medium
- Enhance national brand image through displays of heritage, artistry, and craftsmanship
- Indirect promotion for tourism, education, and industry
- Strengthen community connections with Ankara citizens, tourists, and students
- Opportunities for national artists and traders to join cultural diplomacy
- Support for media coverage and promotional content creation
- Establish Ankara as the first “embassy-led antique market” and global cultural model

Example Timeline

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| March 2026 | Opening ceremony and launch |
| April 2026 | First market and regular monthly events (3rd week of each month) |
| May 2026 | Monthly event continues |
| Following months | Monthly markets (Total 12 times per year) |
| January 2027 | Annual forum and publication of outcome report |

Final Proposal

The “Global Antique Market” is more than just a market—it is a 21st-century cultural diplomacy platform where history, memory, heritage, philosophy, art, and symbolism converge. Through this venue, embassies will engage with the public using antique items that embody the time and spirit of their nations. We sincerely invite your valuable participation to help make Ankara a true global cultural city.

Thank You.

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