

CALL FOR FUTURE

On April 21, 2010, **ÜBER LEBENSKUNST** got underway with a global call for groundbreaking ideas that brought together culture and sustainability: What if there was one more hour in the day ... how could we make good use of this 25th hour? The **CALL FOR FUTURE** was published in 10 languages and was geared towards everyone who wants to take seemingly impossible ideas and turn them into a reality both in and for Berlin - whether individuals, residential communities, citizen initiatives, associations or families.

In upholding the spirit of sustainability, **ÜBER LEBENSKUNST** set its sights on a city, its actors and inhabitants. The motto was "think globally, act locally". Berlin, a metropolis with residents from around 180 countries, thus became a model city for **ÜBER LEBENSKUNST** in the 21st century.

More than 850 local initiatives and individuals – often together with international partners – submitted their project ideas. The applications came from around the world: Paris, London, Barcelona, Helsinki, New York, Lithuania, Australia, Canada, Taiwan, Poland, Mexico, South Africa, Japan, Israel, Hungary, Thailand, ... The overwhelming response to the **CALL FOR FUTURE** is evidence that there are already many ideas and models that encourage people to reshape their day-to-day lives and think about the future in their actions.

At the end of August 2010, an international jury chose 14 **ÜBER LEBENSKUNST. Initiatives** out of 100 projects that had been pre-selected in an initial round of judging. These initiatives received up to EUR 20,000 in funding for a one-year period. The **CALL FOR FUTURE** jury was made up of the following members: Max Ahmadi Zenouz (Plant for the Planet student initiative), Daniel Boese (then zitty Berlin city magazine), Charles Landry (London-based urban and creativity researcher), Dr. Annette Massmann (Zukunftsstiftung Entwicklungshilfe und GLS Gemeinschaftsbank), Gülcan Nitsch (BUND/Yesil Çember) and Sissel Tolaas (Norwegian artist).

It was important to **ÜBER LEBENSKUNST** to firmly anchor these projects in the city itself and to give all Berliners the opportunity to see and experience them. From May 2011 to the Festival **ÜBER LEBENSKUNST** in August 2011 the initiatives presented themselves at different places all over the city. During the Festival the initiatives were also present at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt as well as in other places.

The **ÜBER LEBENSKUNST. Initiatives** make people think about the future and give ideas for everyday alternatives and cooperations. Beyond scientific research, they make alternative actions a sensuous experience.

14 ÜBER LEBENSKUNST.INITIATIVES



Austerbank / Copyright: Joachim Loch

AUSTERTRAU

Field study at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt

Project initiators: Stefan Saffer, Dr. Birgit Schneider

AUSTERTRAU established the Haus der Kulturen der Welt – also known in Berlin as the “pregnant oyster” – as a model case study that shows under what conditions sustainable art is possible. This communication and research project spanned utopian artistic concepts and ideas to scientifically founded observations all the way to practical implementation in the Haus and its environment. Dialogue and idea development with the staff of the HKW played a central role in identifying concrete approaches to art and sustainable living. During the Festival “Austerbank” – a shell-shaped infopoint – was installed.



Bee hives at the HKW / Copyright: Joachim Loch

BUZZING BERLIN!

Bees in the city

Project initiators: Andreas Karmanski, Corinna Hölzer and Cornelis Hemmer
Umweltforum für Aktion und Zusammenarbeit e.V.

www.berlin-summt.de

Beekeeping is a cultural technique with a long tradition that brings together modern science and practical knowledge that has been handed down for generations. Following the model of other cities – the most well-known is the Paris Opéra Garnier – bee hives have been set up and will be permanently maintained on many prominent buildings in Berlin. The goal is to raise awareness of the role nature plays in the city and the loss of biodiversity using the example of urban beekeeping. To achieve this goal, beekeepers and associations, building owners and interested citizens will be motivated to work together and form a network. During the Festival discussions with beekeepers and landlords of the prominent locations took place.

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Fish Spa, Haus am Waldsee / Copyright: Susanna Hertrich

BERLIN WILD LIFE

Project initiators: Susanna Hertrich, Michiko Nitta

www.berlinwildlife.org

The urban habitat represents the artistic system, the designed environment. A construct that is tailored solely to human needs. But nature returns – more and more wild animals are finding their way into the urban habitat. However, city dwellers often consider them a nuisance or even a threat. The project came up with visionary ideas for sustainable coexistence with wild animals in the city for the future. Artistic interventions invited Berliners to reflect on this issue.



