



Friends in the World

Braunschweig's Twin and Friendship Cities



2019 in Review

International Relations

The City of Braunschweig fosters contacts to numerous cities in different countries. It has twinning partnerships with seven cities and friendship agreements with two. This report offers an overview of the various activities of the department International Relations of the City of Braunschweig in the year 2019.

Highlight in 2019 was the 13th issue of the Braunschweig Cultural Night with all nine partner cities participating actively in the events. About sixty artists have contributed to an unforgettable international happening.

Common activities

Twin and friendship cities at the 13th Cultural Night

True to the motto „culture connects“ the city of Braunschweig invited its twin and friendship cities to the 13th issue of the Braunschweig Cultural Night on 22 June. This is one of the biggest and most diverse cultural events of the region. All nine partner cities accepted the invitation and sent about sixty artists to Braunschweig, some of them accompanied by official delegations.



Lord Mayor Ulrich Markurth with some of the artists from Braunschweig's twin cities

This way it was possible to present a first-class international programme at the venue „Kleines Haus“ of Braunschweig's State Theatre“.



The city of Zhuhai in China sent Qiongxia Lai, a leading artist in Cantonese opera.



Camille Metoyer Moten and Jennifer Novak-Haar from Omaha/Nebraska performed jazz songs.



The British twin city Bath inspired the audience with two per-formances: the ukulele band "Uke can't be serious" ...



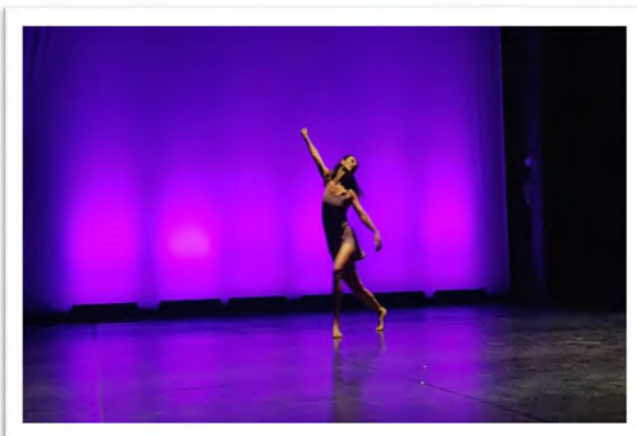
and the musical theatre group "Bath Operatic and Dramatic Society" (BODS).



The chamber ballet Pantera from Kazan presented modern dance, ...



while their Tatar compatriots, the popular singer Elmira Kalimullina accompanied by Elmir Nizamov, performed classical arias.



The Israeli dancer Yaarit Chaikin Bentor and her choreograph Iris Marko from Kiryat Tivon also contributed with modern dance,...



and the Indonesian musicians of the band „Paguyuban Pasundan“ from Bandung combined pop songs with traditional Angklung instruments.



Jacques Boucomont from Nîmes presented French chansons.



Malouf', a traditional Tunisian music was played by „Collier d'ambre" from Sousse, ...



and the „Da Rookies" from Magdeburg showed world class breakdance.

The „International Relations" department organised the artists' stay , their stage performances as well as an interesting program for the guests.

In order to make use of the synergetic effect, a summer party was organised with the international associations and societies which are involved in the exchange with the partner cities. So, on 21 June 2019, one day before the Cultural Night, about 160 members of the associations were celebrating together with the international guests, who were welcomed by Lord Mayor Ulrich Markurth at the Kulturpunkt West, the venue of the party. The performances of the artists who had already arrived in Braunschweig, a join-in concert with Indonesian Angklung instruments and a workshop for Chinese calligraphy were the highlights of the afternoon, while an international buffet offered by the members of the associations made it a perfect afternoon.



Hats off! – Members of the German-Anglo Society Braunschweig e. V.



The artists with Mayor Annegret Ihbe singing the farewell song at the summer party.



