WIESBADEN
STIFTUNG
FREUNDE e.V.

WIESBADENER BRIEF 2022

DEAR FRIENDS OF WIESBADEN,

a November Sunday morning, the sun in the sky – enticing me to go outside. The perfect setting for a walk... How lovely that nature is so prevalent in our city. A great advantage for this city and that is why Wiesbaden Marketing is increasingly emphasising the abundance of greenery, forests and water along with the many other existing benefits. And advertising that the gateway to the Rheingau is nearby and wide open. Do you remember? In the Wiesbaden Letter 2021, Martin Michel announced a close collaboration between the state capital and the Rheingau, a tourism cooperation to promote the state. The CEO of Wiesbadener Congress- und Marketinggesellschaft told me that it is working well. Martin Michel is delighted that already in the first quarter of 2022 considerably more visitors discovered the feelgood location of Wiesbaden than in the previous pandemic year. He considers the city to be on the right path with the "pearl diver principle": strolling instead of rushing, discovering, staying longer... But needless to say, there is joy that a lot of things were and are possible once again: for example, street festivals, the Rheingau Wine Festival, City Festival with Thanksgiving, concerts, theatre with the International May Festival, museum events, Horseshow at Whitsun and much more. There was great resonance for the Rheingau Musik Festival, in particular the open-air concerts such as with Jonas Kaufmann in the Kurpark. And new events were launched: an Apple Wine Festival or the Summer Market on Mauritiusplatz – the cultural programme can be expanded here. Many opportunities to have fun, get involved, regain some normality.

This is the third letter since Corona. And it is the first since the war in Ukraine started and changed the world. This is not the right place to discuss Putin's atrocities. However, what is being done by many institutions, companies, service clubs, parishes, artists and private citizens for Ukrainian refugees is impressive. Take a look in the internet! The Wiesbaden Stiftung is also involved together with its partners – as part of a longstanding successful partnership project. Highly professional aid convoys were started remarkably quickly by one of the Rotary Clubs.
I often see how good an art excursion does children and mothers, and grandparents in the im Museum Wiesbaden. There are guided tours and workshops that invite the participants to paint. University lecturer Stella Seifert, herself with Ukrainian roots, was the first to get involved on a freelance basis and knows only too well how good such invitations are for the participants. Do you know the Picasso quote: „Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life"? For a little while perhaps the horror that they have brought with them from their homeland?

What many local Wiesbaden people perceived as food for the soul this year was the "Week of tranquillity – Wiesbaden pauses for a moment", a programme by the protestant church in cooperation with the city. How suitable the motto "Finding balance" in these times! Let us stay with culture, which is so much appreciated in these times: the legacy of local artists has been maintained by the Kunstarche Wiesbaden for ten years. And now co-founder

Felicitas Reusch was able to receive the Culture Award 2022 in City Hall and, with her colleagues, saw the meticulous creation including exhibitions honoured. The Javlensky Award from the city and Museum Wiesbaden went to the magnificent, contemporary US artist, Frank Stella in 2022, to whom a highly frequented retrospective was dedicated. Wiesbaden was a Fluxus city 60 years ago. The city and the Nassauischer Kunstverein (NKV) paid tribute to this with other Fluxus experts. And the NKV celebrated its 125th anniversary! And lest I forget, have you looked up at the lifebuoys in the trees along Wilhemstraße? They are both a work of art and a reminder, raise empathy for the people who suffered the flood disaster in the Ahrtal amongst others. An impressive installation by Katja Grandpierre - in the „Year of Water“ with its many different facets.

Close by, a sculpture by Eduardo Chillida (he lived in our twin city San Sebastian) moved into the inner courtyard of the Museum Reinhard Ernst for Abstract Art. Regrettably the opening has been delayed again, the owner and collector Ernst confirmed. A shortage of materials and a lack of tradesmen. And yet the Museum team is almost complete and highly motivated. Let us hope with them for an opening in the late summer.

