

PRESS RELEASE

19th FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS, 6-15 October 2023

## **Festival of Lights Berlin celebrates the diversity with 85 light art works and video shows!**

**Motto: "Colours of Life", incl. on the occasion of the major event "50 Years of Hip-Hop".**

- The Festival of Lights 2023 celebrates the diversity of life with magnificent productions on Berlin's most famous landmarks and squares.
- The most colourful range of partners in the festival's history:  
Partners as Netflix, Accenture, Deutsche Bahn, Potsdamer Platz, SAP, BVG, WBM, Beiersdorf, the World Health Summit, the Humboldt Forum, Zespri, Wolt, Philips TV & Sound, Sparda-Bank Berlin, Zagreb Tourist, Taiwan Tourism, KIDDINX with Bibi Blockberg and many more set a shining example for diversity with their commitment to the Festival of Lights and present extraordinary artistic interpretations of different lifestyles.
- 10 unique nights from 06-15 October between 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. are available to all visitors free of charge for the 19th time in a row.

**Berlin, 28 September 2023.** The 19th FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS will take place in Berlin from 6 to 15 October 2023 and will be featuring an artistically extraordinarily exciting edition. "We want to use light art to show how multifaceted and beautiful life is in a diverse society. With this year's motto, "Colours of Life", we wish to draw attention to different art forms and variations of light art, but also to focus on human values such as uniqueness, dignity, respect and acceptance. These values are the basis for all people to be able to live together and prosper in a diverse society. Differences make all our lives more colourful - and better," says Birgit Zander, event organiser and Head of the FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS.

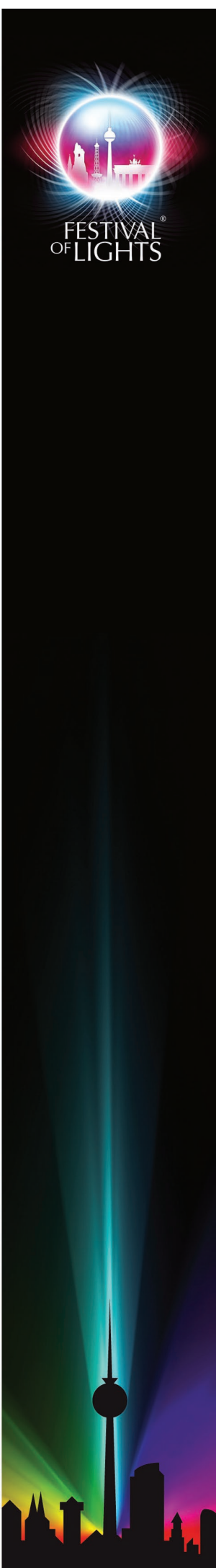
### **A wide-ranging programme at 42 different locations and squares with around 85 art-works and shows.**

Through the Festival of Lights 2023, the German capital will once again become Europe's largest open-air gallery in Europe. Every night between 7 and 11 p.m. the visitors are invited to explore 42 special locations and squares the Festival of Lights team has produced for them.

### **An extract from the 2023 programme:**

- Six teams of artists from six countries will transform Germany's tallest building, the **Berlin TV Tower**, into a landmark full of "Colours of Life" as part of this year's Festival of Lights Awards. A diverse show full of art and emotions. Diversity is also represented by this year's partners on the Berlin TV Tower: for the first time, you can see Bibi Blocksberg flying up the TV Tower on her broom. You can admire the Berlin Bear in XXL format. Or experience the BVG's famous diversity motif for the first time on the TV tower instead of in the Berlin underground.  
This year's stagings on the TV tower are generously supported by Netflix, Eucerin, Philips TV & Sound, BVG, Berlin-Partner and KIDDINX.
- On the occasion of its 25th anniversary **Potsdamer Platz** will be presented in a very special light. Festival visitors will enjoy large-scale projections in a world of colours, ornaments and flowers on the imposing skyscrapers: glowing red sea of

