

Invitation to tender for art in a public space "New access to Ebertplatz"

Artistic redesign of the disused escalators at the Ebertplatz including stairway (optional)
Project up to €12,000 per escalator (plus stairway)
for 2018, 2019 or 2020 (duration from 6 months up to 2 years)

Closing date for receiving applications: 2 July 2018

GENERAL FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS

Reason for the invitation to tender

In 2020, the realization phase of the new urban concept or redesign of the Ebertplatz is scheduled to begin.

For the interim period from 2018 to 2020, the City Council of Cologne adopted in March 2018 the concept "INTERIM Ebertplatz". It was developed by the administration together with civil society actors and includes various measures as well as an additional budget.

The aim of the **interim concept** is to stimulate measures to "revitalize the square". This includes the square's upgrade for all ages and social groups, especially the residents of the urban quarters Kuniberts-, Eigelstein- and Agnesviertel as well as passers-by and citizens that wish to use the space more often. With the interim use of the Ebertplatz during this period the potentials of the space are to be investigated and then flow into the planning of the long-term redesign as empirical data.

The interim concept pursues the goal:

- to break up the negative stigma of the place as far as possible
- to increase social control by a growing public use and
- to defuse the perception of the place as causing anxiety.

According to the interim concept, possible temporary uses for the Ebertplatz include:

- cultural and artistic interventions
- leisure and active events, urban gardening
- child and youth oriented offers
- gastronomy, markets and other public events.

In the field of cultural and artistic interventions, the City of Cologne promotes not only events on the square but also an invitation to tender which involves a transformation or redesign of the 6 disused escalators with artistic means. The artistic concept can also include the neighbouring stairs, but in any case should take into account the visual impact of the complete stairway.

In the summer, a further invitation to tender will offer the opportunity to develop artistic lighting concepts that will turn the Ebertplatz into a new area of experience for urban society during the dark season.

"Art and culture can positively change the Ebertplatz," says Cologne Deputy Mayor of Fine Arts and Culture. Susanne Laugwitz-Aulbach. "I am glad that the art venue Ebertplatz has a legacy and will play a major role in the temporary use concept and, hopefully, in the future too. The current cultural development plan for Cologne puts an emphasis on the need of preserving spaces for art and culture, which can also include public space." (Excerpt, press release City of Cologne 19/4/2018)

Concrete measures, further invitations to tender and events are announced on the new website Unser Ebertplatz (www.unser-ebertplatz.de). The current cultural events have been also highlighted in the press release of April 19, 2018.

The Ebertplatz and its urban environment

The Ebertplatz in the so-called Neustadt-Nord of Cologne is the largest square of the inner-city ring road. It lies between the Hansaring and the last of the 10 ring sections, the Theodor-Heuss-Ring, which encloses a large green area and leads to the so-called Rheinuferstraße along the banks of the Rhein. Other major transport routes leading to Ebertplatz are Neusser Straße and Turiner/Riehler Straße, as well as Sudermanstraße and the Eigensteinstraße with its pedestrian zone around the Eigelsteintorburg. Ebertplatz is also an important hub for public transport with 30,000 daily passengers that board or leave trains and 35,000 passengers switching lines.

In terms of urban planning, the square was built in the style of brutalist open-space architecture using a hexagonal design language and exposed aggregate concrete as a predominant building material. In its immediate vicinity are the quarters Eigelsteinviertel, Agnesviertel, Kunibertsviertel and Theodor-Heuss-Park.

There are four independent art spaces (see below: "Ebertplatz – a location for art") located in the lower level on the square's western section, likewise a bistro, a bar and a copy shop; furthermore a kiosk at the eastern part of the square and on the upper level the water-kinetic sculpture (currently under repair) designed by Cologne artist Wolfgang Göddertz.

Due to violent crimes at the end of 2017 between passers-by and alcoholised persons frequenting the area as well as a homicidal offence in the context of disputes between two rival dealer groups, the square has been in the focus of public attention and even referred to in the press as a 'no-go area'. The aim is to employ the temporary utilisation concept and the mixed participation to invite quite different groups of visitors back to the square, which will contribute to a social mix and thus revitalization, hereby counteracting one-sided use and stigmatization.