A new building, in any case an aboveground city museum is what Erika Noack and the entire new board of the trust want. That means it should come out of the Marktkeller basement (SAM). Noack, the new chairwoman, who is always on the go, wants to work on this goal with passion and to have achieved it in ten years. The SAM put together an exhibition well worth seeing on the occasion of 125 years of the International May Festival. Above the ground, in the Theatre Colonnades!

The International May Festival, literature experiences, film festivals, this year once again „Night of Music“ in the Kurhaus, the “Arte” art trade fair in the RMCC, there are so many large and small activities as well as awards and anniversaries... Too many for this letter. On the less positive side: the Sports Ball was held in Wiesbaden for the last time (despite the CongressCenter being a great venue – where the internists held their conference once again). The new majority in City Hall decided that there will be no more funds from the city for the ball. On the positive side however, the Future Convention, as Wiesbaden’s largest employer R + V Versicherung organised it on the occasion of their 100th anniversary. Needless to say, in the RMCC. And before the Congress building, there will finally be an artistic design, which was so contentious. The decision-making body now selected sculptures by Emilia Neumann from Frankfurt, she works with the theme of water.

Let us come to city politics: after the election without a clear majority in 2021, it took a long time until a cooperation (not a coalition) was agreed: SPD and Grüne are governing with the help of the Linke and Volt parties. The strongest parliamentary group, the CDU, is in the opposition, as is the FDP. SPD Lord Mayor Gert Uwe Mende, who recently turned 60, does not have an easy job in the second half of his term in office. The result was close but the Green party’s Christiane Hinninger, experienced in local politics, got the fulltime position in the municipal administration for the second time. With this massive department, she is responsible for the environment, economic affairs, equality and organisation. Mayor Oliver Franz (CDU) had to hand over quite a lot. Christiane Hinninger will become Mayor too when his term expires in the summer.

I would like to mention an anniversary that belongs in the city politics section: the Ausländerbeirat (foreigners’ advisory council) has existed in City Hall for 50 years. It was the first in a German local authority! We can also be proud that Wiesbaden will be “Host Town of the Special Olympics” 2023 for mentally or multiply impaired sportsmen and -women. This means that they do not travel directly to Berlin but first to host towns – to get to know the area and the people there. Inclusion should be a permanent item on the agenda, promises the Lord Mayor.

On state level, Minister President Volker Bouffier went into retirement as announced after twelve years in government. Boris Rhein took over without much ado. His previous job as President of the State Parliament is now held by a woman: Astrid Wallmann is performing her tasks with great acumen.

Unfortunately, I have to write about departures too: for example, Mr. Zehnprozent, who never disclosed his name but effected so much good with this donation campaigns. There is an – unknown – successor. Dr. Helge Riegel was also a very reserved benefactor. With his foundation, the medical professional gave the Feldkapelle to Wiesbaden – a non-denominational, architecturally special place to pause in the Tennelbachtal. The committed co-founder of the senior citizens’ advisory board Christel Gauger died at the age of 100. The passing of Dr. Willi Kern was also mourned. In 2007 he set up the foundation for the promotion of youth (in particular musical talents) in cooperation with the Wiesbaden Stiftung and remained closely associated with it. Jürgen Grabowski, the football world champion, who was born and passed away in Wiesbaden, was laid to rest with a large funeral procession.

A brief look at city development: there is no real progress with the Walhalla venue. In contrast, the Walkmühle atelier and creative centre is an exemplary project. That also applies to the „Altes Gericht“ that is becoming a set-up and creative centre with the „Heimathafen“ even if the renovation of the stately building is progressing rather slowly. By the way, the Charlotte Fresenius Hochschule für Psycholgie und Psychotherapie has been part of the neighbouring Fresenius University since this year.

