

## News from the CityLAB Berlin

May 2023

Hi , dear CityLAB-Community!

Statistically speaking, next month is the most common month in which to get married. Once again of course, this is all down to the ancient Greeks: back in ancient times, people believed that a wedding in June would be particularly happy and blessed as it is the month of the goddess Juno – the patron goddess of marriage and family. Today, recent findings indicate that no relationship is as happy and lasts as long as your relationship with your favorite and most innovative city lab!

For this reason, we want to tie the knot and say “WE DO” to celebrating and learning together on **June 29** – at our spectacular **Sommerfest!** Under the motto Berlin: An einem Tag gelöst (“Berlin – solved in a day”), we’ve put together a diverse program of **workshops, Keynotes, panels and talks** for you on the subject of **Berlin’s digital transformation** to mark our fourth anniversary. In addition, we’ll be testing our new **Kiezlabor** on an audience for the first time at the upcoming **re:publica (5. - 7.6.)** – and yes, the rumors are true: at the *Kiezlabor* you can come up with your own urban utopias and elaborate them yourself!

So, cast aside all those microwave meals, layers of sweaters, and winter blues: life is happening outside again, and we’re taking you along with us for a summer full of fresh food for thought and visions for the future of our city!

### In focus

Ready for testing: the *Kiezlabor* beta version at re:publica



Still a small prototype made of paper in the picture, our *Kiezlabor* is now ready in a beta version and is soon to venture out into the big wide world – or more precisely, into the neighborhoods of Berlin! The first evening out in the wild we want to spend celebrating with you from **6:00 p.m. on 5 June** at **Flutgraben at the intersection with Puschkinallee** near the festival area of this year’s re:publica!

The *Kiezlabor*, formerly known as Mobiles CityLAB, is one of the measures that emerged from the Smart City Strategy **Gemeinsam Digital: Berlin (GD:B)**. The Tiny House for the digital transformation of Berlin will be on site for you **during re:publica and beyond** from **5 – 15 June!** In this way, we want to create a space for visitors on their way to Europe’s largest digital conference, as well as residents of the surrounding neighborhoods, enabling them to get together, engage with each other at first hand and get talking – with or without a ticket. By the way, we’ll be happy to receive feedback. During re:publica we’ll be available **every day from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at our container. With the aim of filling our container, our independent program will tie in with the re:publica motto “CASH” and seek to ask the question: **what does our city cost?**

We’re looking for answers involving different approaches from the areas of **open data, service design, open source and smart city**. See here for full details of the *Kiezlabor* at re:publica:

[Find out more](#)

After re:publica, there’ll still be lots happening at the *Kiezlabor*, for example at the workshop *Besser als Neu*, which we are organizing in collaboration with *KunsterKiezinitiative e.V.*! So grab your old laptop and we’ll show you how to get your electronic waste into shape again so you can play retro games on it! Of course, we already have some upcycling laptops on site, so you can come without your own device if you’re interested.

But a visit to the *Kiezlabor* is worthwhile even if there’s no event on: our container has been transformed into a treasure chest full of digital curiosities and prototypes to try out! For full details of the *Kiezlabor* and the events taking place there, see:

[To the project page](#)

We’re going to rock the ENTIRE re:publica!



In addition to the *Kiezlabor*, the CityLAB is involved in the **joint stand of the state of Berlin at re:publica**, focusing on the topics of the smart city strategy **Gemeinsam Digital: Berlin (GD:B)**! An exciting line-up awaits you in the **Berlin Labor** at our stand in the Arena! On one of the re:publica stages, our director **Dr. Benjamin Seibel** will also be engaging in discussion with **Stephanie Kaiser** (CPO, DigitalService Bund) about the sense and nonsense of bureaucracy in administrative digitalization and the issue of how the state can retain its flexibility in the digital context.

