

Lernort Keibelstraße

In the former remand prison of the German Democratic Republic (GDR)

Between 1951 and 1990 a remand prison (UHA II) was located at Keibelstraße in Berlin-Mitte. It was attached to the neighbouring headquarter of the “Volkspolizei”, the east german police force. The former prison gives a lucid example how an authoritarian system dealt with individuals and how arbitrary measures of state repression were exerted. For many prisoners it marked the beginning of an odyssey through further prisons of the GDR. The UHA II at Keibelstraße was the only East Berlin remand prison of the „Volkspolizei“, in which women were also incarcerated. From 1990, film and music producers used the lower floors of the former prison as a scenery. The modernized cells on the sixth floor served as police custody and as a center for the deportation of asylum seekers from 1992 to 1996.

Opened in February 2019, Lernort Keibelstraße (“Learning Site Keibelstraße”) is a institution one of it's kind in the educational spectrum of Berlin. We have developed media supported workshops for interactive learning in a unique historic site. Visitors will learn who was imprisoned in the UHA II, how daily life in the UHA was organised, the conditions under which the inmates were imprisoned, as well as the theory, objectives and general conditions of the prison system of communist east-germany. This provides important insights in the power structures of the GDR and it's legal system.

The workshops at the Lernort are conceived for pupils of all school-types from ninth grade on and for extracurricular learning groups (age 14+). The learning workshops vary in terms of time and content. Once a month we offer a one-hour public guided tour. For teachers, seminar groups and students, we offer further training and seminars on our educational work. Beyond these offers, the Lernort is not open to the public. You will find an overview of all offers, dates and further information on the above-mentioned offers on our website.

The Agency for Historical, Civic and Media Education was commissioned in 2018 by the Senate Administration for Education, Youth and Family to develop and operate the Lernort Keibelstraße.

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