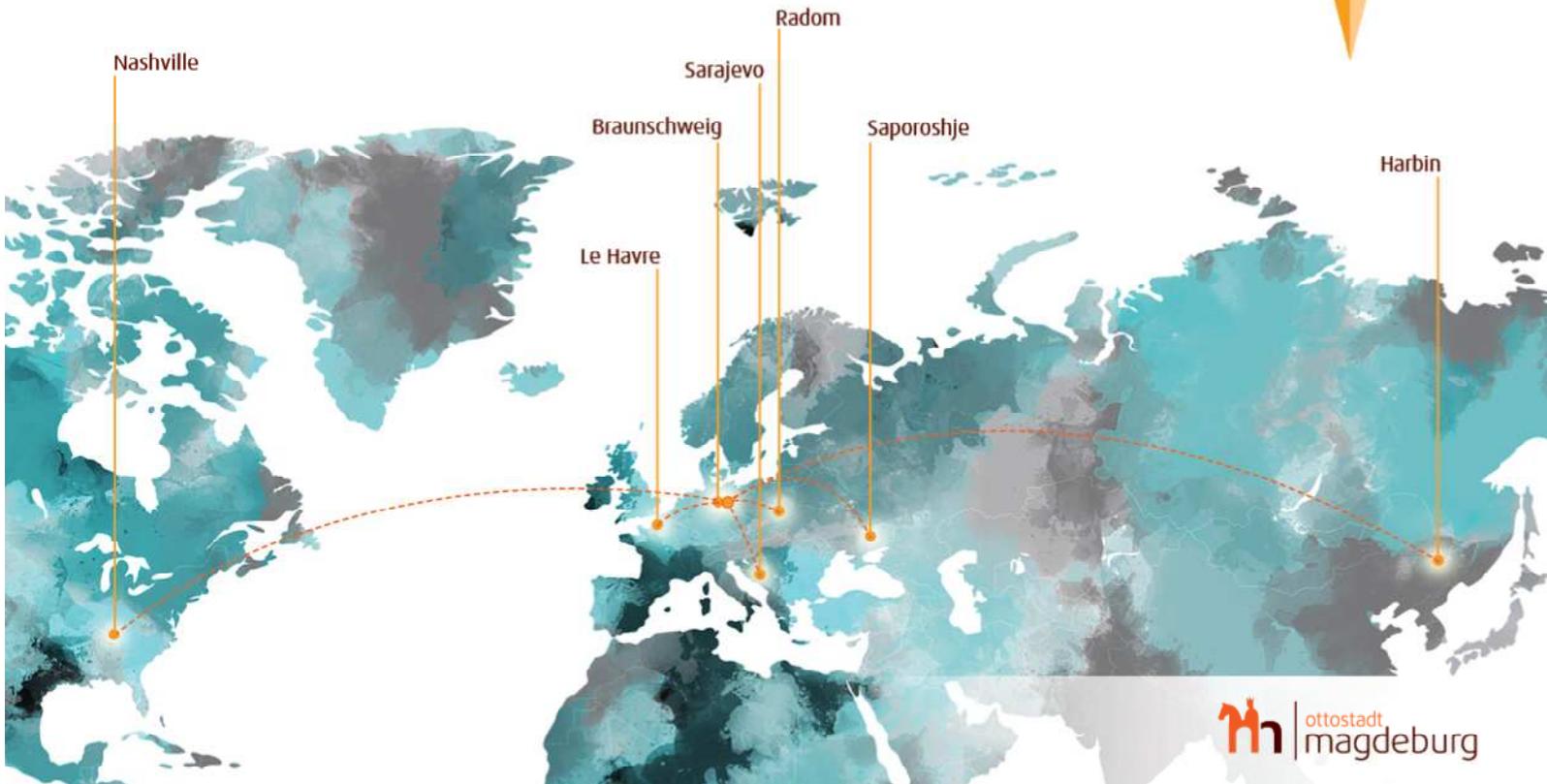


# Magdeburg und seine **7 Partnerstädte**

*Magdeburg and its 7 Twin Cities*



## **Twinning Conference**

### **“Culture Connects”**

22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in Magdeburg

## **Documentation**

## Table of contents

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<b>I.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Short profile of all twin cities</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>V.</b>	<b>Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>VII.</b>	<b>Joint Declaration</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>Imprint</b>	<b>17</b>

