

Wahlprüfstein 1

1. *How does your party support the continuation of the procedures within the new structure title 68329 concerning dance, and in which way is your party planning to strengthen dance in the following years despite the crisis?*

Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier has warned on May 10, 2021: “The fight against the pandemic leads to increasing public debt. We are ahead of the cash-up.” Therefore, a responsible cultural policy faces the challenge of saving substances and set priorities without heavily indebting future generations. The FDP had to stop further subsidies for dance amounting to € 550,000 in 2020 and € 1,176,000 in 2021 for the structure title 68329 in order to cover the increased demand for the evaluation and implementation of the results of the round-table discussion for dance. Unfortunately, the majority of the parliament voted against this suggestion.

2. *Following the round-table discussion for dance in 2020 and 2021, a conception phase for three new establishments for dance has started. Which approaches and schedules does your party intend to pursue in the following years in order to implement a House for Dance and Choreography, a Dance Archive, and a Mediation Centre for Dance facing the lack of a structural anchoring of dance in Berlin, connected with a strengthening of decentralized locations for dance in Berlin?*

The FDP advocates that state-owned properties, such as Alte Münze, Haus der Statistik, parts of the former Tempelhof airport or other properties which have been acquired by the right of pre-emption, are being examined according to their usability for a Dance Archive, a House of Choreography and Dance, and a Mediation Centre for Dance in order to achieve progress—despite considerable planning and approval times—no later than in the upcoming legislation to cover the predominant spacial needs.

3. *Which measures does your party suggest in order to maintain the ground-breaking participative procedure from 2018—which has also been noticed beyond Berlin—for the dialogue in the upcoming years?*

The cultural policy of the federal state benefits from the communication with competent forces of Berlin’s cultural life. Cultural operators have an ongoing dialogue with artistic initiatives and projects, they develop ideas and they welcome criticism as part of advice to reflect their actions. Thus, a broad dialogue is essential. Parliamentary operations with their thematic consultations offer a professional framework for this. In order to develop specific projects, we advocate early participation of the different responsible bodies of social and professional interests, in order to accelerate realizations of projects without unnecessary delays and with the aim of gaining immediate political feedback.

Wahlprüfstein 2

- A) *How would your party formulate a dance promotion, in which funding of artists and projects intertwine, and which could be embedded as a fluid construct into a system which supports dance structurally?*

The FDP is looking forward to the development of the three pilot projects which were supported by the budgeted plan in 2020/21. Especially the project “Tanzpraxis” arouses our interests and expectations. Every funding structure depends on its viable financing, and it must justify itself—in a discussion-oriented towards the common good—regarding basic requirements such as health, social, and pedagogical needs—especially under the conditions of a pandemic. During the pandemic, we have advertised for accessibility of culture as systematically relevant “mental food”. We recognize its significance. It serves as social reflection, a visualization and sensitization of particular social phenomena and discursive practices, but also as a form of recreation and relaxation, which makes it

valuable. One thing is more important to artistic forms which communicate in non-verbal ways than guidelines: atmosphere. It leads to creative ideas, innovative projects, and production processes which result in added social value and prosperity.

B) How can you ensure that this dance promotion is sufficiently financially equipped to do justice to the significance of dance in Berlin and its international character? How can you ensure that dance is financially equal to other branches in order to strengthen it as a cultural form?

In our work and especially within our budget debates, we advertise for an emphasis of the financial return of Berlin's cultural life, in order to demonstrate the significance of cultural work to people who do not have positive spiritual access to specific cultural areas.

Wahlprüfstein 3

A) What would be a crisis-resistant support system, which is tailored towards the artistic practice, and which could promote dance and its social force beyond its conventional stage scheme? On which funding logic would it rest and when would you put it into practice within and beyond the general instructions?

B) Which model for social security of freelance choreographers and dancers does your party pursue? How would you achieve to implement such a model into the federal legislation? How does it need to be structured to become implemented at the federal level at a later stage?

