

PRESS SERVICE

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**The Berlin Exhibition BERLIN GLOBAL at the Humboldt
Forum: Berlin in an interconnected world**

The Berlin Exhibition BERLIN GLOBAL can be seen on the first floor above ground of the Humboldt Forum. On 4,000 square metres of space, the Stadtmuseum Berlin and Kulturprojekte Berlin explore the complex web of relationships between Berlin and the world. Immersive installations and atmospheric presentations lead visitors through theme-based rooms that reflect the many sides of Berlin.

Berlin has been actively engaging with the world for centuries. The city, its people and the events it launched have changed the world. Conversely, global events – both past and present – have affected Berlin. Proceeding from current questions, developments and challenges, the Berlin Exhibition examines selected topics to show the city as part of what has long been an interconnected world.

BERLIN GLOBAL therefore does not take a chronological approach. Instead, its seven main rooms focus on Revolution, Free Space, Boundaries, Entertainment, War, Fashion and Interconnection. These aspects also feature in other metropolises, but in this combination they reflect the essence of Berlin. A few cross-cutting topics like colonialism or the Nazi period appear in multiple rooms. The “history of the site”, which is addressed in several parts of the Humboldt Forum, also figures prominently in different contexts in the Berlin Exhibition.

Priority on participation

The Berlin Exhibition was designed not only by the curatorial team. Numerous partners were involved from the outset. The displays reflect discussions and workshops with Berliners from all walks of life, and the views of initiatives, associations and institutions.

Diverse perspectives on the city incorporate everything from consultation and collaboration with experts, museums and interest groups to active participation by artists, photographers and urban artists, along with community presentations. This yields a wealth of voices and stories, including a lot that is little known or surprising. Among other positions to be shown at the start of the Berlin Exhibition are those of the Lebenshilfe association for people with disabilities, the “Drugstore” youth centre and the Foundation Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe.

Interactive elements

With a wide array of interactive features, the exhibition is an “experience” that invites visitors to express their opinions and take action. Chips in wristbands available at the start allow visitors to take an interactive tour that connects with the exhibits. Examples include “My Network” which shows how each individual is connected with the world, and also a series of “dilemmas” located at the entrance to each room. The “Free Space” room, for example, offers a choice between “I share free space” and “I take free space” – both of which make sense, so the choice depends on one’s personal relationship with free space. Choices are saved on the chip, and at the end of the tour visitors receive a summary of their experience along with an invitation to exchange views about the exhibition’s topics and discuss their individual connections with the world.

Exhibition for everyone

The Berlin Exhibition is designed to be of wide appeal. All of its texts and media content are available in German and English. Additional access is available with the “Berlin app”, which serves as a guide to the Humboldt Forum and offers selected texts, audio and video files in eleven spoken languages. Audio descriptions are offered for vision-impaired visitors, and videos in German Sign Language (DGS) can be viewed at selected stations.

Spacious passageways, largely universally accessible presentations, and a tactile, high-contrast floor guidance system provide orientation to people with and without disabilities. “Experience for everyone” displays that can be touched, smelled or tasted offer especially intensive opportunities. Invitations to learn and discern are many and varied. Texts in simple language and in Braille make these displays easy to navigate, as do place holders for canes. One example is the fragrance station in the “Free Space” room developed by the scent artist Sissel Tolaas.

History of the site

The history of the site, which visitors encounter throughout the Humboldt Forum, is also an integral part of the Berlin Exhibition. The theme-based rooms highlight the history of the site wherever relevant to the displays. The Humboldt Forum stands at the location of what used to be the Berlin Palace and later the Palace of the Republic – a backdrop for revolutions and a source of both boundaries and wars. But as semi-public places, they also attracted a wide range of visitors from throughout the world, offered and defined free spaces, and not least of all featured various types of entertainment. The production of clothing worn in these historical contexts will also be part of the exhibition. The “Fashion” room displays parts of uniforms worn by Emperor William II and by service personnel at the Palace of the Republic, while encouraging visitors to trace how social changes show up in dress codes, how trade relations have evolved, and who or what used to play major roles at this site.

Explore and join in at the World Studio

The World Studio at the Berlin Exhibition is a place for workshops and opportunities, for impromptu action and joint projects in the city at large. On a space of 500 square metres, visitors of all ages – with or without prior notice – can share their views of Berlin in the world and the world in Berlin, and launch or join projects. The World Studio features three “cartographers” – specially designed large-scale installations that offer new and creative ways to make and experience maps.

BERLIN GLOBAL – A coproduction of Kulturprojekte Berlin and the Stadtmuseum Berlin

The BERLIN GLOBAL exhibition opened on 20 July 2021 on the first floor above ground in the Humboldt Forum. On around 4,000 square metres of space, it explores the complex web of relations between Berlin and the world. Immersive installations and atmospheric presentations lead visitors into theme-based rooms that reflect the many sides of the city.

The BERLIN GLOBAL exhibition at the Humboldt Forum is a coproduction of Kulturprojekte Berlin and the Stadtmuseum Berlin. Its design and contents were developed by a team led by Paul Spies, Chief Curator for the State of Berlin at the Humboldt Forum and Director of the Stadtmuseum Berlin. Kulturprojekte Berlin is responsible for the overall production, communications and – together with the Stadtmuseum Berlin – displays which are universally accessible and inclusive.

Major actors at the Humboldt Forum include the Ethnological Museum and the Museum of Asian Art (Staatliche Museen zu Berlin – Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz), Kulturprojekte Berlin, the Stadtmuseum Berlin and the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, under the direction of the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss.

More information

www.berlin-global-ausstellung.de

www.humboldtforum.org

www.kulturprojekte.berlin

www.stadtmuseum.de

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