## I. Introduction

The year 2018 marked the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Nashville (USA) and in each case the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the cities of Zaporizhia (Ukraine), Radom (Poland) and Harbin (China). Mayor Dr. Lutz Trümper took these outstanding anniversaries as an occasion in order to convene a conference to which also representatives from the cities of Brunswick (Germany), Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Le Havre (France) were invited.

After the first successful twinning conference held in 2011, the guiding theme of culture was selected for this conference. In coordination with all twin cities, the wide ranging term of culture has been divided into the four complexes of themes “Performing arts (music/dancing/singing)”, “Theatre/literature/reading”, “City history & Urban design” and “Creative economy/arts as an economic factor”.

The aim of this conference was to strengthen the twinning relationships and to involve new players from the respective cultural scene. Furthermore, the application dossier of the State Capital Magdeburg as European Capital of Culture 2025 should be filled perspectively with project ideas.

Special thanks are directed to all sponsors and supporters of the twinning conference “Culture Connects”:



Particular worthy to mention is the active participation of Herbstsalon e.V. (Autumn Salon), Deutsch-Französische Gesellschaft Magdeburg e.V. (German-French Society Magdeburg) but also the content-related implementation of the conference by all speakers as well as moderators.

Of course many thanks also go to the organisers of working visits at Aerosol-Arena, Puppet theatre, Turmpark (*Art accociation*), Opera House and Forum of Design.

Many thanks to the mdr-Funkhaus (local broadcasting studies), MDCC Arena and Festung Mark (Fortress Mark) as well as to the catering businesses for hosting the evening events; moreover to the MVB GmbH (local transport company), Hotel Ratswaage, transfer company “Sudenburger Reisespatz” and “Taxiunternehmen Scharff” and interpreters of TECH GmbH and to the team of Offener Kanal (Open Channel) who produced a documentary of the conference .

Special thanks go to all employees of the municipality who looked after the delegations from the twin cities and to all provider of ideas and organisers of this conference.

## II. Short profile of all twin cities

### Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)



- Twin city since 29<sup>th</sup> September 1977
- Distance to Magdeburg 1,051 km
- 291,422 inhabitants (level of 2013)
- Well-known for the Trebević cable car which connects the city centre and the local mountain Trebević
- Activities: Exchange in the fields of art and culture

### Brunswick (Germany)



- Twin city since 8<sup>th</sup> December 1987
- Distance to Magdeburg 90 km
- 248,667 inhabitants (level of 2016)
- Well-known for the Lion statue at the Burgplatz which was erected by Henry the Lion as a symbol of his power
- Activities: Exchange in the fields of sport and culture

### Nashville (USA)



- Twin city since 28<sup>th</sup> May 2003
- Distance to Magdeburg 7,441 km
- 660,388 inhabitants (level of 2016)
- Also known as "Music City" and the "Cradle of country music" with headquarters of numerous music publishers, record and guitar companies
- Activities: Student exchange programmes

### Zaporizhia (Ukraine)



- Twin city since 29<sup>th</sup> May 2008
- Distance to Magdeburg 1,662 km
- 761,996 inhabitants (level of 2015)
- Famous for the Soborny Avenue which is the longest inner-city road in Europe with a total length of 11 km and surrounded by monuments in the style of socialist classicism
- Activities: Exchange in the fields of culture and economy

