Press Release: Second CSD Lautre on September 26th, 2026

“Lautre is louder than hate!”: CSD Lautre grows into a festival



Drag Queen Michelle de la Rose © Kirill 0ldshutterhand

A march, festival, and literary celebration stand as a symbol of diversity and democracy

Following last year’s successful debut, CSD Lautre returns for its second edition on Saturday, September 26, 2026. In 2025, approximately 3,000 visitors gathered at Schillerplatz throughout the day. This year, the city center will once again transform into a hub for diversity, visibility, and connection. The second CSD Lautre brings together two major event worlds: At Schillerplatz, participants can expect a full-day stage program featuring plenty of music, discussions, information booths, and political insights. At the same time, the “Buch, Wort & Lautern – Das Unerhörte Literaturfest” (Book, Word & Lautern – The outrageous Literature Festival) will take place for the first time in the Fruchthalle, combining literature, art, and social dialogue.

With the motto “Lautre is louder than hate!” the event, together with the statewide CSD motto “Courageous. Loud. Self-determined,” sends a message that is fitting for our times. In addition to the demonstration, an all-day stage program, political discussions, art, and culture at the Schillerplatz, visitors can look forward to another highlight at the Fruchthalle: “Buch, Wort & Lautern – The outrageous Literature Festival of the Pfalz” will be taking place simultaneously as a separate event. In the anniversary year “750 Years of Kaiserslautern,” the organizing team is thus sending a strong signal for openness, exchange, and participation in the city – with the support of the Department of Culture and in cooperation with K2. The focus lies on books and authors who address queer realities of life, feminist perspectives, and issues of democracy, diversity, and social cohesion.

Real highlights on the Schillerplatz stage all day long



2026 wird auf dem Schillerplatz ebenfalls wieder viel Bühnenprogramm geboten. ©Kirill_0ldshutterhand

In the heart of downtown Kaiserslautern, Schillerplatz is once again transformed into a meeting place, a place of visibility, and community. The stage program begins at 12 p.m. At 1 p.m., the demonstration through downtown Kaiserslautern will set off. Alongside the event, clubs, initiatives, and organizations will showcase themselves in a community area with numerous information booths, also located on the Schillerplatz. The stage program features top-notch acts. Musical highlights include performances by Anny Ogrezeanu, winner of “The Voice of Germany”; Berlin-based indie-pop artist Cloudy June; and queer pop musician Melvin Hein.

Also performing are the queer men's choir Rosa Note, DJs Danu Mane and Heinz Ficktion, and other artists. Special program highlights also include the big drag show in the evening and a performance by the Pfalztheater, which will enrich the CSD with its own show. Beyond music and entertainment, the CSD Lautre also places a strong emphasis on substantive issues. There will be a queer panel discussion on stage. Speakers throughout the day will include Joachim Schulte, spokesperson for QueerNet Rhineland-Palatinate and one of the pioneers of the German CSD movement; Sabine Lechner from the City of Kaiserslautern's Office for Gender Equality; Janboris Ann-Kathrin Rätz, journalist and activist; and the initiative "Omas gegen Rechts" (Grandmas Against the Right).

"Buch, Wort & Lautern – The outrageous Literature Festival" at the Fruchthalle

Parallel to the event on Schillerplatz, the first edition of "Buch, Wort & Lautern – The outrageous Literature Festival" will make its debut on the ground floor of the Fruchthalle. This new event format expands the CSD to include a cultural and literary perspective and invites attendees to examine current social issues from different angles. The event is also aimed at people who, in addition to the lively party atmosphere on Schillerplatz, are looking for a quieter setting for exchange, culture, and discussion. Highlights of the program include graphic novelist Roya Soraya, author Joscha Schaback—who will appear alongside actress Hannelore Bähr—and author Jan Ranft. Singer-songwriters Narcissus and MaLou will provide musical highlights. Another special highlight is the performance by Matthis Löw, who combines literature and harp music into an extraordinary fusion. The festival is complemented by a queer poetry slam, book stalls, the exhibition "NANU? Sexual Diversity in the Palatinate: Yesterday and Today," and the "Diversity Makes Us Strong" initiative by photographer Thomas Brenner. Through this large-scale photo project, the Protestant Daycare Center Betzenberg, the Evangelical Church of the Palatinate, the "BegegnungsRäume" project of the Diakonie Pfalz, and Thomas Brenner aim to bring together people who want to send a visible message of tolerance, respect, and mutual appreciation. Everyone is welcome to participate – regardless of age, background, or lifestyle.

A Unique Event Format

By combining all these elements – a demonstration, a cultural festival, and a literary festival – Kaiserslautern is creating an event format that is unique in the region. While the CSD fights for visibility, acceptance, and equal rights, the literary festival creates space for stories, debates, and new perspectives. Together, both events send a strong message against exclusion and in favor of an open society.

In the anniversary year “750 Years of Kaiserslautern,” the second CSD Lautre thus stands not only for queer visibility but also for cultural diversity, democratic exchange, and social cohesion. Admission to all events is free.