History of the Ebertplatz square

At the beginning of the 19th century, on the site of the present-day Theodor-Heuss-Ring, an almost 500 meters long and 50 meters wide winter harbour ("Napoleonhafen" or "Thürmchenshafen") was constructed in order to protect the town from ice drift and flood. In 1890, the whole harbour basin was filled and – much like the adjacent area of the fortification wall – went from Prussian to municipal ownership. The medieval city wall was demolished and only a few of the former gates were left standing, such as the Eigelsteintorburg.

At the end of the 19th century, chief urban planner Josef Stübgen designed a semicircular ring boulevard along the open space of the former city wall complex, which led from the present Ubierring in the south to the Rhine in the north. It was modelled on the Parisian Grands Boulevards and the Vienna Ringstrasse as a broad boulevard and lined with parks. As several roads converged on today's Ebertplatz, the city planners conceived no simple intersection, but a spacious square with a green, almost park-like annex including a fountain next to it.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, the square was given different names: in 1887, it was called Deutscher Platz and was the central square of the "Deutscher Ring", today's Theodor-Heuss-Ring. In the following years the square – depending on the political situation – was changed several times his name: from 18 July 1922 on he was called the Square of the Republic. During the era of National Socialism the place immediately was named Adolf Hitler Square after the NSDAP came to power in January 1933. Following Second World War, it was quickly renamed in German Square. In March 1950, the place received its present name Ebertplatz after the first president of the Weimar Republic Friedrich Ebert.

After a long and intense discussion in the 1970s, the square was designed within the context of the times as a result of car-friendly or predominantly traffic-oriented urban planning (including a new underground station in 1974) with brutalist architecture. Since then, pedestrian have been able to use the open sub street level passage that was initially flanked with shops. Even during the construction phase the layout was criticized as outdated.

The Ebertplatz is part of the "Masterplan Innenstadt Köln". This was adopted by the City Council of Cologne in 2009 as a general recommendation for future urban planning.

Ebertplatz – a location for art

Within the context of the 1970 redevelopment a large "water kinetic sculpture" by the artist Wolfgang Göddertz was installed on upper part of the Ebertplatz (inauguration 1977). After not functioning for 15 years the water kinetic sculpture should be again operating from mid-July 2018.

Within the last 10 years a vibrant and well known space for artistic and cultural production has established itself in the sub-street level on the west side of the Ebertplatz. Several independent art spaces were set up in the former commercial (fashion) shops: LABOR (since 2005), Bruch & Dallas (since 2009), Tiefgarage (since 2015, previously "Boutique" 2011-2014), GOLD + Beton (since 2013, previously "Halle der vollständigen Wahrheit" 2012-2013), as well as "ungefähr 5" (since 2014) with their showcase presentations in the lower level on the eastern end of the square.

Together they have organized about 400 exhibitions and art events since 2005. Moreover a selective use and exploration of the square by festivals of the independent cultural scene took place (Photoszene, plan, Sommerblut, ON New Music, Academy of the Arts of the World).

A special feature of the art spaces is that like aquariums they are visible from the outside. Exhibition programmes and events are free of charge. Three commercial locations are in the immediate vicinity: the restaurant & bar African Drum, the Bistro Treff and a copy shop. All are part of the Brunnen e.V. association which in December 2017 campaigned for the preservation of the Ebertplatz passage and the art spaces in their current form as well as the intensification of the programme for a revitalisation of the square.

The brochure "Kunst Basis Ebertplatz" (available as PDF in German language on the website <http://unser-ebertplatz.de/ausschreibung-neue-zugaenge-zum-ebertplatz/>), which was published in the summer of 2017 with funding from the Cologne Cultural Office, provides information on the history and profile of each independent art space, portrays the actors and their knowledge of the square and possible ideas for the future. In the course of the festival "Kunst Basis Ebertplatz", a series of site-specific installations and interventions were to be seen, which provided decisive impulses for a new perception of the place.