[To the event](#)

### Event Highlights



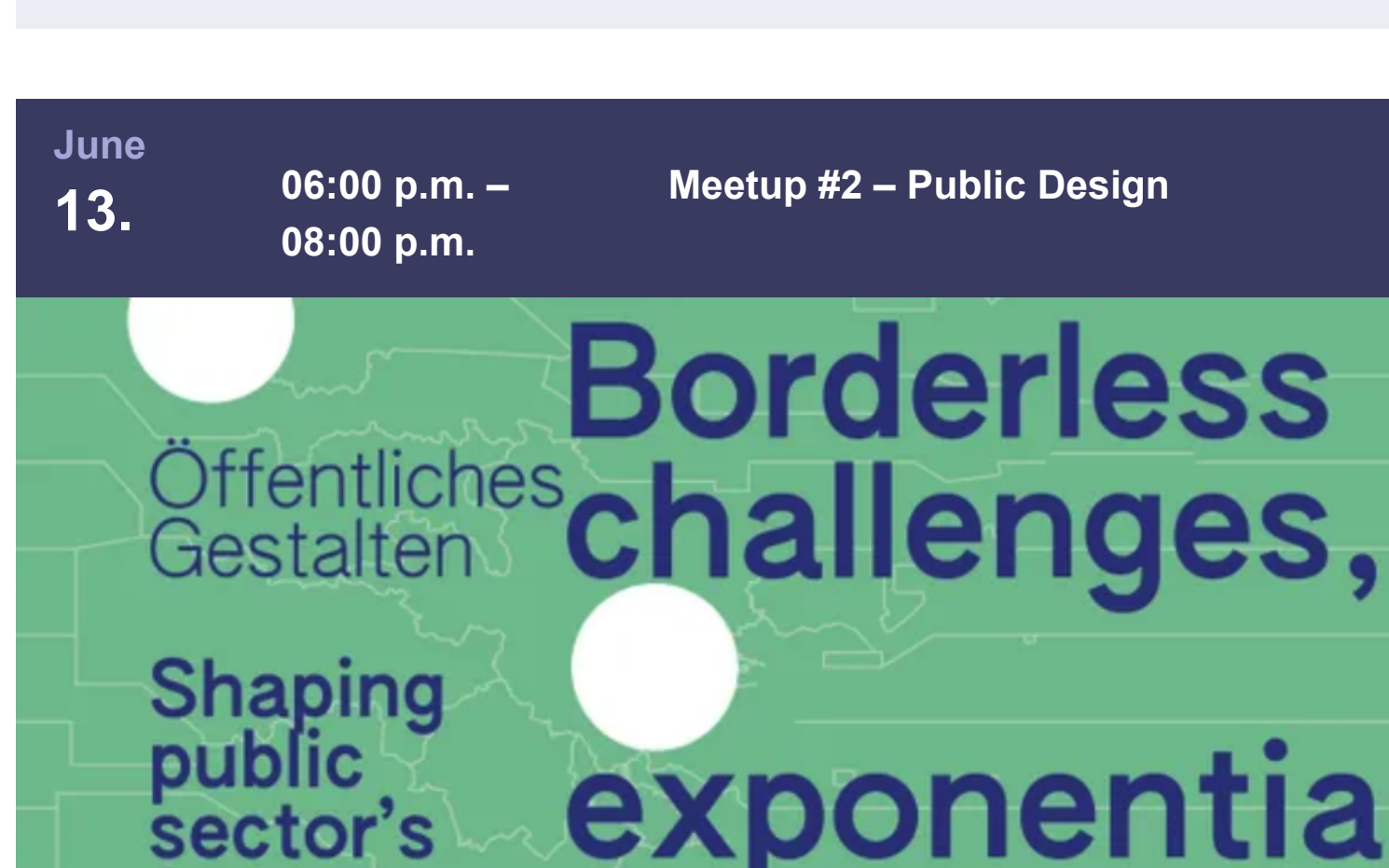
**re:publica** Berlin will take place this year from **5 – June 7** at **Festsaal Kreuzberg** and **Arena Berlin** under the **Motto “CASH”**. The festival for digital society is the largest conference of its kind in Europe. re:publica participants reflect a cross-section of our digital society – including representatives from academia, politics, companies, the hacker scene, NGOs, media and marketing as well as bloggers, activists, artists and social media experts, the Berlin administration, among others, with the **Berlin Labor** – and of course **CityLAB**!

