



*Freunde*  
DER WIESBADEN STIFTUNG E.V.

# WIESBADENER BRIEF 2018



## DEAR FRIENDS OF WIESBADEN,

As I write this letter, the dark season is upon us once again, we are making plans for the new year, and see that the lily-shaped lights and blue stands are set up on Schlossplatz and surrounding area in preparation for the Twinkling Star Christmas Market. The many interesting facets of the Hessian capital spring to mind spontaneously. Allow me to present you a small "Wiesbaden excerpt" of these for 2018 and 2019.

Our new RheinMain CongressCenter, in short RMCC, is a distinctive landmark of the city in the most positive way imaginable. What has emerged opposite the renovated Museum Wiesbaden, now with the Museumsplatz square, is a joy to behold. The cutting edge complex (photo above) was created on time and in budget under the construction management of the former Spa Director, Henning Wossidlo, according to the plans of architect, Ferdinand Heide. By the end of the year, more than 90 events will have taken place in the convention centre, TriWiCon and Marketing Head, Martin Michel is pleased to announce. The SPD political party, for example, held their federal party conference here, regional party conferences were held, the Rheingau Musik Festival invites the audience to concerts in the RMCC, the Sports Ball has returned – and much more. A "Casino Royale" concert was recently performed for 2,400 guests: James Bond on the screen, the music to match performed live by the Czech National Symphony

Orchestra. You don't have to be a fan of the spy to find the performance of the musicians and their conductor, Jessica Cottis, very impressive. Another successful detail regarding the RheinMain CongressCenter. The logo is from the Wiesbaden agency Q. The geometric form reduces the long name to the four memorable letters RMCC. In so doing, the letters pick up on the architecture. It is from the same creative designer that works for the Sonja and Reinhard Ernst Stiftung. Do you remember? Reinhard Ernst is organising the construction and operation of a new museum for abstract art on Wilhelmstraße. City Hall has given the green light.

Let us return to politics briefly: You have probably been following the rise of the Green party including here in the Hessian state election. That the CDU party had to make so many sacrifices did not make setting up a new coalition any easier. However, the CDU and the Greens can now try working together again. Staying with elections: In spring 2019, there is much at stake including cooperation in Europe. Wiesbaden will also be electing the Lord Mayor. The master craftsman, City Hall and local politician, Eberhard Seidensticker, is challenging the reigning social democrat, Sven Gerich for the CDU. Other parties will be sending their candidates into the race. It promises to be exciting. Two true originals have departed the politics sphere. Horst Klee, a man of strong words who was also Head of the CDU in Wiesbaden for decades vacated his seat in local government after 25 years at the age of 78.



Economics Affairs Officer, Detlev Bendel, (CDU) went into retirement – shortly after he was able to present the successful RMCC project.

A new feature: Wiesbaden has had a cultural advisory committee since 2018. The body consisting of appointed and elected members will advise the city and cultural affairs officer. Now let us enter the Museum Wiesbaden for Art and Nature: the 100,000 visitor mark will break in 2018. The museum is attracting an increasing number of visitors from outside Wiesbaden and abroad. As was the case with the major Mondrian exhibition with exhibits borrowed from Den Haag, the Eduardo Chillida exhibition as a tribute to the great sculptor from Wiesbaden's twin city, San Sebastian, both of which can still be seen in the new year. Not least, the "From Beckmann to Jawlensky" exhibition was a great talking point, taking place to mark the occasion of Frank Brabant's 80th birthday, the patron of the arts who will bequeath half of his great collection to the Museum Wiesbaden and the other half to his hometown of Schwerin. The expert on expressionism and New Objectivity was delighted by the more than 37,000 visitors. Remembering a special day: As announced in the 2017 Wiesbaden Letter, the opening of the unique art nouveau collection is planned for the end of June – a gift from the then 90 year-old citizen, Ferdinand Wolfgang Neess.

From the old to the young: The total number of students is continuing to rise. The Hochschule Fresenius celebrated the roofing ceremony of their new campus in Moritzstrasse and Adelheidstrasse in March. A suitable use for the former Altes Gericht complex. By the way, the young people of Wiesbaden would like a "night mayor" and they will get one. The mayor will look after the bar scene and develop exciting ideas. And: A city manager will really start working in Wiesbaden now. The writer of this letter has to grin here: This topic surfaced repeatedly during my long time working in the newspaper business. It must have been decades ago that I reported about his for the first time. May the City Hall have luck in finding the right person for this job. They could well be of great use.