Bandung/Indonesia

Consulate General from Hamburg at the Carnival

A delegation headed by Consul General Dr. Bambang Susanto from the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Hamburg visited the Braunschweig carnival parade called „Schoduvell“. After the reception of the president of the carnival committee, the official members of the delegation watched the parade from the balcony of the Old Town Hall, while two Indonesian students presented themselves in traditional clothing on one of the wagons of the parade.



Indonesian dancing group from Padang in Braunschweig

In cooperation with the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Hamburg a dancing group from Padang in West Sumatra (twinned with Hildesheim) presented traditional Indonesian dances and music in the mall Braunschweig Residential Palace on 23 September 2019.

Consul General Dr. Susanto and his staff accompanied the dancers together with the governor of West Sumatra. Wolfgang Sehrt, president of the German-Indonesian Society, welcomed the official guests on the stage. Braunschweig citizens with Indonesian roots supported the dancers with own performances.



Students from Braunschweig University of Arts at the Institut Teknologi in Bandung



(© city of Bandung)

From 5 until 22 December 2019, the film class headed by Professor Michael Bryntrup of the Braunschweig University of Arts (HBK) visited the Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB), Partner University of the HBK

Together with the students from the Intermedia Studio Faculty of Art & Design they took part in a workshop. But they also found the time to get to know Braunschweig's twin city. The city of Bandung organised a reception at the town hall during which the students also met Mayor Danial.



(© city of Bandung)



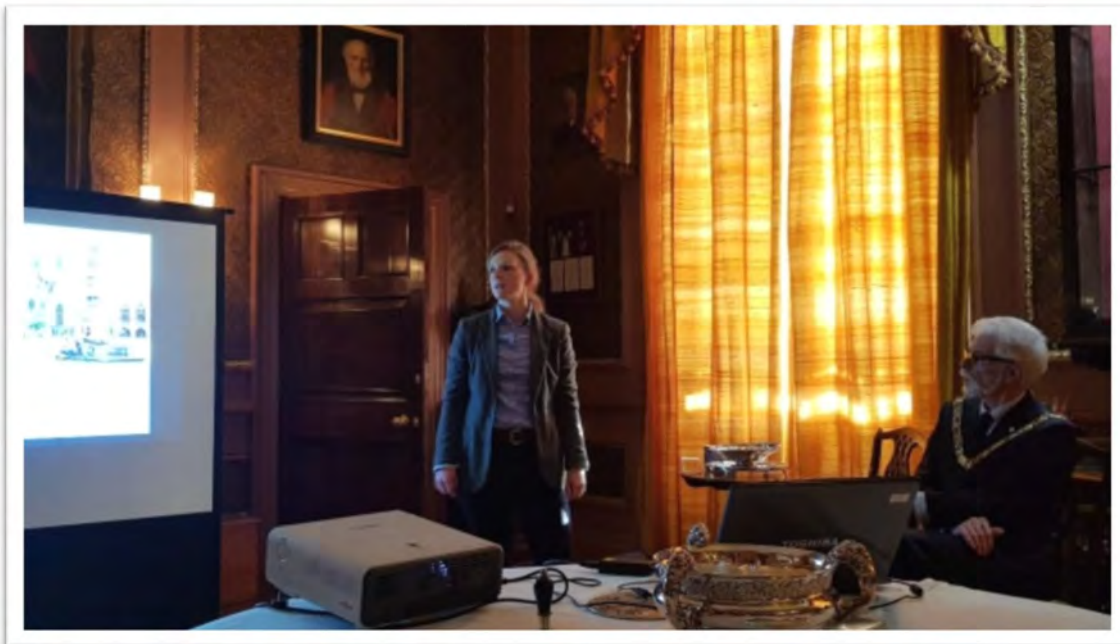
Bath/Great Britain

Staff from building department of Braunschweig municipality visited twin city Bath / Great Britain

Two staff members of the building department accompanied by a colleague from the "International Relations" department visited Braunschweig's twin city Bath in Southwest of England from 26 to 29 March 2019.

