

UNITED BUDDY BEARS in the Tierpark Berlin



Meeting place: "Bärenschaukasten" at the **Tierpark Berlin**. Passing the bison it is only a few minutes walk from there to the avenue Schlossallee, where 146 United Buddy Bears are standing since last month. The exhibition "The Art of Tolerance" is back in the Bears' home town. And there could hardly have been a more suitable location.

As a gift for the 65th anniversary of the Tierpark in the city district of Friedrichsfelde, the exhibition was ceremonially opened on 2 July 2020 by the initiators, **Eva and Klaus Herlitz**, and the director of the zoo, **Dr. Andreas Knieriem**. Of the two patrons of this people-uniting project – **Dr. Franziska Giffey** and **Michael Müller** – the Federal Minister for Family Affairs put a special accent to the opening with her presence.



The bear parade will be on display at the Tierpark until over the summer of 2022 and will promote peaceful coexistence and international understanding. The sculptures represent as many countries of the United Nations, their people and their culture. Each Bear was designed by an artist from the respective country. The (new) Bears for Belize, Nigeria and Slovakia can be admired for the first time in Berlin. A Bear for Rwanda is currently being designed.

The exhibition is located in a large open-air area and is included in the entrance fee for the Tierpark. A visit to Friedrichsfelde therefore offers a double experience.

Photo below (fLTR): Klaus Herlitz, Andreas Knieriem, Eva Herlitz, and Franziska Giffey



From the Message of Greeting of the Federal Minister for Family Affairs



Foto: Volkmar Otto

Federal Minister of Family Affairs Dr. Franziska Giffey, who was previously mayor of Berlin's district of Neukölln, said in her speech as patroness on the occasion of the exhibition opening in the Tierpark:

"With the Tierpark Berlin as a place of diversity, this extraordinary exhibition fits perfectly into the natural setting. On their world tour through five continents so far, the United Buddy Bears are promoting tolerance and understanding between peoples, cultures and religions. I hope that this important message will continue to be carried into the world through this project".

Bear-strong Support

The exhibition at the Tierpark Berlin came about almost unexpectedly and at very short notice – after all, the Coronavirus had made any planning almost impossible. And especially under the current conditions, the tremendous performance of our committed supporters must be emphasized once again. Without the helping hands of the relief organisation **Technisches Hilfswerk (THW)** and the professionals of the **Haberling** company, the exhibition of the United Buddy Bears on the avenue in front of the Castle of Friedrichsfelde would never have been possible.

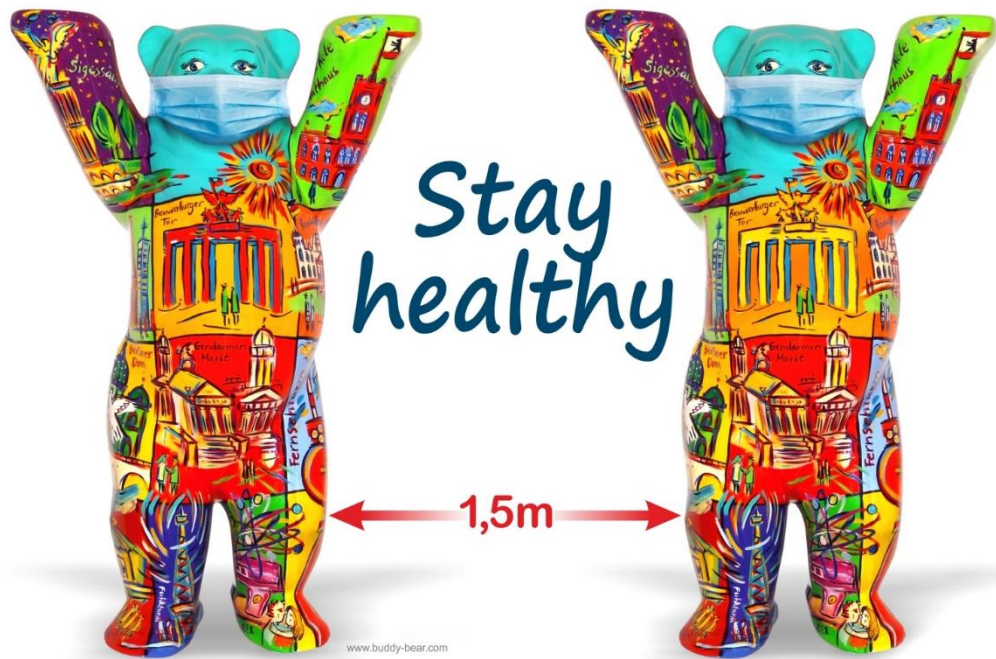
You can get an impression of what it means to mount 145 bears of 2m size on a concrete plate weighing 160 kg in the [time-lapse video](#) of the THW.



In addition to THW and Haberling, our thanks certainly also go to our long-standing sponsor, Weberbank, as well as to all bear patrons of this 34th exhibition of the United Buddy Bears.



Extraordinary Times – the World and Corona



When the first cases of a hitherto unknown lung disease were registered by Chinese authorities last December, nobody suspected that the Covid 19 virus would influence and change life around the world.

In Germany, too, public life more or less came to a standstill in spring 2020 in order to protect the health of the population. Closures of schools, kindergartens, shops, public authorities, cultural institutions and entire businesses as well as the collapse of the trade fair and tourism sector affected people in all areas of their life – both professionally and privately. And indeed, it affected and every single person. Yet, this extraordinary situation, the supposed standstill, also released a lot of creative potential and enormous social commitment.

