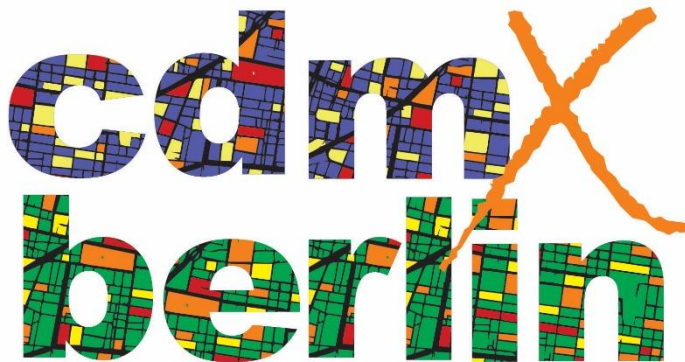


cdmXberlin

Final Project Report

English



MAY 3, 2019

cdmXberlin

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Project summary (English)

Finding the best of two cities

2018 marked the 25th anniversary of Berlin and Mexico City (CDMX) being partner cities. The project cdmXberlin sought to celebrate this anniversary by asking residents of both cities for their favourite places and combining them into a fictitious third city, the best of two worlds. This explains the project name: a multiplication of Berlin and CDMX. The results were displayed in two exhibitions, one in each city, and are still visible in the digital version of this exhibition.

At the same time, cdmXberlin looked at similarities between both cities, some of which are depicted in this collage:



With the kind support of GIZ México, the German Embassy and some media outlets, as well as my intern Maria José, and inspired by the presence of two very similar golden angel statues in both cities, I developed a project idea based on these two partner cities.

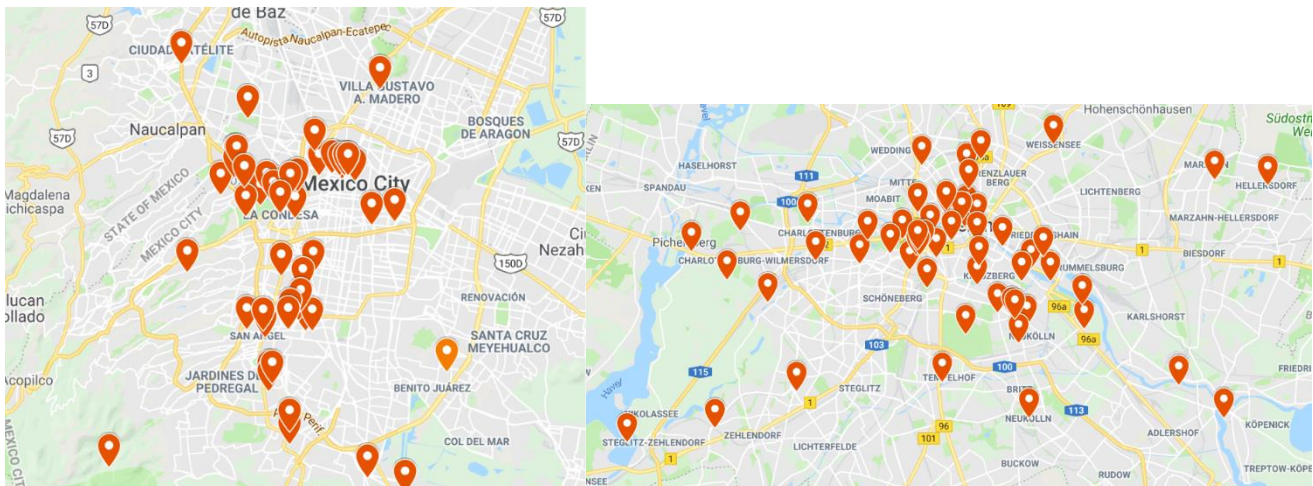
The idea was to collect the favourite places of Berliners and “chilangos” (Mexico City inhabitants) and combining them into a fictitious third city, thus creating an urban utopia that would be the best of two worlds. Answers were collected via Google surveys, facebook replies, many personal recommendations, Instagram interactions as well as two school projects.

Overall, cdmXberlin received more than 1,000 replies to the question **“What is your favourite place in your city?”**.