The visit was initiated by Mayor Anketell-Jones, who had declared the issue of environmental protection to the leitmotif of his term of office.

Besides the reception by Mayor Anketell-Jones at the guildhall followed by a meeting and a visit at the national water and wastewater company Wessex Water, the two staff members of the building department gave a lecture about "challenges of environmental protection in Bath and Braunschweig" at the Bath Royal Literary & Scientific Institution for members of the German Society and the Bath-Braunschweig-Twinning Association. Apart from that, the guests from Braunschweig visited the Roman Baths and learned about the "Footprint Project" of Bath Abbey, a project for the restoration of the flooring of this famous church with sustainable use of the heat of the energy from the Roman Baths.



Dr. Britta Jänicke, city of Braunschweig, and Mayor Patrick Anketell-Jones, city of Bath (© private)



Jane Wildblood and Carol McLellan, Bathnes Council, exchanging ideas with Dr. Britta Jänicke and Dr. Franziska Gromadecki, city of Braunschweig (© private)



Dr. Franziska Gromadecki explained the development of the water supply and the sewerage in Braunschweig. (© private)



Diana and Martin Guest, Bath-Braunschweig-Twinning Association, on sight-seeing tour with the guests from Braunschweig at the Roman Baths (© private)

Slide Lecture of the Anglo-German Association Braunschweig at the Municipal Library about Bath and South England

On 26 June 2019, Paul Kavanagh, president of the Anglo-German Association, gave a slide lecture about Braunschweig's twin city Bath, English landscape gardens and manors in Southwest England within the context of the monthly series of lectures called "Durchblick – Einblicke für Junggebliebene" (Clear view – insights for the young at heart) at the municipal library of Braunschweig.

Durchblick – Einblicke für Junggebliebene:

»Von Braunschweigs Partnerstadt
Bath bis nach Cornwall«



Bildvortrag mit Paul Kavanagh, Präsident der
Deutsch-Englischen Gesellschaft Braunschweig



Mittwoch, 26. Juni 2019, 14:30 – 16:30 Uhr

Die Veranstaltung ist deutschsprachig, es werden Englischer Tee und Gebäck angeboten.
Eintritt frei



Stadtbibliothek
Braunschweig

Schlossplatz 2
38100 Braunschweig
Tel. 0531 470-6835
Mo – Fr 10 – 19 Uhr
Sa 10 – 14 Uhr
www.braunschweig.de/stadtbibliothek



DEG



Kiryat Tivon/Israel

Citizens journey to Kiryat Tivon

In cooperation with the German-Israeli Society Braunschweig (DIG e. V.) and a travel agency, a citizen's journey was organised to Israel from 8 until 16 March 2019. The tour group consisting of seventeen people also visited Braunschweig's twin city Kiryat Tivon. The visit was supported by the department "International Relations" of the city of Braunschweig.



Kiryat Tivon, Israel – name of the town in Hebrew at its entrance, memorial for the war of independence (oversized antitank obstacle), old water tower with viewing platform (© city of Kiryat Tivon)

The group was welcomed by Mayor Ido Grinblum and the members of the Foreign Relations Committee in Kiryat Tivon. The guests from Braunschweig lived in host families, thus gaining insight into the daily life of the twin city.



The citizens group from Braunschweig with the Mayor, his deputy and some of the hosts in Kiryat Tivon (© Michael Brandt)

The visit in Kiryat Tivon started with a picnic for the people of the town and the guests. Then the tour group visited special places and sights in the neighbourhood: Tefen with the German-Speaking Jewry Heritage Museum in Israel, the Golan Heights, Migdal at the Sea of Galilee and its new church with its interesting architecture.

The program in Kiryat Tivon also included the village Kfar Tikva (village of hope), where people with disabilities live together, similar to those in kibbutzim, as well as a visit to the Jewish-Arab kindergarten Ein Bustan/Maayan Babustan (fountain in the garden).

