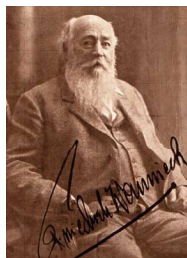


Vaňkovka – shopping and social center



Shopping and social centre Gallery Vaňkovka was festively opened on 23rd March 2005. It was built on area of 28 800 m² on the edge of historical Brno, right between train and bus stations. There are 130 shopping units.



History of Vaňkovka

- **Founder of Vaňkovka:** Friedrich Wannick was born the third of four children to the family of the cloth cutter Johann Wannick. At the age of 27 he went into business himself, in 1865 setting up a small engineering factory in the garden of his house on Trnitá Street.
- **How Vaňkovka grew:** Under his management the manufacturing program continued to grow, as did the premises, over a 20 year period. In 1887 the number of workers increased to 250 the foundation stone of both halls was unveiled and in June 1890 the building was completed. In 1896 the foundry was enlarged with an extension to the north. After the War the Vaňkovka was used as a separate factory, first by Machine Tool Company, state enterprise Zbrojovka Brno n.p. (Brno Armoury, state enterprise), Jan Šverma Factory, (state enterprise, change of name of Zbrojovka Brno). From 1996-2000 Vaňkovka was owned by the National Property Fund. **On 13th May 1992 the Vaňkovka was entered in the Central Register of Cultural Monuments in the Czech Republic under number 8455.** The revitalisation of the Vaňkovka premises became for many people the first subjective example of new land usage - known as „brownfield” - in Brno and is currently an important impetus for the development of the entire South Centre.



Vaňkovka returns to the public eye

- **Finance and Preparing:** In 2000 the City of Brno finally gained the Vaňkovka and made it a part of the JIŽNÍ CENTRUM BRNO, a.s. company. ECE company presented its plans at the town hall to invest three billion Crowns in the construction of a shopping and social centre with a capacity of 37 000 m² of shop floor area. In the autumn of 2003 the project was given planning permission, in November demolition of part of the premises commenced - the pattern-shop, foundry and part of the core room, and in March 2004 the official unveiling of the foundation stone of the Galerie Vaňkovka took place. In the summer of 2004 a contract was signed between ECE and the Vaňkovka Civic Association to lease space in the Galerie Vaňkovka on the ground floor of the former dressing room of the foundry for the non-governmental, not for profit organisation (NNO) for 10 years at a symbolic price.
- **Opening:** The Galerie Vaňkovka was formally opened on 23. 3. 2005. In the leased premises the Vaňkovka Foundry - cultural and community centre NNO for the city of Brno and the South Moravian Region also opened. JIŽNÍ CENTRUM BRNO, a.s. completed its reconstruction of the former assembly hall - machine room and administrative buildings. In August 2005 the JIŽNÍ CENTRUM BRNO, a.s. concluded a contract for the lease of the reconstructed engineering works for a gallery of modern art with the Mediagate company.



CAFE PRÁH

Half-way house setting café (www.cafeprah.cz) This non-smoking café with gallery and sale of products made by handicapped people is staffed by young persons who are re-entering society after having overcome mental illness.

ICM YMCA

Information centre (not only) for young persons The centre provides information on study (including abroad) and employment for graduates, NGOs in the South Moravian Region, recreation time programmes, cheap internet, photocopying...

VAŇKOVKA HALL

Multi-purpose hall (www.vankovka.cz). This hall measuring 9x15 m is for exhibitions, events by NGOs - meetings and discussions, workshops, seminars, chamber concerts and theatre performances for children and adults.

Vaňkovka Foundry

- Cultural and community centre.
- For non-governmental not for profit organizations.
- Part of the centre consists of a training café, information centre and multi-purpose hall.