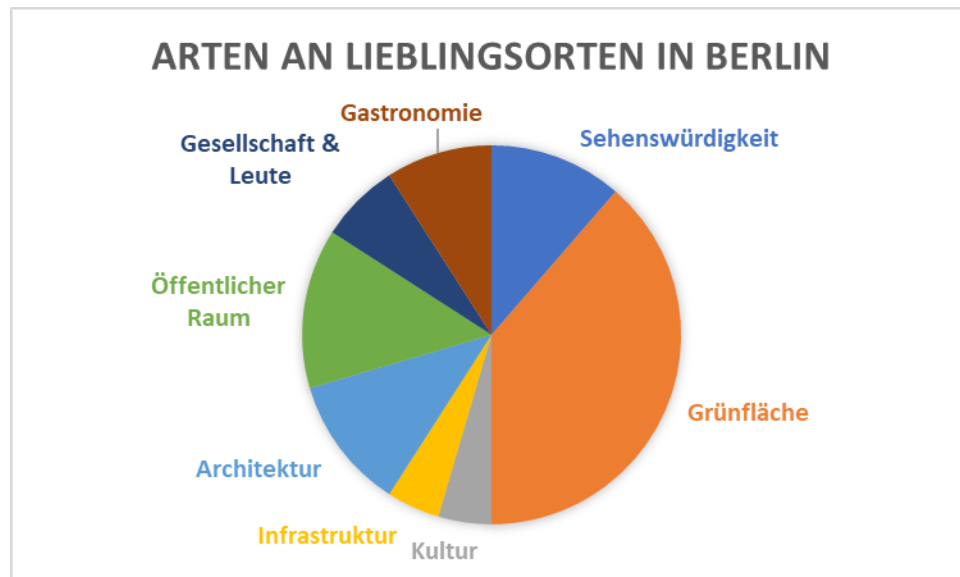
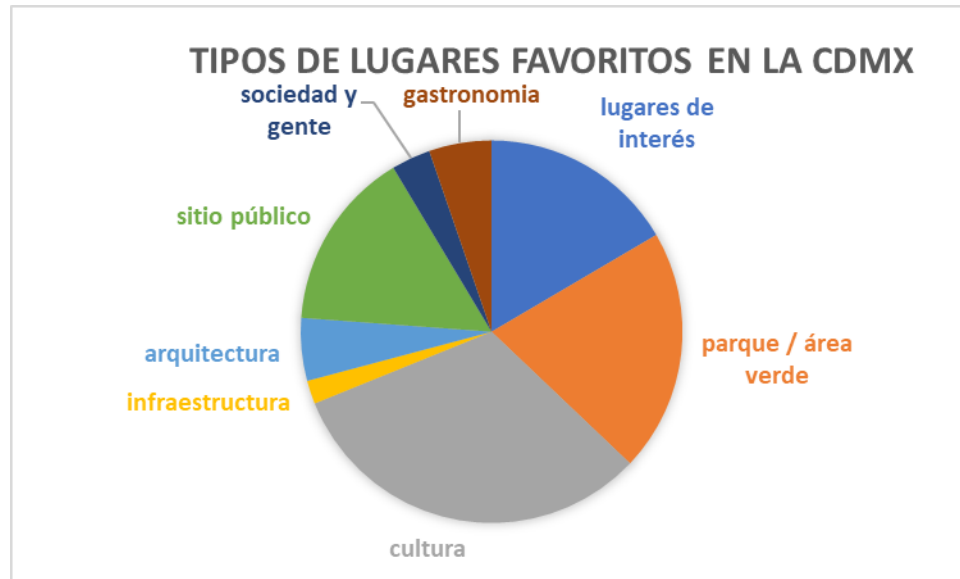
You can have a look at the recommendations in these interactive maps:

[Click for Mexico City](#)

[Click for Berlin](#)



The replies via the Google survey and various other channels were broken down into various categories:



This shows that green space, public space, culture and sights are important to citizens of both cities.

