

# Vestiges of Green

An audio walk dedicated to the first Botanical Garden of Berlin  
with Caroline Böttcher and Julia Ohlendorf



Botanical Garden  
Schöneberg,  
Victoria-Regia-Haus, 1901

Why did a 100-year-old palm from the Garden of Science cause an uproar in the 18th century? What piece of colonial history do many Germans keep on their windowsills? Why are cities rich in species?

“Vestiges of Green” is dedicated to this and many other questions as it accompanies listeners through what is today known as Heinrich von Kleist Park in Schöneberg. Established in 1679, this is where the first Botanical Garden of Berlin had its home for more than 240 years and where plants were cultivated for seeds to export to Germany’s colonies.

Today, hardly anything of this special facility and its history remains. Apart from the “Haus am Kleistpark” itself, inaugurated in 1880 as the Royal Botanical Museum (and once housing the herbarium of Adelbert von Chamisso), all the buildings of the Botanical Garden have disappeared.

Following the park plan of 1886, the audio walk consists of eleven stops along the former locations of the once impressive greenhouses. The audio-play scenes are dedicated to botanical passion and its economic, political, and historical entanglements. Experts such as Dr Katja Kaiser (historian of colonial botany) and Dr Nils Köster (curator of the living collection of the Dahlem Botanical Garden) share anecdotes and knowledge while engaging in imaginary conversations with voices from the past, such as Rosa Luxemburg, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The free audio walk will become available from 30.4.2022 and thereafter be accessible at any time via the “Guidemate” app. A map of the area with the various stops will appear on people’s mobile-phone displays. GPS data locate the listeners’ positions, and the audio tracks are then automatically started at the respective stations. The audio walk was designed to be listened to on headphones. Kleistpark is barrier-free.

## Premier/ Public talk

Heinrich-von-Kleist-Park  
entrance Grunewaldstr.  
(Schöneberg)  
Saturday  
30 April 2022  
3 pm

A printable map of the audio walk (duration ca. 60 minutes) is available in the foyer of the Haus am Kleistpark. Further information can be found on our website [www.hausamkleistpark.de](http://www.hausamkleistpark.de).

## Production team Audio Walk

**Concept, script, direction, and production:** Caroline Böttcher und Julia Ohlendorf  
**Sounddesign and arrangement:** Sonja Harth  
**Recording:** Caroline Böttcher, Berthold Heiland  
**Sound editing:** Caroline Böttcher, Sonja Harth  
**Speakers:** Caroline Böttcher, Nancy Fischer, Sonja Harth, Lisa Hrdina, Nina Kronjäger, Grischa Meyer, Lara Niebuhr, Julia Ohlendorf, Timo Weischnur  
**Music:** Christian Gies  
**Collages and photographs:** Caroline Böttcher  
**Maps:** Rita Böttcher

## Press contact

Haus am Kleistpark  
Barbara Esch Marowski  
Gallery director  
Tel. +49 (30) 90277-6964  
[esch-marowski@ba-ts.berlin.de](mailto:esch-marowski@ba-ts.berlin.de)  
[www.hausamkleistpark.de](http://www.hausamkleistpark.de)

## Press images

Printable material available at:  
[hausamkleistpark@ba-ts.berlin.de](mailto:hausamkleistpark@ba-ts.berlin.de)

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EIN TEIL VON  
**DRAUSSEN  
STADT**



**Kom  
munale  
Gale  
rien  
Berlin**

