



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Exhibition**

**“Athens: the birth of a capital city”**

**General State Archives of Greece – Central Service**

**11 April – 20 December 2024**

The Central Service of the General State Archives of Greece is organizing the exhibition of archival material: "Athens: the birth of a capital city" on the occasion of the 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the transfer of the capital of the Greek state from the city of Nafplio to Athens and the issuance of the 18<sup>th</sup> / 30<sup>th</sup> September 1834 Royal Decree.

The exhibition -structured in eight sections- presents the new city of Athens in terms of its urban planning and layout, through a very rich archival material (maps, lithographs, sketches, scrapbooks, documents, etc.). The configuration of Athens' road network is recorded, with the creation of new roads and avenues (boulevards), their naming, the layout of squares and the expropriation of land for the construction of public buildings.

Emblematic public buildings are on display, which were constructed either by the state or through donations from Greek benefactors to meet the needs of health care, education, religious worship and justice. These buildings are still landmarks of the city of Athens. Prominent professionals of various fields, such as Greek and foreign architects, urban planners, topographers and engineers who have contributed to the process of transferring the capital are, also, been featured.

The exhibition seeks to reflect -in addition to the formation, development and shortcomings of Athens' public infrastructure- on the city's ancient past, its cultural life and the commercial activity and craft production of the capital through the institutionalization of its authorities.

Info:

Address: General State Archives of Greece, 61, Dafnis Str., Psychiko, Athens

Duration: 11 April – 20 December 2024

Free Entrance

Visiting Hours: Monday – Friday, 10.00 – 14.00 (public holidays excluded)

Contact Details: 210 6782270, [publicrelations@gak.gr](mailto:publicrelations@gak.gr)

Tours and school visits: 2106782270

An educational game based on the exhibition is available for 2nd grade students.