International Symposium at the Historical Museum Frankfurt and Bolongaro Palace Höchst

How to do a Cultural Palace? Reflections, Practice, and Vision 17. – 18. September 2026

Thursday, September 17

13:00 – 13:30	Arrival and Registration at the entrance foyer, Historical Museum Frankfurt, Saalhof 1, Frankfurt City Centre
13:30 – 14:00	Welcome by **Dr. Doreen Mölders** (Director of the Historical Museum Frankfurt)
14:00 – 14:15	Welcome by **Mike Josef** (Lord Mayor of the City of Frankfurt am Main)
14:15 – 15:00	Keynote by **Heloisa Pisani** (International Affairs at SESC São Paulo, Brazil)
15:30 – 17:00	**Panel 1**: Theory and History of Cultural Palaces with **Mari-Tere Álvarez, Hye-in Park, Lukas Vejnik and Carina Sacher**
17:00 – 18:30	Transfer to Höchst
18:30 – 19:15	Guided Tours of the Bolongaro Palace
19:30 – 21:00	Evening reception at the Bolongaro Palace with **Markus Grossbach, Corinna de la Ossa, student band of Musikschule Frankfurt, Office for Artistic Surveying**

Friday, September 18

09:00 – 09:30	Arrival at Historical Museum Frankfurt, Leopold Sonnemann Hall
09:30 – 10:45	**Panel 2**: Cultural Palaces Around the World with **Juliette Pinard, Ana Druwe**
11:00 – 12:30	**Panel 3**: Cultural Palaces and Discourses in Germany with **Kathrin Dröppelmann, Tülây Güneș, Andrea Wieloch**
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:30	Workshop Discussions / Round Tables
14:30 – 15:15	Visions for the Bolongaro Palace in a plenary session
15:15 - 15:30	Closing Remarks and Conclusion

Addresses:

Historical Museum Frankfurt, Saalhof 1, 60311 Frankfurt (Frankfurt City Centre)

Bolongaro Palace, Zuckschwerdtstraße 1a, 65929 Frankfurt (Frankfurt Höchst)

Registration:

Required at Visitors' Service, Monday to Friday: 10:00 to 16:00 under

besucherservice@historisches-museum-frankfurt.de or tel. +49 69-212-35154;
the cost is €25 (concession €15), including refreshments
→Anyone wishing to attend only the evening event on Thursday 17 September at 6.30 pm should also please register at the Visitors' Service.

Speakers

Keynote: "SESC – Cultural Palaces for Brazil"

Heloisa Pisani, International Affairs Manager at SESC São Paulo - Serviço Social do Comércio, Brazil. Pisani coordinates international strategies and multilateral cooperation across multiple fields. Her work focuses on fostering intercultural dialogue, developing multidisciplinary programmes and building sustainable partnerships among cultural institutions, governments and international organisations.

Panel 1: Theory and History of Cultural Palaces

"How to Design a Cultural Palace: Civic Responsibility and the Democratic Reimagining of Santo Domingo, Oaxaca, México"

Mari-Tere Álvarez is an art historian and museum specialist. She is Project Specialist at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles and former Associate Director of the International Museum Institute at the University of Southern California (USC). Her academic and curatorial work focuses a collaborative and a hemispheric approach to art history and museum practice. Her work contributes to the development of new, non-hierarchical perspectives on art and cultural heritage. At the Getty, she has contributed to exhibitions and research projects and has published on topics such as museums as civic institutions, incorporating issues of social responsibility, sustainability, and cultural exchange.

"The Publicness of Infrastructure: How Cultural Spaces Selectively Enable Artistic Practice. The Case of South Korea"

Hye-in Park is a curator and art researcher based in Berlin and Seoul. She is currently a PhD candidate in Art History and Aesthetics at the University of Kassel. Her work focuses on contemporary art in East Asia and its social, political and institutional contexts. Particular areas of interest include collective and community-based artistic practices, cultural policy, visibility, labour and public discourse. Her work explores how cultural spaces and the public sphere are constituted by infrastructural conditions—rather than by formal participation or symbolic openness. Park is a co-founder of the independent publishing collective Ama-Gum and a member of the Asian Feminist Studio for Art and Research (AFSAR).

“Centres of Intellectual Urban Expansion: The Architecture of Vienna’s Adult Education Centres”

Carina Sacher is an architect and doctoral researcher at ETH Wohnforum – ETH CASE at ETH Zurich. She studied architecture at TU Wien and l’École Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture de Versailles and gained professional experience in architectural practices in Vienna and Paris. Her research focuses on the housing conditions of marginalised groups and on the social, spatial and architectural dimensions of inequality, precariousness and exclusion. She is pursuing her doctorate at the ETH Wohnforum, focusing on parental separation and housing in the context of care work and social inequality.