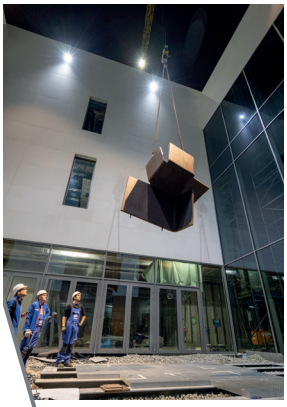
Back to the „Altes Gericht“ a place where innovative ideas should be realised, there was a fascinating guided tour on the occasion of the foundation assembly of the Wiesbaden Stiftung in November. It is high time to talk about the Foundation’s varied impact. Please note: in 2023 it will be 20 years old – or young, as there is a constant flow of fresh, new initiatives! I had the opportunity to talk to one of the new donors at the foundation assembly. Allow me to express my great respect for all on her behalf. Sabine Schilling has made an excellent contribution, and also a large donation that she would like to see used to promote learning and reinforce the self-confidence of young people.

World class in the Kurpark. The Rheingau Musik Festival concert with tenor Jonas Kaufmann, soprano Rachel-Willis-Sørensen and the WDR Funkhausorchester (conductor Jochen Rieder) was a highlight.

Looking at pictures and painting. The Museum Wiesbaden cultural programme is good for the soul of Ukrainian adult and child refugees.

Stop and take a good look - at the lifebuoys in the trees on Wlhelmstraße. An installation by artist Katja Grandpierre who reminds us of the flood disaster in the Ahrtal amongst others.

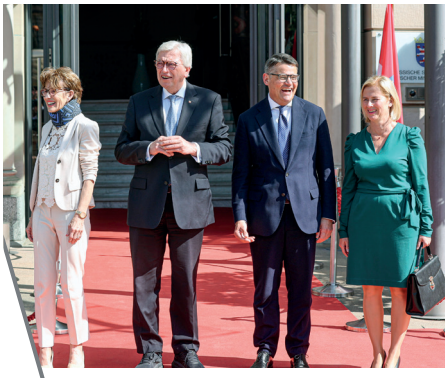
A look inside City Hall. The recently elected Department Head Christiane Hinninger from the Green Party with Lord Mayor Gert-Uwe Mende (left) and Head of the Municipal Council Dr. Gerhard Obermayr (CDU).



Places that make you happy. On the left, a Chillida work hovers above the inner courtyard of the Museum Reinhard Ernst which can hopefully be opened in the late summer of 2023. On the right, lingering on the banks of the Rhine in Biebrich (a picture submitted by Jupp Michels as part of the "Week of tranquillity – Wiesbaden pauses for a moment" campaign).

Art in front of the RheinMain CongressCenter. Here the designs by artist Emilia Neumann, which focus on water and should now be realised. Museum Wiesbaden in the background.

A generous citizen. Dr. Alrun Schößler (right), Thomas Michel und Dr. Martin Hackenberg from the Wiesbaden Stiftung thank Sabine Schilling. In addition to a donation to the Foundation, she has made a substantial contribution to the "Leseritter".



Change in the State Chancellery. Minister President Volker Bouffier (left) retired, Boris Rhein is his successor. Right picture: the new President of the State Parliament Astrid Wallmann welcomes Olena Selenska, wife of the Ukrainian President.

Super for the “Leseritter” (knights who read out loud) project! How nice that the donor per chance got to know a young high school graduate that evening, who fondly remembers her time as a reading knight. Sabine Schilling says it is very important to her to support projects for schoolchildren. At the same time, she appreciates the diversity of the Foundation. Another special happening: a young father entered his name and those of his young twins in the book of donors! Mother and grandparents are already entered in the book.