We can greet a star on the Bowling Green on 1st June: Sir Elton John will play the only open air concert for the people of Wiesbaden on his goodbye tour in Germany! Allow me to mention a highly prominent citizen of the state capital, the author Charlotte Link. Is it not great that the most widely read German (thriller) author now identifies with "her" place of residence? She preferred not to reveal this in public until recently. Let us stay with successful women: Haute couture designer, Lollo Grund, celebrated the 70th anniversary of her Salon Elise Topell in 2018. The fashion designer who was still working ingeniously and tirelessly at an advanced age took over the atelier from her teacher Topell in 1984. And this is now the only one of its kind in Germany that can claim to fulfil all of the criteria of haute couture.

Another great lady who is considered the inventor of the Schlosspark equestrian tournament and was a passionate horsewoman until her 90th year departed this world: Veronika

Dyckerhoff passed away shortly after her 101st birthday. I'm afraid I have to mourn more commendable people here: Pedagogue, Günter Higelin, tirelessly active and creative in the core team of the School Award of the Wiesbaden Stiftung from the very beginning as he was with the management workshop for pupils at the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, and also Honorary Director of the national league volley club in times of crisis passed away at the age of 72 in December 2017. Dr. h. c. Walter Fink will be sadly missed. Co-founder and close supporter of the Rheingau Musik Festival for many years, and promoter of the composer portrait, he also passed away at 87. The entrepreneur whose Schuh Fink shoe shops made him famous beyond the city limits of Wiesbaden was himself a passionate musician and choirmaster. Dieter Werner also departed this world. A man who did much for the common good and was lovingly called Mr. Benefiz (Mr. Charity). He continually supported the Deutsche Stiftung Niere und Harnwege (German Foundation Kidney and Urinary Tract) among others, which he co-founded. The Unicef Gala with Audrey Hepburn was one of his many events. The tireless marketing man was 85. Another benefactor who helped the Wiesbaden Stiftung to obtain a property in 2017 and was named the first Honorary Senator in gratitude for his support passed away aged 85: Alfred Weigle – who actually preferred to do good anonymously. He had the motorway church Medenbach built many years ago.

But there were also big birthdays to be celebrated. The former Artistic Director of the State Theatre, Manfred Beilharz, was 80 and looks back not only at "his" spectacular highlights in Wiesbaden's theatre scene but still has plans for the future. The long-standing treasurer who was greatly appreciated by all factions, Dietrich Oedekoven, celebrated his 90th as did his neighbour and fellow SPD party member, the former Lord Mayor and current honorary freeman, Rudi Schmitt. Without much ado, the commendable former Manager of the Nassauer Hof hotel who is still involved with the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Karl Nüser, celebrated his 70th. Other fresh seventy year-olds: Bruno Henrich, one of the most renowned hosts and chefs in the city, his colleague Hans-Peter Wodarz who years ago made the legendary Ente vom Lehel great and is still active in Berlin; also entrepreneur, long-standing President of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce and Chairman of the Board of the Friends of the Museum Wiesbaden since its founding in 1994, Gerd Eckelmann. Confiserie Kunder celebrated its 120th anniversary (Do you know the little pineapple cakes?). Charlotte Brand, who is still indispensable to this family today and is closely connected with the Wiesbaden Stiftung also celebrated her 80th. The weekly market in its current form celebrated its 40th anniversary on the Dern'sches Gelände. I think it is lovely the way that Nicola Böhme has been following the market every week in her column in the two local newspapers since 2007. Many were delighted that she has written a book on the subject: "Marktfrisch" (Fresh from the Market). "Fresh" is what the Stadtschloss is to look like. There is still a considerable amount of renovation and refurbishment work to be completed here. And here is something else you should know: The Year of Volunteer Work was celebrated in many places in 2018 – promoting volunteer work.



Aerial view: The Wiesbaden Weekly Market at the Dern'sches Gelände has existed in its current form for 40 years. We are grateful to Erika Noack for this picture taken from a crane.



