

Wahlprüfstein 1: Round-Table Discussion for Dance Berlin (RRT)

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?

Berlin is one of the most important locations for the presentation and production of contemporary dance in Europe, and thanks to 2,500 dancers and people working in the area of dance, our city has developed a unique artistic potential in the cultural sector. In the 18th legislation, one focal point of our cultural-political efforts was to develop this potential and to support the diverse dancing landscape. Already in 2016, the SPD has advocated the incorporation of dance support into the coalition agreement and supported a structural and financial strengthening of Berlin's dancing landscape. Thus, the Berlin Senate instigated, under the leadership of the SPD, the first **round-table discussion for dance** and provided financial support in the amount of € 100,000 for a realization of the planned measures. In a participatory process, five working groups with 200 representatives of Berlin's dancing scene developed recommendations for action, which were combined in a multistage **development plan for dance 2019-2025**. Its implementation is embedded in a separate budget title (0810/68329) and has been raised annually. Thus, we have, compared to the previous year, doubled the financial support for the conception of a **House for Dance and Choreography** and for the **pilot project to support residence** in 2021. We intend to continue this positive development in the coming legislation and want to secure and strengthen the measures gradually by raising the financial resources of the structure title.

In total, we have raised the financial support for artistic and cultural promotion from € 520,000,000 in 2016 to almost € 680,000,000 in 2021. We support artistic work in Berlin in more than 70 cultural institutions as well as in numerous independent artistic and cultural initiatives with institutional funding. Regarding the difficult situation following the pandemic, our election programme makes one thing clear: **The SPD Berlin is against an austerity policy after the crisis**. Instead, our answer to this challenge is a **cultural offensive**, which provides start-up financing with a special fund in order to provide additional open-air events, locations for dancing, clubs and other cultural locations.

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 decentralised locations for dance in Berlin?

An important insight of the round-table discussion for dance was the urgent need for action at providing rehearsal-, production-, and performance spaces that combine the numerous measures for visibility, interconnectedness, and knowledge transfer within Berlin's dancing landscape. We have already supported this demand in the current legislation in a first step by initiating a conception of a **House of Choreography**, a **Dance Archive**, and a **Mediation Centre for Dance**. For this purpose, € 229,500 were provided in 2020/2021 for the conception phase of the respective projects. Because of a delay of the conception, - and preparation phase due to the pandemic, the fraction of the SPD in parliament now discusses a realization on a regular basis in parliament committees and will continue to accompany this realization. Nevertheless, it is becoming obvious that the estimated time frame for the building of a House for Dance and Choreography until 2025 cannot be kept. However, we are confident that we—with the expertise of the conception team employed and the support of the advisory board—are able to restart the project in the next legislation. The SPD Berlin is determined

to work towards a fast implementation at the senate level and the parliamentary level and we reserve the right to extend the project attribution for the conception of the location.

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?

By using a participative process at the round-table discussion for dance, we have set nationwide standards for a participative and transparent cultural policy in line with **Cultural Governance** following the **bottom-up principle**. This exemplary project was only possible with the commitment of the 19 members of the round-table discussion for dance and the participation of more than 200 dancers and people who work in the field. We want to continue this trajectory and intend to empower Berlin's dancing scene in order to rise above the function as a consultant, gain cultural-political participation, and culminate in self-determination. In order to mirror the diversity and plurality of Berlin's dancing landscape in the advisory structure, it is important to equally represent groups that have been underrepresented in the past, such as queer dancers, dancers of colour, or dancers with disabilities. Additionally, we intend to advocate a stronger involvement of the "Tanzbüro Berlin" into the advisory structures of the senate administration, serving as a mediating authority between the dance scene and cultural policies. We intend to discuss the framework of such participation in a dialogue with the "Tanzbüro Berlin" in the future.

Wahlprüfstein 2: Sustainability of the Promotion of Art and Artists

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?

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?

C) 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?

