

Dear friends, art lovers and supporters of Z-Bau,

last week we were quite unexpectedly informed, that the municipal department of culture (Kulturreferat Nürnberg) is planning to close Z-Bau. A draft document on this topic, which exists since April 16th, will be discussed and decided on in the cultural committee of the city council on April 30th. One of the main reasons for the planned closure is the current financial situation of the City of Nuremberg. Of course, we will do everything we can to avoid the end of Z-Bau.

From our point of view a closure is unacceptable for the following reasons: First there is a utilisation concept that we support and put into practice together with our partner, the Kunstverein Nuremberg And Secondly, half of the money for the renovation costs for the building has already been paid for by the EU.

Other in other words: If Z-Bau was to close ten years of hard work to lay the foundations for what has meanwhile become a unique cultural center with around 70.000 visitors per year would be wasted. Besides, with Z-Bau the only place in Nuremberg where art and culture are not only presented but also produced would vanish.

All this may happen mainly because the culture of Z-Bau has not been initiated by the city's administration. As an institution which has over the years been only more or less tolerated by the administration Z-Bau has, of course, never received much understanding as most deciders have only a limited experience with living culture, if at all. Nuremberg's administration has always had its reservations with grassroots culture. For this reason, cultural initiatives without an official lobby have always been the first address when costs savings are on the municipal agenda.

It is not acceptable that culture always has to pay the bill!

For this reason, we would like to ask all those of you for your support who are interested in the survival of Z-Bau and who believe in cultural activities und institutions which may not be as expensive as the city theatre but which also have an important role to play for urban society.

Please support Z-Bau in every possible way - e.g. by phoning the municipal department of culture or the mayor's office, make your support public and support us in the committee session on April 30th at 9 hrs, write letters to the editors of Nuremberg newspapers or send written enquiries to the administration. Also ask others to help and support us.

With kindest thanks and hoping that we will be successful,

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