

PRESS RELEASE**30 January 2026**

Public Interest in the Humboldt Forum remains strong in 2025

Consistently high visitor numbers and several sold-out programme events: As in the previous year, in 2025 the Humboldt Forum registered high visitor numbers for its diverse programme of events. Despite declining numbers of tourists in Berlin, it still ranks among the city's top attractions. The events reflect a significant rise in public interest: 132,000 participants engaged with the wide variety of offerings. The figures show that the Humboldt Forum has established itself as a new breed of institution, providing a lively programme of events with a broad spectrum of formats that extends well beyond the classical role of the museum. As in the previous year, the Humboldt Forum urban quarter, both a top attraction and a centre of Berlin's diverse society, recorded 3.3 million visits. The Humboldt Forum's four partners will launch a new programme in the autumn of 2026: *Mein. Dein. Unser!?* (Mine. Yours. Ours!?) focusing on the topics of heritage and ownership.

A total of 634,000 visits to the collection presentations and temporary and permanent exhibitions were recorded. 132,000 participants attended the events, while around 50,000 took advantage of the mediation and cultural education programme. Visits to the free open-air festival *Durchlüften* in the Schlüterhof courtyard rose by a third to 84,000, while the *Box Office Around the World* film festival and the *Fiesta de Día de Muertos* garnered significant public interest – all indicators of the Humboldt Forum's relevance as an international platform for culture and the arts. Formats such as the Long Night of Museums or the winter market also attracted significant visitor numbers. In November and December alone, there were 727,000 visitors to the Schlüterhof courtyard.

Hartmut Dorgerloh, General Director of the Humboldt Forum: “3.3 million visits illustrate how the Humboldt Forum remains a major draw for Berlin's residents and guests from all over the world. The rise in numbers at the events is especially heartening – after all, the Humboldt Forum is more than a museum. It is here that people come into direct contact with one another and can exchange ideas openly. Especially in our current

phase of social polarization and global insecurities, the Humboldt Forum serves as a stabilizing anchor, a place where visitors can find their bearings while enabling dialogue and opening free spaces.”

Outlook for 2026

Mein. Dein. Unser!?! Programme focus on heritage and ownership

Who does the world belong to? Who owns the city? The water? What are we passing on to those who come after us? In a world increasingly shaped by polarization and the struggle for fair distribution, the question of how we deal with our cultural and natural heritage becomes ever more urgent. In November the Humboldt Forum’s four partners will launch a two-year programme focussing on the topic of ownership and heritage from a variety of perspectives. It will examine questions surrounding water and earth as resources, various concepts of ownership, urban issues, cultural appropriation and pop culture, how to deal with collection holdings, as well as provenance research and restitution.

The programme kicks off with a major opening weekend in late November of 2026 for three exhibitions on perspectives from South America, Asia, and Africa as well as guided tours and events:

- **Water as natural heritage** and as a spiritual and political force
- **The loss of cultural heritage in Nepal** with a focus on a sacred object
- **Colonial collections from Togo** and how these are dealt with today

The Humboldt Forum’s four partners – the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss, the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst, the Stiftung Stadtmuseum Berlin, and the Humboldt Lab/Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin – are collaborating closely to curate this year’s focus together with the Goethe-Institut, the Global Cultural Assembly, and local and international partners and communities all over the world.

Events

Festival

On 21 March 2026, the Humboldt Forum, together with a number of cultural organisations, invites visitors to an intercultural New Year's and spring festival – **Nouroz, Newroz, Nauraz** – with music, dance, and culinary offerings. Around 300 million people around the world celebrate Nouroz, and in 2009 the festival was placed on UNESCO's list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Concerts

In April 2026, the third **Diversity of Voices – Singing the Forum** event will be held with ten choirs from Berlin. The choirs will perform throughout the building, from the large foyer to right in the middle of the ethnological collections. The sixth iteration of the free open-air music festival **Durchlüften** featuring international musicians will be held in July. Over twelve evenings, this transcultural audio extravaganza will transform the Schlüterhof courtyard into a huge stage in Berlin's Mitte district. Other successful formats such as micro-concerts by the **Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin** in the middle of the exhibition spaces and the **lautten compagney's** series *Musical Belongings* will also continue in 2026.

Performances

Albert Ibokwe Khoza's guest performance *Black Circus of the Republic of Bantu* in the Humboldt Forum attracted a great deal of attention in 2024. The non-binary South African artist will be back in 2026 with a commissioned project, **Dear Museum**, that runs from 29 May to 6 June. In October, the third iteration of the performance festival **Transkontinentale** will introduce new themes.

Education and mediation

The five-year project **Humbolting! A School Research Project** culminates in a large-scale performance in June. The participatory **Code Week** festival, hosted together with the Association of Public Libraries in Berlin, will also be returning to the Humboldt Forum.

Discourse and science

The focus of the year's events in the **Site Specifics** series will include the work of the Expert Commission, German-Polish relations, as well as the transformation of both East and West Germany since 1989/90. In the **Objects Talk Back** series, Logan February, poet-in-residence at the Humboldt Forum and the Hawaiian author No'u Revilla offer a literary appraisal of museum objects and their histories. In September, the scholarly event **Sprache(n) im Museum** (Language[s] in the Museum) will examine approaches to language.

The radio station **Deutschlandfunk Kultur** will once again broadcast its live radio show *Studio 9. Der Tag mit ...* from the large foyer of the Humboldt Forum, for visitors free of charge, every second Thursday of the month.

A place of warmth

With around 30,000 visits, the Place of Warmth has become a sheltering space for people in difficult circumstances in recent winters. In the winter of 2026/27, the warming lounge organized by the Johanniter and the Stiftung Humboldt Forum will open for the fifth consecutive year. In doing so, they continue to set an example of solidarity and human connection.

Detailed information on individual programmes: 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.

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