

## Hello dear CityLAB-Community,

Who would have thought that bears are such busy creatures? Scarcely had we unleashed together with the Senate Chancellery BärGPT on the Berlin administration on November 25th, over 8.000 employees had already registered to gradually tame their new animal companion. We are hugely delighted about the daily growth and hope it is the beginning of a wonderful friendship! But busy bears are not the only reason why we look back, exhausted but happy, on the year that is now drawing to a close: From insights gained during this year's tour with the *Kiezlabor*, a measure of the Smart City strategy *Gemeinsam Digital: Berlin*, to highlights like our *Sommerkonferenz* and milestones such as the "Award for Good Administration" for our cooperation project with the district of Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg, the *Citizens' Office of the Future*: It is – you guessed it – once again time for an impressive retrospective! Our heartfelt thanks go to you: Thank you for the support, the work on joint projects, the knowledge, and the inspiration you shared with us this year!

And here they come: Our LABlights 2025!

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### Spotlight 1



#### Year in Review

### Our 2025 at a glance – scroll through our highlights

Of course, we're ending the year with a visual *BÄM*—our big CityLAB annual review! Looking back isn't just a feast for the eyes; it clearly shows that we were extremely busy in 2025. It was an intense year, but while flipping through the photos for our review, we realized: we mastered it all with a smile. We guarantee that the great LAB vibes will carry over into the new year. So scroll through our highlights—they're sure to put a smile on your face too!

[View the annual review](#)

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### Spotlight 2



#### Smart City / Column

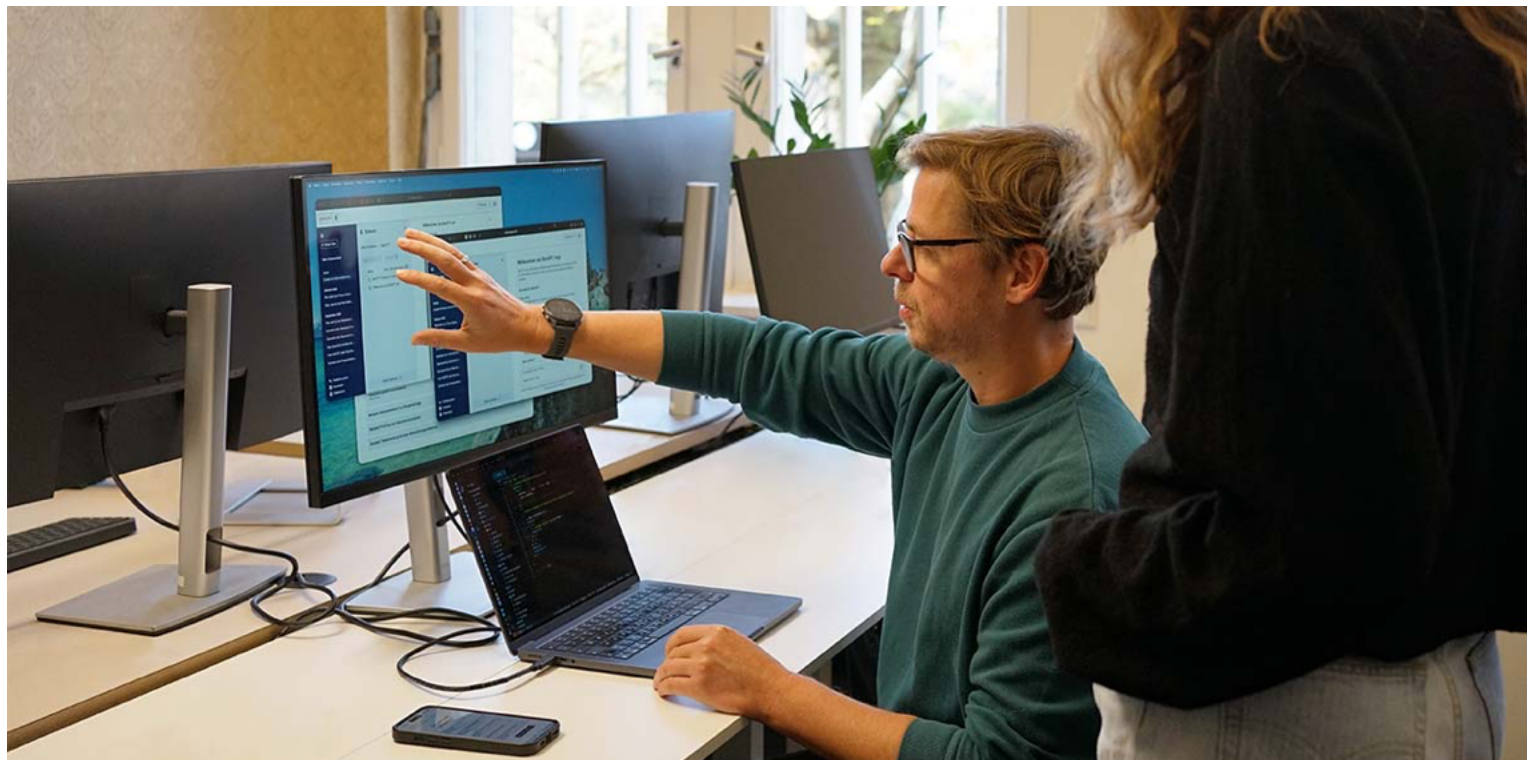
### Stadtgeflüster #8 – What young people want

In our project *AI Training Assistant*, we're developing a chatbot together with young people to help them find the right vocational training. The goal is to make it easier for young adults—who often lack orientation, networks, or a supportive environment—to search for suitable training opportunities. To do this, we also need to give the AI a voice that truly resonates with young people. But what do young people actually expect from a chatbot? Is it enough to make the AI sound like Susanne Daubner, dropping a "slay" or "you get it?" after every input? Unfortunately not. Above all, young people want a space where they aren't "shamed," that is free of prejudice, and where they can ask questions and receive quick, precise answers. What else we discovered in numerous exchange formats is shared by our colleague Deborah Paluch in the final *Stadtgeflüster* column of the year.

[Read the column](#)

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### Spotlight 3



#### BärGPT / Blog

### Why BärGPT was developed in-house with the Senate Chancellery

Why does our bear go its own way? Thousands of employees are already using our AI assistant, and we've received lots of positive feedback. At the same time, a lively debate has emerged about the decision to develop it in-house. Why doesn't Berlin simply rely on existing solutions from other federal states? Our Head of *BärGPT* Development, Ingo Hinterding, puts this discussion into context and explains why reality is more complex than it seems. Find out how innovation, federalism, and practical administrative work are connected in the blog post.

[Read the blogpost](#)

### Looking ahead

**Our New Year's resolutions? To keep experimenting, connecting, listening, learning, developing, and implementing. Your New Year's resolution? Enjoy the CityLAB newsletter every month. That way, we'll all be ready for a fantastic 2026!**

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