

## The Vlček Family Foundation has purchased the Prague estate Cibulka, and will build a children's hospice and palliative centre, a café and other public spaces

Prague, April 12, 2021 – Cibulka farmstead in Košíře, Prague, which was in its heyday in 1826 and is currently in disrepair, has a new owner. The complex of buildings with a history dating back to the 14th century was bought by the [Vlček Family Foundation](#), which plans to build a children's hospice with a palliative centre on the premises, as well as educational and community spaces for the public. The Vlček Family Foundation acquired the entire area of 11,595 m<sup>2</sup>, including the nearby Chinese Pavilion. The transaction was carried out by purchasing 100 % of the shares of Cibulka a.s., which has owned the property for the last 30 years.

*"We have set aside resources for the reconstruction and restoration of the estate. Our rough estimate of the cost of building and equipping a new Cibulka is between CZK 300 million and CZK 350 million. This amount is additional to the funds we have already spent on the actual acquisition of the property. We expect to complete the works by 2026, which is exactly 200 years after the site was in its heyday thanks to its then owner, Count Leopold Linhart Thun-Hohenstein. We will take the reconstruction responsibly, bearing in mind the history of the whole area and the spirit of this place. We are truly excited about the potential that Cibulka offers, and we believe that we will be able to combine the preservation of its historical value with the requirements for top 21st century medical facilities. We haven't yet decided on the design of the new facilities, which will be determined as result of an architectural competition in which we will invite renowned architects to submit proposals. The restoration of Cibulka will be carried out in cooperation with experts in heritage care and also after discussion with people who are closely connected with the area surrounding the estate,"* said Ondřej Vlček, co-founder of the Vlček Family Foundation.

Cibulka farmstead has a rich history. In the 14th century, it used to stand on the site of old vineyards. In the 19th century, it served as the hereditary court of the lords of Košíře, who were part of the royal court of Charles IV. The current form of the Empire chateau was acquired by the estate in the first third of the 19th century. The whole complex consists of the main building, farm buildings and stables. The largest expansion of the estate occurred between 1817 and 1826, it was expensively modified by an art lover, the Bishop of Passau and the Prince Leopold Linhart Thun-Hohenstein. After his death, however, the estate gradually fell into disrepair despite repeated rescue attempts. There has been a long public debate about saving the site.

*"The city district has been dealing with Cibulka's unfortunate state for a long time. We invested in the reconstruction of the Chinese Pavilion and subsequently decided to negotiate the purchase of the entire estate. This plan was approved by our council and was at an advanced stage of preparation. In the meantime, however, there was an investor in the form of the Vlček Family Foundation, which came up with a public and clear goal that would return Cibulka to its former beauty and make it available to the public. We are therefore very supportive of the new owner's plan and will support and assist him in his difficult task,"* says Lukáš Herold, Deputy Mayor of Prague 5.

One of the basic principles that the new owner will follow is full transparency. Therefore, the steps related to the demanding restoration of the Cibulka estate, as well as all key decisions on this project, will be published on the newly established [www.novacibulka.cz](http://www.novacibulka.cz). In this way, everyone will be able to see how the reconstruction of the complex is progressing and whether the project is coming to a

successful conclusion. Representatives of the Vlček Family Foundation will also be in regular contact with people close to the estate and with communities that have long been interested in its fate.

*"It is important for us to get to know life around Cibulka as well as we can, so that we can integrate the reconstructed Cibulka into it naturally and for the benefit of as many people as possible. We are very happy that we managed to get a suitable property in this location. Thanks to its proximity to Motol University Hospital, its area and beautiful surroundings, the farmhouse is ideal for caring for seriously ill children's and their families. We want to build a children's hospice and palliative centre for them with all the required professional care. In addition, we will open community and educational spaces with a café on the premises, which will become an integral part of the surrounding life and will offer experiences, culture and relaxation to a wide group of people. We would also like this to lead to a natural connection between the public and the families of seriously ill children which the centre will serve. Moreover, it gives us great joy to know that a valuable historical monument, which has been waiting for centuries for suitable use, will be saved,"* explains the foundation's co-founder Dr. Katarína Vlčková.

Mr. and Mrs. Katarína and Ondřej Vlček are putting assets worth CZK 1.5 billion into the newly created [Vlček Family Foundation](#). About a third of the total amount is intended for the purchase and reconstruction of the Cibulka estate and the first phase of operation of the building and foundation. The remaining part of the assets will be earmarked as capital for investments, the proceeds of which will finance the operations of the Foundation on an ongoing basis. The Vlčeks are building on the activities of their six-year-old charity Goldfish, whose mission is to fulfill the wishes of children suffering from life-threatening diseases. Katarína and Ondřej Vlček are raising three sons, and they think of the foundation, including the reconstruction of the Cibulka estate, as an ideal means of making meaningful use of family property. Katarína Vlčková, thanks to her work as a doctor in the mobile hospice Cesta Domů, where she meets not only adults, but also children at the end of life, perceives the difficulty and need for long-term care for seriously ill children. As CEO of Avast, Ondřej Vlček has experience in managing complex projects. Thanks to his quarter century of service in this global software company, he has also acquired assets that enable his family to meet its foundation's goals.

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