

The background is a vibrant composition of pink and orange geometric shapes. A large, light pink circle is partially visible on the right side. A thick orange horizontal bar crosses the middle of the page. The letters 'KA' are positioned on the pink background above the orange bar, and 'HO' is on the orange background below it. The 'O' in 'HO' is a solid black circle with a small white dot in the center, resembling a vinyl record. The text 'RAUM FÜR KULTUR' is centered below the 'HO' in a black serif font.

**KA**

**HO**

RAUM FÜR KULTUR

Press release

## A Look Back at KAHO Interim 2021 – On Identity, the Charm of Building Sites and Spot Landings

**Berlin, 30 November 2021.** At the **KAHO. Raum für Kultur** in Berlin-Karlshorst, a total of 62 cultural events took place in the frame of **KAHO Interim 2021** – during late summer outdoors in the front courtyard and from the end of September in the stage tower of the listed building. Prior to reconstruction, which will presumably last until 2025, the aim was to reactivate the property for culture, put various event formats to the test and make civic participation possible with artistic means. “We achieved this!” is how Pirkko Husemann, Director of the Stiftung Stadtkultur, sums it up. “The response to the planned reconstruction and the interim usage for culture was extremely positive – the building was brought to life and rediscovered. The name KAHO has also become a byword for many people.”

### KAHO Interim 2021 in Numbers

The timing of the Interim Programme was a downright spot landing: between the easing and the renewed tightening of the pandemic-related restrictions, it was possible to realise a four-month series of events. Dance lessons, film screenings, performances, readings, workshops and concerts attracted around 1,600 people to the KAHO. The events for children and youths were met with the greatest response, they were all sold out. Anyone who missed them can still access video recordings of selected events on KAHO’s YouTube channel.

Many of the 32 participating groups and individuals, most of whom live in Berlin, had to first look for Karlshorst on the city map and ask passers-by for directions to the entrance of the KAHO. After a short ride with the tram, they were all the more surprised when they arrived at the KAHO to see how big the building was. After reconstruction, it will be available for culture in the long term.

The building and the location formed the thematic starting point of the Interim Programme. Built in 1948/49 as the House of Officers, the former theatre unused since 2008 is closely linked to the former military restricted zone of the Soviet allies in Karlshorst. Against this background, five of a total of seven premieres were produced with contemporary witnesses. 13 events were by Russian-speaking Berliners. The audience from Karlshorst and Lichtenberg, as well as from the entire city of Berlin and the surrounding Brandenburg region, was therefore quite variegated.

The hannsjana collective, which conceived the commissioned audio walk “Foyer” and searched for traces in and around the KAHO for their work, observed the following: *“During the course of our research, it turned out that a theatre for a neighbourhood has a lot to do with identity and pride. In our conversations with the contemporary witnesses, it became clear that many people may not be interested in theatre in terms of art, but would love to have a theatre space with a Berlin-wide appeal; a place where one can spend a festive time and that exudes high culture.”*

### A Challenging Venue

For the small team of the Stiftung Stadtkultur, the past four months were an enormous feat. “A construction site is not a venue”, Husemann explains with a smile. “That entails very special challenges, like a four-hour power outage during a dress rehearsal, because the electrical work was not finished, or a team that repeatedly stood before locked doors, because the locking system was being adapted during ongoing operations.”

In the future, the reconstruction of the KAHO will have top priority, so that regular operations can hopefully begin in 2025. Until then, cooperation projects in Karlshorst, Lichtenberg and the closer surroundings will mainly be planned. In 2023 and 2024, the KAHO will fan out and bring cultural offers to the people, not vice versa.

Image and press material on the KAHO can be found [here](#).

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**About the Stiftung Stadtkultur**

The non-profit Stiftung Stadtkultur was founded in April 2018 by the state-owned Berlin housing company HOWOGE. It carries out projects in the areas of culture, education and social affairs with a main emphasis on the Berlin district of Lichtenberg. With its projects for people of all generations and with different backgrounds, the foundation seeks to facilitate the formation of temporary communities, changes in perspective and active participation, thus contributing to strengthening the polity in Berlin.



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