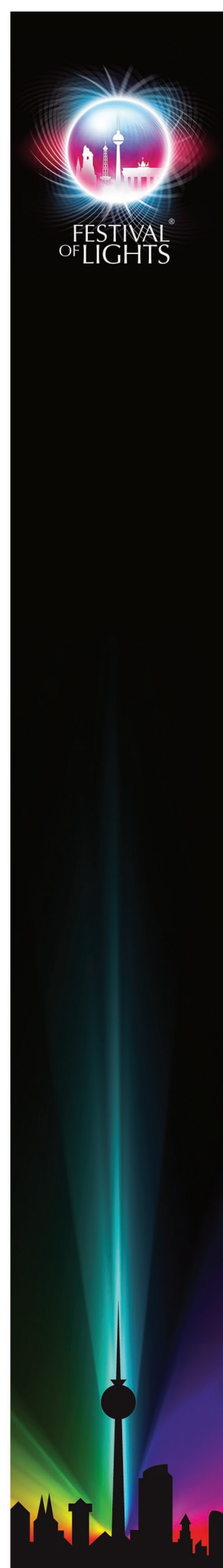
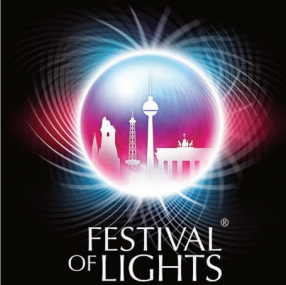
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poppies in the Alte Potsdamer Strasse, a black light tunnel at Haus Huth, the illuminated Fontane-Platz, oversized mythical creatures in the new adventure- and entertainment destination THE PLAYCE, a glittering Varian Fry Street, the monumental light installation "Together" on Marlene-Dietrich-Platz, and, as another premiere, the "Fantasy" water show on the Piano Lake.

The "Colours of Life" will also be displayed in magnificent projection on the **Ritz Carlton** and the **P5** at Potsdamer Platz, as well as for the first time on the facade of the new **SAP headquarters in Berlin, in the Heidestrasse quarter**.

- This year, a historical event will be shown in **colourful images on the east side of the Oberbaum Bridge**: in 2023 celebrates hip-hop its 50th anniversary. It was founded on 11 August 1973 in the basement of the Bronx district in New York City and set a worldwide cultural movement in motion. To honour this special milestone, "The 50th Anniversary of Hip-Hop" presents an extraordinary projection show featuring the legendary hip-hop artists who have helped bring joy to many people and made a positive difference in the world. In addition, Sparda-Bank Berlin will present its outstanding commitment to sustainability with a special show.
- **The main partner of the 19th Festival of Lights is Netflix**. On the occasion of the launch of the 3rd season of the crime series LUPIN, the streaming service has come up with something very special together with the festival team: the series main character LUPIN plays hide-and-seek in the Berlin night and keeps surprisingly appearing at various festival locations.
- **The Berlin Cathedral** communicates a very special and important message in the context of this year's festival: diversity does not exist without inclusion. 10 artists with and without disabilities will show their works on this historic building and thus provide deep emotional insights into their personal, very different worlds.
- This year, Berlin's **Nikolai Quarter** will be transformed into a Harry Potter-alike world. Among other things, there will be a magical video projection next to the Roten Rathaus and the magical premiere installation "Swings in the Clouds" by the artist group SCUDERIA ZAGREB in the small park at the back of the Nikolai Church. These highlights are made possible thanks to the WBM Wohnungsbau-gesellschaft Berlin-Mitte.
- For the first time in many years, the **Marx-Engels-Forum** is back in the spotlight of the Festival of Lights. There will be another premiere: the Berlin artists' collective RE:SORB will spectacularly interpret this historic square with their installation "Lumisphere".
- On the historic **Victory Column**, Accenture will present the artistic video projection and the message "A Place Where Everyone Belongs" setting a shining example for respect and tolerance and against discrimination and racism with.
- At **Hackescher Markt**, the S-Bahn arches will be artistically staged with a large panorama motif, for the first time it will also include a video screen and impressive moving mapping effects. Therein, the green transformation of the partner Deutsche Bahn / DB Station & Service AG is being reflected as well.
- Colours, shapes and words appear on **the north facade of the Humboldt Forum** opposite the Berlin Cathedral. The video show "un\_endlich. Living with Death"



gives an insight of the special exhibition, which can be visited at the Humboldt Forum until 26 November.

- The entire **Bebelplatz** will once again shine in a 180-degree staging in line with the festival motto "Colours of Life". **St Hedwig's Cathedral**, the Faculty of Law and the **State Opera** are integrated into this ensemble with colourful architectural stagings. At the **Hotel de Rome**, three artists from Germany and Poland will present their video artworks as part of this year's FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS Award "Colours of Life".

The stagings at the Hotel de Rome are made possible thanks to Netflix, the delivery service Wolt, Zespri SunGold Kiwi and the Zagreb Tourist Board.

- On the most famous of Berlin's landmarks, the **Brandenburg Gate**, the Festival of Lights this year presents a 3D video mapping show by four outstanding artist studios from four different countries.

This year's winners of the FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS Award "Colours of Life" are: MP Studio from Bulgaria, Typru from France and Portugal, Sunnana Inc. from Japan and Kurbas Pro from Ukraine. They are coming together to present their visions on the theme of diversity in a spectacular show.

On 15 October, the Brandenburg Gate Show will also include an artistic reference to an important event on that day: the start of the World Health Summit 2023 and "75 years of WHO". A perfect fit makes that the WHS is one of this year's festival sponsors making the staging of the Brandenburg Gate possible.

