

Press Release  
15 January 2026

## The cooperation partners of WDC 2026 – shaping the future together

World Design Capital Frankfurt RheinMain 2026 connects culture, education, business, and science through a unique network of partners. The broad commitment of around 450 partner institutions shows how regional knowledge, international perspectives, and interdisciplinary cooperation will shape the future of the RheinMain region.

### Cultural institutions, foundations, and others

The Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM) puts architectural issues and urban challenges up for discussion through several projects, while Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt links historical and forward-looking approaches with the exhibition *A Step Ahead*. With *Vision 31*, the Kulturcampus Frankfurt creates a real-world laboratory for co-productive creative participation, while the Schader Foundation provides space for experimentation with a new festival format. With *Mishpocha*, the Jewish Museum Frankfurt explores different concepts of family and origin, accompanied by further artistic presentations across the region. The Museum Angewandte Kunst acts as a central contact point with the *WDC Hub*, the *WDC Campus*, and a wide range of exhibitions, including *Wolle. Seide. Widerstand* and *How to Design a Revolution: The Chilean Road to Design*, as well as the Night of Museums, Deutsche Designtag (German Design Day), the Frankfurt Book Fair, the Historical Museum Frankfurt, Material für Alle, MGGU Museum Giersch at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, the German Design Museum Foundation, the Foundation Kunst und Natur – Sinclair-Haus Bad Homburg, and Frankfurt City Library.

Through its educational programmes, the Frankfurt Adult Education Centre opens up new perspectives on design, participation, and social change. Architecture as an expression of democratic values is brought into focus by the KulturRegion Frankfurt RheinMain, among others through the project *Demokratie bauen!* The Evangelische Akademie Frankfurt & Hessische Landeszentrale für Politische Bildung (Protestant Academy Frankfurt & Hessian State Agency for Civic Education), together with the Junge Akademie (Young Academy) explores what “good design” has to do with democracy. The Alte Oper Frankfurt presents *Fratopia 2026. Festival der Entdeckungen*. The Schirn Kunsthalle, the Polytechnische Gesellschaft e. V., the German Design Council – Rat für Formgebung, the IHK Frankfurt and the German Design Club also support WDC 2026 with a range of different initiatives. Other part-

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ners of WDC 2026 include Wirtschaftsförderung Frankfurt, Messe Frankfurt, Nordisk Büro and satis&fy AG, as well as Tourism+Congress GmbH Frankfurt am Main.

## Universities and higher education institutions

With *Mobile Gärten*, the Brüder Grimm University of Cooperative Education in Hanau creates sustainable places for encounter, while Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences explores how we want to build and live in the future through *CAMPUS-BAULAB*. Students from Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences design and build an inclusive voting booth together in the project *Alle haben die Wahl*. In collaboration with the Senckenberg Society for Nature Research, design concepts are developed that promote coexistence between human and non-human species. Offenbach University of Art and Design (HfG) is involved in many different formats such as symposiums, workshops, and projects. With *Geschichtsabdrucke* (Imprints of History), it provides insights into anti-fascist sites in Offenbach. The Protestant Academy Frankfurt and the Hessian State Agency for Civic Education examine what “good design” has to do with democracy. All of these examples stand for many further projects by higher education institutions during the WDC year 2026. In addition, the WDC Campus has brought together around 40 universities from the region and their national and international partners for interdisciplinary and cross-faculty exchange.

## Programme highlights by Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain

Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain is not only one of the main funders of WDC 2026, but is also present across the region with its own programme and innovative formats. *Rimini Protokoll – Helgard Haug*, for example, invite people to get to know one another better with *Hooked on a Book – eine Expedition*. The WAVA collective brings augmented reality artworks into public space with *Hier, wo wir sind – virtuelle Kunst um's Eck*. School pupils work together with poetry slam artists to create their own *Slam for Democracy*. And the collective Turbo Pascal strengthens social cohesion through artistic participation with *Unterscheidet euch!*.

### Note:

Detailed images and further press releases on the core topics of WDC 2026, WDC curated events, the WDO, a collection of quotes, and an overview of highlight projects from the annual program can be found here: [media.wdc2026.org/press](https://media.wdc2026.org/press)

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