

PRESS RELEASE**24 June 2026**

Five Years Open: Taking stock and looking ahead

For the directors of the four institutions involved in the Humboldt Forum, this anniversary is an opportunity to take stock of their successes. What programmes has the Humboldt Forum put on since the building opened its doors and cultural activities began in the summer of 2021? What makes this place so special? What are the cultural highlights in the coming months? From 27 June to 19 July, the Humboldt Forum is celebrating its fifth anniversary with five action-packed days featuring special guided tours, a festival in the Schlüterhof, hands-on research activities, glimpses behind the scenes and a big family festival.

On 20 July 2021, the Humboldt Forum launched the first of its multi-phase programmes. Since then, the Humboldt Forum in Berlin's Mitte district has continued to evolve, both as an urban space as well as an open venue that continually reviews and shapes its work in dialogue with the public, international collaborations, and in cooperation with the four participating institutions. Historical responsibility, global entanglements and contemporary debates, restitution, colonial legacy and present-day issues, cultural appropriation, the politics of memory – these are the issues that make up the Humboldt Forum's work.

This development of its cultural programming is also reflected in the scale and breadth of its offerings: with over 2,500 events to date, the Humboldt Forum has evolved beyond the role of a traditional museum to become cultural hub where genres collide and exhibitions, events, and educational activities feed into one another. The museum is characterized by a diversity of formats ranging from discussions to festivals and is always also a place where people can come together. The high level of visitor interest has established the Humboldt Forum as a new urban quarter and must-see destination for audiences from Berlin and beyond.

Hartmut Dorgerloh, Director General of the Humboldt Forum: “In the five years since the opening, we can really say that the Humboldt Forum has developed its own distinctive character. We feel the vibrancy and dynamism of the place every day. I am particularly delighted by how well our various partners are working together – their different perspectives not merely coexisting, but engaging in genuine dialogue. This is the secret to our unique programming. And we are committed to riding this wave: welcoming more of the world through our doors and, together with our audiences, growing in confidence, ambition, and diversity.”

Marion Ackermann, President of the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz: “The Humboldt Forum can only succeed if it remains in motion, continually seeking out and pursuing new paths. Our museums have reinvented themselves by being part of it, finding themselves at the heart of the debate on how to work with objects from colonial contexts – and have grown accordingly. By inviting the world to collaborate with them, they have established joint research and collaboration on content and curatorial matters as the benchmark for transcultural museum work. Alongside the numerous micro-stories this has fostered, our task at the Humboldt Forum now is to focus more intently on the big questions while also taking Europe into account and establishing a connection to Berlin’s Museum Island. The museums, whose collections are what make it possible to tell all these stories, have a central role to play here.”

Sophie Plagemann, Board Member and Artistic Director of Stadtmuseum Berlin: “At Stadtmuseum Berlin, we have broken new ground with the BERLIN GLOBAL exhibition: we tell the city’s history from a wide range of perspectives and continually re-examine it. Through our open-space projects over the last five years, we have explored contemporary issues with groups and initiatives from different communities in Berlin and incorporated them into the exhibition. At the WELTSTUDIO, our innovative programme of creative activities and educational outreach offers something for all generations.”

Julia von Blumenthal, President of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin: “Whether it is climate change, social inequality, or technological upheavals, the complex challenges of our time call for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary responses. We extend an invitation to science and academia, business, and civil society to come and learn from

and with one another, and to develop solutions collectively. The Humboldt Lab, a vibrant hub of knowledge and research, provides a space for dialogue and participation, where encounters can take place on an equal footing.”

To mark the anniversary, the partner museums have published a new joint statement. This outlines the Humboldt Forum’s role, mission and working methods. You can learn more about this [here](#).

Five Years Open – five action-packed days: 27 June–4 July 2026

To mark its fifth anniversary, the four partner museums of the Humboldt Forum are inviting visitors to discover the building from new perspectives in a rich assortment of special events. Five action-packed days will offer unusual behind-the-scenes glimpses, allow the public to engage directly with the latest research, transform the Schlüterhof courtyard into a festival, provide activities specifically catering to families, and offer low-threshold access to the exhibitions. All the events are united in their aim to ensure that visitors experience the Humboldt Forum as a vibrant place of encounter, participation, and shared discovery – in other words, as so much more than just a museum.

Full programme details: humboldtforum.org/fuenf-jahre-offen

Preview of what’s coming from June to December 2026: humboldtforum.org

Press photos: humboldtforum.org/presse

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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