Service Crows, Haus am Waldsee

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Prototype Collection Station for Returnable Bottles / Copyright: Joachim Loch



Solar-driven game station / Copyright: Till Bender

DEPOSIT BOTTLE COLLECTING POINT

Functional sculptures of new logistics for redistribution of values in Berlin

Project initiator: Steffi Stangl

The project, with its collection station for returnable bottles, dealt with the grey area of existing poverty. For many people, collecting returnable bottles has become an important source of income. However, to get these bottles, they have to reach into rubbish bins, which is not only humiliating, it can also be dangerous. The installed collection stations that are either attached directly to rubbish bins or are free-standing act as sculptures and serve a functional purpose: They invite passers-by to participate in redistributing the value of the deposit and are, at the same time, a moment to think about the social divide that exists in the city.

ENERGY STREETFIGHT

A playful approach to energy reduction

Project initiators: Benedikt Foit, Vijak Haddadi, Habib Lesevic

Vic Ventures

www.vic-ventures.com

The residents of Stargarder Straße in Prenzlauer Berg were asked to participate in an 8-week-long contest to reduce energy consumption. The contest made use of a widely varied and interactive game: on a virtual battlefield, the participants could show how much progress they had made, enter into secret treaties with other buildings, guess the energy consumption of their competitors or document the most innovative energy-saving measures with photos. The winners were premiered at the Festival **ÜBER LEBENSKUNST** in August 2011 .

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Modular drinking water system / Copyright: Joachim Loch



Light installation/ Copyright: Franz John

DAS NUMEN H2O

Project initiators: Julian Charrière, Andreas Greiner, Markus Hoffmann, Felix Kiessling

The Numen Collective

www.dasnumen.com

Water is not only part of our environment, it is our most important resource. The Numen Collective wanted to raise awareness about the problems of our time with its project: water pollution and treatment as well as access to drinking water, which is becoming more difficult in an increasing number of countries, and its privatization. The Installation Das Numen H₂O demonstrated how drinking water can be produced in a sustainable way. The local resource came from the Spree, ran through a multipart filtering-system and was served on the roof-deck of the Haus der Kulturen der Welt.

FROM ORGANIC WASTE TO ENERGY!

A project for creative energy production in schools

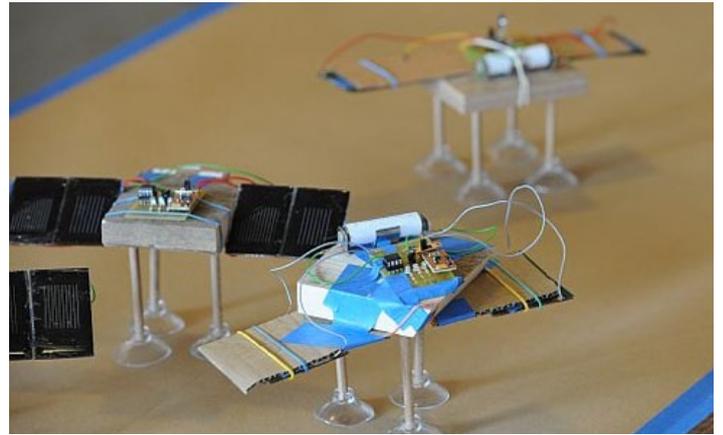
Project initiator: Franz John, Prof. Michael Rodemer

This project explained processes of natural electricity generation with organic waste and applied them in artistic-cultural school projects in Berlin. Everyday models for creative energy production were to be identified and deployed in the school environment. Following the instruction of experts, students constructed Grätzel cells, an application from bionics. Unlike the classic solar cell, the Grätzel cells hardly produce any emissions because they use organic pigments like chlorophyll to absorb light. Students then creatively implemented these cells in installations and objects that were presented in public.

