

MÜNCHEN

MINI-MUNICH THE CHILDREN'S CITY

August/1-19/2022

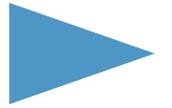


Every other year during the summer holidays, a miniature city appears in Munich. Brought to life by 2000 children every day, Mini-Munich is a playful interpretation of urban life at large. Children between 7 and 15 years of age produce goods and offer services, earn money and pay taxes, hold elections and vote on rules and laws. Mini-Munich has its own university, TV and radio stations as well as a daily newspaper. The young citizens put on plays and parties, welcome international guests and operate a public transport network, postal and waste collection services.

An educational project devised in the 1970s, Mini-Munich is now the largest summer holiday programme in Munich and has attracted attention and visitors from far beyond Bavaria. It follows a simple principle: the play-city represent aspects of genuine urban life, organised in such a way as to make them accessible to children. The structural elements of a city, its institutions, spatial arrange-

ments, its people and their roles in everyday life are depicted and enacted on a smaller scale. They give rise to a highly complex game with thousands of participants. The realities of the large surrounding city and its miniature counterpart become entangled by the work of the children's imagination. The productive exchange between these two realities – children's play and city life, so often kept strictly apart – is what makes the pedagogical approach of children's cities unique. The result is an open learning environment in which the acquisition of knowledge and skills goes hand in hand with fun and fascination, and the possibilities for new experiences are vast.

It is up to the children to decide how they wish to participate, what they choose to do and how long they stay. Entry to Mini-Munich is free and requires no prior registration.



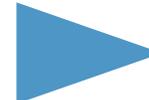
MINI-MUNICH 2022: THE CHILDREN'S CITY RE-UNITED

In 2020, when the pandemic made a gathering of thousands of young citizens impossible, **Mini-Munich was divided into smaller districts** and spread out across the city, in parks and public institutions including the city hall. The districts were connected by courier services, a telephone network and a new web application developed by former citizens of Mini-Munich. This year, as had originally been the plan in 2020, Mini-Munich will take place on the vast grounds of the Showpalast, a theme park that used to be home to dozens of horses located in the north of Munich, next to the Allianz-Arena.

This year, too, Mini-Munich will claim a space in the heart of the old town. A fifteen minute journey on the underground connects the miniature city to Munich's city hall, which will serve as an assembly hall and courtroom to the children and a "play-city portal" enables the game to spill out onto the main square

of Munich. Indeed, the children of Mini-Munich have been running their own town planning office in Munich's city hall since April, making and implementing their own plans for their city and liaising with politicians, businesses and supporters.

The telephones and web application too have been retained, with further young people joining development and creating a Mini-Munich app that will allow children to do online banking, watch Mini-Munich's tv and read the newspaper on their phones. Thus spurred on by its young citizens and recent graduates, the play-city is rapidly adapting to the digital age. A new institution in Mini-Munich, the Agency for Digitisation, will allow children to experiment with coding and explore the uses and challenges that modern information technology presents for their own little city.



Mini-Munich is made possible by public funding from the City of Munich as well private sponsors and supporters, ensuring that Mini-Munich remains free and accessible to all children, irrespective of financial means and social background. Around 40 partner organisations and institutions are actively involved in enriching the programme, and children from three other play-cities in Germany and Austria will be welcomed on "diplomatic" visits. During the three weeks, the Mini-Munich ambassadors will be in touch, via letter or video call, with children from many more play-cities – there are now more than three hundred similar projects all around the world.



Mini-Munich is organised by
Kultur & Spielraum e.V. München
www.kulturundspielraum.de

for the City of Munich, department of
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