In Berlin as well as in Mexico City, cdmXberlin cooperated with school classes and asked them to build a combination of Berlin and Mexico City, based on their own favourite places. This was particularly interesting, because the children approached this task very creatively. The 6th-graders in Berlin (ages 11-12) immediately constructed a gigantic and fantastic city with elements such as a water amusement park, a shopping street, an underwater restaurant and a trampoline park as well as various cinemas.



The 11th-graders in Mexico City (ages 16-18) approached the task from a rather architectural and logical point of view, resulting in an orderly, yet still utopian city. Interestingly, they created the perfect garden city without knowing what that is!



The students of both schools immediately recognised some very important similarities between both cities:

- ✚ Green space
- ✚ Good transportation service
- ✚ Museums and culture
- ✚ Identity-creating landmarks

They also focused on things they miss in their cities. In both cases, they want more space for pedestrians and cyclists, taking the decision to create a completely car-free city. More green space and additional blue space (especially in Mexico City) played a big role, too.

The results of the project were published in two exhibitions, one at the German Basar in Mexico City on December 2, 2018 and one at the Creative House Fischerinsel, Berlin, on January 11, 2019. Both exhibitions attracted many visitors from both countries as well as those interested in the other culture. The exhibition can also be found online [here](#).



Exhibition in Mexico City



Exhibition in Berlin

Also, there was an advent calendar on Instagram. To browse many more results and find secret spots and recommendations, have a look at the [cdmXberlin Instagram account](#).

If you want to read some newspaper coverage in German or Spanish, see here:

- ✚ [Senatskanzlei Berlin](#)
- ✚ [GIZ México](#)
- ✚ [Embajada Alemana Ciudad de México](#)
- ✚ [Checkpoint-Newsletter / tagesspiegel Berlin \(25. Mai 2018\)](#)
- ✚ [Checkpoint-Newsletter / tagesspiegel Berlin \(3. September 2018\)](#)
- ✚ [Deutsche Mexiko-Zeitung](#)
- ✚ [Chilango.com](#)
- ✚ [Berliner Abendblatt](#)
- ✚ [Mexikath.net](#)
- ✚ [MXCITY Guía Insider](#)
- ✚ [mitt. Revista Bilingüe/Zweisprachiges Magazin \(Januar 2019\)](#)
- ✚ [Campus.Leben Freie Universität Berlin \(15. März 2019\)](#)



And finally, these are the top 10 places in both cities, according to all survey results:

Mexico City:

- ✚ Chapultepec Park
- ✚ Chapultepec Castle
- ✚ Palacio de Bellas Artes
- ✚ Coyoacán neighbourhood
- ✚ UNAM University
- ✚ El Ángel de la Independencia
- ✚ Cineteca Nacional
- ✚ Torre Latinoamericana
- ✚ Mercado Jamaica
- ✚ Biblioteca Vasconcelos



Berlin:

- ✚ Tempelhofer Feld Park
- ✚ Reichstag (Parliament Building)
- ✚ Kreuzberg neighbourhoods
- ✚ Neukölln Town Hall and rooftop bar Klunkerkranich
- ✚ River Spree and its embankments
- ✚ Brandenburg Gate
- ✚ Prinzessinnengarten urban gardens
- ✚ Gleisdreieck Park
- ✚ Lakes
- ✚ Tiergarten Park



To sum it up, what are the take-aways of cdmXberlin?

- 1) Tapping into the pride of citizens is a great way to incentivise participation.
- 2) Participating via social media is much more attractive than via a standard survey online.
- 3) Children have the best ideas and the clearest insights for city planning!
- 4) There are many similarities and similar challenges between Berlin and Mexico City and the cities should learn from each other.
- 5) Partner city programmes, which are often considered to be a souvenir from the 1990s and 2000s, do still serve an important point. They can be used for mutual learning and participation.
- 6) Public space, green space and sights are popular places in both cities. Citizens are especially proud of the cultural offer in Mexico City, whereas in Berlin green space is the most important category.

Thank you for following this project and for participating! You can still use the hashtag #cdmxberlin on Instagram and Facebook to add new favourite places or ideas, even though the surveys are now closed. Visit www.cdmxberlin.org or read more about my city projects at www.parcitypatory.org.