Coronation: Michelle Gönder from Kostheim is the new Wiesbaden wine queen. Marketing Manager Martin Michel (left) and City Councillor, Andreas Kowol performing "coronation work".



Challenge: Blessing robot "Bless U-2" in the Marktkirche. Journalist, Birgitta Lamparth "in conversation".



Renovation needed: The Kochbrunnen today and in the app; picture dating from 1912.



Attraction: 37,000 visitors saw the precious exhibits from Frank Brabant's collection. In our picture, he is standing in the Museum Wiesbaden and in his apartment at the same time – shown as wall-paper in the exhibition.



Zoom draws crowds: The Friends of the Wiesbaden Stiftung invited young people to take part in a photo competition again. "Zoom... your way", was the challenge. Here the winners of the three age groups: Marcel Hut, Laura Pitogo and Niklas Pitz (centre), left his winning photo: "Infinite".



Summer biathlon in Wiesbaden: The participants drew huge crowds, like on the Bowling Green. Festivals took place nearby. Diversity of life in the Hessian City.



Off we go: The Leonardo School Award will be presented again in 2019. Schoolchildren, sponsors and the Wiesbaden Stiftung celebrate the launch during a national league volleyball game.



And how do things look regarding theatre, film literature? You know that Wiesbaden has plenty to offer. Just recently, the Exground Film Festival attracted attention to the Caligari, the Maifestspiele of the State Theatre were extremely well frequented. The Biennale with the title "Bad News" was a contentious theme for various reasons, celebrated and rejected just as much, received media attention even from abroad. Literaturtage, German TV Thriller Festival that will be held for the 15th time in 2019... There are a lot of exciting things happening. There were also several special sporting events, for example the German archery championships in front of the Kurhaus and the city biathlon shortly afterwards. This also drew large crowds as did the Taunusstrassenfest and the Theatre Festival on the same weekend. Diversity of life everywhere!

But sometimes it does good to pause for a moment: After the successful premiere in 2016, there will be another week of tranquillity next spring. In cooperation with the city, the protestant church invites you to "Wiesbaden pauses for a moment". The blue pavilion will be at the Schlossplatz again. There was much talk about the blessing robot, developed for the World Exhibition of the Reformation 2017 in Wittenberg. It attracted visitors to the Marktkirche. Culture editor, Birgitta Lamparth, said the after testing it personally: A strange encounter, this "Bless U-2", but food for thought. Our new wine queen, Michelle Gönder from Kostheim, who does not give blessings, but likes to raise a glass. And she is very interested in good marketing. That's why she is studying it and can complete her training at Wiesbaden Marketing at the same time. A great combination!

Now you also want to know what there is to report about the Foundation and the Friends of the Stiftung. Too much for this letter! The Foundation itself celebrated its 15th birthday. Chairman, Thomas Michel, can look back on what has been achieved with pride. The equity capital and managed capital have increased twentyfold, over 10,000 youths have taken part in the Leonardo School Award since 2005, which will be presented in the State Theatre in 2019. The goal of sustainability was thus

implemented in many team projects. 6,000 volunteers were further qualified by the citizens' college. 250 young people took part in the Zoom competition of the Friends of the Wiesbaden Stiftung this year on the topic of the tense relationship between nature and the city. LeseRitter (children who read to others) and Stadtteilhistoriker (District Historians) are other flagship projects. One of the district historians, Christoph Krämer, is also a successful promoter of the renovation of the Kochbrunnen.

"We take care of the history of the city, networks for foundations, third level educational institutions, refugees and much more", says Thomas Michel. He looks at his city and is convinced: "Art and culture will have to involve the peaceful co-existence of all groups of people. We show the world that the personal, liberal roots of each citizen are important and respected."

One can only follow this appeal.  
Wishing you the very best for 2019



Ingeborg Salm-Boost  
(former head of local editing at the Wiesbadener Kurier newspaper)

P.S. If you are interested in the history of our city, you simply must take a look at "Wiesbaden in Umbruch – von Nassau nach Preußen" (Wiesbaden in upheaval – from Nassau to Prussia), an extensive new work, published by the former Chairman of the Board of the Casino- Gesellschaft, Georg Schmidt-von Rhein.

## 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](http://www.die-wiesbaden-stiftung.de)

## IMPRINT

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