

The Siemens Arts Program works to openly engage and grapple with current issues and questions about the future with an unbiased eye to enabling new ways of thinking, calling out shortcomings and wrongs, while letting unusual solution approaches be heard. In this spirit, the Siemens Arts Program sees itself to be an ideas laboratory that creates space for discussion and creativity, clearing the way for pioneering, forward-looking stimuli.

On January 8, 2020, the Society of Friends of the Academy of Arts joined forces with the Siemens Arts Program to host the 6th Capital Cultural Talk, where discussion centered on the banner theme of "Spaces for Culture". The podium panelists included artist Katharina Sieverding, the President of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, Hermann Parzinger, the former President of Berlin University of the Arts, Martin Rennert, and Matthias Sauerbruch of the Sauerbruch Hutton firm for architecture, urbanism and design. Among those attending in the audience were numerous Berlin artists and representatives from galleries, artists associations, and Berlin's business world. After an almost two-hour discussion, moderator Stephan Frucht – Artistic Director of the Siemens Arts Program – summed up the demands facing public policymakers and the private sector.

OVERVIEW OF EFFORTS CALLED FOR TO SHAPE THE FUTURE:

PUBLIC POLICYMAKERS

- Berlin needs unregulated, uncontrolled free spaces at affordable prices for new as well as established artists. There must be rights of first refusal for artists in the city center. New regulations are needed. New solutions need to be established in collaborative effort with the new owners
- Curating the outdoors – architecture alone cannot keep a city vibrantly alive.
- Urban spaces are living spaces – but if these spaces are all taken up by insurance companies, health insurers and museums, the space shortage problem cannot be easily resolved. Art must not be fossilized by musealization. New arts must be respected and given due regard.
- Architecture is itself an environment that should be shaped by artistic intuition. This is only feasible if building owners embrace this concept, and our societal milieu appreciates this architecture.
- Cultural institutions must become stem cells. Centers of arts should themselves become cities. Centers of arts should be social places of congregation where new ideas can unfold and flourish.
- The city's onward development as an urban area must allow and embrace the unregulated, the uncontrolled. Development in planned spaces is usually difficult.
- The dying-off of nightclubs must be prevented. The art scene and nightclubs used to be part of the city's identity. The nightclubs will disappear hand in hand with the dying arts scene.
- Museums and the creative scene must be more closely integrated with one another. The areas surrounding museums must not be allowed to become lifeless spaces.
- Promoting and subsidizing business also means doing the same for artists: the buyers and collectors will follow.

CIVIL SOCIETY

- Movie theaters, photographic processing labs, and antiques businesses, etc., also contribute to enlivening cultural spaces. Libraries need to be recognized as cultural spaces, and protected as such. They're important for communication purposes and as spaces for social interaction.
- Art needs to gain higher standing and greater appreciation in the eyes of Berlin's residents.
- Scientists and researchers should join artists in communicating arts and culture.
- To the Latin dedication carved in stone above the entry portal to the Berlin Academy of the Arts, *Erudiendae Artibus Iuventuti* – "to educating youth through art" – should be added, "to educating society through culture".

PRIVATE-SECTOR BUSINESSES

- Private-sector businesses should make studio space available at affordable prices.
- Art also needs to sell in Berlin. The purchasing of art must be incentivized by creating tax benefits.
- New requirements are needed governing the construction of new building projects: For example, building owners could offer 30% of their newly erected apartments at lower prices. Spaces must be kept free for artists and studios.