



## **Next Level: re:publica, Europe's largest conference on digital and social topics, is going to Accra, Ghana, after a successful kick-off to the Sequencer Tour in LA**

+++ re:publica heralded the start of the Sequencer Tour with a conference programme in LA +++ Transatlantic dialogue on digital topics with 35 international speakers +++ Sequencer Tour will visit four additional American cities in 2019 as a flagship project for the 'Deutschlandjahr USA' +++ The first re:publica in Ghana will be taking place on 14 & 15 December 2018 under the motto NEXT LEVEL +++

**Berlin, 22 November 2018** – On 5 November 2018, re:publica – Europe's largest conference on the topics of the internet and digital society – realised a programme in the United States for the first time as part of the Sequencer Tour. The worldwide community could watch the European and American speakers in LA via live streaming, including biohacker and transhumanist Rich Lee, internet political activist and journalist Markus Beckedahl (netzpolitik.org) and author and human rights advocate Clemantine Wamariya. Despite the different thematic focuses, there was one thing that all 35 speakers agreed on: digitisation continues unabated yet offers immense opportunities, especially when the dialogue takes place across continents – today more than ever. "Digitisation isn't just a topic for businesses," says Andreas Görden, who heads the Directorate-General for Culture and Communication at Germany's Federal Foreign Office. "In cooperation with re:publica, societies should be invited to discuss and deal with it across international boundaries." Germany's leading digital, music and media platform is taking a trip to the United States with the Sequencer Tour. As part of **Germany Year USA** ('Deutschlandjahr USA') - sponsored by the Federal Foreign Office, realised by the Goethe Institute and supported by the Federation of German Industries (BDI) – the event partners, re:publica, the Reeperbahn Festival, and next media accelerator, will be realising four additional events in the United States as part of the Sequencer Tour. The kick-off in Los Angeles will be followed in 2019 by Austin in March, New York City in June, Portland later in the summer and Detroit in the fall. Find some of the highlights of the re:publica conference programme in pictures [here](#) and in moving pictures [here](#).

### **Next Level!**

After the successful US kick-off, re:publica will be heading to West Africa later this year under the motto of NEXT LEVEL: from 14 to 15 December 2018, the re:publica Accra is taking place in Ghana at the "Round Pavilion at the Trade Fair". The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is the main partner of the first re:publica on the African continent. Under the topic 'Tech for Good', the BMZ also presents inspiring sessions in which it discusses how digital technologies with innovative solutions can contribute to mastering global challenges. One of the keynote speakers we were able to engage is author Nanjala Nyabola (in-

cluding *Africa's Media Image in the 21st Century*), who will be speaking about the limits of technology in her talk "What Technology Can't Fix". Mozilla Foundation Executive Director Mark Surman will be in dialogue with other high-profile participants on a panel about internet access. The architect and anthropologist Sénamé Koffi Agbodjinou, initiator of the platform "L'Africaine d'architecture" and founder of WoeLab, is speaking at the re:publica Accra about "Future Cities". A multifaceted evening programme connects artistic perspectives with digital topics – and across continents at that. Presentations include the internationally renowned artist Kudzanai Chiurai from Zimbabwe and a screening of *We Live in Silence* with a live soundtrack by the award-winning musician M.anifest, who's been described by *The Guardian* (UK) amongst others as "the foremost rapper on the continent". Andreas Gebhard, co-founder and CEO of re:publica GmbH, says, "The re:publica is an event for digital society. It's global and thus international! But I say that without wishing to ignore regional differences. How can we work together to shape and design the digital society when regional differences create very different framework conditions for it? Whether in Berlin, Los Angeles or Accra, re:publica creates space for dialogue and exchange between equals. I'm very pleased that we can now create these spaces on three continents."

**Tickets for the re:publica Accra** are available for less than 6.50 US-Dollars/33 Ghana Cedi for both days of the conference with our partner [eGotickets](#).

You can find **additional programme highlights** for the re:publica Accra [here](#).

**Press accreditation** for the re:publica Accra at: [julia.rommel@re-publica.com](mailto:julia.rommel@re-publica.com)

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### **About re:publica:**

re:publica is Europe's biggest conference on internet and digital society. Here, bloggers cross paths with politicians, scientists meet entrepreneurs, artists meet activists. More than 19,500 people from 80 countries came together at re:publica 18 over the course of the three-day conference in Berlin to discuss current questions about digital society. The next edition of re:publica will take place from May 6 – 8, 2019, in Berlin. In addition, re:publica will host the topic „Future & Innovation“ at this years street festival alongside Day of German Unity, October 1-3, 2018. As a strategic partner of the "Deutschlandjahr USA" it will put on five events in the United States. From December 14-15, 2018 re:publica will be launched for the first time on African soil in Accra, the capital of Ghana. The shareholders of re:publica GmbH, newthinking communications and Spreeblick Verlag have been actively engaged in the areas of network politics, digital culture and digital society for over a decade.

[www.re-publica.com/en](http://www.re-publica.com/en)

## **About The Year of German-American Friendship (“Deutschlandjahr USA”):**

On October 3rd, 2018 we will start our year-long initiative throughout the entire U.S. Featuring hundreds of events and exhibits in the fields of politics, culture, education, science, business, and industry. In cooperation with over 300 partners, we will showcase how closely our countries are linked through deep historical ties, shared values, and bold visions for the future. We will explore our partnerships in all areas of society – ranging from business and industry to politics, education, culture, science, civil society, and sports and lifestyle. The initiative aims to convey a multifaceted, modern image of Germany and the U.S., believing that we are „Wunderbartogether“. The Year of German-American Friendship (“Deutschlandjahr USA”) is a comprehensive and collaborative initiative funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, implemented by the Goethe-Institut, and with support from the Federation of German Industries (BDI).

[www.wunderbartogether.org](http://www.wunderbartogether.org)

## **About BMZ:**

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) coordinates the German development cooperation. The BMZ supports at the moment about 450 digital projects in almost 90 countries worldwide. Through Initiatives such as “Digital Africa” BMZ provides about 100 Million Euros funding to digital projects. In the digital sector BMZ focuses currently on: building digital centers to foster sustainable development; applying technological innovation for sustainable development; on fostering public private partnership with the digital economy.

[www.bmz.de/en](http://www.bmz.de/en)

## **For more information, images and media contacts:**

Julia Rommel

Communication Manager International

[julia.rommel@re-publica.com](mailto:julia.rommel@re-publica.com)

+49 152 59 53 79 30

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sequencertour/>

Instagram: [http://instagram.com/re\\_publica/](http://instagram.com/re_publica/)

YouTube: <http://youtube.com/user/republica2010>

Flickr: <http://flickr.com/photos/re-publica/>

LinkedIn: <http://linkedin.com/groups/4092114>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/SequencerTour>