

PRESS RELEASE
20 May 2025

International Conference in the Humboldt Forum
16–21 June 2025

Global Cultural Assembly 2025: From Declaration to Action

From 16 to 21 June 2025, the Humboldt Forum will once again become an international hub for cultural exchange. The second Global Cultural Assembly will bring together around 80 delegates from around the world. Under the theme From Declaration to Action, participants will engage in workshops, presentations, and discussions focused on key questions around equitable partnerships, innovative practices in museums, and participation in the cultural sector. The aim is to generate momentum for transforming institutional structures toward a more just, participatory, and polyphonic future, while also establishing a lasting presence through the Global Cultural Embassy (GCE) at the Humboldt Forum. The week-long conference is organized in cooperation with the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss, as well as the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. The program will be accompanied by public events and participatory formats—open to all who wish to actively shape the global dialogue.

On the occasion of the opening of the East Wing of the Humboldt Forum in September 2022, more than 80 international delegates came together. This gathering provided the decisive impetus for the Declaration on [Dignity, Transparency, and Continuity](#) and led to the first Global Cultural Assembly (GCA). In June 2025, 80 curators, artists, scholars, and museum professionals from countries including Nepal, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Cameroon, Tanzania, Namibia, Colombia, and the United States will meet once again for a week-long conference at the Humboldt Forum. The aim is to strengthen relationships, foster mutual understanding, and inspire new forms of innovative institutional collaboration.

How can cultural institutions be shaped more equitably on a global scale? Which structures and practices must be rethought or transformed in order to make museums, archives, and other cultural spaces more inclusive, decolonial, and participatory? What responsibilities do cultural institutions bear in addressing colonial legacies—particularly with regard to restitution, joint research, and cooperation? How can culture serve as a unifying force in times of global crisis? How can knowledge be approached in a more diverse way, and how can Indigenous, local, and non-Western knowledge systems be integrated into cultural narratives, exhibitions, and education on equal terms? These questions are at the heart of the Global Cultural Assembly 2025, held under the theme From Declaration to Action.

„The Global Cultural Assembly (GCA) brings us together – we are the people from these Indigenous and cultural communities who have historical links to the collections in the halls around you. Contrary to the old narrative that we and our cultures are ‘dying out’, we are neither victims nor mere survivors. Rather, we are stubborn, persistent, and resilient communities. As such, we are cooperating to find new ways of working and living together in order to actively shape the way we deal with our cultural heritage in the Humboldt Forum“, says the Preparatory Group of the GCA (Achiles Mújumangoma Bufure, Tanzania; Deepak Tolange, Nepal; Diana Guzmán, Colombia; Orlando Villegas, Colombia; Fabiano Kueva, Ecuador; Laibor Moko, Tanzania; Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas, Canada; Tina Moukodi, Cameroon; Feride Funda G.-Gençaslan, Germany/Turkey).

Hartmut Dorgerloh, General Director of the Humboldt Forum: „The Humboldt Forum provides a space for polyphony and critical engagement with contemporary social issues. It offers an ideal setting for this international gathering. In the context of ongoing global transformation, the Global Cultural Assembly acts as a laboratory for new forms of international cooperation and cultural responsibility. We look forward to the valuable contributions of all participants as we continue to develop the Humboldt Forum—both in its institutional structure and its programmatic direction.“

Lars-Christian Koch, Director of the Ethnologisches Museum and Museum für Asiatische Kunst – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin: „In a time of growing global challenges,

the Assembly offers a unique initiative bringing together representatives from museums, cultural institutions, Indigenous communities, and civil society to collaboratively develop visions for a more just and inclusive cultural practice through open and participatory formats.“

Since 2022, a process has been underway to establish a permanent structure for co-creation and shared decision-making at and within the Humboldt Forum. This is already reflected in a dedicated space within the Forum curated by members of the Global Cultural Assembly. The Assembly is also contributing to the content of the upcoming program *Family matters*, which will be presented throughout the building starting on 3 October 2025.

During the conference in June, a seven-member Reference Group will be tasked with developing a long-term, just, and collaborative governance process regarding museum collections and cultural institutions. At the same time, the second Global Cultural Assembly will also open its doors to the wider public. Through roundtable discussions, presentations, informal encounters, and a closing celebration as part of the Fête de la Musique, visitors will have the opportunity to experience what collaborative practice and shared responsibility in the cultural sector can mean—not as a finished model, but as an open invitation to think along, feel along, and join the conversation.

Joint declaration of the international partners:

<https://www.humboldtforum.org/en/dignity-continuity-transparency/>

Programme:

<https://www.humboldtforum.org/en/programm/event/conference-symposium/global-cultural-assembly-2025-146201/>

- 19 June, 7–9 pm: **Objects talk back with Cristina Rivera Garza**
- 21 June 2025, 11am–4 pm: **Beyond Belongings: Talks with the Delegates of the Global Cultural Assembly**
- 18 June, 7–9 pm: **Intertwined Memory(s): Traces of the Shoah and colonialism in the Berlin Palace and the Ethnological Collections**

- 21. Juni, 6-10 pm: **Fête de la Musique: Concert of the Resident Music Collective**

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 images: <https://www.humboldtforum.org/en/press/>

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