The Citizens’ College is and remains a big hit – a super programme for those active in the association who can increasingly further educate themselves digitally but at the same time will find a meeting place and hold meetings in the new Haus der Stiftung, Michelsberg 6 during the course of the coming year. Cooperation with the city is also agreed here. The district historians completed noteworthy publications once again. With the Böttger-Stiftung, an architecture competition was honoured after a long break. Theme was the extension and redesign of the areal around the University of Applied Sciences on Kurt-Schumacher-Ring. Managing Director of the Foundation Alrun Schössler and her colleague Andrea Kraft are absolutely thrilled that there is still great resonance for the “City Tree” project, 70 trees have already been planted by citizens. It is also worth mentioning that the Friends of the Foundation have assembled an exciting lecture package.

Last but not least “Leonardo“. What a wonderful surprise: despite Corona and all the associated problems in the schools too, interest was overwhelming as was the result of the work. Chairman of the Foundation Thomas Michel is fascinated by the pupils’ dedication and ideas. He sees confirmation of his maxim of focusing on promoting youth at the Foundation: “For the youth is our future”. At the gala in the State Theatre, cheers broke out again at the golden Leonardos and other awards in six categories, most of the projects were for “Alles ist Kunst” (“Everything is Art”) and “For a better Planet“ – and at this point we are back to the future ... Look at our cover picture: one of the acts at the gala was the song from “Gebet an den Planet“ (“Prayer to the Planet” by the artist Thomas D.) – the pupils created a video to the song causing the listener to reflect.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to a new highlight that also has to do with young people: thanks to Danielle Neess, widow of the art nouveau collector, patron of the arts of the Museum Wiesbaden and ambitious flautist Ferdinand Wolfgang Neess, an international flute competition took place in the Museum Wiesbaden for the first time. It will be held every two years, organized by music professor Cordula Hacke. An enhancement for Wiesbaden. Dr. Peter Hanser-Strecker, music publisher (Schott Music) shares this view. The member of the board of trustees of the Friends of the Museum Wiesbaden, who is also a donor to the Wiesbaden Stiftung, celebrated his 80th birthday in 2022. He calls the flute competition an extremely successful fusion of art nouveau music and art. Up-and-coming talents from 21 countries made music for three days, including in front of an audience! That fits wonderfully with the maxim of discovering the new and taking delight in the potential of the youth!

The sun has just come out again as I am finishing my letter. And it is bathing the city in a very special light.

Stay healthy
and positive!

Ingeborg Salm-Boost

WIESBADEN NEEDS FRIENDS!

With your membership and your commitment to the Friends of the Wiesbaden Stiftung e. V., you are documenting your solidarity with the city and helping in the practical implementation of our ideas.

Purpose of the foundation
- Promotion of civic commitment
- Art and culture
- Preservation and conservation of historic sights
- Environmental protection and nature conservation
- City history, preservation of regional traditions

Our connection to the Wiesbaden Stiftung?
The idea is clear: What works well large-scale, we can achieve on our projects too. We create synergies:
From citizens for citizens – two institutions for everyone.

www.die-wiesbaden-stiftung.de

IMPRINT:

Freunde der Wiesbaden Stiftung e. V. (Gesellschaft zur Förderung Wiesbadens) im Hause der IHK Wiesbaden, Wilhelmstr. 24-26, 65183 Wiesbaden · Tel.: (0611) 34 14 86 20 · E-Mail: info@die-wiesbaden-stiftung.de · Web: www.die-wiesbaden-stiftung.de
Nassauische Sparkasse, Iban DE47 5105 0015 0100 0444 47 · Wiesbadener Volksbank, Iban DE87 5109 0000 0000 5624 08
Text: Ingeborg Salm-Boost **Photos:** Jens Fischesser (Titelseite), Ansgar Klostermann/RMF, Stella Seifert, Carsten Simon, Klaus Helbig, Jupp Michels, Johannes Lay, Wiesbaden Congress & Marketing GmbH, Wiesbaden Stiftung, René Vigneron, Jörg Halisch **Translation:** Barbara Manahan **Design:** Wiesbaden Congress & Marketing GmbH

With the friendly support of

WIESBADEN
Wiesbaden Congress & Marketing GmbH