



PRESS RELEASE

6 November 2023

32,500 visitors at Fiesta de Día de Muertos at the Humboldt Forum

The Mexican Festival of the Dead at the Humboldt Forum was a great success. Together with the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss, Calaca e.V. was delighted to welcome 32,500 visitors over 5 days. The exhibition *in_finite. Living with Death*, of which the event was a part, was filled to capacity with a total of 4,500 visitors. Many guests visited the Humboldt Forum for the first time and were able to discover it as a polyphonic, lively space with many exhibitions and events accessible for free.

The special encounter between life and death, which is celebrated once a year in Mexico in public squares, cemeteries and at home, now resonates far beyond the country's borders. This is also the case in Berlin. The Berlin association Calaca e.V. has been organising the Día de Muertos in different locations since 1995 and is delighted with the increasing popularity of this impressive event, which takes place every year around All Saints' Day.

The Fiesta de Día de Muertos was part of the programme *in_finite. Living with Death* with a large special exhibition (until 26 November 2023), events and educational programming.

Going back to pre-colonial Aztec traditions, a wide variety of religious and cultural influences has been incorporated into the festival. At the centre was the return of the dead, who in the Humboldt Forum were welcomed back with various festivities, a large market, music and, above all, a richly decorated altar (ofrenda). The colourful skulls made of icing on the altar, the dancing skeletons and Catrina, the lady with the big floppy hat, have become important visual symbols associated with the event.

Calaca e.V. sees itself as an interdisciplinary meeting place for intercultural exchange and encounters in Berlin that integrates members of all age groups. Eleonore Häring de Vazquez, spokesperson for the organisation: "We are overwhelmed by the great interest

shown in our event by Berliners from a wide range of backgrounds. We succeeded in conveying that Fiesta de Día de Muertos is not about folklore, but about a loving encounter between life and death. Everyone involved put a lot of heart and soul into this festival, it was worth it!"

Hartmut Dorgerloh, General Director of the Humboldt Forum: "The Fiesta de Día de Muertos at the Humboldt Forum was a great success. It was a great experience for us to host the large Mexican community in Berlin and so many other people from different backgrounds and generations. Rarely have I seen our house so lively and vibrant. I would like to thank the visitors for their patience in having to queue at one point or another due to the large crowds."

Information: humboldtforum.org/en/fiesta-de-dia-de-muertos

Press dossier and images: humboldtforum.org/en/press

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 the Stadtmuseum Berlin for the BERLIN GLOBAL exhibition.

PRESS CONTACTS

Michael Mathis, Spokesperson

+49 30 265 950-525, michael.mathis@humboldtforum.org

Kathrin Luz, Kathrin Luz Communication

+49 171 3102472, kl@luz-communication.de

Andrea Brandis, Press Officer

+49 30 265 950-237, andrea.brandis@humboldtforum.org

humboldtforum.org/en/press