### Radom (Poland)



- Twin city since 8<sup>th</sup> June 2008
- Distance to Magdeburg 662 km
- 215,020 inhabitants (level of 2016)
- Famous for the international air show called "Radom Air Show" which attracts thousands of visitors every year in the summer
- Activities: Exchange in the fields of music and culture

## Harbin (China)



- Twin city since 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2008
- Distance to Magdeburg 7,504 km
- 5,115,000 inhabitants (level of 2018)
- Renowned for the annual "Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival" taking place in January when figures carved out of ice and snow are colourfully illuminated
- Activities: Exchange in the fields of economy and culture

## Le Havre (France)



- Twin city since 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011
- Distance to Magdeburg 1,007 km
- 172,366 inhabitants (level of 2015)
- Well-known for the colourful concrete architecture of the architect August Perret which is listed at the UNESCO-World Heritage Site since 2005
- Activities: Exchange in the fields of art, music and culture

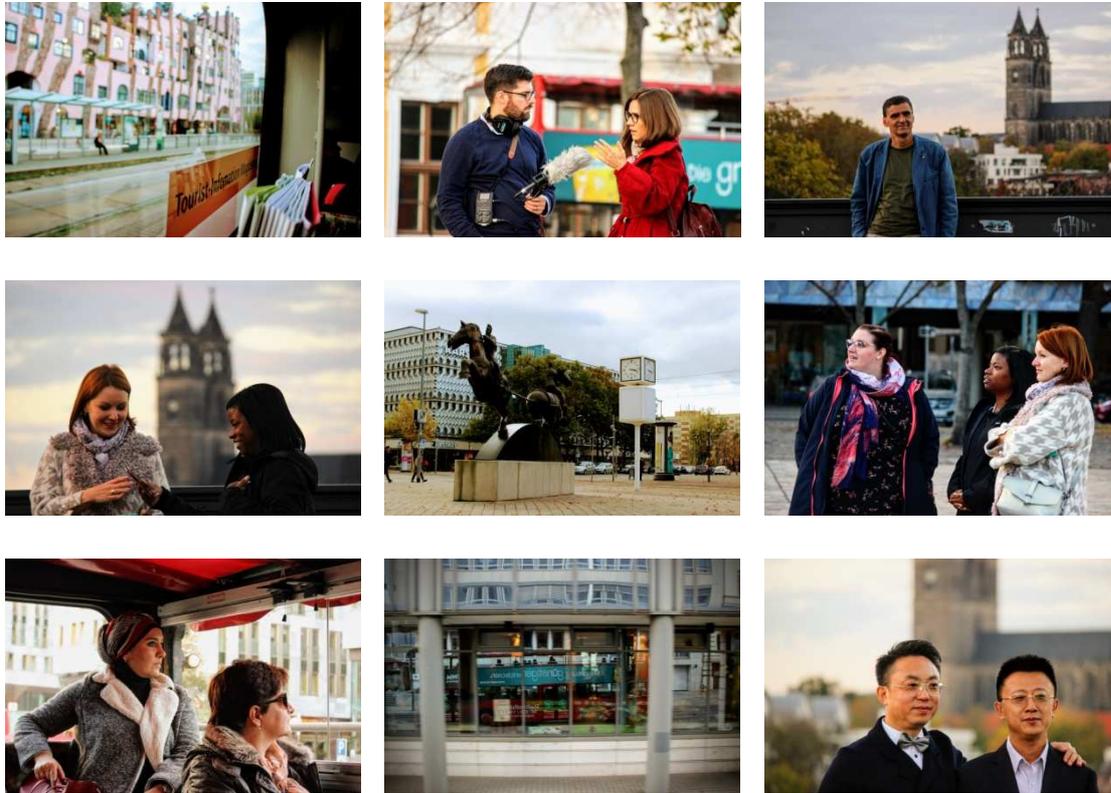
### III. Schedule

<b>Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018</b> until 2.00 p.m.  4.30 p.m. <b>Hotel Ratswaage</b>	Arrival  Sightseeing tour by bus
6.00 p.m. <b>MDR-Funkhaus</b>	Vernissage of Herbstsalon 2018 “Bridges over foreign rivers” (with artists from Harbin) <i>Herbstsalon e. V.</i>
<b>Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018</b>  9.00 a.m. <b>Hotel Ratswaage</b>	Registration
9.30 a.m.	Welcome and opening speech of the Congress by the Mayor of the State Capital Magdeburg Dr Lutz Trümper Moderation: Michael Reif
9.40 a.m.	Magdeburg’s candidature as European Capital of Culture Speaker: Tamás Szalay
	<b>I. Performing art (music/dancing/singing)</b>
10.00 a.m.	Music connects Speaker: Dr. Carsten Lange (Magdeburg)
10.15 a.m.	Regional musical tradition Speaker: Pawel Błach (Radom)
10.30 a.m.	Culture in Zaporizhia Speaker: Alina Yeshchenko (Zaporizhia)
10.45 a.m.	Coffee break
	<b>II. Theatre/literature/reading</b>
11.00 a.m.	Literature festival in Le Havre Speaker: Dominique Rouet (Le Havre)
11.15 a.m.	Culture Days for Children 2021 – and international project Speaker: Michael Kempchen (Magdeburg)
11.30 a.m.	International library work of the municipal library Speaker: Dr. Cornelia Poenicke (Magdeburg)
