

Berlin, 23 September 2024

PRESS RELEASE | 35th Anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution and the fall of the Berlin Wall: thousands of voices for freedom and democracy

The concrete plans for the celebration marking the 35th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall were presented at a press conference today by a panel that included Berlin's Governing Mayor Kai Wegner, Kulturprojekte Berlin CEO Moritz van Dülmen, Kulturprojekte Berlin Managing Director and Department Head Simone Leimbach as well as Marianne Birthler, former Federal Commissioner for the Records of the State Security Service of the Former GDR, and Frank Ebert, Berlin's Commissioner for the Reappraisal of the SED Dictatorship.

Berlin's Governing Mayor Kai Wegner called attention to the significance of the anniversary for the capital: "The day the Wall came down, 9 November 1989, was a lucky day for Berlin and all of Germany. Today, 35 years later, in spite of all the challenges and uncertainty we face, including the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine, we have a number of reasons to celebrate, among them our freedoms and our reunited Germany. Berlin is the 'City of Freedom' and 9 November embodies our eventful history like no other day. Even 35 years later, we're eager to honour the people of the GDR, the civil-rights movement and all the courageous women and men who brought down the Wall. Today, in an era in which freedom and democracy are once again under attack, it is more important than ever to defend our values and fight to protect them".

A kilometre-long installation will showcase thousands of voices for freedom

On 8 and 9 November 2024, an extensive installation will be on display along a section of the former Berlin Wall. Under the motto "Hold freedom up high!" the installation will feature both historical and contemporary signs and banners, thus bringing together the calls for freedom made in 1989/90 with the wishes and hopes of people today. This 4-kilometre open-air showcase, which will be accessible free of charge, is designed to encourage visitors to explore and reflect. Since June of this year, thousands of people have attended workshops where they created their own unique posters and discussed topics such as freedom and democracy.

This special weekend will also feature a multifaceted programme of accompanying events, including talks, concerts, performances, readings and hands-on activities, all of which will undoubtedly make for a number of fun surprises, interesting encounters and fruitful dialogue.

Images of these thousands of posters conveying people's thoughts and ideas on freedom will be brought together in a book that also features essays, interviews, photo series and debates. The publication will be distributed in large numbers to visitors free of charge on 9 November 2024.

Special exhibition sections at seven locations

Special open-air exhibition sections at seven locations along the route – including at the Brandenburg Gate, Potsdamer Platz and Checkpoint Charlie – will draw attention to specific themes such as flight, demonstration and participation using historical photos, interviews and reports. The multifaceted events and perspectives expressed in the 1989/90 era will be directly conveyed to visitors here along the path of the former Berlin Wall. This open-air exhibition will be complemented by additional presentations, such as an exhibition organised by the Axel Springer Freedom Foundation at the Berlin's Abgeordnetenhaus (House of Representatives) under the name: "China isn't far! 35th anniversary of the fall of the Wall – 35th anniversary of Tian'anmen".

The Festival for Freedom featuring the "Band for Freedom"

The evening of 9 November 2024 will come to an end with a spectacular wall of sound. Kulturprojekte Berlin is organising an event that emphasises music as the highlight of the celebrations marking the 35th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. As part of this event, Berliners are invited to become members of giant band and to play the 'soundtrack of 1989' along the 4-kilometre route. Hundreds of musicians will unite to create an experience that transcends division. The city will become a stage and the public will act as the singers and musicians. It promises to be a great celebration of freedom and togetherness.

Amateur and professional musicians alike can apply [here](#) until 7 October.

Powerful finale at the "Campus of Democracy" featuring Pussy Riot

When the Festival for Freedom comes to a close on November 9, a democracy festival called "Revolution! Then what?" will get underway. Starting on 10 November, a selection of the signs and poster on display as part of the open-air installation will be presented at the "Campus for Democracy". Another key highlight will be an appearance by the artist collective **Pussy Riot**, who will perform here at the campus in front of the former Stasi headquarters, thus bringing the anniversary celebrations to a close. Discussions with contemporary eyewitnesses and guided tours will also ensure that the campus remains a lively place for democracy.

Click [here](#) for more information on the events and schedule of the celebrations surrounding the "35th Anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution and the Fall of the Berlin Wall"

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Funding & Partnerships

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Berliner Beauftragter
zur Aufarbeitung
der SED-Diktatur



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