

PRESS RELEASE

17. FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS, 03.-12. September 2021

Light art in the name of sustainability:  
The 17th FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS 2021 presents 75 buildings and locations throughout Berlin under the motto "Creating tomorrow".

- Light art stagings at 75 locations with over 100 artistic motifs and shows - Berlin will once again become an impressive open air gallery.
- New presenting sponsor is the climate initiative "The Climate Pledge".
- Numerous premieres invite visitors to stroll and walk to the famous Berlin landmarks and into the neighborhoods
- Light and art every evening from 8:21 p.m. - midnight from September 3 for 10 nights

*When the light shows put a smile back on the faces of the visitors, it is about much more than just a sophisticated artistic performance. It is a commitment to the issues of our time such as sustainability, energy supply, mobility, digitalization or measures for CO2 neutrality. "Art combined with light presents such important messages in a particularly emotional way" says founder, producer and artistic director Birgit Zander. "We are very pleased that we can again present a unique art experience in Berlin this year with the 17th Festival of Lights. Free of charge for all visitors. And thanks to many committed partners who we could inspire for the topics that are close to our hearts."*

**Berlin, August 26, 2021.** With the start of the 17th Festival of Light on September 3 the largest open air gallery in the world opens again. The 75 buildings and installations with over 100 artistic motifs and shows are distributed throughout the city, many neighborhoods and all Berlin districts are included. Everywhere there is light art to experience.

Of course, popular festival locations such as the Brandenburg Gate, Potsdamer Platz, Charlottenburg Palace, the Berlin Cathedral, the Oberbaum Bridge, Bebelplatz, ten train stations, many ministries and embassies, or the TV Tower will be there. In line with the festival motto "Creating Tomorrow", the festival cooperates with the global climate protection initiative "The Climate Pledge" as a new presenting sponsor.

The festival is a heart project for Birgit Zander and the festival team, a declaration of love for her hometown Berlin. In each festival year, an overarching motto is created, to which the productions are thematically oriented. This year's motto, "Creating Tomorrow," underscores the importance of sustainability; together with partners and sponsors, it will set a shining example for the future of humankind. The impressive light art stagings and 3D video mappings illuminate topics such as climate and species protection, science, humanity or even diversity in an emotional and visionary way.

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The patron of the Festival of Lights, the Governing Mayor of Berlin Michael Müller, is enthusiastic: "When summer turns and the days become shorter again, everyone in Berlin knows: It's time for the Festival of Lights! The entire city will once again shine in the light of creative and colorful illuminations to the delight of Berliners and our guests alike. ... I thank the organizers and the participating artists for their commitment, with which they make the Festival of Lights possible again this year."

The presenting sponsor of the Festival of Lights is "The Climate Pledge", a global climate protection coalition of already more than 100 companies. Christiana Figueres, former head of climate change at the United Nations and now a founding partner of Global Optimism says: "Facing the reality and impact of the climate crisis is a shared responsibility of citizens, governments and businesses. Together with Amazon, Global Optimism launched the Climate Pledge in 2019. The initiative aims to help companies develop ambitious roadmaps to do their part in addressing this challenge. By partnering with the Festival of Lights, the Climate Pledge aims to inspire people to work decisively on innovative solutions to address climate change."

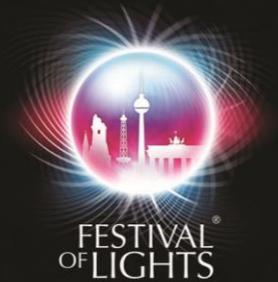
Together with its presenting sponsor, the festival offered the Future Vision Award, a competition that honors the best video artists. This year, seven international teams of artists have already won the award in advance. They will now present their visions of a new tomorrow on three Berlin landmarks - Charlottenburg Palace, the Hotel de Rome and the Berlin TV Tower.

Among other things, the video mapping "The Future of Energy" by partner Stromnetz Berlin will be on display at the Brandenburg Gate. Berlin is on its way to becoming one of the leading smart city metropolises. And Stromnetz is supporting the state and its residents with the development of forward-looking technologies.

A total of 75 productions can be seen in the 17th Festival of Lights, 5 of which are temporary on different festival evenings.