A) and B)

Germany is worldwide exemplary in its substantial financial commitment to its tax-funded system providing secure living conditions. Despite record spendings on social welfare, taxes, and duties, people are highly dissatisfied with the support of people in need. Therefore, a reformation should be considered.

The concept of a "liberales Bürgergeld" could combine all tax-financed social benefits. It can be paid off by a public authority, such as the tax office, after disclosure of the individual income levels and financial circumstances. Every citizen would reveal their financial status in front of the tax office. People who can prove that they are in need can receive a fixed amount of social benefit, the so-called "Bürgergeld". People with an income exceeding the regulated amount necessary for basic needs have to pay taxes.

A prerequisite to a "liberales Bürgergeld" is the verification if people are in need, and the benefit is linked to the willingness of its recipients to provide a reasonable (return) service to support the community of people who must pay income tax. Different from the advocates of unconditional basic income, liberals do not intend to support everyone or even millionaires but focus on people in need. This less bureaucratic model of a social assumption of responsibility must be accompanied by a tax reform that takes exceptions into account, and which realizes a fiscal law that is easily comprehensible and transparent and therefore accepted as being just.

The "Liberales Bürgergeld" provides social security for people with discontinuous professional trajectories (artists may become unemployed in between their engagements) without losing the incentive for their own achievements. Additional incomes do not immediately disappear because of its taxation, which leaves more room for private provision for people who wish to have more than just the minimum pension scheme despite precarious employment. We refuse additional attempts concerning an unconditional basic income. In cases where attempts have been made to introduce it, they have not proven to be practicable problem solvers within the reform of social securities.

Wahlprüfstein 4

A) Because of the diversity of its artists, dance is, like no other genre, a reflection of its urban society. How does your party ensure that all dance artists have, in various parts of their professional career or when they decide to have children, the same chances to exercise their job and barrier-free access to funding programmes, despite irregular working hours? How does your party intend to implement sustainable concepts for a reduction of barriers?

We want to extend the opening hours of childcare facilities (24/7 Kitas) to facilitate the compatibility of family and working life even for people with unconventional working hours. The service of the public administration must also be accessible online and not only during office hours in order to make it more barrier-free.

B) How will you ensure that the diverse urban society is even more represented in artistic work? In which way would you develop cultural participation? In which way do you support the commitment of Berlin's dancing scene against fascism, racism, sexism, ableism, ageism and other forms of discrimination?

Beyond well-established infrastructures to support equality, the success of living diversity depends on the atmosphere and management culture of public institutions and private sectors. Staff selection, personnel development, and human resource management are important key functions. The state sector has a special exemplary function as a constitutional employer. It can support effective diversity management by pursuing the principles in its actions and concerning its grantees. In the case of violations, it must act without prejudgement.

The senate administration already has effective instruments at its disposal. Increasing awareness concerning these instruments can be raised.

Wahlprüfstein 5

C) Which measures does your party suggest in order to ensure the visibility of dance in the inner city? In which way will you provide areas and spaces for working processes that are not presentation-oriented?

D) What are the possibilities to integrate dance and choreography into future concepts of urban development—especially in the inner city?

C) and D)

The FDP considers the public representation of dance and theatre as an important contribution to a creative recovery and rediscovery of public spaces following the pandemic. The concept of holding many events outside which was established by the senate points us in the right direction. However, this often leads to bureaucratic obstacles and comprehensible private concerns (for example noise protection), which need to be discussed.

The change in purchasing behaviour (online trading) opens former retail spaces for cultural usages, such as the Karl-Marx-Allee. These spaces can be used as studios and rehearsal rooms, for workshops and similar working processes which do not aim at a presentation of the works. We will advocate the socially enriching aspects of partial uses when it comes to new projects and properties in our dialogue with state-owned property companies, cooperatives, and private sectors.