[Find out more](#)



CityLAB’s *Kiezlabor* will be putting on a diverse program of events in front of the **Club der Visionäre** from 5 June 2023. This time, the **Offene Werkstatt** run by **Technologiestiftung** will not be held – as originally planned – at the end of May at CityLAB, but on **8 June** at *Kiezlabor*, outside among the trees. Together with sound artist **Marten Seedorf** of **lev music school**, we’ll be making experimental microphones and going out in search of sounds with them on site at **Club der Visionäre**. We will also be showing you how to use the **software Pure Data** and demonstrating a little graphical programming to build a simple sampler. And who knows, you may even be able to create your very own sound artwork for the first time at the workshop! There’s lots of freedom for creativity and (almost) no limits to the imagination. You can sign up by e-mail here: [bildung@ts.berlin](mailto:bildung@ts.berlin).

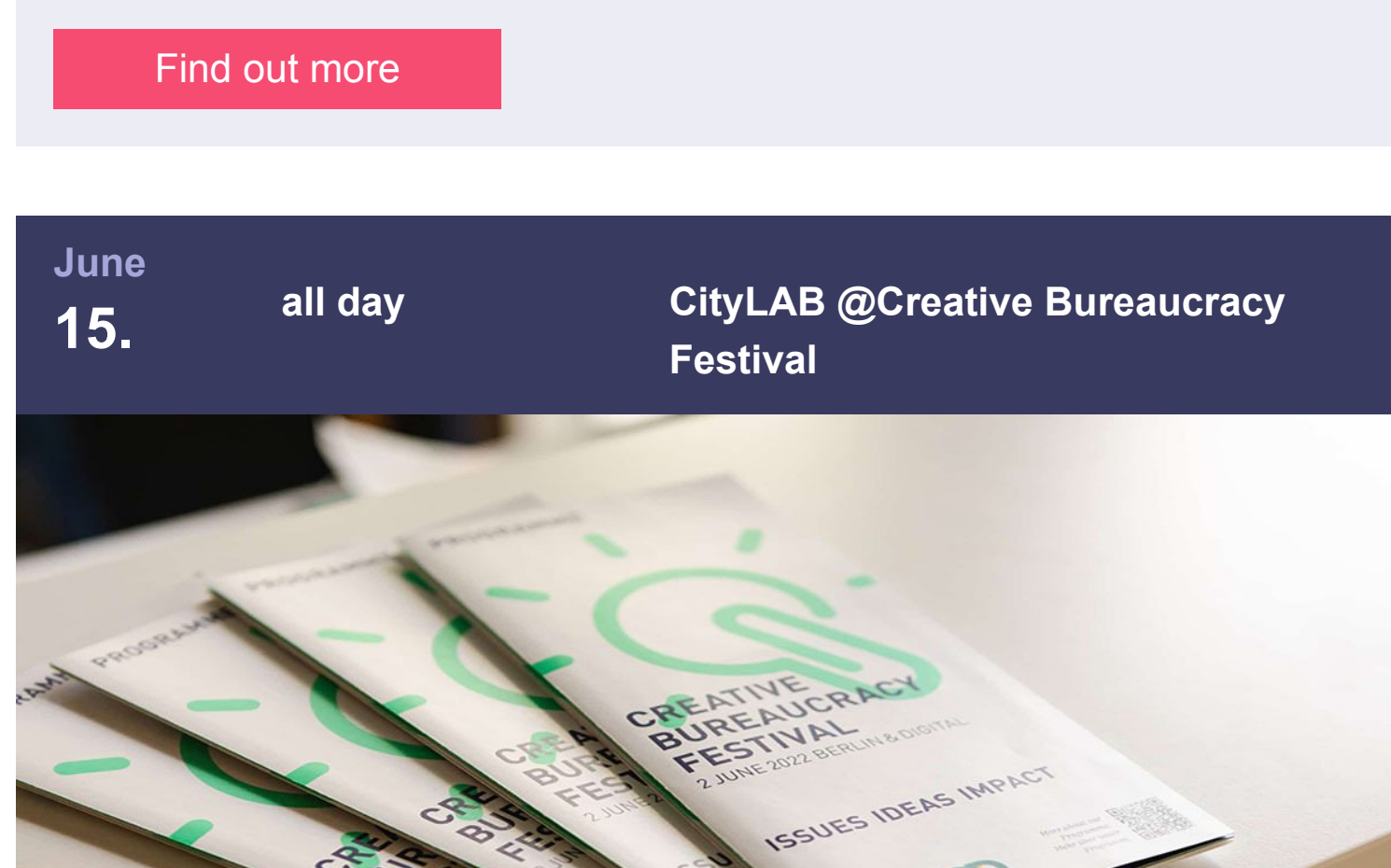
[Find out more](#)