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Sun reflector / Copyright: Christoph Keller



Energy Harvester / Copyright: Joachim Loch

HELIOFLEX

Sun reflectors for Berlin

Project initiator: Christoph Keller

www.helioflex.de

A social division is created for light by the dense concentration of buildings in city centers. The upper floors of buildings enjoy the sun's rays while the lower floors have none. An automatically adjusting reflector that brings light into previously dark rooms was created in the helioflex project. Under the scope of **ÜBER LEBENS-KUNST**, a prototype of the helioflex sun reflector was installed at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt to light up the Café Global.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SATELLITES ENERGY HARVESTS

Turning energy leaks into resources

Project initiators: Myriel Milicevic, Hanspeter Kadel

Neighbourhood satellites

www.energyharvests.org

The project dealt with the problem of wasted energy by turning "energy leaks" into energy sources. So-called "energy harvesters" that convert light, heat or movement into energy were installed at the subway station "Neukölln". The installation "Underground Currents" (August 12 - September 9, 2011) was part of the art project "U10- from here to the imaginary and back again" by the NGBK Berlin, an art project financed by Berlin Council's Department of Culture and supported by the Berlin Underground Train Company (BVG), the Berlin Fenster (in-train TV) and by Wall AG. The aim also was to test out a new energy infrastructure in Berlin with practical-utopian objects, workshops and discussions.

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LEOrigamiPARD III, 2011/2012, Karton, gefaltet von Soldaten der Bundeswehr vor dem Militärgeschichtlichen Museum der Bundeswehr in Dresden / Copyright: Denis Bury



Copyright: Sebastian Bolesch

PEACEMAKER

leORIGAMIpard III

Project initiator: Frank Bölter

PEACEMAKER is an installation of two videos showing how a group of soldiers and a group of refugees both create a life-size origami version of a tank. The "Leopard III" tank created by the soldiers is now part of the collection of the museum of military history in Dresden. The "Peacemaker" tank created by the refugees is decaying in a backyard in Berlin-Kreuzberg.

POWER THE CITY! THE ELECTRICITY ACTIVISTS

Generate your own electricity!

Project initiator: Martin Keil, Henrik Mayer / Reinigungsgesellschaft

www.reinigungsgesellschaft.de

In a Berlin fitness studio, young people had the opportunity to generate electricity on modified fitness equipment through their own sweat and tears and feed it into the Berlin city grid. The participative model project aimed to trigger a public discourse on equal opportunity, social participation and career opportunities for disadvantaged young people and, at the same time, make a contribution to alternative energy production.

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Allmende Kontor Tempelhofer Feld / Copyright: Britta Pichler



Restaurant Installation / Copyright: Joachim Loch

SOCIAL SEEDS

The diversity of life in Berlin community gardens

Project initiators: Alexandra Becker, Britta Pichler in cooperation with Gunilla Lissek-Wolff (VERN e. V.)

www.social-seeds.net

The SOCIAL SEEDS project aims to create new agro-socio biotopes by planting old, rare and cultural plant species from the region in Berlin community gardens to allow social and biological diversity to develop over the long run. Particularly in the community gardens in the city, the idea is to pinpoint a diverse range of people with different geographic, cultural and artistic backgrounds who are passionate about gardening. Together with the community gardeners, individual "favourites" from among the different types of plants and seeds are to be cultivated and a network created to encourage people to share their experiences

SUSTAINABLE SUSHI

A restaurant as an art piece – with and about the politically correct interpretation of a Japanese delicacy

Project initiator: Max Schumacher / post theater (new york / berlin / tokyo)

www.posttheater.com

The preparation of the popular delicacy sushi is anything but sustainable: Tuna is overfished, most fish farms are environmental catastrophes and resource consumption for frozen fish is extremely high. The project developed a contemporary concept for the idea of sushi: sushi made from regional and sustainable ingredients served in a temporary restaurant. Visitors have a sensory experience of the relationship between food and ecology.

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Community Garden Oranienstr. 54 / Copyright: Robert Shaw/Marco Clause

FAST-GROWING PRODUCTIVE GREEN

Urban Gardens and the Resilient City

Project initiators: Marco Clausen, Robert Shaw

Nomadisch Grün gGmbH

www.prinzessinnengarten.net

“Fast-growing productive green” aims to bring gardens to the places people live. Together with residents nearby this project initiated a community garden in a typical Berlin backyard. The users of these urban micro gardens learn about “green” as something productive and learn to participate actively. The goal is to expand the scope of urban agriculture both geographically and socially in Berlin and to show how social commitment and sustainable action can get together even at places where you would not expect it at first sight.
