

Mr. Kai Wegner
Governing Mayor of Berlin
Jüdenstraße 1
10178 Berlin

Brussels, November 15, 2024

Dear Governing Mayor Wegner,

Re: Proposed Drastic Cuts to Berlin's Cultural Budget

The International Federation of Actors (FIA) is a global union federation representing performers' trade unions, guilds, and professional associations in over sixty countries, including GDBA, BFFS, VdO, and Ver.di in Germany. In a connected world of content and entertainment, it stands for fair social, economic and moral rights for audiovisual performers working in all recorded media and in live theatre, and their fundamental right to tell their stories.

We are writing to convey our deep concern about the proposed drastic cuts to Berlin's cultural budget. A reduction of up to 10% in 2025 and 2026 would have serious and far-reaching consequences for the city's cultural landscape, its economy, and its communities.

Currently, culture represents only 2.1% of Berlin's overall public budget. Slashing this already modest amount by up to €140 million would disproportionately impact the cultural sector, which employs 8.2% of the city's population.

These cuts would not only threaten the livelihoods of those working in the arts but also undermine Berlin's identity as a global cultural hub: Berlin's vibrant arts scene is a cornerstone of its economy, fundamental to its social cohesion and its international appeal, attracting millions of tourists annually and supporting sectors such as hospitality and retail.

We urge you to reconsider these proposed cuts and ensure that Berlin continues to nurture its world-renowned cultural sector, which is essential for the well-being of its people and its global reputation.

Your sincerely,



Dominick Luquer
General Secretary