An excerpt from the program for strolling and walking on the evening tours:

- **10 Berlin train stations shine** in keeping with the "European Year of Rail" and supported by "Mein Einkaufsbahnhof": Hauptbahnhof, Hackescher Markt, Anhalter Bahnhof Lichtenberg, Lichterfelde Ost, Pankow, Frohnau, Sonnenallee, Warschauer Straße as well as the InterCityHotel at Ostbahnhof for the first time with a spectacular VideoMapping.
- The whole of **Potsdamer Platz** will be illuminated in a multi-faceted way at eight locations, including an oversized glowing globe.
- The company building of the pharmaceutical company **Pfizer** is taking part for the first time.
- The **Oberbaumbrücke** presents a 3D videomapping of a vision for the best possible coexistence between man and nature.
- Many **federal ministries** will be participating again - following the festival motto this year with their individual themes of the future, 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 will show the video performance "Falling Reversely" by Asian artist Isaac Chong Wai. The European House with the Permanent Representations of the European



- Parliament and the European Commission in Germany presents on its facade the European flag and its exhibition "Experience Europe", which is open on the weekends especially for the festival until late in the evening.
- Of course, well-known buildings and places are also part of the program, such as the **Berliner Dom in the Lustgarten**, the **Nikolai Quarter** with seven installations, the **Ritz-Carlton** on Potsdamer Platz, the **Bode Museum**, the entire **Bebelplatz**, the **Humboldt University**, the **Museum of Illusions**, and the **Tchoban Foundation** (Sept. 10-12).
  - In the City West, the **Gedächtniskirche**, **Schloss Charlottenburg**, the radio tower, the **rrb television center** and the **Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund** building are among the buildings that light up.
  - Once again participating as a popular festival location - the **Siegessäule**. This year sponsored by NYX Professional Makeup and with a powerful commitment to the LGBTQIA+ community.
  - Embassy buildings also present themselves with thematic presentations, such as the **American Embassy**, the **Embassy of Canada**, the **Belgian Embassy** and - for the first time - the **Embassy of Italy**, with a video mapping on the occasion of the 700th death-day of the poet Dante Alighieri.
  - This year's highlights include the **Konzerthaus am Gendarmenmarkt** with the VideoMapping "A Symphony that never ends" presented by Sony Music, the Schlüterhof in the **Humboldt Forum** with a video production by the Berlin artist team Sucuk und Bratwurst, Disney with its campaign "Disney Princess: For All - For Ever!" at the **Stage Theater** / Potsdamer Platz. The eWerk brings the photo projection "100Nanometer" and the buildings of Microsoft Unter den Linden take a journey through the data streams of our digital era with the show "Digital Nature". Sony Music's new headquarters on Bülowstraße is also staged for the first time, with a colorful show to celebrate the cultural diversity in Schöneberg.
  - In Berlin's neighborhoods, there are classics to marvel at such as **Pankow City Hall**, **Köpenick City Hall**, **Emmaus Church**, **Tempelhofer Hafen**, **Lichtenberg City Hall Park** (on Sept. 10), but also new productions such as at the **Spandau Arcaden**, **"LIO" Lichterfelde**, the **Kasino Tower Frohnau** and the riverside landscape of the new **Waterkant** residential area (on Oct. 4). In **Marzahn-Hellersdorf**, an entire ensemble will be illuminated this year, consisting of the old town hall on Helene-Weigel-Platz and the degewo high-rise building next to it.
  - Daily updates can be found in the calendar at [www.festival-of-lights.de](http://www.festival-of-lights.de)

Once again this year, visitors to the Festival of Lights can use augmented reality to bring a projection to life. To do so, they use the Festival of Lights app and their smartphone camera. A news service is integrated into the app, which keeps visitors up to date on the program and news. All information is available on the festival website at [www.festival-of-lights.de](http://www.festival-of-lights.de).

A tradition at the Festival of Lights is the annual photo competition. This year, the visitors are invited to share their most beautiful impressions of the festival and special motifs of the illuminated buildings. The main aim is to capture the unique atmosphere of the festival and that "special moment" when the shutter is released. Great prizes are up for grabs.



With great anticipation for this year's Festival of Lights, Festival Director Birgit Zander wishes all visitors " ... that together we can experience a harmonious, relaxed, trouble-free 17th Festival of Lights in our capital. This also includes the understanding, discipline and sense of responsibility of each individual. Please keep your distance! Discover Berliner Kieze and enjoy what countless people with love, heart and enthusiasm have put on for you in the past months. Let's enjoy the light together!"

The Festival of Lights organizers say thank you to all partners, all creatives and artists, all technical and other service providers and all the helping heads and hands, because only together could all this be made possible. "It was once again a particularly challenging journey this year. In the end, great things were once again achieved for Berlin and its people. For art and culture in public space and for the common good and the positive attitude to life of the people," says Birgit Zander.

As every year, the festival is free of charge for visitors. In addition, there are guided tours of many official lightseeing partners. The entire program, all information on partners and buildings as well as a clear illumination map can be found at [www.festival-of-lights.de](http://www.festival-of-lights.de).

Further exclusive information and images are available on request.

FESTIVAL of LIGHTS Berlin 2021 from September 3 to 12, 2021  
Further exclusive information as well as picture material is available on request.  
Your contact person is Birgit Zander.

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