11.45 a.m.	The Night of Culture 2019 in Brunswick Speaker: Dr. Ulf Hilger (Brunswick)
12.00 a.m.	Coffee break
	<b>III. City history &amp; Urban design</b>
12.15 p.m.	Year of the Bauhaus 2019 Speaker: Dr. Michael Stöneberg (Magdeburg)
12.30 p.m.	Creation of a mural Speaker: Karol Suwała (Radom)
12.45 p.m.	Reconstruction of history Speaker: Dr. Christoph Volkmar (Magdeburg)

	<b>IV. Creative economy/art as an economic factor</b>
1.00 p.m.	Introduction Speaker: Martin Dahms/Heike Worel (Magdeburg)
1.15 p.m. <b>Hotel Ratswaage</b>	Lunch
3.00 – 5.00 p.m.	<b>Workshops on individual themes (drafts and discussion of projects; preparation of prospective project agreements)</b>
<b>Ratswaage</b>	Theme I: Moderation: Dr. Carsten Lange/Stephan Schuh
<b>Ratswaage</b>	Theme II Moderation: Michael Kempchen/Dr. Cornelia Poenicke
<b>Ratswaage</b>	Theme III: Moderation: Dr. Christoph Volkmar/Dr. Michael Stöneberg
<b>Ratswaage</b>	Theme IV: Moderation: Martin Dahms/Heike Worel
6 p.m. <b>Business Club, MDCC Arena</b>	German-French meeting of citizens with participants of the citizen´s voyage from Le Havre <i>German-French Society Magdeburg e. V.</i>
<b>Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018</b>	
9.00 – 12:00 a.m. <b>Hotel Ratswaage</b>	Theme-based working visits of institutions/enterprises in the State Capital Magdeburg, part 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aerosol-Arena</li> <li>- Puppet theatre</li> <li>- Turmpark (<i>art association</i>)</li> </ul>
12.00 a.m. <b>Hotel Ratswaage</b>	Lunch
1.00 – 4.00 p.m.	Theme-based working visits of institutions/enterprises in the State Capital Magdeburg, part 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Theatre</li> <li>- Forum of Design</li> </ul>
5.00 p.m. <b>Schleinufer/Rötgerstreet</b>	Planting trees
6.00 p.m. <b>Fortress Mark</b>	Reflection on the congress papers and summary of the outcome of the discussions in the working groups Moderation: Michael Reif
	Statement on Magdeburg´s candidature as European Capital of Culture Speaker: Tamás Szalay
	Closing words of the Mayor Dinner and evening programme
<b>Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018</b>	
	Spare time and departure of the delegations

**IV. Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018**

During a one and a half hours 90 minutes of sightseeing by the red double-decker bus, the guests could get a first impression of the most important sights in den city centre.



