

for immediate release

New Alliance Paves the Way for Sustainable Development

The controversial "Kunsthalle Berlin" at Tempelhof Airport transforms into the "Hall for All."

The "Hall for All" (Halle für Alle) marks the beginning of a new era for the former airport THF in Berlin. **On Monday, 30.5. at 5 p.m.**, the Transformationsbündnis THF (Transformation Alliance THF) invites the Berlin community to join us on site for the festivities! We are going to celebrate the finissage of the current exhibition of the "Kunsthalle Berlin", the closing of the so-called Kunsthalle and the rededication of the space it occupied as a benchmark for cultural, community-based, ecologically and socially just development of the entire former airport area. Hangar 2 & 3 will be renamed, there will be a key handover and performances.

Access to the [venue](#) in front of Hangar 2 is via Columbiadamm.

Project

The former Tempelhof Airport complex and the surrounding open spaces have been a contested area since flight operations ended. Despite a participation concept, the development of the site as a communal commons and resource for urban society is not proceeding. Now a broad alliance of cultural workers, sustainability activists, refugee initiatives and urban developers has formed in order to get things moving.

The goal of the Transformation Alliance THF is to establish a cooperative, transparent process: a public-common-partnership for the entire building complex – in place of the corruption-prone public-private-partnership model. This development process will consistently focus on the creation of sustainable and democratic structures and enable climate neutrality, regionality and resilience. The enormous complex must be made accessible to the communities of Berlin. Tempelhof Projekt GmbH, the state-owned company in charge of developing the site, can no longer be a black box. Its advisory board can no longer be made up of a majority of city administration staff and politicians who have failed to fulfill their duties to oversee the development responsibly. A truly participatory and transparent process is necessary to make this resource available and useful for our future. The alliance offers its civic expertise to the administration and politicians, so that a resilient development of the former airport can be realized. Our aim is to create a place for social and ecological practices, art and culture, for all the people living in Berlin. A hub for social, inclusive and climate-friendly urban development in the interest of the residents of Berlin.

Background

Hangar 2 & 3 of THF became the focus of public attention as they were handed over to the shady cultural entrepreneur Walter Smerling, excluding the public and the parliament, within the framework of a backdoor deal initiated by ex-mayor Michael Müller, rent-free and with additional costs of up to 100 000€ per month to be subsidized by the taxpayers (FAZ). The broad, unified protest of the Berlin cultural scene and city residents against this was reflected in extensive press coverage, a boycott, an [open letter](#), and the withdrawal of

many artworks from Walter Smerling's exhibition "Diversity United", which was running in simultaneously in Moscow under the patronage of Vladimir Putin. The protest was successful! The so-called Kunsthalle is closing after only one exhibition, Walter Smerling's association Stiftung für Kunst und Kultur, will not receive a contract extension for further use of the hangars. On the last day of the current exhibition, the Berliners take over: Out with Smerling, in and on with the future!

Quotes from the Transformation Alliance

"With a central warehouse and open workshops in the hangars of the Hall for All, art and cultural production can take place more sustainably and city residents can access cycles of reuse. As a pilot project, the House of Materialization represents only a tiny fraction of potential for this, and in the future we will not have enough space at Alexanderplatz for the large-scale material repository that Berlin needs." says Muriel Nestler, Material Infrastructure working group of the Coalition of the Independent Scene Berlin, pioneer project manager in the House of Materialization

"Climate crisis & species extinction are advancing rapidly. Locations are needed now where the skills for a truly sustainable way of living can be learned and scaled. The hangars are suitable for this, there is space here for repair, textile and material recycling, as well as exploring solutions for mobility and sustainable architecture. People can meet here to share these skills," says Cléo Mieulet, initiator Transformation Haus und Feld.

"If cultural workers from the city had been involved in the development of THF Airport, a megadisaster like the scandal around the Kunsthalle Berlin would never have happened. We are here to offer our help: because it is obviously needed. THF must be developed bottom-up, not top-down. This starts right now and right here." says Corinna Weiner, spokesperson for the THF working group, Coalition of the Independent Scene Berlin

"In the next few years, THF will develop interacting with the neighbouring areas of Berlin Creative District, Berlin's new urban district for culture and creative industry, which stands for size, freedom and variety, for inspiring ideas, experimenting and new work, for economic value added, for remembering and viewing and an exciting mixture of mutually inspiring uses." it says (cryptically) on the website of Tempelhof Projekt GmbH. Since this development certainly cannot be observed so far, we are here to help. Backdoor decisions to hand over public property rent-free with zero quality control of the concept for the location use is unacceptable and can no longer be tolerated. We are going to activate this location as Berliners, for Berliners." says Zoe Claire Miller, spokeswoman of the *berufsverband bildende Künstler*innen berlin*. (association of visual artists berlin)

"If we can set up workspaces for refugee artists and resource-saving material storage for art and other productions in the two hangars, these are steps in exactly the right direction: namely, towards solidarity, sustainability, cooperation. With these guard rails, one day even the whole huge airport building could be used, for the benefit of the whole city," says Heike Aghte, initiator THF Vision.

<https://transformationsbuendnis-thf.de/>