After the visit in Kiryat Tivon, the tour continued via Haifa (Baha'i Gardens) and Zichron Yaakov to Jerusalem. A look from the Mount of Olives to the Old City and a walk through the Old City were followed by a visit at Yad Vashem (Holocaust Memorial).



The group in Jerusalem at the Menorah, the state symbol of Israel

The journey went on to the baptism site at Jordan River, Masada (mountain fortress at the Dead Sea) and of course to the extremely saline Dead Sea where the group members had the possibility to bathe. Afterwards the group travelled to Tel Aviv which was the last station before the journey home.

Due to the high demand, there will be a further citizen's tour to Kiryat Tivon in 2020.

An Ethiopian, a Bedouin and a Russian girl – a Film from Kiryat Tivon

The city of Braunschweig and the German-Israeli Society (DIG) invited the young filmmaker Dalal Zubedat from Kiryat Tivon from 29 March until 5 of April to Braunschweig. She presented her short film "An Ethiopian, a Bedouin and a Russian girl"

The film was shown on 30 March in the premises of the women's association frauen BUNT e.V. and on 1 April at the event hall "Roter Saal". The screening was followed by vibrant discussions.

The documentary tells about three students whose parents come from Ethiopia, Russia and a Bedouin village in Israel. Looking for their different identities and tracking their family histories, the girls travel to Germany and meet there young Germans, refugees and immigrants.

Before Dalal Zubedat started her film studies, she was the first Bedouin with the Israeli police. And as first Bedouin football trainer, she works with Jewish and Arab youngsters.

During her stay in Braunschweig, the young film producer also visited the International Office of the University of Braunschweig, met other students and got to know Braunschweig.



Dalal Zubedat and Michael Brandt (DIG) at the film presentation

Artist weekend in Kiryat Tivon – Shabat Omanim



(© Klaus G. Kohn)

This year's artist from Braunschweig to take part in the artist exchange with Kiryat Tivon was the photographer Klaus G. Kohn. He exhibited from 26 to 28 March, 2019 at the artist weekend „Shabat Omanim“ in Braunschweig's twin city. „Shabat Omanim“ is a well-known event in Israel and attracts visitors from all over the country.

Members of the Foreign Relations Committee in Tivon, who organise the participation of the Braunschweig artists and also send an artist from Tivon to Braunschweig every year, also care for the accommodation of the Braunschweig artists with a host family and for a sightseeing tour in Kiryat Tivon and the region around.

The artists sent from Braunschweig to Kiryat Tivon are chosen by the association “Friends of Fine Arts in Braunschweig” (FBK).



(© Stadt Kiryat Tivon)

Artist from Kiryat Tivon at the BBK art market

This year the annual artist exchange with Kiryat Tivon brought Shimon Shaider to Braunschweig. From 22 until 27 November 2019, he exhibited at the art market of the „Friends of Fine Arts in Braunschweig“. The guest from Kiryat Tivon succeeded again to sell some of his works to art lovers in Braunschweig.

Besides the exhibition, the artist's program included a visit at the „Herzog Anton Ulrich-Museum“, a guided city tour as well as a visit at the Jewish Community and its synagogue.

Gerd Druwe from the „Friends of Fine Arts“ and several members of the German-Israeli Society contributed to the visitor's program.



The artist Shimon Shaider from Kiryat Tivon with Gerd Druwe, member of the association "Friends of the arts in Braunschweig e. V." (FBK)



Magdeburg

Lord Mayor Dr. Lutz Trümper and his staff visited Magdeburg's twin city Braunschweig

On 23 May 2019, Lord Mayor Dr. Lutz Trümper and his office staff made a privately organized day-trip to Braunschweig. After a boat trip on the Oker river, pastor Henning Böger showed them around in the St. Magni church, and Dr. Henning Steinführer, head of the municipal archives, accompanied them on a tour through Braunschweig's ancient quarter Magniviertel.



(© Stadt Magdeburg)

Partnership hiking between Braunschweig and Magdeburg

In cooperation with the Braunschweig and Magdeburg sections of the Deutsche Alpenverein (DAV; German Alps Association), the twin cities Braunschweig and Magdeburg organised a partnership hiking event near Haldensleben.