In the same year the CityLeaks Urban Art Festival took place on the Ebertplatz and interviewed numerous citizens about their perception of the place. A further survey took place within the framework of the festival "Passages" in February 2018 in order to identify concrete ideas and provide suggestions for improving and revitalizing the place for citizens.

In 2018, two major art events are planned with exhibitions, performances and installations on the square: "Wasser marsch!" (starting May 25), which will culminate on the day of the planned re-opening of the water-kinetic sculpture on July 14, and "Alles Andere" (Everything Else), a program with installations and performances on the square and in the area of the passages (July 7- 20), followed by the annual one-day summer festival organized by the independent art spaces on July 20.

With "Stadtlabor 2018" and the project by the artists Uschi Huber and Boris Sieverts the Advisory Council for Art in Public Space of the City of Cologne has put a focus on the ring boulevard including the Ebertplatz (see also "Stadtlabor 2017" and its preceding projects).

The experience of recent years has shown that art and cultural initiatives – which take into account the characteristics of the Ebertplatz with their formal ideas, alternative usage ideas and a discursive practice – have had a fundamentally positive effect on the public perception of the place.

The above mentioned art projects realised on the square – as well as the exhibition program of the free art spaces – has been supported by the Cultural Office of the City of Cologne.

Access to the Ebertplatz

There are two ground-level accesses to the square, one access through an underpass from the Theodor-Heuss-Park to the Ebertplatz, two more from the subway station to the Ebertplatz (metro-station) and eight stairways from the street level to the lower level of the Ebertplatz.

Located next to five out of these eight stairways are meanwhile disused six escalators. The City Council has decided that they will not be renewed due to the high costs but may be artistically redesigned (see images and site map 1-6).

The disused escalators are located at the following exits:

- 1 + 2) Eigelstein: 2 escalators
- 3) Hansaring / Sudermanstr. (in front of Kreissparkasse Cologne/Bonn): 1 escalator
- 4) Sudermanstr. / Neusser Str. (near Bakery Heinemann / King Georg Büdchen): 1 escalator
- 5) Neusser Str. (in front of "Currywurst & Pommes"): 1 escalator
- 6) Corner Theodor-Heuss-Ring / Neusser Str. (in front of "Currywurst & Pommes"): 1 escalator

(Click here for the site map with the escalators marked 1-6: <http://unser-ebertplatz.de/ausschreibung-neue-zugaenge-zum-ebertplatz/> → Zusatzmaterial)

Technical specifications

In case of detailed questions about technical specifications, please contact Mr. Johannes Geyer of the Team for Public Space at the Department for Urban Development, Planning and Construction (ebertplatz@stadt-koeln.de, keyword: staircase design). He will consult the responsible departments within the City's administration or establish a direct contact for you.

INVITATION TO TENDER AND OBJECTIVES

The City of Cologne is issuing an invitation to tender for the artistic competition plus selected invitees.

Deadline for entries is 2 July 2018.

Objective is to find temporary concepts (duration/durability: 6 months or more, maximum 2 years, period: July 2018 - July 2020) for the artistic design of one of the disused escalators with the adjacent staircase at the Ebertplatz that propose spatial, creative, conceptual or content-related and/or functional innovations.

With the submissions all six stairways should be (re-)designed (see site map, disused escalators 1-6). The project budget per individual intervention/redesign is limited to max. € 12,000. It is also possible to submit a draft for both escalators of the stairways in direction to the Eigelstein (see site map, No. 1 + 2). Theoretically, an overall concept for all six disused elevators and adjacent stairways is conceivable. In this case you can apply for max. 6 x 12,000 € (72,000 €). First project proposals are to be realized in the second half of 2018.

Eligible for the art competition are:

- professional artists,
 - (interdisciplinary) artists' collective,
 - curators,
 - architects (preferably in cooperation with artists),
 - designers (preferably in cooperation with artists),
- who have already realized artistic projects in public space.

