



# kinder museum frankfurt

*kinder museum frankfurt*  
An der Hauptwache 15 - Mezzanine Level  
60313 Frankfurt

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Opening hours: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm  
Vacation hours (in Hesse): open also Mon 10am-6pm  
Admission: € 4, reduced € 2, Family Card: € 9



### TRUSTEES

The City of Frankfurt am Main, in association with the *historisches museum frankfurt*

### ATTENDANCE FIGURES

2011: 43.677  
 2012: 45.503  
 2013: 41.162

### FUNDING

Income from visitor admission, workshop participation fees, external funding. Museum operating costs and human resource funding (salaried employees) are covered by The City of Frankfurt.

### STAFF STRUCTUR

Museum Director (1 position)  
 Museum pedagogue (2 ½ positions)  
 Visitor service (1/2 position)  
 Cashier and reception (1 position)  
 Free-lance staff pedagogues (40 positions)



### **Underground, un-pretentious, attractive**

Since September 2008, the subway and regional train station 'Hauptwache' in the heart of Frankfurt has also become a museum location! This very un-museum-like spot has been the home to the *kinder museum frankfurt* for the past four years. Its unconventional location has promoted a welcome growth in visitors, attracting not only more than the old location, but also a larger cross-section of people who might not usually think of entering a museum. Located centrally, right at the head of the 'Zeil' shopping district, the *kinder museum* is just the right place for families, children, youths, young adults or grandparents with their grandchildren to re-discover all its diverse opportunities.

Sliding glass doors, almost like a department store, open into the friendly museum lobby. With its fresh lime-green colors, old country store and museum shop it creates an inviting atmosphere where interested visitors can take a first stress-free look around, and consult with their kids which museum activities they would like to take part in today.

### **Target audience museum**

Many people don't realize that the *kinder museum frankfurt* is the oldest children's museum in the Federal Republic of Germany, celebrating its 40th birthday in 2012. Founded in 1972 by the *historisches museum frankfurt*, it remains the only Frankfurt museum creating and displaying exhibitions especially targeted for a young audience - contributing to the cultural education and creative advancement of the

coming generations. Exhibitions of the *kinder museum frankfurt* are all designed to be interactive, for young people age 6 and up.

Starting in 2011, a *mini-museum* has also been integrated into the exhibition space, with a play-and-learn area especially conceived and built for children under the age of 6.

### **Variety of opportunities for diverse visitors**

In addition to the exhibitions, the *kinder museum* offers creative workshops, guided city history tours, birthday parties, family activities, vacation workshops, and much more. For several years the *kinder museum* has also offered free socio-cultural programs targeted at children and young people from educationally deprived families. Since 1999 the mobile unit *kindermuseum on tour* has been travelling to kids in the outlying city districts, working in cooperation with the Frankfurt program 'Active Neighborhood' since 2010.

The *kinder museum frankfurt* has also continuously developed programs for youths and young adults in the 15 to 20 age group. Starting in 2000, several creative writing and printing workshops for girls and young women have been conducted every year, with the goal of motivating participants toward individual expression of speech, and artistic realisation.

# The *kinder museum frankfurt*- cultural space for children and young people



### From the beginning – the *kinder museum frankfurt* since 1972

Against the background of fundamental cultural and social change during the late 1960's, the *kinder museum* was founded in 1972, as part of Frankfurt's *historisches museum*. It was viewed as integral to the concept of a museum for a new democratic society, guided by the feeling that children and youths should have their own cultural space within the *historisches museum*. A 'children's gallery' was created in which exhibitions were developed and realized especially for young people. The basic conceptual idea for the exhibition – at that time an absolute novelty – was to design a museum from the perspective of a young audience. This basic concept has proven itself up to present day.

In the 1970's, the *kinder museum* exhibitions developed their own unique formats. These were staged exhibitions, in which the visitors were encouraged to play an active role. Content would only be conveyed through the actions, creative thinking and collaborative experience of the visitors.

In the 40 years of its existence, the *kinder museum frankfurt* has continually developed and professionalized itself. The museum has grown enormously and consolidated itself in programmatic as well as spatial terms. From its original 100m<sup>2</sup> exhibition space the *kinder museum* has now grown to 800 m<sup>2</sup>. Its exhibitions are largely self-produced, drawing largely upon the in-house collections and resources.