About 50 hiking enthusiasts from both cities participated in the nine kilometres tour on the occasion of the DAV's 150th anniversary headed by Lutz Marschner, group leader of the DAV section Magdeburg. Afterwards, the former Lord Mayors of Braunschweig and Magdeburg, Gerhard Glogowski and Dr. Wilhelm Polte, looked back at the beginnings of

the twinning partnership between the two cities during a discussion panel lead by Dr. Henning Steinführer, Head of Braunschweig City Archives.



Megalithic tomb "Küchentannen" at the hiking trail



Dr. Wilhelm Polte and Gerhard Glogowski with hikers from Braunschweig and Magdeburg



Dr. Wilhelm Polte and Gerhard Glogowski during the discussion panel



Sousse/Tunesia

Delegation from Sousse visited Braunschweig

From 17 until 23 February 2019, Mayor Taoufik Laribi from Sousse visited Braunschweig in the company of Mr. Maher Amara, deputy head of the Building Department of the city of Sousse.

The guests took part in the international symposium „RE-WATER Braunschweig“, which was organised by Abwasserverband Braunschweig (water and soil association), the Norddeutsche Wasserzentrum (NWZ, Association for Sustainable Water Management), Stadtentwässerung Braunschweig GmbH (municipal sewage treatment company) and the University of Braunschweig. Since 2014, the city of Braunschweig has been cooperating with the University of Braunschweig in order to support its twin city Sousse with the project for the renaturation of the Hamdoun river south of Sousse, contaminated by insufficiently cleared wastewater and bad waste treatment.



Prof. Dr. Müfit Bahadir, Elina Domscheit (both TU Braunschweig), Mayor of Sousse Taoufik Laribi, Maher Amara (deputy head of building department in Sousse) and Jens-Christoph Siemers (head of municipal sewage treatment Braunschweig)

The opportunity was seized to hold meetings with experts from Braunschweig University about the continuation of the project. Apart from that the guests from Sousse could observe the processes in the wastewater treatment plant Steinhof and the waste disposal at the ALBA GmbH Braunschweig.

Besides this scientific exchange, several meetings were held about the further development of the partnership between the two cities, including a visit at the municipal fire brigade and at the municipal school of music.

Delegation from Sousse at the Braunschweig Carnival

As in previous years, Tunisian guests from the sister city Sousse also honoured the Braunschweig Carnival in 2019. They participated in the parade called “Schoduvel” on a carnival wagon decorated with flags and banners from Sousse while a music group of eight was walking ahead.

As part of an extensive program, the guests also attended the great ceremonial meeting of the Carnival Association of the Rhinelanders, the reception by the president of the carnival committee, where they were greeted by Mayor Annegret Ihbe, and the “after-show party” following the parade. Sousse intends to participate in the Schoduvel 2020 too.



Guests from Sousse at the carnival parade "Schoduvel" in Braunschweig

As there is interest in an exchange in the field of music, this delegation visit was used to consider a possible cooperation with the municipal school of music.

Cooperation for the purification of the Hamdoun River

On 29 April 2019, a stakeholder meeting was held in Sousse to continue the "Oued Hamdoun" project aiming at the purification of the Hamdoun River, which is heavily polluted by waste water and garbage. Participants of this meeting were Professor Müfit Bahadir and the master student Elina Domscheit from the TU Braunschweig as well as a staff member from the "International Relations" of the city of Braunschweig. This session marked the start of Elina Domscheit's master's thesis elaborating a feasibility study for the renaturation of the river using a plant-based sewage treatment plant. The results of this study will be made available to the city of Sousse.

As a result of this meeting and taking into account the partnership relations between the city of Münster and the city of Monastir, which was also affected by the pollution of the river, an exchange between the governorates of Sousse and Monastir could also be established.



