

News from the CityLAB Berlin

May 2022

Hello , dear CityLAB-Community!

As the writer Jean Paul once put it: “The beauty of spring is that it always comes when you need it most.” Here at CityLAB we too are thrilled to be able to spend more and more time outdoors in the warm sunshine – which is why we didn’t lose any time in converting **the refreshment map** at our **Open Data Informationsstelle** (Open Data information center) into a “sun map”. This is an **Open Data map** that allows you to see when and where you can find a sunny spot or a bench on which to enjoy a cup of coffee.

But warmer weather doesn’t just raise people’s spirits: it also means our trees get thirstier. As the growing season starts, the urban trees at risk of drought are in increasing need of water, so hard-working watering helpers are already out and about with their watering cans nurturing our city greenery. Active tree watering is not the only task the community faces! For our **QTrees** project, we’re looking for interested parties to join us at **workshops** so as to explore what

artificial intelligence-based irrigation forecasting might look like.

In today's newsletter, you can read about where spring fever is taking us in the month of May. Enjoy!

Features

In eight modules to agile public authority work



We're all familiar with it: the inevitable trip to a public authority and all the bother it involves. Neither citizens nor administration employees are to blame for the fact that this type of experience is not generally very pleasant. While citizens struggle with complicated forms, administrative staff themselves face major challenges, too: as public sector employees, they are under considerable pressure to drive innovation forward. As the processes are now restructured and digitized, it's vital to address diverse target groups externally as well as cooperate internally across departments and authorities. For this to succeed, the right know-how and methodological

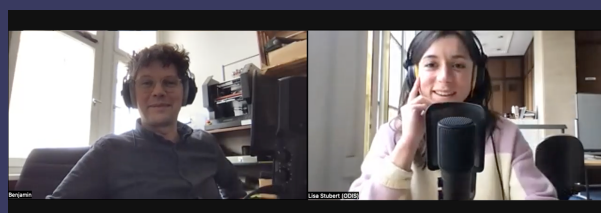
expertise are needed – which is where our **Service Agent training program** comes in. This is a further education format for employees of the Berlin administration that is being conceived and implemented in collaboration with the Chair of Design at HTW Berlin (**Prof. Daniela Hensel** and **Johanna Götz**).

The program aims to enable public servants to create processes using service design methods, giving them an entire toolkit full of the latest agile work methods.

The new Service Agent training program website offers an impression of what this looks like in practice. It provides not only an outline of the benefits of service design but also insights into eight modules dedicated to agile work methods, including background information, concrete real-world examples, worksheets to get you started, and links to further resources.

[To the website](#)
(German only)

Radio CityLAB: Lisa Stubert on Open Data in Berlin



In our Radio CityLAB workshop reports, we provide background information on our projects and some insider perceptions. We kicked off with our Product Lead Ingo Hinterding talking about **creative prototyping for smart cities**.

In the current episodes, Lisa Stubert of the **Open Data Informationsstelle (ODIS)** provides insights into Berlin's open data landscape. What are the benefits and purpose of open administrative data, what exactly does the Open Data Informationsstelle do, and what challenges does it face? Have a listen!

To Radio CityLAB
(German only)

Open Call: QTrees workshop



Through the **QTrees** project, we're using artificial intelligence to develop an intelligent irrigation forecasting system that will help Berlin residents water their

trees. So now we want to get together with you to consider how a forecasting system of this kind might be tailored to your needs. We're going to be holding workshops to get the watering community's input in terms of challenges and ideas.

The workshops will take place as follows:

May 5 3:00 – 4:30 pm

May 16 2:30 – 4:00 pm

May 17 2:30 – 4:00 pm

If you're interested, reserve your spot right now! The event will be held in German.

[Click here to sign up](#)

Event Highlights

Apr
28

5 - 7 pm

Smart City Forum 2
Measures and campaigns



On April 28 we'd like to discuss the interim results of the Smart City strategy process with you once again. While the needs for action and operational goals for the Smart City Berlin were presented at the first forum, the focus on this occasion will be on measures and campaigns. These were developed together with the public, more than 120 experts, the Digital Berlin Municipal Committee and representatives of the Berlin administration. The event will be held in German.

[Sign up](#)

**Apr
29**

5:30 - 8:30 pm

Open workshop Visualizing ideas

Whether it's a five-minute sketch of a new idea, a graphic recording of a brainstorming session or an explanatory video for the upcoming pitch: at some point, the idea for the next IoT project has to get out of your head – not just in words but visually, too. At the open workshop on April 29 we'll be looking at different digital tools that can be used to visualize ideas. If you already have your own project, you're more than welcome to bring it along (but that's not a requirement for attending). No previous experience is necessary and we look forward to

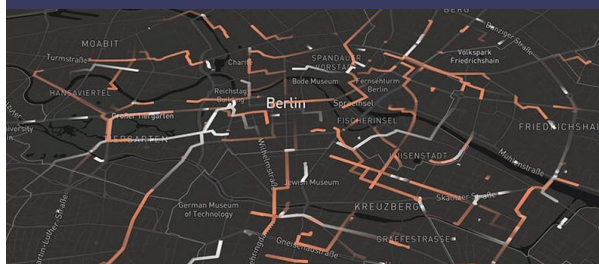
welcoming anyone who'd like to join in. English speakers welcome.

[Find out more](#)

May
11

7 - 9 pm

Developer Meetup Vol. 2



The work done by developers spans a wide range. At our Developer Meet-Ups, you get to meet the CityLAB developer team along with other guests and gain insights into their work and projects.

Also featured: our projects **Stadtpuls** and **QTrees**, **trainwriter.ai**, an art project by Birds on Mars and OZM that produces art on a container interactively and in real time by means of AI, and **Alsino Skowronnek**, who presents his project **Mapping the Post-Human City**. English speakers welcome.

[Find out more](#)

May
18

12 am - 2 pm

Digital Government Workshop @Mall Anders



Whether extensive green spaces or demand-responsive pedestrian crossing: anyone who's ever filled out an administrative form is familiar with the problem – convoluted sentences, incomprehensible legalese, dry wording. So how can administrative forms be designed with citizens in mind? At this interactive workshop being run as part of the **Mall Anders** project, participants have the opportunity to take a look at administrative forms and develop ideas for improvements.

Mall Anders is a temporary test environment for learning, discussion, experimentation and exploration at Wilma Shoppen Charlottenburg, focusing on the question: what do we want to do differently? It's a place where people from academia, art and civil society provide insights into their work – anyone interested is invited to join in. No advance sign-up required. The workshop will be held in German.

June

30

all day

CityLAB Summerfest



photo: RosinenBAR THF

This year we'll be holding our big summfest on our premises in Tempelhof once again. With a view of the runway and to the sound of Berlin beats, you can look forward to an entire day packed full of talks, discussions, workshops, music and networking opportunities, organized in cooperation with **RosinenBAR THF**. Be sure to put a big circle round the date in your calendar right away! More information about the schedule and program to follow soon!

[Save the date](#)





We wish you a wonderful month of May!

Your CityLAB Berlin

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