Combined answers to a), b), and c)

For the SPD Berlin, the promotion of dance as part of the support of dance and art is not a temporary project, but a continuous task and an essential part of the precaution to **ensure the existence of culture**. The pandemic has shown that cultural promotion and its funding logic needs to be further developed. Despite the Corona crisis, we need to achieve both, maintaining existing substantial cultural infrastructures and enabling the production of artistic and cultural content. We advocate the development of existing funding logic at the federal level towards structure-building measures and impulses. Thus, the SPD aims at a funding approach that considers the special living, - and working conditions of artists to enable artistic biographies (for example with basic support, residence support, long-term scholarships, cultural exchange scholarships, etc.). At the same time, we advocate the promotion of artists which is embedded in the structural support, including powerful art centres, formations of ensembles, and curated cultural institutions. Therefore, we strive for a **Cultural Promotion Act for Berlin**, which would provide a **reliable and legal basis** for artistic and cultural funding programmes, and which would intend a **restructuring of support measures** to increase

Berlin's artistic potential. Professional dancers and choreographers as well as dancing locations and locations for contemporary dance would benefit from this. The round-table discussion for dance has suggested a raise of work, - and research scholarships for artists. The Berlin Senate, under the leadership of the SPD, implemented this recommendation and raised the financial support for scholarships gradually and increased the number of awarded scholarships considerably. In 2021, 800 additional work, - and research scholarships amounting to € 6,500,000 are granted. We intend to continue this positive development in the following legislative period.

Wahlprüfstein 3: Funding Structure and Social Security of Freelance Choreographers and Dancers

A) 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 a pilot model for Berlin need to be structured to become implemented at the federal level at a later stage?

Besides the costs for their livelihood, artists must pay rent for rehearsal rooms, studios, and performance spaces from their salaries and revenues. They are often in precarious employment. The pandemic has driven many people working in the cultural and artistic sector into an existential crisis. It will be our central task in the following years to support them. This includes that cultural funding incorporates adequate financing of people's subsistence by establishing, for example, minimum salaries and exhibition fees.

At the federal level, the SPD advocates that the social security system will be developed in a way that people working in the artistic and cultural sector (and other solo-self-employed such as cultural mediators) are secured better and more crisis-resilient even if their form of employment is more hybrid and unconventional. Besides the **social security for artists**, which is non-negotiable, and the already achieved improvements concerning pension, - and health insurance, it is important to **further open social security systems** including old age security. Thus, the SPD Berlin intends to promote an improvement of old age security at the federal level. We intend to further develop the unemployment insurance into labour insurance with the possibility of using financial resources from the voluntary insurance during a possible loss of income. Additionally, we want to simplify the regulations for people working in the fields of film, dance, and theatre—who are often employed only for a limited time or irregularly—in order to improve their social security. We will introduce a **mandatory pension scheme** and we will integrate self-employed people into the statutory pension gradually. We have already reduced the minimum contribution for health insurance for self-employed people by half. We demand contributions depending on the income, similar to employees.

Wahlprüfstein 4: Diversity and Cultural Participation

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?

The issue of motherhood and parenthood as well as the compatibility of family and working life is still discussed only rarely in the artistic sector. Thus, funding programmes often overlook this topic—in a professional sector characterised by unconventional working models and which often requires people to work during the weekend and at night, this is even more fatal. Especially independent female dancers with a child are disproportionately affected by the double burden of having to care for their child and working under precarious conditions. The SPD Berlin has recognized this problem and advocates a socio-political as well as cultural-political support of parents working in the cultural and

artistic sector in order to **lighten their load**. On the one hand, we intend to draw on art promotion and want to verify if additional financial resources for childcare in publicly funded art projects and residency scholarships can be provided. In order to aim at female artists, we want public funding programmes to provide better support for artists with a family and to draw more attention to this option when advertising their offers. On the other hand, we will further strengthen all social offers which facilitate compatibility of family and working life: We stand for affordable, appropriate and inclusive childcare. An initiative of the SPD developed a programme called “MoKis”, which offers a publicly funded **“mobile childcare” for parents with unconventional working hours**. We are proud of this success and want to develop childcare for **single parents and parents working in shifts** further. Additionally, we intend to create a better procedure at offering childcare services (Kita) and we support solutions for the development and expansion of **online platforms offering places in daycare centres**. Many artistic creators with a family face considerable hurdles when reentering their professional artistic work. We want to facilitate this reentry. Measures concerning family-oriented employments need to be extended to self-employed people as well. This includes free advice concerning parental leave, care for relatives and free measures to maintain qualifications and to reenter the job. **Full-day-care at schools** has existed for many years in Berlin. A **quality campaign working on the topic of full-day-care** will extend the offer in the following years on a qualitative basis. Furthermore, we intensify the dialogue with Berlin’s creative scene and event industry to increase **family friendliness in private art businesses**.

