



The Checkpoint Charlie Foundation, Berlin

## DIVERSITY AND TOLERANCE IN BERLIN: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

An educational program in Berlin for Los Angeles (L.A. and L.A. county) area school teachers, organized by the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation in partnership with the Museum of Tolerance as part of the Berlin—L.A. sister city relationship.

**This intensive program runs from June 21, 2020 to June 30, 2020** and it is intended to help teachers gain insight into the cultural, political, social and economic factors that defined the life of German society during the first half of the 20th century (the Third Reich, WWII, Holocaust). It also brings them into contact with the vibrant diversity, including a growing Jewish community, in today's Berlin, L.A.'s German sister city.

The program includes educational visits to historic sites in and around Berlin that tell about the city's history in the 1930s through the 1940s. Throughout the week, participants also meet with eyewitnesses and survivors of the Nazi persecutions, representatives of the Berlin city government, and distinguished members of Berlin's contemporary community, giving the program a unique quality all its own.

**“Everything and everyone were well prepared, knowledgeable and caring...this trip was the highlight of a lifetime. FANTASTIC!”**

(Jared B., 2017)



Every year, Berlin's Carnival of Cultures celebrates social diversity

## **Goals of the Program**

This educational program specifically created for Los Angeles area educators aims at the following:

- ✓ To provide insight into the many cultural, social, political, and economic factors that resulted in the establishment of the Third Reich in Germany;
- ✓ To reflect on the use and abuse of power and the roles and responsibilities of individuals, organizations, and nations when confronted with injustice;
- ✓ To create an understanding of the roots and ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotypes while promoting acceptance of diversity in a pluralistic society;
- ✓ To advance knowledge and education in area schools about the Holocaust and present-day Jewish life in Germany;
- ✓ To deepen educators' personal knowledge and strengthen their ability to discuss politically-driven persecutions with their students;
- ✓ To help provide insight into how contemporary societies attempt to come to terms with serious crimes against humanity;
- ✓ To promote mutual understanding and contact between Berlin and its American sister city Los Angeles.

**“The visit to the former SA prison and talk with Mrs. N. about her research on her father was incredibly powerful. The perspective from someone who was deceived her whole life is something special, and her personality and her willingness to share left a lasting impact with me.”**

**(Grant K., 2015)**



## **About the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation**

The Checkpoint Charlie Foundation is a non-partisan, non-profit German foundation serving the public interest. Following the withdrawal of American forces from Berlin in 1994, the Berlin legislature created the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation, entrusting it with the responsibility to foster German-American relations in Berlin.

Since then, the foundation has funded or implemented over 730 German-American projects costing over two million Euros. We not only administer the largest teacher exchange program between Germany and the United States but are also responsible for organizing Berlin's non-governmental activities with its American sister city, Los Angeles.



**Participants meet with representatives of minority communities in Germany**



## Organization of the Program

- ✓ This program is not only distinguished by its goals, but also by how it is planned and run.
- ✓ The program is organized by a German organization with years of experience in teacher enrichment and exchanges with the US. You get an insider's perspective, yet still geared to an American audience.
- ✓ Program organizers have over 20 years of experience organizing high-level educational and cultural programs. No stone goes unturned and no question goes unanswered – although the answer may surprise you.
- ✓ Participants do not just visit the well-known sites such as Sachsenhausen and the Jewish Museum, but also to lesser-known, sometimes “invisible” places and grassroots memorials.
- ✓ The program includes many personal meetings with scholars, eyewitnesses, survivors and even perpetrators of persecutions and injustice. Such meetings will deepen your understanding of the sites you visit and the topics connected to them.

## Keep in Mind that...

- ✓ This is a **10-day intensive program with no days off in between**. We ask that all participants take part in the scheduled events, be on time, and stick with the group. You will have time to explore the city before or after the program.
- ✓ Program includes **a lot of walking**. Participants must be in good physical shape — able to walk about five miles a day and climb stairs. Air conditioning is uncommon in Germany, but temperatures rarely exceed 85F.
- ✓ **Trigger warning:** It is to be expected that, at times, the program can be an emotional experience.
- ✓ You can extend your stay in Berlin, however, friends and family are welcome to join you **after the program has finished**. You will be responsible for all additional costs when extending your stay.
- ✓ Germany is a safe place. The crime rate is much lower than in the US.

**“How can I thank you for such a phenomenal opportunity? I think Otto Frank says it best:**

***‘There are no walls, no bolts, and no locks that anyone can put on your mind.’***

**I believe the instruction I am now better equipped to provide will remove ‘walls, bolts, and locks.’”**

**(Tonia L., 2015)**



Track 17, from which thousands of Berlin Jews were deported

## **Program Information**

Dates: **June 21, 2020** (depart the US on June 20) – June 30, 2020

Number of participants: **6**

LAUSD salary points:

**This program has been approved by the Los Angeles United School District as a special course #NA-19-43; eligible participants can receive up to 2 salary points.**

Accommodation: **3-star hotel in central Berlin, single occupancy.**

Costs: **Lodging, breakfast, some meals, public transportation pass and cultural program costs are provided free of charge. However, participants have to organize and pay for their travel to and from Berlin and pay for any incidentals during your stay there.**

## **Eligibility Requirements**

**Applicants must be classroom teachers in Los Angeles County who teach the Holocaust and incorporate the themes of diversity and tolerance in their curriculum.**

**History and civics teachers preferred.**

**Educators who plan to retire within three years after completion of this program are not eligible to apply.**

**No German language skills are necessary.**

**Participants must be physically and emotionally able to complete the program.**

## **Application Procedure**

**THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 28, 2020**

**Applications must be received by February 28th.**

**Applicants will be informed by **March 23, 2020** if they have been accepted.**

**Please email completed applications and a current resume or CV to:**  
**[educators@museumoftolerance.com](mailto:educators@museumoftolerance.com)**

**Applications can also be completed and submitted online at**  
**[www.museumoftolerance.com/BerlinSummerProgram2020](http://www.museumoftolerance.com/BerlinSummerProgram2020)**