Impressions of sightseeing tour | Photos: Offener Kanal Magdeburg

Afterwards, the guests from the twin cities were received at the local broadcasting studios to participate in the vernissage “Bridges over foreign rivers” of the Herbstsalon e.V. Numerous artists from Harbin who provided their artwork for this exhibition as well as representatives of the local cultural scene attended this opening evening. The exhibition of contemporary Chinese artwork could be seen until 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The Magdeburg artist Robin Zöffzig who gained great experience in the Middle Kingdom, contributed a few works as well.



Impressions of the vernissage | Photos: State Capital Magdeburg | Image rights belong to the artist/Herbstsalon e.V.

## V. Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018

The term of culture is very complex therefore the four topics

Performing arts (music/dancing/singing)  
Theatre/literature/reading  
City history & Urban design  
Creative economy/art as an economic factor

were determined to which representatives of the twin cities and Magdeburg reported. This was preceded by the official welcome of the Mayor Dr. Lutz Trümper and a statement on Magdeburg’s candidature as European Capital of Culture by Tamás Szalay.



Plenum | Photos: State Capital Magdeburg | Offener Kanal Magdeburg

Bilateral and multilateral project ideas were discussed and collected within the workshops which are oriented on these four topics.

### Workshop I “Performing arts (music/dancing/singing)”

- Moderation: Dr. Carsten Lange (Director of the Centre for maintenance and research of Telemann in Magdeburg) and Stephan Schuh (Director of the Conservatory “Georg Philipp Telemann” in Magdeburg)

The presentations were used as a basis for discussion within the group and were supplemented by the idea of a major project within the framework of a European youth and cultural exchange and the composition of an Elb Suite by the different cities on the banks of the river Elbe.

The prominent role of Georg Philipp Telemann and his inspirations were discussed as well. And so the idea emerged that the composers Telemann, Chopin and Penderecki could act as a connecting element and a guiding theme of a project, event or competition between Germany, France and Poland.



Under the participants there were also Pawel Blach from Radom (right) and Kerstin Hartinger from Magdeburg (left)  
| Photo: State Capital Magdeburg

Furthermore, the proposal to initiate a compositions contest with all seven twin cities based on the natural music principles of every single city and region was discussed as well. The composer Krzysztof Penderecki was regarded as a possible patron of this project. The work of the first-prize winner could be performed in the other twin cities; true to the motto of this workshop “Music creates encounters and again encounters can produce new music.”

## Workshop II “Theatre/literature/reading”

- Moderation: Michael Kempchen (Director of the Puppet Theatre in Magdeburg) and Dr. Cornelia Poenicke (Director of the Municipal Library in Magdeburg)

The main issue of this workshop was to develop the Magdeburg children cultural days (KinderKulturTage) into “European children cultural days” involving the twin cities. The idea to create creative opportunities for encounters between children from Europe in Magdeburg was positively highlighted by the representatives from Brunswick, Le Havre and Zaporizhia. First specific project ideas have already been drawn up. For example artwork from children from the City of Zaporizhia may also serve to illustrate that there exists a country outside the war. A common theatre play would be conceivable as well.

The possibility of a cooperation in the field of literature was discussed with the representatives from Le Havre. It would be conceivable that one author from the respective twin city works on writings with children in order to present them during the children cultural days.



Insights into the workshop on the subject of Theatre/literature/reading | Photos: State Capital Magdeburg

## Workshop III „City history & Urban design“

- Moderation: Dr. Michael Stöneberg (Employee at the cultural and historical museum Magdeburg) and Dr. Christoph Volkmar (Director of the Municipal Archives Magdeburg)

During a moderated discussion, the most important steps of the city history of Magdeburg and the direct impact on the urban design were collected. Especially the destruction during the 30 Years War in 1631 but also during World War II changed the former cityscape substantially. The reconstruction of Magdeburg was mainly oriented on ideas of a socialist model city. The city history should be perceptible and this could be achieved by using virtual means. Individual buildings could therefore reflect a whole epoch.