Stakeholder meeting on 29 April 2020



Reception for Prof. Bahadir with the Mayor of Sousse



Zhuhai/China

Lord Mayor Ulrich Markurth visited Braunschweig's twin city Zhuhai/China with a business delegation

A delegation with business representatives led by Lord Mayor Ulrich Markurth visited the partner city Zhuhai in March 2019. In addition to business meetings and visits to various companies in Zhuhai, Lord Mayor Ulrich Markurth and Mayor Yao Yisheng inaugurated a photo exhibition about Braunschweig.

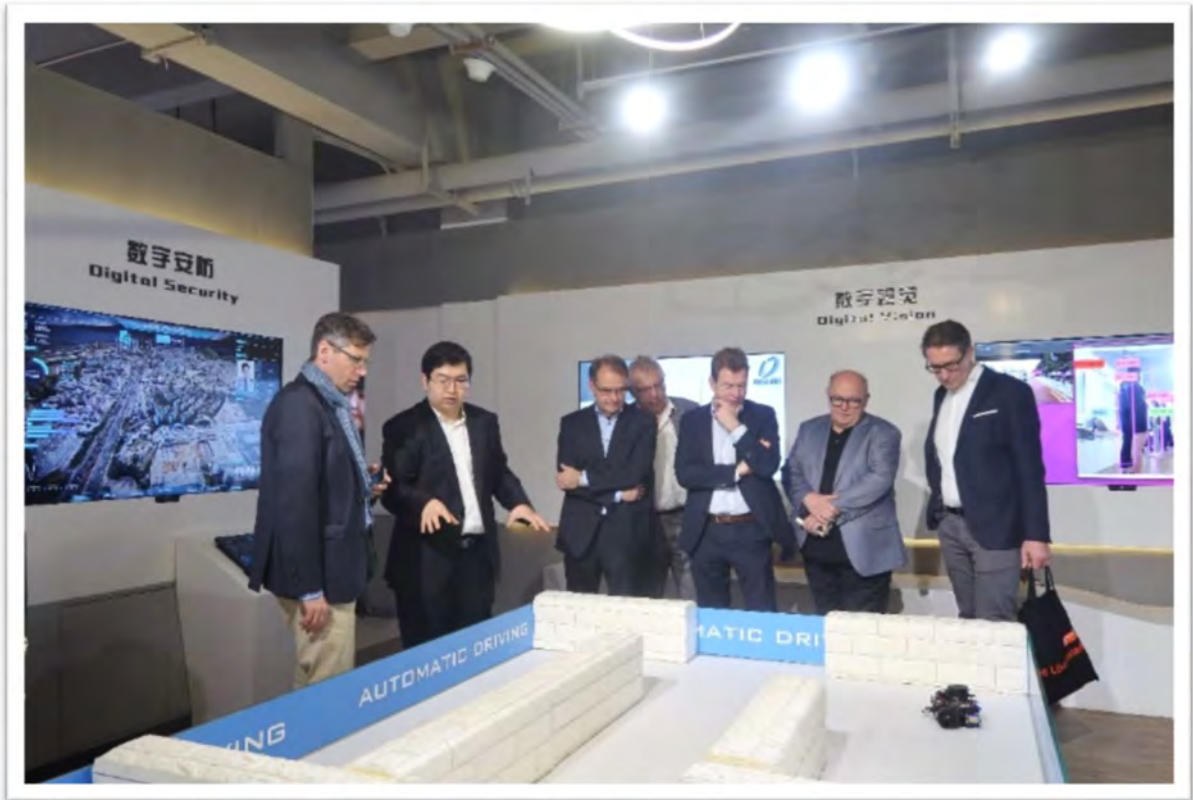


Lord Mayor Ulrich Markurth and Mayor Yao Yisheng, both in the middle, inaugurated the photo exhibition about Braunschweig. On the right, the managing director of Braunschweig Zukunft GmbH, Gerold Leppa, and the head of the Foreign Affairs Office of the city of Zhuhai, Zhang Meisheng, and on the left, the deputy mayor of Zhuhai, Zhu Qingqiao, and the head of the Zhuhai City Library (© Stadt Zhuhai)

Following the visit in the twin city of Zhuhai, the delegation visited affiliates of companies from Braunschweig and its region in Shanghai.