CityLAB Berlin is hosting a **sideline event to the Creative Bureaucracy Festival** on the subject “**Borderless challenges, exponential opportunity**”.

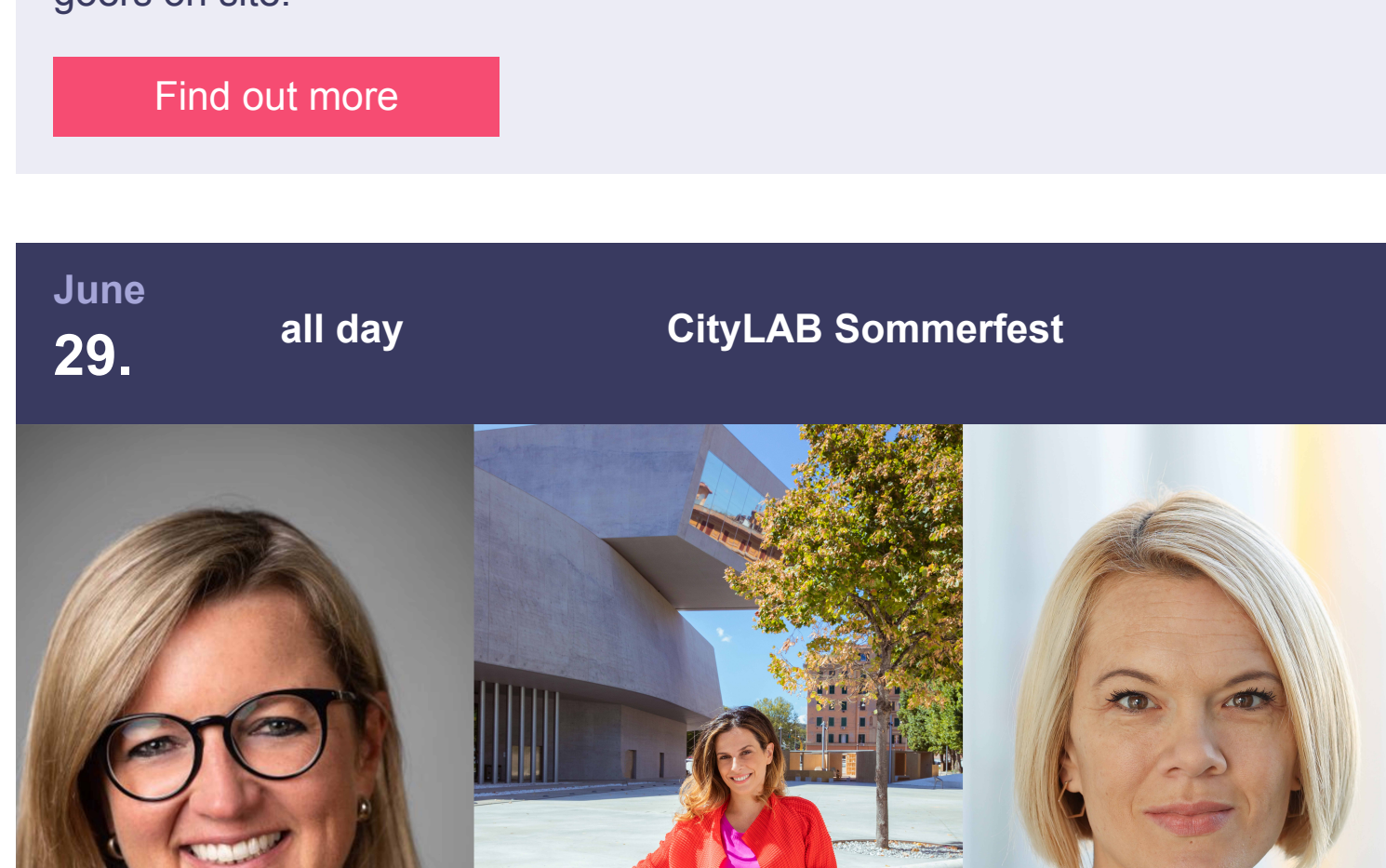
In view of so many international colleagues from governments, administrations, and public sector organizations who are traveling to Berlin for the Creative Bureaucracy Festival, we want to facilitate collaborative dialog to find out how people are shaping the digital transformation in their countries. The speakers from **Cyprus, Estonia, France, Iraq and the United Kingdom** will each be giving a brief presentation about their work. All talks will be held in English. Questions in the subsequent discussion session can be asked in English and/or in German.

