

## Dr Ulrike Lorenz and Prof. Dr Christoph Vogtherr elected as new spokespersons of the Conference of National Cultural Institutions (KNK)

Weimar, 27 September 2021

At its 2021 general assembly, the Conference of National Cultural Institutions (KNK) unanimously elected two new spokespersons in a function appointed on a rotational basis: Dr Ulrike Lorenz, president of the Klassik Stiftung Weimar and Prof. Dr Christoph Martin Vogtherr, general director of the Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation Berlin-Brandenburg. They replace the previous speakers Dr Olaf Thormann, director of the GRASSI Museum of Applied Art in Leipzig and Thomas Bauer-Friedrich, director of the Kunstmuseum Moritzburg Halle (Saale).

The KNK is an interest group of equal partners, comprised of 23 nationally significant cultural institutions of varying size and orientation in the eastern German states. It serves as a platform for communicating shared interests and objectives to political decision-makers. Its strength lies in the heterogeneity of its participating member institutions and their respective areas of competence. It has developed and carried out a number of innovative projects, such as the SiLK Cultural Asset Protection Guidelines on catastrophe prevention and the security of cultural assets, and the projects "Audience Development" and "Perspectives of Eastern German Collections".

Dr Ulrike Lorenz and Prof. Dr Christoph Martin Vogtherr intend to strategically reposition the KNK in the coming years. "The challenges of the transformation process in the cultural sector can only be surmounted by working together," says Christoph Vogtherr. "This includes promoting cultural integration through the empowerment of participation and developing common basic values that will take our cultural heritage into the next century." In the context of reassessing the societal function and role of culture, the new spokespersons will focus on the major themes of transformation today and publicise innovations developed in the "cultural laboratory" of eastern Germany. With the unanimous election of its new spokeswoman and spokesman, the KNK general assembly has signalled its approval with one of the central points of the renewal agenda. A multi-step process is planned to expand and sharpen the profile of the pan-German Conference of National Cultural Institutions. "What we are focussed on now," explains Ulrike Lorenz "is safeguarding the viability and social relevance of the KNK on a nationwide basis."

### Press information:

Andrea Dietrich  
Konferenz Nationaler Kultureinrichtungen (KNK)  
c/o Klassik Stiftung Weimar  
Burgplatz 4, 99423 Weimar  
andrea.dietrich@konferenzkultur.de