Students at Zhuhai High School No.1, partner school of the two grammar school in Braunschweig Martino-Katharineum and Hoffmann-von-Fallerleben-Schule, played music for the inauguration of the photo exhibition. (© Stadt Zhuhai)



Lord Mayor Ulrich Markurth with business representatives from Braunschweig in Zhuhai (© Stadt Zhuhai)

Students' and youth exchange

Youth group from Kiryat Tivon

On 19 March 2019, a school group from Kiryat Tivon was received at the town hall. The young people were participants in the "International Youth Encounters" of the Department of Children, Youth and Family in the city of Braunschweig. Hosted in families, the students got an insight into the life of their partners and went to school with their host students. The program also included visits of the memorial in Bergen-Belsen, the Autostadt in Wolfsburg and a two-day-trip to Berlin.



Students of the TU Braunschweig

Students of the module "Intercultural Communication" of the studies for English teachers at the TU Braunschweig visited the town hall on 4 June 2019 in order to get information on the twinning partnerships and friendships of the city of Braunschweig. Paul Kavanagh, President of the Anglo-German Association Braunschweig e. V., and the students also discussed the causes and effects of the Brexit.

Student groups from Omaha

Two student groups from Omaha were guests in Braunschweig in June. On the one hand, there was the student exchange at the grammar school Hoffmann-von-Fallersleben-Schule, and on the other hand, the youth group from Omaha within the program "International Encounters" of the Department of Children, Youth and Family of the city of Braunschweig.

The two groups, who were in Braunschweig from June 6 to 26, were received by Mayor Dr. Helmut Blöcker at the town hall. The visit coincided with the Braunschweig Cultural Night 2019, giving these young people the opportunity to experience the artists from Omaha and of course all the other participants from the partner and friendship cities.



Students from Omaha with Carol Stoltenberg after the reception by Mayor Dr. Blöcker

Student group from Zhuhai/China in Braunschweig

From 14 to 24 August 2019, a group of students from the Chinese twin city Zhuhai visited Braunschweig. The students were welcomed by Mayor Annegret Ihbe at the town hall. Besides attending school, the young people got to know the everyday life of their host families and the region on day trips to Wolfsburg and Hanover. Excursions to Berlin and Hamburg completed the program.

In 2016 a school partnership between the Braunschweig grammar schools Martino-Katharineum and Hoffmann-von-Fallersleben-Schule and the Zhuhai High School No. 1.



Ilona Gerhardy-Grotjan, head of the Hoffmann-von-Fallersleben School, Jens Büngener, head of the Martino-Katharineum High School, Zhao Xin, Deputy Head of Zhuhai High School No. 1, as well as Mayor Annegret Ihbe and the teachers supervising the program, Mareike Hoppmann and Petra Weiß, in the middle of the students from Zhuhai.

Youth group from Jerusalem visits Braunschweig

From 14 to 26 August 2019, a youth group from Jerusalem visited Braunschweig as part of the "International Encounters". In addition to the everyday life of their host families, the young people also got to know the city and the region, attended school and were greeted by Mayor Anke Kaphammel in the town hall of the city of Braunschweig. The program also included a visit to the memorial in Bergen-Belsen, a trip to the Autostadt and a short trip to Berlin.



Youth group from Jerusalem with their teachers and two members of the German-Israeli Society Braunschweig

Schülergruppe aus Kiryat Tivon in Braunschweig

From 28 August until 18 September 2019, a group of students from the Shaked Waldorf High School in Kiryat Tivon visited the Freie Waldorf Schule in Braunschweig for the second time. It was a return visit to a group that had already visited Braunschweig's twin town in Israel from 24 March until 14 to April 2019. The seven youngsters took part in regular classes at their host school and were given an insight into English or math classes. In addition, day trips to Braunschweig and the region were undertaken together with the host families. The highlight of the visit was the weekend trip to Berlin.