- Visitors to **Charlottenburg Palace** will enjoy two spectacular 3D video mappings. Also, they are invited to see enchanting art by very young promising artists: The youngest is 2 years old and belongs to a group of children who will present their ideas of diversity with drawings projected on the Charlottenburg Palace. This year, among the young artists are guests from the Björn Schulz Foundation. The children with life-shortening illnesses have created colourful pictures together with educators and caregivers and are particularly excited about the reactions of the audience.

The stagings on the Charlottenburg Palace are made possible, among others, thanks to Netflix and the Taiwan Tourism Bureau, which will also be hosting its own artistic video shows on the diversity theme.

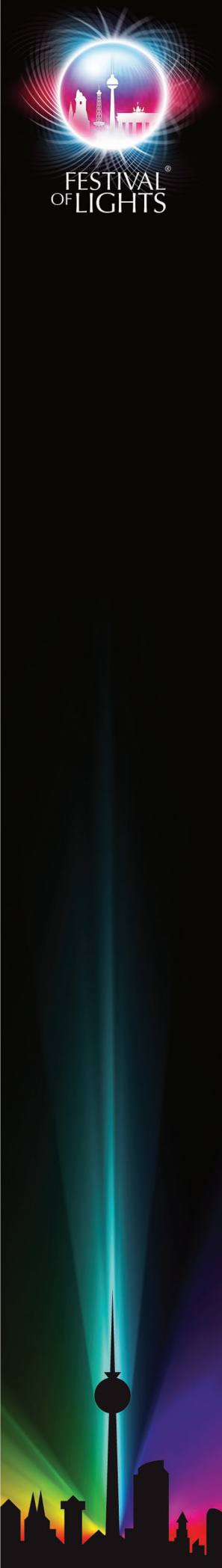
This year, the Festival of Lights stagings can be discovered again in **various neighbourhoods of Berlin**, including on the tower of **Pankow Town Hall**, at the **LIO Lichterfelde Ost shopping centre**, at the **Tempelhofer Hafen shopping centre**, in **Lichtenberg Rathaus Park** (only on 6 October) and in Friedrichshain at **Weberwiese** (only on 14 October).

### **For the 19th time in a row: Free access for all visitors**

Thanks to partners and sponsors, the privately financed FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS has been available to visitors free of charge every year since its inception in 2005. "We are very much looking forward to inviting Berliners and guests from all over the world to experience fascinating light art and "magic moments" in Berlin free of charge," says Birgit Zander.

### **Major partners make the Festival of Lights possible in the first place**

This year, the group of partners and sponsors is literally more diverse and colourful than ever before. For the first time, the festival management has curated not only the



artistic shows but also the selection of sponsors and partners in a special way. "This year it was particularly important to us that our partners and sponsors fit in with our leitmotif of diversity. That's why we made a point of attracting companies and organisations that are strongly committed to diversity. I am proud that we have succeeded in doing precisely that. I am also delighted to be able to put a spotlight on this. Berlin is the city of diversity. And the Festival of Lights is on the first place a platform for presenting artistic diversity," says Birgit Zander.

### **A word of appreciation from the Governing Mayor of Berlin to all supporters**

In his welcoming address, the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Kai Wegner, patron of the Festival of Lights 2023, expressed his appreciation for the great annual commitment of the Festival team to this unique cultural highlight, which is also an important economic factor for Berlin: "I would like to thank everyone who has been committed to this extraordinary event, in many cases for years now, with a great deal of energy and heart and soul: Especially the event team, its partners and supporters as well as the participating artists. I wish all visitors many unforgettable impressions and every success to the 19th Festival of Lights in Berlin".

**The Festival programme can be found on [www.festival-of-lights.de/en](http://www.festival-of-lights.de/en)**

The entire programme of this year's Festival of Lights, all information about the partners and venues as well as a clearly arranged illumination map can be found on [www.festival-of-lights.de/en](http://www.festival-of-lights.de/en)

The festival website already enables visitors to find the official providers of the popular lightseeing tours and to book tickets. The central organiser of this year's Lightseeing Tours is the festival partner visitBerlin.

**The FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS 2023 is made possible by Netflix, Accenture, SAP, Eucerin, Wolt, World Health Summit, The 50th Anniversary of Hip-Hop, Deutsche Bahn, Potsdamer Platz, Sparda-Bank Berlin, Humboldt-Forum, Philips TV & Sound, KIDDINX, Zespri, BVG, WBM, Berlin-Partner, visitBerlin, help - Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe e.V., SGB, Zagreb Tourist Board, Taiwan Tourism Bureau, Rathaus Center Pankow, LIO Center, Bezirksamt Lichtenberg, Center Tempelhofer Hafen, DEVK, TV Tower Alexanderplatz, European Parliament, St. Hedwig Cathedral, Fischer & Lustig, yewecan!cer, Hotel Ritz Carlton.**

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