# History of the *kinder museum*- 1972 to today

1 first exhibition, 1972; 2 'School (His)stories' 1977; 3 Robinson Crusoe on the Main, 1978; 4 Childhood Yesterday: Games boys and girls played in Goethe's time, 1979/80; poster from 1972



### The Last Five Years

2013 - 2015	A Passion for Collecting
2011 - 2013	Blood Suckers
Since 2011	Mini-Museum
2010 - 2011	Shadow & Light
2008 - 2010	Below the City

### From the founding to relocation 2008

2008	Relocation to mezzanine level of the Hauptwache
2007 - 2008	Architecture Work(s)
2006 - 2007	The Making of an Emperor
2005 - 2006	WorldPlayThings
2004 - 2005	Heartthrob - A journey through love, friendship, heartbreak
2003 - 2004	The Blooming City
2001 - 2003	Life in, at and on the Main River
Since 1999	kindermuseum, On Tour'
1999 - 2000	Family (His)stories
1998 - 1999	From Pulp to Paperback
1994 - 1998	A Frankfurt Childhood in 1900
1994 - 1995	Art, Design and the Barbie doll
1993 - 1994	Come Play: parlour games yesterday, today, here and there
1993	Exile: Childrens drawings from Kurdistan

1992 - 1993	Let's tear down some fences – right to life for young refugees
1992	"Child photographers" und "Favorite Pieces by Children" - A work retrospective
1991	Duckburg is Everywhere
1989 - 1990	Noah's Ark – Two centuries of toy animals
1988	Collected treasures by kids, artists and art lovers
1987	Small Paper Worlds: cut-out sheets yesterday and today
1986	Circus Children – Children's circus
1982	High Horses – Knights and Valets
1981	Felix knits and Katrin kicks
1979 - 1980	Childhood Yesterday - Games boys and girls played in Goethe's time
1978	Robinson Crusoe on the Main River
1978	I Invent a Better World
1977	Kids and Art
1977	School (His)stories
1976 - 1977	Struwwelpeter nasty - makes the children nicely?
1975	Two full-time staff members enables working continuity
1974	The <i>kinder museum</i> exhibition space expands, with the addition of a toys display
1972	The <i>kinder museum</i> opens its doors on November 7, as a museum within a museum
1971	Conception establishing a children's museum within the <i>historisches museum</i>

# Timeline *kinder museum*- 1972 to today



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# Exhibitions

The *kinder museum* is an active museum and cultural space for the entire family. Exhibition themes seek to connect with the actual reality of the kids and youths. Our method of presentation takes into account their viewing and learning habits. Visitors have the chance to examine display objects up close, to use or handle original objects. Hands-on objects, interactive stations and workshop areas provide support, mixing learning with fun and experimenting. The exhibitions promote an autonomous and action-oriented learning experience.

Participatory elements, such as kids helping to design an exhibition, interaction with other visitors and social learning skills are also important aspects of *kinder museum* exhibitions. For anyone with a sense of curiosity and discovery, every exhibition offers a wide variety of experiences.



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1 WorldToys 2005-2006; 2 Architecture Work(s) 2007-2008; 3 Heart crackle 2004-2005; 4+5 The Making of an Emperor 2006/7; 6 Family (His)stories, 1999-2000



## Under the City

For families with children age 6 and up  
September 14, 2008 - April 24, 2010

Action-oriented theme rooms bring visitors closer to different aspects of underground life: biological organisms under the Earth's surface, mineral deposits, archaeological excavations or geological sediments - all can be explored up close. But also the city's waste disposal system or the underground Frankfurt traffic network are part of life 'under the city', and the people who carry out this underground work play a part in this multi-layered exhibition.





## Shadow & Light

Workshop exhibition for families  
with children age 6 and up  
June 6, 2010 - October 23, 2011

Here kids can encounter shadow and light in a variety of ways: they experiment with it as a physical phenomenon, or sit down at the film studio and see the role shadows and light play in photography. They make shadow puppets come alive on the theater stage, or learn how important shading is for creating spatial, three-dimensional images in the drawing atelier.