We at Buddy Bear Berlin launched a campaign to remind Berliners that mouth and nose protection as well as keeping a minimum distance can help to protect themselves and their fellow citizens from infection with the Coronavirus. Our "Stay Healthy Poster" was often hung in windows of reopened shops and cafés, it was shown as a short video clip on the Berlin underground and published as posters in the local newspaper Berliner Morgenpost.

It was not long before the German embassies abroad also shared this likeable reference with the world via their social media channels.

Even bigger than the usual 2m, the Buddy Bears could be seen at Berlin Tegel Airport.



Berlin District Mayor Angelika Schöttler personally presented posters to retailers and café owners in Tempelhof-Schöneberg.



Extraordinary Times – the World and Corona

Many people have been involved in neighbourhood help since the beginning of the "Corona time" and are giving private lessons, sewing masks or trying to support small pubs, shops and artists with creative actions.



The district mayor of Tempelhof-Schöneberg Angelika Schöttler has rewarded this commitment and has personally thanked 50 Berliners. In addition to the acknowledgement, they also received a small Buddy Bear.

Since 2016, Buddy Bear Help has been supporting the Visioneers association, which has long been committed to helping socially disadvantaged young people. Since this spring, a team of young people, some of them refugees, has been producing miniature masks for Buddy Bears. These masks can be enclosed free of charge for a 22cm bear when ordering from the online shop.



Would you like a miniature mask for your Buddy Bear? Please write a short note in the comment field before you complete your purchase at shop.buddy-baer.com.

Buddy Bears with mouth and nose protection can be seen not only in Germany but also worldwide. Often a German embassy abroad points out in this charming way that wearing masks is currently one of the easiest and most important measures to protect against the spread of COVID-19.

On Instagram, photos were shared from Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia and Yekaterinburg in Russia, among others. We are happy to be able to make a small contribution to the common good in this way.



Other Countries, other... Bears!



The exhibition of the United Buddy Bears started in Berlin in 2002. Since then, many bears representing the countries of the United Nations have been added. For some countries there is already the fourth or even fifth bear in the exhibition "The Art of Tolerance".

For the small African country of Rwanda, the third Buddy Bear is being created these days. It is designed by the artist NUKWAMI and shines in friendly, strong colours – despite the partly dark chapters of the country's history.

Now it will not be long before this ambassador for international understanding can stand peacefully hand in hand with the United Buddy Bears for Romania and Portugal in the Tierpark Berlin and from there travel around the world with the other Bears.

Also for the first time, the Buddy Bear for Slovakia by Adela Melišeková Dožčanová is part of the United Buddy Bears exhibition. With country-specific ornaments on an elegant black background, the bear stands on the Schlossallee in the Tierpark Friedrichsfelde – lined up according to the German alphabet – between Singapore and Slovenia.

The United Buddy Bears enable exhibition visitors to travel around the globe over a distance of just 400 metres.



Time and again, German diplomatic missions abroad have Buddy Bears designed to welcome their international guests and staff. In the past few months, two Buddy Bears have been set up far away from Germany. And that's not all: the creation of the Bears in Karachi and at the Goethe-Institut in Bangkok are once again very special projects.

The bear, which was set up in the capital of Thailand, is the result of a competition that the Goethe-Institut had held in its educational cooperation with Thai schools. The winners were invited to paint the Buddy Bear with the renowned graffiti artist Jim Avignon, who had been invited by the Institute and the French Embassy to a graffiti street art festival.

In Pakistan, three female students of the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture designed the Buddy Bear for the Consulate General in Karachi. The art students had decided to design the Bear with elements that express Germany's friendly gesture towards Pakistan.



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Together for Equal Opportunities

Gemeinsam für Chancengleichheit



"You can stand HAND IN HAND even at a distance of 1.5m, if you show ♥!", says Eva Herlitz. Under the motto "Together for equal opportunities", her association Buddy Bear Help launched the project "BerlinBuddy" in spring of 2020.

The aim of this project is to help as many pupils as possible to close the gaps caused by the school closures due to Corona and the lack of support with homeschooling as quickly as possible.

Against this background and with the unclear perspective for the new school year, which has just begun under new hygiene measures, Buddy Bear Help is looking for pupil mentors for online tutoring, laptops or tablets that are no longer in use and coordinators who will accept the available equipment for the children.

Please find further details on our website (in German) <https://www.buddy-baer.com/de/charity/berlinbuddy.html> or get in touch with eva.herlitz@buddy-bear-help.org.

Buddy Bear Berlin is committed to Children

BERLIN: Buddy Bear Berlin has stood up for the youngest in our society from day one and has continued to expand its support since 1 January 2019: 5% of all net revenue generated in the [web shop](#) is given to children's relief organisations. This applies to all sales at the stated retail price.

Large Buddy Bear sculptures can also be purchased for a preferential price by donating to one of the following children's aid organisations (at the amount specified on the website): *TrauerZeit* - Zentrum für trauernde Kinder und Familien; *Die Arche* - Kinder- und Jugendzentrum or *Buddy Bear Help e.V.*

Charity

Since 20th of June 2001, when the first Buddy Bears sprung up on Berlin streets and squares, Buddy Bear activities have been intrinsically linked to helping needy children. Buddy Bears are frequently auctioned off at charity events in support of UNICEF and other children's aid organisations. The total funds generated to date amount to over

2.400.150 EUR (August 2020)