& Lukas Vejnik, architectural researcher. He is a research associate and doctoral candidate at the Post-War Modernism Research Laboratory at the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences and studied architecture at TU Wien. Through exhibitions, research projects, and written contributions, he focuses in particular on the reception and transformation of post-war modernist architecture.

Statements from Höchst/ Artistic Contribution / Music

With **Markus Grossbach** (Kultur- und Museumsverein Bolongaro e.V.), **Corinna de la Ossa** (Music School Frankfurt), **Frankfurt Music School Pupils’ Orchestra** and **Office for Artistic Surveying**

The **Office for Artistic Surveying** (German**:** Amt für künstlerische Vermessung (AfkV) is a method developed by social.form, an architecture practice based in Darmstadt working across project development, spatial practice and action. It uses artistic and subjective approaches to explore urban spaces, complementing conventional urban-planning analysis with the perspectives of artists and designers and making situated perceptions, stories and social structures visible. Through temporary “surveys”, neighbourhoods and their spatial, social and cultural contexts are explored together with local actors, creating new ways of engaging with urban space.

Panel 2: Cultural Palaces Around the World

Juliette Pinard (Centquatre, Paris) is an urban planner and holds a doctorate in urban planning and spatial development. She is Head of Cultural Urbanism and Development at 104ingénierie, the CENTQUATRE-PARIS department responsible for cultural and urban project development. Previously, she worked at SNCF Immobilier on the development of urbanisme transitoire and on hybrid places at the intersection of art, culture and the social and solidarity economy. She joined

Centquatre in 2021 and became Head of Cultural Urbanism and Development in 2023. Her research and practice connect culture, urban planning and new approaches to urban development.

Ana Druwe (Casa do Povo, São Paulo) is an artist and communications scholar from São Paulo. She previously worked in communications at Casa do Povo, where she developed collaborative publishing and communications formats, including the magazine *Nossa Voz* ("Our Voice"). Her work explores participatory cultural practice, institutional structures and the ways in which cultural institutions can function as spaces for social participation and collective knowledge production. She was also involved in the publication *Modos de Fazer* ("Ways to Do"), which she co-organised with Benjamin Seroussi.

Panel 3: Cultural Palaces and Discourses in Germany

Kathrin Dröppelmann (Dammweg 216, Berlin) is an artist, architect and urban researcher. Her practice operates at the intersection of art, spatial practice and social engagement, addressing questions of ownership, commons, urban space and collective appropriation of space. Since 2024, she has worked as a project manager and community organiser at Dammweg 216 in Berlin-Neukölln, developing spaces for exchange, learning and collective action together with neighbours, artists and local initiatives.

Tülây Güneş (post-migrant discourses in Frankfurt-Höchst) is an architect and urban researcher whose work focuses on migration, urban space and the social and spatial structures of post-migrant cities. She has researched and taught urban design and planning, including at TU Darmstadt, where she worked on questions of spatial co-production in super-diverse neighbourhoods and on the urban development of Frankfurt-Höchst. In her work on Höchst, she examines how the district has been shaped by migration and social change, making visible post-migrant and post-colonial urban structures as well as questions of belonging, visibility and exclusion.

Andrea Wieloch is a cultural manager and media scholar. She heads the Department of Exhibition, Dialogue and Culture at the Zukunftszentrum für Deutsche Einheit und Europäische Transformation in Halle (Saale). For many years, she has worked on memory culture, museum practice and perspectives from eastern Germany, particularly in rural areas. Previously, she headed the Museum Utopie und Alltag in Eisenhüttenstadt and Beeskow. She previously worked at Deutsches Hygiene-Museum Dresden, Helmholtz-Zentrum für Kulturtechnik in Berlin, Museum Weißenfels and Brandenburg Museum in Potsdam.

Funded by

The symposium is organised by the Frankfurt Historical Museum as part of WDC 2026.
WDC 2026 is funded by the State of Hesse, the City of Frankfurt am Main and the Frankfurt RheinMain Cultural Fund. The symposium is funded by the Frankfurt RheinMain Cultural Fund.

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Opening hours: Tuesday – Sunday 11 am – 6 pm // Thursday – 9 pm (only new building)
Exhibition fee: 8 € / 4 € // **Temporarily Exhibition fee:** 10 € / 5 € // **Museum full price:** 12 € / 6 €
Children and teenagers: free admission

Information about the Frankfurt Historical Museum
The Frankfurt Historical Museum explains the city: it is the Frankfurt Museum. As a history museum, it links urban themes with general social history. Through its 'Junges Museum' (Youth Museum), it offers special programmes for young people, families and schools. The diversity of the city's society is reflected in its collections, exhibitions and educational programmes. Everyone is invited to take part in the museum as a cultural venue and to help shape it.