## Bloodsuckers

Workshop exhibition for families  
with children age 6 and up  
In cooperation with the Museum Basel, Liestal  
(Switzerland)  
December 3, 2011 - January 13, 2013

The exhibition started the ingeniously devised mouthparts of seven tiny creatures that feed on human blood. Kids explored how fleas and ticks bite, how leeches suck to get their meals - or turned the handles of our blood-sucking 'machines', built to imitate the movements of the tiny bloodsuckers.

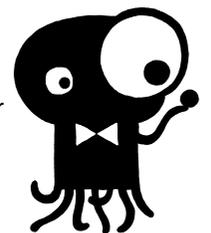




## A Passion for Collecting

Objects and their histories  
Workshop exhibition for families  
with children age 6 and up  
February 24, 2013 - January 15, 2015

Collecting is contagious! Once a field of interest is found, there's nothing stopping a collector. Come experiment with all aspects of collecting in our interactive exhibition, from organizing and arranging, to displaying your objects. Multimedia zones, natural science displays and workshop areas offer you a glimpse into this fascinating world.





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The guided tours for school groups up to 7th grade level are events developed to accompany exhibitions, tailored to the corresponding age groups. In addition, the *kinder museum* offers city walking tours as well as guided tours to historic themes in the exhibitions of the *historisches museum*. These enable autonomous learning and exploration of a specific topic. Experimentation, craftsmanship and creativity are central to all our projects.

1 + 6 Old Country Store; 2 + 5 The Making of an Emperor;  
3 Frankfurt Women around 1800; 4 Writing workshop 7 World Toys

# Learning-guided tours and projects

## CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

The workshops are ideal for everyone interested in experimenting, creating and crafting. Under the supervision of our trained staff participants learn the basic principles and development of a particular handicraft through intensive individual activity. The opportunities range from paper-making and experiments in painting and shadow-puppet theater, to typography and artistic printing techniques, as well as experimental radio and audio workshops.



## BIRTHDAY AT THE MUSEUM

The parties in the creative workshops of the *kinder museum* are a real alternative to the usual 'pin the tail on the donkey' party games. Kids can invite their guests to celebrate with them, and at the same time try out their crafting and creative talents.

1 + 7 Under the City Party; 2 Shockheaded Peter Comic, summer 2009;  
3 + 5 Papermaking Workshop; 4 + 6 Printing Workshop;

# Learning- creative workshops



1 + 2 Nature and Environment in the City, summer 2001 + 2002; 3 A Passion for Collecting 2013; 4 Family Exploration Station, summer 2000; 5 World Toys, summer 2005 + 2006; 6 Below the City, summer 2008



The mobile unit *kinder museum on tour* takes the museum to the kids in the outlying city districts, and is a socio-cultural program free of charge. Designed as a theme-oriented 'exploration station', it is always closely coordinated with the current exhibition running at the *kinder museum*. Here, the traditional roles between visitor and museum are turned around: the kids don't come to the museum – it visits them. In this way children from culturally deprived families can also be reached. The *kinder museum on tour* gives them the opportunity, right at home as it were, to gain new learning experiences, and get to know and develop own creative potentials.

*kinder museum on tour*



Because the *kinder museum frankfurt* sees itself as a family museum, we have always welcomed younger children. Until recently, individual activities for younger visitors were integrated into the exhibition space. But at our new venue we have observed a continuous increase in small children as visitors: 10% of all visitors to the museum are under 6 years of age.

With the *mini museum*, the *kinder museum* now offers children from 2-5 years learning opportunities tailored to their specific age group, in which they can acquire skills through playful experimenting. Some individual aspects of the *mini museum* are coordinated with the current exhibitions of the *kinder museum*.

*mini museum*



A *kids trail* with interactive stations has already been created by the *kinder museum* to accompany the new permanent collection 'Frankfurt Collectors and Donors' at the *historisches museum*, which re-opened in August 2012. A *family trail* will also be integrated into the future permanent exhibition 'Frankfurt Yesterday'. A planned 20 interactive stations are projected for the 2000 m<sup>2</sup> exhibition space. Each station will be closely coordinated with the displayed exhibits and object groups, so visitors can actively connect with Frankfurt topics, and can be easily recognized as *family trail* by their distinct color scheme. The stations are not just reserved for children - they can be used by visitors of every age group who like to grasp things with all of their senses. The stations can be used completely according to individual preference and interest, and transform a stroll through the exhibition into an exiting experience for the whole family.

*kids trail*



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