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?

Inclusion is a central quality feature of our social democratic policy for Berlin—this also applies to the promotion of culture and arts. Our claim for a social democratic cultural policy for Berlin is to secure **cultural education, participation and activity for everyone**, instead of creating social discrepancies and consolidating urban power relations culturally. All Berliners, no matter which social background, migration biography, impairment, religion, sexual or gender identity they have, should have secure access to (public) locations of art and culture as well as equal opportunities for cultural participation. Berlin’s dancing scene makes a significant contribution to this: Being a bodily and experiential way of expression, dance deals with the question of societal standardization of physicality and an inclusive public like no other area. Thus, Berlin’s dancing scene has the important job to appreciate Berlin’s subcultures, but also to give queer people, Afro-Germans or (post)migrant artists more visibility in public spaces. We will do justice to this commitment and further develop funding programmes with a focus on minority groups and other approaches like feminist performances or decolonial aesthetics.

The aim of our cultural policy is an extensive cultural offer that is accessible to everyone. Projects such as the diversity office **“Diversity Arts Culture”**, the start of a cultural monitoring programme, or a programme providing free entry to museums in Berlin on Sundays show the effectiveness of socio-democratic participation policies. Providing free dance offers in the respective districts should be a way of giving cultural access to Berlin’s diverse public—especially for elderly people, children and refugees. One thing is clear to us: **Culture needs to remain accessible, affordable and should not be too far away from the place of residence**. Therefore, we bear every district in Berlin in mind and ensure that people living in Berlin can use cultural offers in their neighbourhood. The cultural offer of the respective district plays an important role. Their work is essential for a **comprehensive cultural offer**.

Wahlprüfstein 5: Urban Visibility of Dance

A) 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?

The SPD Berlin has made construction policy a focal point in its election campaign. Policies concerning new buildings will be one of our most important matters. We will make sure that spaces for art and culture will be included in the planning of all major new building projects and public construction measures. In cooperation with urban businesses, cooperatives and private owners, we want to establish **additional areas and rooms for art and culture** protected by contractual safeguarding. Especially because Berlin is a growing city, it needs sufficient studios and locations for production and presentation. Our goal remains that we want to grant artists a basic supply of affordable rehearsal rooms and studios—despite continuous rent increases and displacements. The new alliance **“Kultur Räume Berlin”**, which was established by the Berlin Senate, is an important framework for this, and we intend to continue its development and support. We have also made great progress in establishing **state-owned locations for culture and arts**. Focusing on the purchase of specific properties, like for example the centre for culture and administration “Radialsystem V”, we were able to secure important cultural infrastructure in the past years. Furthermore, we will make sure that state-owned properties are only sold to private buyers in exceptional cases. This system, which is **oriented towards the common good**, will help people from the cultural and artistic sector to obtain affordable spaces for work and rehearsals.

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

An integral part of Berlin’s cultural self-conception is the artistic examination of urban space. The numerous artistic projects in public spaces mirror this self-conception and their preservation is the focal point of a socio-democratic urban development policy. We will continue to work on the visibility and perceptibility of dance in public, and we will enable outdoor performing as well as outdoor dance initiatives in public areas in Berlin. We bear every district in mind and ensure that the districts promote urban dance. The SPD Berlin considers these and similar political measures to promote the visibility of art in urban spaces as an important part of an overall cultural approach towards urban development. Because of this, we promote an **urban development plan for culture** in Berlin, which should function as a framework for the realization of cultural issues within urban planning, and which establishes specific projects and locations for art and culture, including a consideration of cultural concerns in the development of urban districts.