

PRESS RELEASE

16th FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS, September 11-20, 2020

The Festival of Lights Berlin 2020 sets luminous signs for cultural life, even in these times!

- The 16th Festival of Lights will illuminate the whole of Berlin in a special edition.
- Over 100 artworks at 86 locations in every Berlin district and many neighborhoods, 24 of them temporary on different festival evenings
- Motto of the 16th Festival of Lights: "Together we shine".
- An open air light gallery spread over 168 sqkm in the capital city
- Over 40 artists from 8 countries and over 60 partner companies and institutions involved
- Festival of Lights App with news service available for download as of September 11

"We want to set a shining sign with our Festival of Lights this year: For cohesion, unity, confidence, fellow humanity and for diversity, freedom as well as tolerance in Berlin," explains Festival Director Birgit Zander. "We are proud and happy that we can bring joy to many people, especially in these difficult times, with light and art - and completely free of charge and open air," says Birgit Zander.

Berlin, September 4, 2020. This year, the world-renowned Festival of Lights will take place in a special edition for the 16th time. With more than 100 works of art, Berlin will light up a little earlier this year than in previous years. From September 11 to 20, artistic illuminations under the motto "Together we shine" spread over 168 square kilometers invite Berliners and guests to stroll through every Berlin district and many neighborhoods.

At the Festival of Lights 2020, not only is much new, but also a little different than in previous years. "We invite you to stroll. The size of Berlin and the many different districts and neighborhoods naturally benefit us here," says Birgit Zander. This year, there will be 86 venues spread throughout the city, with the Festival of Lights to be discovered in every district and in many neighborhoods. Some buildings will be staged for the first time as part of the Festival of Lights, such as the **town halls of Pankow, Köpenick, Tempelhof-Schöneberg, Charlottenburg, Spandau, Neukölln and Marzahn-Hellersdorf, the Neukölln District Court, the Tchoban Foundation, Köpenick Palace, the Elisabeth Church in Berlin-Mitte or the Borsigturm, the halls at the Borsigturm, the clock tower of the Ullsteinhaus and Tempelhofer Hafen.**

"We invite you to rediscover the districts and neighborhoods in evening walks. In addition, this year we are focusing on atmospheric light images and avoiding long shows. Nevertheless, fans of the popular video mappings do not have to do without them completely. There will be around 20 video stagings at selected locations and some virtual for the first time for those who don't want to travel but still don't want to miss out on 'their Festival of Lights'," explains Birgit Zander.

The patron of the Festival of Lights is the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Michael Müller, who writes in his greeting: "I am delighted that the Festival of Lights is providing such a highlight in Berlin's calendar of events - especially in this unusual year, in which so many plans have already been thwarted."

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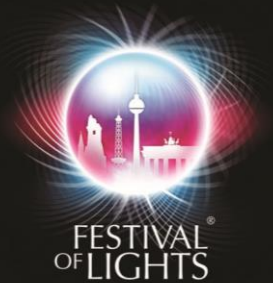
Presenter of this year's Festival of Lights is once again E.ON - already in its 6th year of partnership. "E.ON likes to support initiatives that enrich people's lives. What we particularly like about the Festival of Lights is that it makes cutting-edge art accessible to everyone," explains Betty Kieß, Head of Strategic Communications at E.ON.

Among other things, E.ON is presenting the "**Festival of Lights Special Award**" at Charlottenburg Palace this year. There, a new panorama staging is being created with the Museum Berggruen and the Scharf-Gerstenberg Collection.

In total, there will be **62 illuminations** to admire continuously in the Festival of Lights 2020, as well as **24 more temporarily**, spread over various festival evenings.

An excerpt from the program:

- **13 train stations** will tell artistic stories - supported by "Mein Einkaufsbahnhof" -, 5 of them permanently (Hauptbahnhof, Ostbahnhof, Warschauer Straße, Hackescher Markt, Savignyplatz) and 8 train stations on one evening each.
- The entire **Potsdamer Platz** will be illuminated in a multifaceted way at 7 locations
- The **Oberbaumbrücke** will be staged with an approx. three-minute 3-D videomapping, presented by Telefónica O2
- Many **federal ministries** are once again involved - thematically around this year's German EU Council Presidency as well as "30 Years of German Unity", including the **Federal Press Office (BPA)**, the **Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF)**, the **Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)** and the **Federal Ministry of Transport BMVI**. The **Federal Foreign Office** is showing "1000 Faces of the European Union," by photo artist Carsten Sander. The **Federal Ministry of Health** will light up the TV tower in orange on September 17, on the occasion of the WHO's World Patient Safety Day.
- Of course, well-known buildings and squares are also part of the program, such as the **Berlin Cathedral**, the **Nikolai Quarter**, the **Bode Museum**, the **Brandenburg Gate** or the **Bebelplatz**, with artistic statue motifs matching the motto "Together we shine". At the **Staatsoper Unter den Linden**, the theme "55 years of German-Israeli diplomatic relations" is reflected in cooperation with the long-standing festival partner, the **Embassy of the State of Israel**. Also participating again: the **Museum für Naturkunde**, supported by the Sparkasse, and the **Siegessäule**, sponsored by Mastercard.
- New highlights at new locations will be presented, such as the **Berlin Decks** in Moabit at Friedrich-Krause-Ufer or the **FÜRST** at Kurfürstendamm.
- On one of the tours through Berlin's 12 districts, there is even a very special main character: the **Berlin Bear**. The Berlin Bear conquers the districts on the occasion of the new **Berlin campaign** of the Senate in a special way
- Daily updates can be found in the **calendar** at www.festival-of-lights.de



For the first time, the Festival of Lights goes **digital** and presents **Augmented Reality**. Viewers of a projection can use the app to bring a still image to life through augmented reality with their smartphone cameras. The new app will be available **for download starting Sept. 11, 2020**. There is also a **news service** integrated, with which visitors are always informed about **the program and news**. All information can be found on the festival website at www.festival-of-lights.de.

Also new to the Festival of Lights: **Virtual shows that can only be seen online**. The creative minds of the festival have come up with some surprises - making the Festival of Lights an experience with additional content for all light enthusiasts worldwide.

A long tradition at the Festival of Lights is, of course, the annual **photo contest**. Also this year, visitors of the festival are invited to share the most beautiful impressions around the festival and special motifs of the illuminated buildings. The photo contest is presented by Excire. The main aim is to capture the special atmosphere of the festival and the "very special moment" when the shutter is pressed. The first 3 winners will receive cash prizes ranging from 300€ - 1000€ in addition to Excire's photo software.

Despite all the anticipation for the Festival of Lights, there are also words of warning from Festival Director Birgit Zander: "We wish all visitors that together we can experience a harmonious, relaxed, trouble-free 16th Festival of Lights in our capital city. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to the common sense, discipline and sense of responsibility of each individual. Please keep your distance! It is best to wear mouth and nose protection! Discover Berlin's neighborhoods and enjoy what countless people have put on for you in recent months with love, heart and enthusiasm. Let's enjoy the lights together!"

The Festival of Lights organizers extend their heartfelt thanks to all partners, all creators and artists, all technical and other service providers, and all the helping minds and hands. "Without them all, this Special Edition of the Festival of Lights would not have been possible," says Birgit Zander. "It has been a particularly challenging journey this year and together we have created a unique community event for Berlin. For art and culture in public space and for the common good, the positive attitude towards life and the hope of the people."

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