The Federal Government’s cultural and media policy
With its comprehensive, forward-looking recovery programme NEUSTART KULTUR, the Federal Government is supporting the relaunch of cultural life in Germany in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Aid of up to one billion euro will be granted to enable cultural institutions to reopen venues and relaunch programmes. The aim of the programme is to restart Germany’s diverse cultural life and to create new employment and work opportunities for artists and creatives as quickly as possible.
BERLIN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL – BERLINALE

With more than 340 films screened and some 22,000 industry guests from more than 130 countries, the Berlinale is one of the preeminent film festivals in the world, with some 330,000 tickets sold it is regarded as the world’s largest audience festival. In addition to the main competition for the Golden Bears and eight other sections such as Panorama and Perspektive Deutsches Kino, the Berlinale also hosts events like Berlinale Talents, bringing together young talents with professionals from the international film industry.
The opening of the Humboldt Forum in the reconstructed royal palace in the heart of Berlin marks the inauguration of a unique place for art, research and education. The cultures of the world will be displayed in a space of 40,000 square metres. Artworks, religious objects and objects of daily life from Asia, Africa, the Americas and Oceania will illustrate how different cultures respond to existential questions of humankind. Named after Alexander and Wilhelm von Humboldt, the Humboldt Forum inspires us to explore the world with an open mind and understand it as an intertwined system of nature and culture.
GERMANY’S PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

“Together for Europe’s recovery”: this is the motto of Germany’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and it is an especially fitting mission statement for culture and media policy. After all, the coronavirus crisis has shown us how important culture and the media are for European integration. During the German Council Presidency, Minister of State Monika Grütters is chairing the meetings of EU culture and media ministers. Apart from overcoming the coronavirus crisis, other topics on the agenda are media pluralism and gender equality in the cultural field.
“Art and culture are expressions of a humane society and a vibrant democracy. Today more than ever, we need them as a compass that provides orientation and instils self-assurance.”

Monika Grütters, Minister of State for Culture and the Media, Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, Member of the German Bundestag, has office on the top floor of the Federal Chancellery and is a member of the Federal Cabinet. She heads a supreme federal agency with seats in Berlin and Bonn and a staff of about 400.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Germany boasts a unique cultural heritage and a diverse arts and culture scene which attracts artists from all over the world. To foster this diversity and international exchange, Minister of State Grütters supports contemporary works in a broad range of artistic fields – music, literature and visual arts as well as film, dance and theatre.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Artworks such as the Nebra sky disc are cultural objects of national significance. To better protect such objects against illegal trade, the Federal Government has enhanced the protection of cultural property. Germany also has a special historical responsibility to deal with the legacy of Nazi art theft. In order to identify such looted art and reach just and fair solutions with the heirs of the former owners, the Minister of State has stepped up provenance research. The Minister of State also supports provenance research into collections from colonial contexts in order to find appropriate ways of dealing with such collections and with their possible return.

THE MEDIA

Even in the age of digital media, freedom of the press and free speech need to be protected and media diversity and fair competition need to be strengthened. This includes copyright laws, which enable artists and creatives to make a living from their intellectual work. Germany’s international broadcaster Deutsche Welle is also funded from the Minister of State’s budget. Another important concern for the Minister of State is enhancing media literacy among young people.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Germany has about a million listed monuments, ranging from village churches, half-timbered houses and former factory buildings to palaces and castles. Preserving them as sites bearing witness to the past is an important task of cultural policy. Minister of State Grütters is engaged in heritage conservation focusing on protecting monuments of national significance, such as the old town hall of Bremen, the baroque Friedenstein palace in Gotha and the Jewish cemetery in the Weißensee district of Berlin.

STUDY OF THE COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP IN EAST GERMAN

Even 30 years after the end of the GDR, it is still imperative to study the injustices committed by East Germany’s communist dictatorship and to remember its victims. Memorial sites of national importance include the Berlin Wall Memorial in Bernauer Straße, the memorial site in the former central remand prison of the GDR’s State Security Service (Stasi) in the Hohenschönhausen district of Berlin, and the site known as the Tränenpalast (Palace of Tears), which was once the departure hall at Berlin’s Friedrichstraße station, a former border crossing point.

MUSEUMS

They are the memory of our nation. More than 7,000 museums across Germany conserve, research and display the vast cultural heritage handed down from past centuries. Minister of State Grütters supports many of them, among them big museums such as the Deutsches Historisches Museum in Berlin and the Meeresmuseum in Stralsund, as well as smaller specialised museums such as the Beethoven-Haus in Bonn and the Buddenbrookhaus in Lübeck.

REMEMBRANCE AND DEALING WITH THE LEGACY OF THE NAZI PERIOD

Germany has a constant duty to remember the millions of victims of the Nazi terror regime and to confront that dark period of its history. The most prominent monument for Holocaust remembrance is the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe right in the heart of Berlin. Former concentration camps such as Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen, Dachau and Bergen-Belsen also represent the horrors of the Nazi regime. Preserving these authentic sites as memorials and reminders for future generations is one of the core concerns of the Federal Government’s cultural policy.

FILM

German films and TV series reach millions of enthusiastic viewers at home and abroad. They are an essential part of our culture and our cultural heritage. In addition, the film industry is an important part of our economy. That is why culture and film policy seeks to support the production of artistically ambitious and economically successful films and series, to strengthen the film industry as a whole, and to help sustain German cinema and raise its profile.
Information about the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media:

www.kulturstatsministerin.de