

Dear Mr. Roth,

We congratulate you as the new owner of "Clärchens Ballhaus". You now have the rare opportunity to preserve something special and steer it safely into the future. We ask that you too - like Gisa and Hans-Joachim Sander over the past fourteen years - place your trust in the current owners. By purchasing the building at that time and deciding not to subordinate the management of the property to profit maximization, the Sanders became part of the cultural history of this venue. They have thus helped to write a chapter of Berlin cultural history. Mr. Roth, you too have the opportunity to write the next chapter in this spirit!

Ordinary, everyday people, including neighbours, artists, architects, curators, writers, journalists, actors, directors, but also galleries, law firms, small companies and large corporations have celebrated their successes, anniversaries, birthdays and weddings here, or thrown a party just for the sake of it. An endless number of people met each other for the first time right here, kissed for the first time while dancing at "Clärchens" and fell in love forever - Berlin and the world would miss this place!

The end of "Clärchens Ballhaus" in its present form would be tantamount to an amputation - we would all feel the loss almost physically.

"Clärchens Ballhaus" was opened in 1913 and survived two world wars, the Third Reich and the division of Germany. Thanks to the sensitive management of its current operators, "Clärchens Ballhaus", together with its adjacent Hall of Mirrors, is now considered a keystone in the new centre of Berlin with its galleries, collections, art institutions, restaurants, cafés and international appeal.

We ask that you place the same trust in the current operators of the Ballhaus as the previous owners, and maintain the establishment with their help. Please make use of their experience with monument protection and licensing authorities over the past fourteen years.

Save this special place! "Clärchens Ballhaus" is one of the few functioning institutions that has not been thwarted by the administrative bodies responsible for Berlin-Mitte.

"Clärchens Ballhaus" is the strong, old heart of Mitte. Please make sure it keeps beating for everyone!

The undersigned on www.Berlin-for-Claerchens.de