There is no given conceptual framework. However familiarity with the square and a reference to the location should form the basis for the submitted project proposal.

The objectives of the interim concept (mentioned above) should be taken into account.

Within the area of the five stairways the projects should:

- develop innovative design interventions (new forms, complementary functions or uses)
- increase the perception of passers-by to accesses to both levels

Possible approaches:

- present a review or outlook on the future of the square or
- choose new unexpected aspects of the square as a subject or
- create a discourse focusing on the contemporary city, of the utopias and visions of urban life, of urban society, and develop an artistic concept for this. The starting point of the design can also lie in an investigation of various contemporary ways of life, which are reflected in the surrounding environment and at a higher level in our urban landscape.

Furthermore:

- current issues relating to urban society could be addressed and reformulated from an artistic perspective,
- needs of the local urban society could be artistically presented or
- the recapture of the real public space – in contrast to the virtual space – by actual, haptic experience.

The specific topics which one can relate with creative measures are manifold and are expressly not specified by this invitation to tender. But it is encouraged to create an urban or historical connection to the Ebertplatz or its surroundings, not least to highlight the specific character of the square or to design a vision for the future.

The project should not:

- give rise to dark corners and niches
- impede pedestrians on the stairways which must remain unobstructed

Further information:

• In developing the project, it should be kept in mind that dealers and homeless people are often found at these stairways. The artistic design should not offer any more drug hiding places. The choice of material and implementation must correspond to the prevention of vandalism, pose no danger to children and adults and should not be easily flammable.

• Implementation support may be provided by the Berufskolleg für Holzverarbeitung and the KGAB (Kölner Gesellschaft für Arbeits- und Berufsförderung mbH). If you are interested, please contact Mr. Johannes Geyer of the Team for Public Space at the Department for Urban Development, Planning and Construction (ebertplatz@stadt-koeln.de, keyword: staircase design), who will establish the contact for you. A corresponding cost estimate would then be obtained from you in direct consultation with the Berufskolleg or the KGAB and should be integrated into your financial planning.

• This invitation to tender does not support event formats or performances. Financial support for these can be requested by other means (see: "How can you participate?/ Wie kannst Du Dich beteiligen?" on the website www.unser-ebertplatz.de).

• If the first invitation to tender and the selection procedure in July 2018 do not guarantee the consistent design of all staircases by 2020, the Cultural Office of the City of Cologne reserves the right to grant and promote concepts on the basis of project applications over the year(s).

Budget per disused escalator

The projects recommended by the jury for implementation (see below: Selection Process) can be funded by the Cultural Office to the amount of € 12,000 per disused escalator. The Cultural Office will not only award a grant, but will also pay up to 100% of the eligible costs up to a maximum of € 12,000. The maximum of € 12,000 (per stairway) is a gross amount, that include all costs, e.g. for planning, approval, artistic and technical execution, information material and finally dismantling.

It is also possible to submit a draft for both disused escalators including the adjacent stairway in direction to the Eigelstein (site map, No. 1 + 2). Theoretically, an overall concept for all six disused elevators and adjacent stairways is conceivable. In this case the maximum grant is 6 x 12,000 € (72,000 €).

There are additional funds available for the planned outdoor presentation of the projects selected by the jury. This is scheduled to happen on the occasion of the one-day summer festival of the independent art spaces on July 20, 2018.

Required documents

1. Texts and images representing a coherent artistic concept (text section: max 2 DIN A4 pages), overview of the (construction) materials and corresponding installation views (true to scale plans, sections, illustrations or model views, possibly including a real model). These first designs can be further elaborated after having been selected by the jury.

2. Date of the envisaged start (not before mid-July) and project duration plus timetable.

3. An explanation of the reference to the location or the choice of location (site map, No. 1-6), the target group and the concept of informing passers-by (including the form of the placards). Within this context the integration of persons not relating to art should also be explained.

4. Cost estimates / cost calculation*

- Production costs (including planning, realization)
- Operating costs (maintenance, support) and costs for dismantling
- Fees for the artist(s)
- Communication and information measures

5. Short biography (max 1 DIN A4 page) and reference projects (focus: art and installations in public space), other catalogs, brochures, photos as documentation of the previous artistic activity.