The representatives from Sarajevo report that damages caused by the war during the 1990s had been still visible for a long time but mostly removed. Whereas Radom has remained spared from the destructions during World War II. The historic appearance is very important here. Nevertheless, system changes such as during the 1990s and the associated migration of young people had a great impact on the urban design. However, Nashville is one of the fastest growing cities in the United States and that is why urban planning measures are absolutely essential.



Insight into the workshop on the subject of City history & Urban design | Photos: State Capital Magdeburg

- Moderation: Martin Dahms (LIQUE GmbH Magdeburg) and Heike Worel (Society for Business Service Magdeburg)

Within three groups it had been discussed whether the creative economy as a sector is perceived in the individual cities and how important art as an economic factor is. While Brunswick acts similar as Magdeburg with regard to the sector, the Chinese see the creative scene as an important growing sector. They even speak of design services and see a wider notion including the publicly subsidized art sector but there is no fixed definition as in the EU. In the Ukraine they still stand at the beginning of the process and the emphasis is not particularly on the sector. Artists often want nothing to do with the “administration”. Nevertheless, there is also a developing and creative scene coming from the civic involvement which is considered extremely important for the city. Due to their varying composition, the three working groups came to varying conclusions how to cooperate with Magdeburg regarding the candidature for candidature as European Capital of Culture.



Insight into the workshop on the subject of creative economy | Photos: State Capital Magdeburg | Offener Kanal Magdeburg

### 1. Working group (Harbin, Brunswick, Magdeburg)

A cycle tour with Brunswick under the motto “Cycle tour for everybody” has been very successfully organized by a creative company from Magdeburg. Based on the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival, the first ice figures festival took place in Magdeburg in 2018. In Harbin there is a very successful music festival in the summer for more the 30 years. The idea emerged to combine the elements such as ice figure festival, music festival and cycle tour with these three cities in order to lead to a kick-off event for the Capital of Culture year 2025. The artistic design of ice is taught at the University of Harbin. These experts could involve art students from Brunswick and design students from Magdeburg.

### 2. Working group (Zaporizhia, Magdeburg)

This is where the idea of the project “1,662 km – Creative Bridgework” (it is the distance between the twin cities) emerged. Magdeburg could pass on the successful formats such as the “Creative Salon” which allows a better perception and support of the cultural and creative economy in the twin city. This could be the subject of an exchange.

### 3. Working group (Harbin, Magdeburg)

This working group included artists from both cities. There was consensus on the fact that there is still a lot of potential of artist which is not yet known and should go “hunting” for artists and raise the hidden treasures for the city.

## German-French meeting of citizens with participants from Le Havre

At the same time, the 5<sup>th</sup> exchange between citizens from Magdeburg and Le Havre took place. The annual and alternating meetings are organised by the German-French Society Magdeburg e.V. and the partnership association “Association Le Havre-Magdebourg”. More than 50 people visited Magdeburg from 20<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October and went through an extensive tourist program in Magdeburg, Leipzig and in the Harz mountains.

This joint evening get-together took place at the Business Lounge at the MDCC Arena and offered an opportunity to establish new contacts and to exchange. Previously, the guests were officially welcomed by Vice-Mayor Klaus Zimmermann.



Impressions of the evening get-together | Photos: State Capital Magdeburg | Offener Kanal Magdeburg

## VI. Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018

During the morning and afternoon the guests had the opportunity to get to know different cultural institutions in the State Capital and to get in touch with the responsible.