A diverse supporting program featuring a prayer service, a party, art, film, and new perspectives

The support program also includes the CSD prayer service, which will take place on the day of the event at 11:30 a.m. at the Alte Eintracht on Unionsplatz. Last year, the prayer service – held in a packed Stiftskirche – was an important moment of reflection before the demonstration. In 2026, everyone is once again invited to come together and recharge their spirits, regardless of religion or faith. The service will be led by Pastor Claudia Kettering, coordinator for women’s ministry at the Evangelical Office for Education and Society, together with Pastor Susanne Wildberger, Torsten Wilhelm, and Tom Rees, also known as Sissy Chanson. Throughout the entire CSD, the Stiftskirche will also be open to everyone as a space for rest and retreat. After the parade, literature festival, and stage program, the CSD in Kaiserslautern moves on to the nightlife: Starting at 11 p.m., the official after-party kicks off at sukura99. The Subkultureller Raum Kaiserslautern e.V. invites everyone to wrap up the CSD together on the dance floor and party into the night.

There’s already plenty happening leading up to the CSD…

CSD Lautre isn’t just a one-day event – there are also numerous activities and events leading up to it. Together with partners from Kaiserslautern’s cultural scene, a diverse supporting program is taking shape. Even before CSD begins, Kabinett K2 invites you to the exhibition “In Art We Trust.” The exhibition brings together the artists Fabienne Weber, Morizz, and Oliver Breitenbruch. Spanning Pop Art, street art, and figurative painting, diverse artistic perspectives converge and open a dialogue about trust, society, and the role of art. The exhibition is on view through September 19th at Kabinett K2 in the Königstraße.
The UNION Studio for Film Art is also part of this year’s supporting program with a queer film series. In cooperation with CSD Lautre, the Berlinale production *Die Blutgräfin* by director Ulrike Ottinger will be screened on September 16th. In addition, the film *Der Heimatlose* will be shown on several evenings from September 17th to 22nd at the arthouse cinema. Furthermore, the Atlantic Academy’s “America on Screen” series invites audiences to a screening of the queer film classic “The Wedding Banquet” in its original version with subtitles. Together, these film evenings enrich the program with cinematic perspectives on diversity, identity, and social change. The Pfalzgalerie Kaiserslautern Museum (mpk) also participated in the supporting program for this year’s CSD Lautre. On September 3, the museum hosted its first-ever LGBTQIA+ guided tour. Together with drag queen Sissy Chanson, participants explored selected works from the collection through a queer lens. This special tour opened up new perspectives on well-known

masterpieces and demonstrated the diverse ways in which art can be read and interpreted. The enthusiastic response underscored how important such initiatives are for visibility, dialogue, and cultural participation. With exhibitions, film screenings, a literature festival, a demonstration, and a stage program, CSD Lautre 2026 is evolving into a diverse festival of culture and democracy for the entire region. In keeping with the motto “Lautre is louder than hate!” a program is taking shape that brings people together, promotes dialogue, and strengthens queer visibility in Kaiserslautern.

Further information on the individual program items, participating organizations and initiatives, information booths, and the parade route is available on the CSD Lautre Website as well as on its social media channels on Instagram and Facebook.

Grants, Sponsorship, and Donations Make CSD Lautre Possible

CSD Lautre and the literature festival “Buch, Wort & Lautern – Das unerhörte Literaturfest” are made possible by numerous funding partners, sponsors, and supporters: It is supported by the Rhineland-Palatinate Cultural Foundation as part of the “Small Volunteer Cultural Projects” funding program, as well as by the City of Kaiserslautern’s Department of Culture / Dr. Christoph Dammann. This funding makes it possible to create a diverse program and bring authors, artists, and cultural practitioners to Kaiserslautern.

QueerNet Rheinland-Pfalz e. V., the state-wide network of queer associations and initiatives, also provides financial support to CSD Lautre. The event receives additional support from the LOTTO Rheinland-Pfalz Foundation, which has been committed to the common good, social cohesion, and cultural engagement in Rhineland-Palatinate for many years. Regional partners also make important contributions. SWK Stadtwerke Kaiserslautern supports the event by providing the necessary infrastructure, including electricity and water for the event grounds. The Kaiserslautern-based copy shop Stöger handles the printing of flyers and posters, helping to ensure that the CSD’s message is visible throughout the city. Sparkasse Kaiserslautern and GLOBUS are also involved as sponsoring partners of CSD Lautre. Behind the scenes, Kochwerk Kaiserslautern is also providing refreshments, serving vegan catering to artists, helpers, and volunteers in the backstage area. In this way, the team helps ensure that the many people who make the CSD possible – both on and off stage – have the energy they need to get through the day.

Support Still Welcome

Despite grants and sponsorship, the event still relies on additional support. CSD Lautre is organized by volunteers and funded through a mix of grants, sponsorship, and donations. Every contribution helps ensure the event's long-term sustainability and enables a diverse program in Kaiserslautern that remains freely accessible to everyone in the future.
Anyone who would still like to donate can do so here on the betterplace platform and will, of course, receive a donation receipt.



Die Demo geht auch in diesem Jahr quer durch die Innenstadt. © Antonia Rinck

Presscontact CSD Lautre:
Esther Packullat
E-Mail: csd.lautre@web.de

Statements and citations of some of the Organisationsteam are here