* Travel and subsistence costs for artists, architects, designers, who live outside of Cologne or abroad and arise in the context of the project realization, can only be accepted to a maximum amount of € 1,000. For these artists, the guest studio of the City of Cologne (€ 10 per day + € 50 one-off cleaning costs) can be provided, as far as the occupancy schedule permits. The fee costs as lump sum for the artistic conception and implementation should be in reasonable relation to the production costs.

The submission of project applications is expressly requested as PDF via e-mail.
Please note that the file size of the application must not exceed 15 MB.

Email: ausschreibung_kulturamt@stadt-koeln.de, subject: Application, New access to Ebertplatz

Address for postal applications and the dispatch of supplementary materials (catalogs, brochures, plans or a model):

Kulturamt
Mrs. Beate Riebesam
(Keyword: New access to Ebertplatz)
Richartzstr. 2-4
50667 Cologne/Köln
Germany

Application documents will only be returned if a sufficiently stamped envelope is enclosed to the application. It is also possible to pick up the documents by prior appointment in the Cultural Office.

SELECTION PROCESS

Content criteria for the selection

1. All artistic forms and expressions of current art discourse are allowed. Particular emphasis is placed on innovative, surprising concepts or designs that are understood by all age groups. Furthermore, projects that invite to participate or have continuous development.
2. Comments on the specific artistic approach to the location and involved public shall be included (see interim use concept mentioned above). Moreover, comprehensible references and arguments relating to the location must be established.
3. The projects should be of limited duration (minimum 6 months, maximum 2 years).
4. Statements on the communication strategy are required. In addition to the artistic work itself, communication with the public or art mediation should be seen as an integral part of the project.

Preliminary examination and the jury

A technical preliminary examination is carried out by the relevant authorities of the City of Cologne.

When the jury convenes in July 2018, artists, curators, historians as well as representatives of the working group "Platzgestaltung" (Square design) and the City's Municipality (Cultural Office and the Team for Public Space) will be involved.

They select from the submitted projects and develop a funding proposal. The final decision on the funding will be made by the relevant department of the Cultural Office of the City of Cologne. Prerequisite for the funding is the existence of necessary and for the realization unavoidable regulatory approvals. The funding is handled by the Cultural Office. The Team for Public Space at the Department for Urban Development, Planning and Construction is in charge of the technical support and supervision of the practical implementation.

CONTACTS

Contact for content queries

Cultural Office of the City of Cologne
Department of Fine Arts, Literature and New Media
Nadine Mueseler: nadine.mueseler@stadt-koeln.de, Tel. +49 (0)221 - 221 - 23643
Beate Riebesam: beate.riebesam@stadt-koeln.de (Mon / Tue / Fri), Tel. +49 (0)221 - 221 - 23843

Contact for technical queries

Team for Public Space at the Department for Urban Development, Planning and Construction
Johannes Geyer: ebertplatz@stadt-koeln.de, Tel. + 49 (0)221 - 221 - 32199

Note: On 14 June at 14 o'clock there will be a voluntary inquiry colloquium at the Ebertplatz (meeting point: African Drum). It will last approximately 1.5 hours. We kindly ask you to register by e-mail to Beate Riebesam (E-Mail: beate.riebesam@stadt-koeln.de) or Nadine Mueseler (E-Mail: nadine.mueseler@stadt-koeln.de) with information about technical queries that need to be clarified at the local date.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (<http://unser-ebertplatz.de/ausschreibung-neue-zugaenge-zum-ebertplatz/>)

- Detailed site map Ebertplatz (please click on : Lageplan Ebertplatz: Lageplan_Ebertplatz_inkl._Treppenabgänge)
- Site map Ebertplatz with staircases (please click on : Lageplan_mit_Rolltreppen_und_Nutzungszonen)
- Photographic views of the stairways (photos: Martin Plüddemann)

Detailed measurements for your specific project must be made on site.