

## The BKD Federal Centre - officially opened!

On 27.08.2024, the Bundesverband der Kleingartenvereine Deutschlands e. V. (BKD), umbrella organisation of around 900,000 allotment gardeners in Germany, opened its new federal centre with the permanent exhibition "City | Nature | People" with invited guests from the allotment garden movement, the local authorities, science and European partner organisations from 9 countries.

At the interface of neighbourhood and green lung - in the middle of Berlin Neukölln - an open house has been created that can also be used by other "green actors" for a variety of events and will give the interests of allotment gardens with their social, ecological and cultural achievements a greater voice in political Berlin. The new federal centre is also an exhibition centre on the future of allotment gardens, an education and seminar centre as well as a conference and event venue. It is also the office of the German federation of allotment garden associations and the German allotment garden youth organisation.



*Caption: The new federal centre for allotment gardening at Hermannstraße 186 in Berlin-Neukölln*

### Opening ceremony for the Federal Centre

BKD Association President Dirk Sielmann welcomed over 150 guests to the grand evening ceremony. He thanked the Federal Ministry of Housing, Urban Development and Building (BMWSB) for funding the Federal Centre on the basis of a resolution passed by the German Bundestag, which made the building with its environmentally friendly timber construction possible in the first place.

Support came from the Federal Ministry of Housing, Urban Development and Building: The Federal Minister for Building, Klara Geywitz, emphasised the indispensable contribution that allotment gardens make to urban and rural life, to the urban climate, to biodiversity and to social integration. She emphasised once again that the federal allotment garden law has proved its worth from the point of view of the federal ministry and should remain unchanged in its current form: "This law protects the allotment gardens in the Federal Republic of Germany and it will remain as it is." Her ministry had funded 90 per cent of the project in Hermannstraße, which was built using sustainable timber construction methods. The deputy district mayor of Neukölln, Gerrit Kringel, also welcomed the new neighbour BKD and the guests to his district and emphasised that they were proud to have such an important association within walking distance of Neukölln town hall: "You have chosen the right location. Allotment gardens are indispensable."



Info: <https://kleingartenbund.de/bundeszentrum/>

*Caption: Over 150 guests celebrated the opening of the City | Man | Nature exhibition and thus the official opening of the Federal Centre.*

### **City | Nature | Man: BKD opens permanent exhibition at new location**

A real highlight - and not just for the district: with the permanent exhibition "City | Nature | People", curator Thomas Stölting and his team have designed an interactive exhibition that illustrates the development, importance and potential of allotment gardens for urban development and makes natural processes and climate changes tangible in a playful and always surprising way - educational without being educational. In future, people of all ages will be able to visit the exhibition in groups or individually, experience the exhibits with all their senses, e.g. smell the asphalt of the city, but also feel the warmth in the compost heap or hear the sounds of earthworms in the soil.



*Caption: Thomas Stölting, curator of the BKD exhibition, gave a tour of the exhibition and explained the structure and content of the first exhibition in Germany on the future of allotment gardening.*

Info: <https://stadt-natur-mensch.de/>



## International congress "Allotment gardens in Europe: Green for all"

At the international specialist congress "Allotment gardens in Europe: Green for all", the federation and the international umbrella organisation of the European allotment garden movement, the Fédération Internationale des Jardins Familiaux, showed that they are facing up to social and climatic challenges and are proactively seeking solutions for the allotment garden movement. Topics such as the sponge city, new garden forms, biodiversity and the opening of the colonies as allotment garden parks - not only for members - were discussed scientifically in lectures.

The guests from other European countries and from all over Germany, who met at the federal centre during the European symposium "Allotment gardens in Europe: Green for all", were delighted with the successful event and wished the BKD and the allotment garden movement every success with the launch of the federal centre.



*Caption: Representatives of the European partner organisations of the allotment garden movement from nine countries visit the federal centre*

Info: <https://kleingarten-bund.de/der-verband/unsere-partner/federation-internationale/>

## Two associations under one roof

The BKD presents itself in a spirit of optimism, to which not least the German allotment youth federation contributes with its commitment. Two federations under one roof that convey a modern, open-minded image of allotment garden culture and show that they no longer stand for a retreat into the private sphere of the allotment. The "Green Classroom" in the outdoor area will also be a new contact point for education for sustainable development for school classes and other interested parties from spring 2025.

The BKD and the Deutsche Schreberjugend are looking forward to many visits from the allotment garden associations and all friends of allotment gardening!

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*Source: BKD*

# DAUERAUSSTELLUNG

## Stadt Natur Mensch

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Die Ausstellung des BKD lädt Kinder und Erwachsene zu einem eindrucksvollen multimedialen und sinnlichen Erlebnis ein.

Informationen zum Ausstellungsbesuch in Berlin finden sich auf unserer Webseite [www.stadt-natur-mensch.de](http://www.stadt-natur-mensch.de)

