

**PRESS RELEASE****20 July 2021**

## **Humboldt Forum official opening ceremony**

**Today, Minister of State for Culture Monika Grütters, Governing Mayor of Berlin Michael Müller, and General Director Hartmut Dorgerloh, together with many project collaborators and representatives of Berlin's urban society, opened the Humboldt Forum.**

The Humboldt Forum is open. After more than ten years of construction, a new era is dawning today for the four participating institutions of the Humboldt Forum. In a series of steps over the next few months, the partial reconstruction of the Berlin Palace will be transformed into a new location for art and culture, science and education.

In an official ceremony on the north side of the building, Minister of State for Culture Monika Grütters, Governing Mayor of Berlin Michael Müller, and General Director Hartmut Dorgerloh welcomed members of the public to the Humboldt Forum. After being restricted to a digital opening in December due to coronavirus constraints, visitors can now finally experience the Humboldt Forum's programme of exhibitions and events in person, on site.

Minister of State for Culture Monika Grütters: "With the opening of the Humboldt Forum, we are handing over to the public – not only in Germany, but across the whole world – a new type of museum that, in the spirit of the Humboldt brothers, creates a tangible experience of the traditions of the Enlightenment and the ideal of peaceful dialogue between cultures. In so doing, Germany offers itself as a world partner wherever the unfamiliar is greeted with a spirit of curiosity, rather than one of rejection or denigration."

Michael Müller, Governing Mayor of Berlin: "With the opening of the Humboldt Forum, our capital city is gaining a new centre of attraction. The Forum will fulfil its intended function of inspiring intellectual debate, both in Berlin and further afield. Its purpose is to both awaken cultural and intellectual curiosity, and to make its own contribution to mutual understanding between cultures. We want to build on the past to create something new. I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been a part of the Humboldt Forum's creation."

General Director Hartmut Dorgerloh: "In 2002, the Bundestag made two very important decisions: The partial reconstruction of the Berlin Palace, and its use as the Humboldt Forum. Today, the shell and the interior are united, and I invite everyone – from Berlin, from Germany, and from across the world, to collaborate with us in shaping this new centre for culture and science in the historic heart of Berlin. Only together will we become a forum, and I look forward eagerly to making that a reality."

From the Palace Cellar up to the first floor, visitors are invited to discover presentations on the history of the site and the Humboldt brothers, spend time in our special exhibitions entitled *Terrible Beauty: Elephant – Human – Ivory* and *Have a Seat! An exhibition for children*, and to experience our inaugural exhibitions *After Nature* and *BERLIN GLOBAL*. Entry to all exhibitions is free of charge for the first 100 days.

The Humboldt Forum is a new venue for arts and culture, science and education. One building, four partners: The diverse range of voices is founded on the collaboration of our partner institutions. The Humboldt Forum is a collaboration between the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss; the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz for collections from the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin; the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin for the Humboldt Lab; and Kulturprojekte Berlin with the Stadtmuseum Berlin for the BERLIN GLOBAL exhibition.

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Kulturprojekte Berlin and Stadtmuseum Berlin

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