The picture shows the Israeli students and their hosts at the reception by Mayor Dr. Helmut Blöcker in the town hall of the city of Braunschweig. Michael Brand, a member of the German-Israeli Society, who worked for a few months in the Ein Bustan kindergarten in Kiryat Tivon as part of his voluntary service, welcomed the guests from Braunschweig's twin city in their mother tongue.



Students from Kiryat Tivon with Mayor Dr. Helmut Blöcker

Young people from the friendship city of Kazan/Tatarstan visited Braunschweig

Between 11 and 25 September 2019, fourteen Kazan students visited Braunschweig. The annual youth meeting was organized by the Department of Children, Youth and Family in the city of Braunschweig. The Braunschweig partner schools of the youth exchange are the grammar school Ricarda-Huch-Gymnasium and the comprehensive school Wilhelm-Bracke-Gesamtschule. The guests from Kazan were accommodated in host families and, in addition to attending school, experienced a varied program in Braunschweig and the region, as well as a stay in Berlin and a visit to the Bergen-Belsen Memorial.

The return visit to Kazan took place during the autumn holidays 2019.



Mayor Dr. Helmut Blöcker welcomed the students from Kazan.

School groups from Romania and Spain in Braunschweig

As part of the 24-month Erasmus+ school partnership project funded by the European Union, Romanian and Spanish school children were guests at the Sally-Perel comprehensive school in Braunschweig from 20 to 26 October 2019. Under the motto "Clever and Healthy", the young people from Braunschweig, Mediaş and León built insect hotels for the school garden here and got to know each other better during leisure activities such as dance and cooking workshops.

The Erasmus+ project aims at promoting solidarity in Europe through exchange projects. The last mutual visit will take place in spring 2020 when the students from Braunschweig and Mediaş will travel to León in Spain for a week.



Mayor Dr. Helmut Blöcker welcomed the guests at the mayor's room of the old town hall.

School group from Bath/Great Britain visits the Ricarda-Huch-Gymnasium

From 20 to 28 October 2019, a group of students from the King Edward's School in Bath visited the partner school Ricarda-Huch-Gymnasium. The visit program included a reception in the town hall, a city tour through Braunschweig, and day trips to Goslar, Hanover, Berlin and Wolfsburg.

The 14-year-old students from Bath have been learning German for three years and were accommodated in host families in Braunschweig. The exchange between the two schools has been existing since 1995 and is very popular with the students.



Mayor Anke Kaphammel received the student group from Bath at the town hall.

International Associations

Regular meetings take place with following association who contribute to the work with the twins and friendship cities:

- **Vereinigung der Tunesier in Deutschland-Sektion Braunschweig e. V.**
Association of Tunisians in Germany – Section Braunschweig
- **Deutsch-Tunesische Gesellschaft – Sektion Niedersachsen**
German-Tunisian Association – Section Lower Saxony
Website: <http://www.deutsch-tunesische-gesellschaft.de>
- **Deutsch-Chinesische Gesellschaft Braunschweig e. V.**
German-Chinese Association
Website: <http://www.dcgbs.de>
- **Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft e. V.**
Anglo-German Association
Website: <http://www.deg-bs.jimdo.com>
- **Deutsch-Französische Gesellschaft e. V. Braunschweig und Wolfsburg**
German-French Association
Website: <http://www.dfg-bs.de>

- **Deutsch-Indonesische Gesellschaft e. V.**
German-Indonesian Association
Website: <http://www.dig-niedersachsen.de>
- **Deutsch-Israelische Gesellschaft e. V., Arbeitsgemeinschaft Braunschweig**
German-Israeli Society
Website: <http://braunschweig.deutsch-israelische-gesellschaft.de>

Do you have questions or ideas concerning these or other projects?

The team of the twinning partnerships/international relations is at your disposal:

Barbara Frisch, Sabine Apel, Gülcan Solak, Petra Havemann (from left to right)



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