### Aerosol-Arena

The guests were welcomed by Jens Märker, one of the three founders and idea providers of the Aerosol-Arena. The industrial wasteland of the former bread and pasta factory is situated in the Magdeburg port area and has developed into the largest graffiti hall in Europe since 2012.



About 30,000 square meters and partly roofed area are available for the artists. The arena is open 365 days a year for visitors and artists. And also equipment can be hired for little money on site. Since 2017, the Aerosol-Arena is also known as “roofless disco Magdeburg” and therefore the only location without closing hour. More information about events on <https://aerosol-arena.de/>

Image rights belong to the artist Ilja van Treeck  
Photo: State Capital Magdeburg Magdeburg

### H<sub>2</sub>O Turmpark e.V. (art association)

Since 2012, the H<sub>2</sub>O Turmpark e.V. located on the site of the former water tower of Salbke has been organising regular international artistic exchanges. The association chairman Joachim Röderer reflected on their experience of exchanges with artists from Le Havre. The first exchange with Nashville took place in Magdeburg in spring 2018 and should become established as well. Also the delegation from Radom, first of all Karol Suwała who made a presentation about the creation of a mural in the plenary session, was impressed and intends to realize the idea of a mural in Magdeburg as part of a project. More information about the association and events on <http://www.turmpark.de/>

### Puppet theatre

The director of the puppet theatre Michael Kempchen welcomed the guests at the café p. and continued the discussion about his presentation on the topic of the children cultural days 2021. The representatives from Zaporizhia showed great interest to be part of this international project and expressed their wish for a closer cooperation with the youth art school. An exhibition on a common subject between both cities is conceivable. Afterwards, the guests explored the largest puppet figure collection of Central Germany at the villa p. using the new English-speaking audio guides .



Discussions at the café p.  
Photo: State Capital Magdeburg

More information about the puppet heater on <https://www.puppentheater-magdeburg.de/> and about the youth art school on <http://jugendkunstschulemagdeburg.de/>

## Forum of Design

The director Norbert Pohlmann welcomed the guests in the premises of the former school of arts and crafts located at the Brandenburger Street – today’s Forum of Design. The present association was founded in November 2005 and was born from the project “Vision 24/Forum of Design” which was at that time founded on the occasion of the 1200<sup>th</sup> city anniversary of Magdeburg. During the tour through the current exhibition “ELGNER the red flower”, the guests came into conversation and were informed about regular events taking place there such as “The Days of the Jewish Culture and History”.



Explanations by Norbert Pohlmann  
Photo: State Capital Magdeburg

More information about the Forum of Design on <http://forum-gestaltung.de/>

## Theater

The General Director Karen Stone welcomed the guests at Café Rossini and gave a prospect on the international productions at the Opera House. Laura Busch, dramaturge at the Theatre, informed about the project “Meeting point Zaporizhia. German-Ukrainian theatre festival” which took place in April 2017 in the twin city Zaporizhia and thus has laid a further component of networking between the cities. In the framework of the “European theatre convention”, the project “young Europe 3” between Magdeburg, Brunswick and Romania is currently being prepared. It consists of a so called live theatre game on the issue of nationalism which will celebrate its premiere in Brunswick in autumn 2019. More information about the theatre on <https://www.theater-magdeburg.de/>



Karen Stone at the Café Rossini  
Photo: State Capital Magdeburg

## **Planting trees at the location Schleinufer/Rötgerstreet**

As a symbolic act of connection and further blossoming of twinning relations with all the seven twin cities, the Mayor invited all representatives to plant their very own tree. The species of the regional-typical trees have been researched by the Municipal Company responsible for municipal park and graveyards and provided within the framework of the project “My tree for Magdeburg”. The location in the city centre was carefully chosen because the Sarajevo-Shore and the Nashville-Promenade located next to the river Elbe are within a short walking distance.



