

News from the CityLAB Berlin

January 2023



Hi , dear CityLAB-Community!

2023: there was something magical about the way the new year began for us! Our team photo is the best evidence: we're clearly off to an enthusiastic and high-spirited start! How do we manage to keep our sunny disposition despite the persistent Berlin drizzle? It has to be the work! The sheer variety of topics in our newsletter alone is sure to put a smile on your face – we just know it! But if you're still looking back wistfully at 2022, take a peek at the past highlights in our review of the year. In a new blog post we take a look at the ingredients for concocting the ideal online form, and we've also conjured up four new exhibits for a new exhibition we're premiering (and you're invited to join us!).

We look forward to the coming year with you all and hope you have an enjoyable read.

Spotlight 1

Taking a new approach to online forms – in collaboration with citizens!



From applications for housing subsidies to registering a dog, forms are one of the most important interfaces between citizens and the administration. After all, they relate to services that are essential to the lives of all of us – and completing them is not always a straightforward affair for citizens, whether due to the language they use or the way they're designed. So the mission of our pilot project Digitalwerkstatt Verwaltung ("Digital Administration Workshop") was to make digital forms more user-friendly in collaboration with the target group – the citizens themselves!

How did that work out? Here's the article by our dear colleague and data expert Victoria Boeck – and you don't have to fill out a form before reading it, we promise!

[to the blog](#)

Spotlight 2

Invitation to our LABissage



If CityLAB were a human being, our *exhibition* would probably be the heart! Everything comes together here: completed projects and current ideas, as well as things that inspire us or stimulate us to engage in reflection.

That's why we're thrilled to invite you to our LABissage on **February 23, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**, where all are free to browse through the exhibition – now expanded to include four new exhibits! The artists as well as CityLAB staff will be on site to discuss the exhibits on display as well as our work at the lab.

The LABissage will feature more than just our interactive exhibition for you to explore: it will also feature the final presentation of the exhibition *Let's get physical* by Weißensee Academy of Art; this project will be on display at CityLAB from February 16 – 23. For anyone already interested in a sneak preview of our new exhibits, you'll find further details here. We'd also very much appreciate it if you could sign up in advance

[Sign-up](#)

Spotlight 3

Missed the review of 2022?



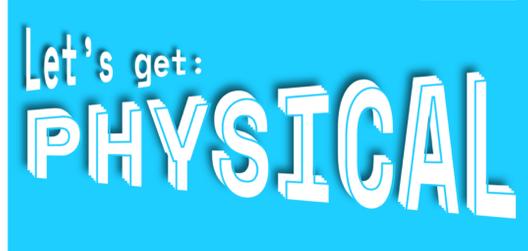
For all those who were too busy over Christmas and New Year to devote themselves to perusing our highlights from last year or who'd like to scroll through 2022 with us once more, we recommend our interactive review of the past year. Enjoy soaking up all the projects, products and other achievements – after all, this is what we'll be building on this year.

[To the review of 2022](#)

Event Highlights

Feb 16 – 23 Mon-Fri 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. "Let's Get: Physical" – interactive exhibition of the "Coding IxD" project

Exhibition 16.02. – 23.02.2023 CityLAB Berlin Platz der Luftbrücke 4 12101 Berlin



Coding IxD is a cooperation of Free University of Berlin, Weißensee kunst- hochschule berlin, Matters of Activity, Design Museum, CityLAB Berlin

Whether subconsciously or consciously, we all record our routines, such as by using a step counter, making a mental note of our favorite spots in the city, or by keeping an eye on how much electricity and water we consume. But how is it possible to get a handle on all this personal data? Students at the Department of Computer Science at the Free University of Berlin and at the Department of Product Design at Weißensee School of Art and Design tackled this question together in an interdisciplinary course entitled Coding IxD.

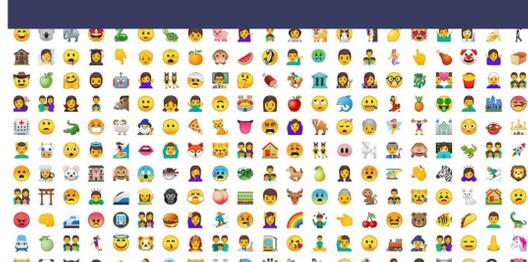
The results of this collaborative venture will be presented from February 16 – 23 at CityLAB Berlin in an interactive exhibition that will be open from Monday to Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

On the grand opening evening on February 15, all project participants will gather at CityLAB and give visitors an exclusive first peek at the exhibition!

We look forward to seeing you there!

[More information](#)

Feb 19 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Open workshop: "I see something you understand"



We communicate our current mood via emojis. We use street signs to find our way in foreign countries and can also use our hands and feet to explain to our counterparts what we want. In this edition of the Open Workshop "I see what you understand", we will explore how sign language works and what it can do. With the help of an OLED display, we'll explore how we can communicate our own symbols via a display and create our own visual language.

Want to join in? Then register for free by February 19 and secure your place in the workshop.

We look forward to seeing you, or rather: 🗣️👁️👉👈🗣️!

[More information](#)

We can hardly wait to get started with you in the new year. We would be delighted if you would join us on February 23 to stroll through our exhibition and talk about the new exhibits. Until then,

your CityLAB Berlin

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