[Find out more](#)



Just how experimental and inventive the public sector can be is demonstrated by the **Creative Bureaucracy Festival!** This festival presents ideas that show how and where the administration is already innovative, and also stimuli as to how it can become even more so! From 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on June 15, 2023, there will be a presentation of the pilot project “**Smart Water: Climate-Friendly Water and Urban Green Space Management**” being run as part of the smart city and digital strategy **Gemeinsam Digital: Berlin (GD:B)**, also sharing some initial thoughts on how a smart city project can be successful and what approaches to impact measurement have been developed as part of the GD:B strategy. We can’t wait to exchange ideas with all festival-goers on site!

[Find out more](#)



Waiting for our highlight of the year to come around is the absolute biggest test of our patience! This much can be revealed at this point: panelists will include, **Martina Klement** (CDO Berlin), **Francesca Bria** (The New Institute), **Laura Dornheim** (CDO Munich), **Jutta Lautenschlager** (GovMen), **Björn Unte** (Team Leader IT Processes) and **Prof. Dr Sascha Friesike** (UDK, Weizenbaum Institute), who will be debating with **Dr. Benjamin Seibel** (Director of CityLAB Berlin) on the topic of bureaucracy and how it might be reduced. Fascinating impulses and keynotes will be provided by compelling individuals such as **Frederike Kaltheuner** (Human Rights Watch), **Thomas Ramge** (non-fiction author, science journalist), **Geraldine de Bastion** (Konnektiv/re:publica) and many more. Furthermore there will be again a **LabCamp** – the popular networking format for public innovation labs – and a **prototyping workshop** for beginners where CityLAB developers will guide participants through various formats.

[Find out more](#)

We are ready for the many celebrations in June and hope that you will also respond YES to our invitations everywhere!

Your CityLAB Berlin

Imprint	Contact
Technologiestiftung Berlin Grünwaldstraße 61-62 10825 Berlin USt-ID-Nr.: DE 187 459 128 Foundation register Berlin	+49 30 209 69 99 0 info@citylab-berlin.org Instagram Twitter

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