Representatives from all twin cities and the Mayor of Magdeburg (in the middle) are presenting the signage for the trees  
Photo: State Capital Magdeburg



Mayor Dr. Lutz Trümper and the chairwomen of the finance committee Tanaka Vercher from Nashville planted a regional-typical red oak for Nashville  
Photo: State Capital Magdeburg



Mayor Dr. Lutz Trümper and the city councillor Sead Srna from Sarajevo planted a regional-typical hawthorn for Sarajevo  
Photo: State Capital Magdeburg



Mayor Dr. Lutz Trümper and the Deputy Mayor Annegret Ihbe from Brunswick planted a regional-typical copper beech for Brunswick  
Photo: State Capital Magdeburg



Mayor Dr. Lutz Trümper and the director of the creative centre in Zaporizhia Alina Yeshchenko planted a regional-typical birch for Zaporizhia  
Photo: State Capital Magdeburg



Mayor Dr. Lutz Trümper and the director of the Association Le Havre-Magdebourg Fabrice Poret planted a regional-typical apple tree for Le Havre  
Photo: State Capital Magdeburg



Mayor Dr. Lutz Trümper and the vice-rector of the Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences and originally from Harbin Prof. Yongjian Ding planted a regional-typical ginkgo for Harbin  
Photo: State Capital Magdeburg



Mayor Dr. Lutz Trümper and the president of the city council of Radom Michał Michalski planted a regional-typical red oak for Radom  
Photo: State Capital Magdeburg

## Closing event at the Fortress Mark

The guests were welcomed by the fortress commandant and guided to the closing event in the premises of the Fortress Mark. In his speech, the Mayor expressed thanks to all participants who have contributed to the success of this conference. The moderators of the four workshops used the opportunity to present their results (see section V).

Tamaś Szalay, head of the application office Magdeburg 2025, together with the Mayor presented a joint declaration of support of all twin cities regarding the application as European City of Culture 2025 of the State Capital Magdeburg. He also emphasized how important this support and the related international projects are.

The cultural evening program was opened by the writers group “The typists” from Magdeburg with an English-speaking performance about “Edith from Wessex (Regine Sondermann), “The River” (Herbert Beesten) and “The Swimming Hall” (Sofia Helfrich and Regine Sondermann). The press spokesman Michael Reif moderated the evening programme and asked every delegation for a personal statement and conclusion of the conference. A video message from Nashville’s Mayor David Briley as well as a review of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Nashville-Days who took place in October 2018 at the Fortress Mark as well were shown.

The young singer-songwriter Till Seifert from Brunswick presented his German-speaking songs from his first album “Between leaving and staying”. This was followed by video clips about the Ice- and Snow festival in Harbin, the cultural scenes in Le Havre, Radom and Sarajevo.

Highlight of the evening was the performance of the “Cossacks from the island Chortyzja” from Zaporizhia who presented hand their customs in traditional costumes. The Mayor as part of the performance has been officially “cossacked” after passing the test and accepted to this exclusive circle.



Impressions of the closing event | Photos: State Capital Magdeburg

## VII. Joint Declaration

**MAGDEBURG 2025**  
EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE  
CANDIDATE CITY

### JOINT DECLARATION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL TWIN TOWNS OF THE STATE CAPITAL, MAGDEBURG

The city of Magdeburg is competing for the title of European Capital of Culture 2025. The title is awarded with the aim of strengthening European values and highlighting our cultural diversity and common history in an international context.

Magdeburg is supported by its twin towns in its bid for the title of European Capital of Culture as a sign of the friendship we have built up over the years.



Vertreter Braunschweig



Representative from Harbin



Representative from Le Havre  
**ANDRE GACOUGNOLLE**



Representative from Nashville

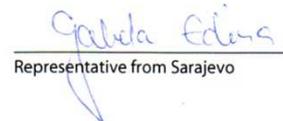


Representative from Zaporizhia

**PREZYDENT MIASTA**  
UKRAINA

**Radoslaw Witkowski**

Representative from Radom



Representative from Sarajevo

## VIII. Imprint

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