

**Wrocław-Berlin 2016
European Neighbours**

Press Release

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Berlin, 16 March 2016. Wrocław got the year off to a great start with festivities that showcased its reputation as an open city of culture. For its part, Berlin is also a city of culture – the German capital has reinvented its European identity time and again over the years – and will also be playing a role in celebrating Wrocław's tenure as European Capital of Culture. In fact, several events will take place that serve to bring these two cities together: for example, a "Culture Train" will connect Berlin with the Lower Silesian metropolis; a telescope in the form of the interactive installation known as LUNETTA will allow both cities to look at each other in real time; and the In Between Festivals will highlight the intense artistic exchange among the two cities in the fields of contemporary dance and Jazz music. There will also be a number of exhibitions, concerts, films, pop-up pavilions, youth camps, club nights and many opportunities for networking and dialogue.

Initiators:

Stiftung Zukunft Berlin
Wrocław 2016 –
European Capital of Culture

Cooperation Partners:

Hewlett Packard Enterprise
Kulturprojekte Berlin GmbH
German Federal Cultural Foundation
Luneta
Mediapool GmbH
Mica Moca project berlin e.V.

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Rafał Dutkiewicz, Mayor of Wrocław, noted: "We are delighted at the large number of visitors to the European Capital of Culture, and we're very proud of Wrocław and its inhabitants. There will be more than 1,000 events over the course of the year. The idea that other European cities – and especially Berlin – will join the celebrations represents a great honour and shows us that our solidarity as neighbours can set new trends in German-Polish relations".

2016 is the year of Wrocław's tenure as European Capital of Culture, but it also marks the 25th anniversary of the German-Polish Border Treaty and the city partnership between Berlin and Warsaw. The Berlin-based forum for civic responsibility known as Stiftung Zukunft Berlin has taken this opportunity and joined together with the Capital of Culture Wrocław and partners drawn from culture, politics, business, science and sport to call attention to the deep-rooted and ongoing relationship between Wrocław and Berlin. These many events will serve to reflect the mutual familiarity and interest of these partner cities and open up opportunities for even closer cooperation by means of the shared experience of the Capital of Culture 2016. Dr. Reinhard Schweppe, former German Ambassador in Poland and head of Stiftung Zukunft Berlin's "Neighbours in Europe" initiative noted: "Many important steps were made in the history of German-Polish reconciliation, first and foremost the so-called Pastoral Letter written by Cardinal

Bolesław Kominek in 1965. Many other friendly ties have also been established since Poland became a member of the EU twelve years ago. And yet, there is much more to achieve. Civil societies in Berlin and Wroclaw are eager to bring a new quality to their relations, and that's exactly what we intend to demonstrate this year".

The shared goal of Stiftung Zukunft Berlin and its cooperation partner Kulturprojekte Berlin is to arouse interest and curiosity in both Germany and Poland for their respective neighbouring country. In doing so, they hope to reach as many groups as possible. Over 60 partners will be contributing events and projects: from an economic conference to a documentary film, from a city walking tour to a converted glass container and the lending of an entire art collection.

Starting 16 March, an overview of all events will be available on the website www.breslau.berlin or www.wroclaw.berlin

Kulturprojekte Berlin is taking the European Capital of Culture 2016 as an opportunity to publish a book called "Berlin and Wroclaw. The History of a Relationship" in cooperation with be.bra Verlag. Published by the German-Polish team of Mateusz Hartwich and Uwe Rada, the book seeks to bring the two cities even closer together. It will contain the work of more than 20 German and Polish authors who describe the intertwined history of the two cities, but also their common features, conflicts and utopias. The result will be a two-city history of a transnational region in the heart of Europe.

Please note:

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<http://en.wroclaw.berlin/press/>

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