

**PRESS RELEASE**

**24 May 2023**

**10 June–10 July 2023**

## **Culture to sports: the programme for the Special Olympics World Games in the Humboldt Forum**

**Berlin welcomes 7,000 athletes and 20,000 volunteers from all over the world to the Special Olympics. We are pleased to welcome them to the Humboldt Forum and offer an extensive inclusive programme for all culture enthusiasts. As cultural partner, the Humboldt Forum also welcomes all participants: with a pop-up exhibition, guided tours, the RambaZamba Theatre Berlin and painting and weaving activities, it offers an extensive range of inclusive activities. The barrier-free offers are free for all during the Special Olympics. The exhibitions are also free for all accredited visitors.**

The Special Olympics World Games are the world's largest inclusive sports event. From 17 to 25 June 2023, the Special Olympics World Games will take place in Berlin – the first time that Germany will host the Games. Thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities compete together in 26 sports.

From 10 to 25 June, cultural institutions from all over the city will join offer a programme that reflects the spirit of inclusion and diversity that the Games represent. The Humboldt Forum is also taking part and is offering a whole month (10 June to 10 July) of inclusive activities: from a pop-up exhibition in the staircase hall to the RambaZamba Theatre in the Humboldt Laboratory, audio and tactile tours, guided tours in simple language and a joint painting activity in the Schlüterhof.

### **Highlights:**

#### **Pop-up-exhibition in the stair hall: Special Olympics Portrait Project**

Luca Siermann has been photographing athletes at the Special Olympics since 2004. The photographic examination of people as studio portraits or reportage images has become an integral part of his work in recent years. Within a strict design frame - white

backgrounds, landscape format and black-and-white photography - he creates intense, very personal portraits of the athletes.

### **From Parasports to Inclusive Sports – Public tandem tour with Veronika Springmann**

BERLIN GLOBAL, 10 June

Together with the historian and director of the Berlin Sports Museum, Veronika Springmann, visitors take a look at the history of the origins of sport for people with disabilities at BERLIN GLOBAL. Springmann explains the context of sporting activities as a treatment option for soldiers with war injuries after the two world wars in both the FRG and the GDR. She looks at the inner-city significance of the Berlin Sports Palace, built in 1910 and demolished in 1973, and talks to participants about the topics of ability, disability and inclusive sport.

### **Unhindered – Tandem tour in simple German**

Ethnological Museum und Museum for Asiatic Art, 15 and 19 June

Curiosity is encouraged: in the collection of the Ethnological Museum there are very large, but also tiny figures from different regions of Africa. Musical instruments in the brightest colours and unusual materials, masks and costumes from Oceania can be viewed. It is also discussed why the objects can be found in the museum today and how they came here to Berlin. During the tour, stories are told and, music is heard. Some huge structures like a boat from Fiji and a house from Oceania can even be entered!

### **Joint painting activity in the open air**

Schlüter Courtyard, 24 June

BERLIN GLOBAL invites you: Take your brushes, pallets and paint to the canvas! In the courtyard of the Humboldt Forum, large-format canvases are waiting for visitors and their design ideas. Together with the artists of Kunstwerkstatt Kreuzberg they can get creative for an afternoon.

### **Schwärmen. The Young RambaZamba at the Humboldt Lab**

5—7 July, Humboldt Lab

The RambaZamba Theatre Berlin is considered the most important integrative theatre in Germany. In the performance *Schwärmen* (“Swarming”), the inclusive ensemble of the Young RambaZamba Theatre stages a play about feelings in the face of the impending climate catastrophe. The young ensemble members developed *Schwärmen* themselves. At the centre of their search for a way to deal with their climate emotions, they place an often despised animal: the carrion-eating hyena. Against the backdrop of man-made climate change, the young actors and actresses ask whether this creature, with its strength, femininity and endurance, can be a symbol for ushering in a new era of the world.

All Special Olympics accredited visitors have free admission to the exhibitions at the Humboldt Forum. The barrier-free offers such as guided tours and events can be booked free of charge for everyone during the Special Olympics period.

**Programme of the Special Olympics in the Humboldt Forum:** [humboldtforum.org](https://humboldtforum.org)

**The Young RambaZamba at the Humboldt Lab:** [humboldtforum.org](https://humboldtforum.org)

**Programme of the Special Olympics World Games:** [berlin2023.org](https://berlin2023.org)

One building, four partners: This diversity 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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