

ZENTRUM LAB #1 – CURATOR'S CHOICE?

Invitation to a "Think Tank Kitchen"

Thursday, November 20, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. | Kühlhaus Berlin
followed by dinner together

As part of the development of a center for jazz and improvised music in Berlin, the pilot phase has been running since 2023 under the name **zentrum-under-construction.berlin**.

Zentrum-under-construction.berlin stands for many things, including production, presentation, outreach and education, and joint formats and cooperation. The **ZENTRUM LABs** are dedicated to the latter. The first **ZENTRUM LAB** focuses on the topic of curation.

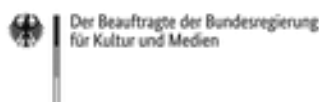
What role and responsibility do curators have in telling of the present and imagining the future with the help of curatorial means? How free are curators from different disciplines to position themselves, to create visibility for certain points of view, and what content dependencies arise from funding guidelines or funding programs? What role do public funding and private third-party funding sources, such as foundations, play in this context, given that they are also responsible for making many things possible in the first place?

What about the openness of the media, as well as the public and its evaluation mechanisms? How can social discourse be shaped through the curating of artistic content and programs, which, in the end, should also enable more social interaction, more enjoyment, more community, and more artistic reception in the best sense of the word?

The interdisciplinary **ZENTRUM LAB#1** addresses these questions in exchanges amongst colleagues, networking and, in the best case, creating new alliances. Here, curators and artists from various disciplines, as well as representatives from the public sector and foundations, come together to think and create together. One goal is to engage in an open dialogue about the potential and challenges in the interaction of all key stakeholders, and therein to explore how meaningful and effective a series of events on curatorial practice would be. In the best case, this series would promote new creative spaces and more cooperation and exchange.

info@zentrum-under-construction.berlin

The development of a center for jazz and improvised music is a joint project of the German Jazz Union, IG Jazz Berlin and Till Brönner. Funded by the Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion and the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media.



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To provide a bit of background, we (guests from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland are invited) live in an increasingly irritable society that is among the richest in the world and yet faces many crises. It is a society in which concerns about social transformation through AI and climate change go hand in hand with fears of job losses or a decline in living standards. Defense budgets are being increased while budgets for culture are cut. Added to this are the increasing number of event cancellations in recent years caused by heated discussions, the disinvitation of artists due to their political positions, and the resignations of those in positions of responsibility due to social media scandals, in which simplification and simple narratives are preferred and discourse has suffered.

Curators, musicians, artists, and other interested parties are cordially invited to participate and can register at the following address.

zentrumlab@zentrum-under-construction.berlin

The number of participants is limited. We therefore ask for your registration by November 17. Registration is binding upon receipt of a confirmation email.

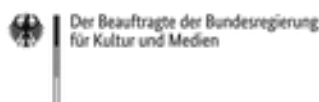
Participation is free of charge. Half-day participation is also possible (10 a.m.–2 p.m. or 2 p.m.–6 p.m.).

The event will be held in German.

The "Think Tank Kitchen" is curated by **Tina Heine** from **Atelier für Zeitgenossen** (Studio for Contemporaries). Tina Heine is co-founder of the ELBJAZZ Festival in Hamburg and was artistic director of the Salzburg Jazz Festival Jazz&TheCity, as well as the Supergau Festival for contemporary arts in the province of Salzburg. In the context of the Atelier für Zeitgenossen, she works at the intersections of culture, science, politics, and business.

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Location: KühlhausBerlin, Luckenwalderstraße 3, 10963 Berlin

Schedule.

10:00 a.m. Check in

10:30 a.m. Greeting and intro by Tina Heine and Kathrin Pechlof

11:00 a.m. Shared thoughts (15 min impulse + 15 min exchange)

- Amelie Deuffhard, artistic director Kampnagel, Hamburg
- Matthias Einhoff, ZK/U, Berlin
- Dr. Robert Peper, consultant for culture and networking
- Sandra Küpper, independent dramatist and curator.

1:00 p.m. Creative midday break

2:30 p.m. The facilitating perspective

- Torsten Wöhlert, former City Secretary for Culture and Europe, Berlin
- Stefan Rusconi, Árvore Foundation
- Prof. Dr. Oliver Scheytt, Culture Expert
- Greta Schlünz, Toepfer Foundation F.V.S.

15:30 The curatorial perspective

- Lea Heimann, Stanser Musiktage, bee-flat Bern
- Dr. Sabine Kroner, Berlin Mondiale
- Götz Bühler, Jazzahead
- Reiner Michalke, Monheim Triennale

4:30 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Think tank – Preparing dinner together

Podcast station – Daily archive of mutual interviews

Sit where you want – Themed tables for in-depth discussions in small groups

6:00 p.m. Brief summary

Long table – Dinner, wrap-up

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