



BÜRGERFEST

DES BUNDESPRÄSIDENTEN

Saturday, 9. September 2023
Schloss Bellevue



Der Bundespräsident

HONOURED GUESTS,

Let me bid you a very warm welcome to Bellevue! This palace, once home to a Prussian King, has been the official residence of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany for many years – a democratic space for all citizens of our country. Open day at Schloss Bellevue is a wonderful opportunity to showcase this: a broad spectrum of people from all across Germany are gathering in the park of Schloss Bellevue to engage and celebrate together. It is wonderful to have you here with us today. It is *your* citizens' festival, so do make yourselves at home!

"Im WIR verbunden" (Us – Connected) is our motto this year. It encapsulates our country's greatest asset: our sense of solidarity, and our democratic commitment to the common good. This citizens' festival pays tribute to the many women and men who engage in voluntary work – in sports clubs, environmental organisations, cultural projects, schools, care homes and municipal councils. It pays tribute to all those who work to build social cohesion and a future worth living in – at home, in Europe and around the world.

They all make our open society more resilient to misanthropy and violence. They all strengthen the backbone of our liberal democracy. To my mind, we should all follow their example, particularly at this difficult time when so much is changing!

Today in the park of Schloss Bellevue, you can see for yourselves just how much strength and creativity we have in our country and in Europe. Some 60 initiatives, organisations and companies are presenting the work they are doing for the common good. Our partners this year, the Free State of Thuringia and the Czech Republic, are showcasing their talents with music, dance, theatre and readings.

My wife and I look forward to meeting you, gaining new insights and talking to you. We wish you and indeed all of us a wonderful citizens' festival.



Bundespräsident
Frank-Walter Steinmeier



Elke Bündenbender

PARTNER REGION AND COUNTRY

Learn all about the citizens' festival's partner region and country: Thuringia and the Czech Republic, together with the German-Czech Future Fund.

Partner region Thuringia

Civic engagement plays a big role in Thuringia: more than one third of the population does voluntary work. As the partner region, the Free State of Thuringia is showcasing its diversity and surprising our guests – among other things with the ILLUMINAT drawing machine, the philharmonic ensemble OktoPLUS as well as a 150-metre-long Thüringer Rostbratwurst.

Partner country Czechia

Would you like to make discoveries and new friendships? The colourful stands of our partner country Czechia make us want to find out more about our neighbours: all guests are warmly invited to take part in a country quiz, to learn some Czech words in a taster language course, as well as to discover the country's traditions and cuisine.

German-Czech Future Fund

The German-Czech Future Fund has been supporting joint cross-border initiatives for 25 years. With its programme of music, theatre, dance, readings, workshops, football and talking poetry machines, the Fund is demonstrating at the festival how vibrant the neighbourly relations between Germany and Czechia already are today.

YOUR PROGRAMME



Stage in the Park

Presenters: Mo Asumang and Marco Seiffert

11.30 **Bundeswehr Big Band**

Swing, rock and pop concert, conducted by band leader Lieutenant-Colonel Timor Oliver Chadik

12.30 **Swingmaniacs**

Dance performance presented by the German-Czech Future Fund

12.45 **Paulina Behrendt**

Poetry slam presented by Generali Deutschland AG

13.00 **OktoPLUS-Ensemble**

Concert by the Thüringer Philharmonie Gotha-Eisenach presented by the partner region Thuringia

14.00 **Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier,
Elke Büdenbender and Jan Lipavský,
Foreign Minister of the Czech Republic**

Welcome and short interview

14.20 **The Young ClassX**

Schoolchildren's choir supported by the Michael Otto Foundation

14.30 **Chief Hijangua**

Namibia's first opera, presented by the Siemens Arts Program

- 15.00 **COOLE KIDS Neukölln**
Dance and song performance “Rap for Respect”
- 15.15 **Im Wir verbunden –
Committed to our democracy**
The Federal President in conversation with
representatives of civil society, civic education
and local politics
- 16.00 **The Showgruppe**
Hand-balancing and hula hoop acts
presented by the TUI Care Foundation
- 16.15 **Elif**
Music and discussion on inclusion
presented by L'Oréal Deutschland
- 16.45 **The Showgruppe**
Hand-balancing and hula hoop acts
presented by the TUI Care Foundation
- 17.00 **MYDY**
Electroswing concert presented
by the German-Czech Future Fund
- 18.00 **Maël & Jonas**
Pop concert presented by LOTTO in Deutschland



Yew Axis Activity Stage

Thuringia will be providing a programme for young and old on the Yew Axis Activity Stage. The programme will begin with the children's channel KiKa, based in Thuringia, which will bring the popular TanzAlarm Show to the stage and invite the audience to join in. That will be followed by fun punk-rock from the band Psycho Ska Funk'L – six musicians who create a happy and cheerful atmosphere.

Presidential Garden Stage

Art and culture that bring people together:

Between 11.00 and 19.00, the German-Czech Future will present its diverse entertainment and interactive programme on the Presidential Garden Stage: there will be concerts ranging from folk pop to gypsy and jazz, workshops on acrobatics, juggling, theatre and dance and, finally, a professional puppet show from Prague as well as German-Czech cabaret.

Children's programme

A bike track, face-painting, crafts and quizzes – the programme provided for our young guests by around 60 partners is colourful. Learning, having fun, marvelling – the stage programme also offers a lot of variety from children's readings to a puppet show.



Galatea and Central Axis Activity Stages

Two stages, a wide variety of entertainment:


Young and old literature fans can look forward to readings by authors – including Renate Bergmann and Jaroslav Rudiš – on the Galatea Axis Activity Stage.

Acrobatics, hula hoop acts and music from the Cool Kids from Neukölln can be seen on the Central Axis Activity Stage. And between the acts, there will be interesting interviews and discussions with our partners.

"Im WIR verbunden-Studio"

Do you have ideas for even more civic engagement? Well-known creators are looking forward to talking to you in the "Im WIR verbunden-Studio"! The inspirations and opinions they capture can be seen at a later date on the citizens' festival website.

Tour of Schloss Bellevue and information

Go on a tour of Schloss Bellevue, the Federal President's official residence. Look out for the signs at the entrance to the Schloss beside the Stage in the Park. Please approach staff at the information stand for further information on the Schloss tour or on anything else. 



THANK YOU

We would like to thank our many **partners**. Their contributions and commitments will help make the citizens' festival a great success.

We would also like to sincerely thank the **artists** and **presenters** who have provided the varied programme.

Furthermore, we would like to express our gratitude to the **volunteer hospitality personnel** for serving our guests and the **catering partners** for providing a wide variety of food.

Further information and the detailed programme can be found online.



Publishing information

Published by: the Office of the Federal President,
Spreeweg 1, 10557 Berlin, www.bundespraesident.de

Technical implementation: fischerAppelt AG, www.fischerappelt.de

Print production: Spree Druck Berlin GmbH

Photo credits: Federal Government/Henning Schacht

Last updated in: August 2023, subject to change