

Sinti Mausoleum in Halle-Osendorf to Be Inaugurated Following Renovation

Students report on their “denkmal aktiv” project work on the preservation of the historic monument

Following its extensive renovation, the Josef Weinlich Mausoleum in Halle-Osendorf will be officially inaugurated on Sunday, August 23, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. A team of students from the Elisabeth-Gymnasium in Halle is helping to organize the ceremony. With support from “denkmal aktiv – Kulturerbe macht Schule,” the school program of the German Foundation for Monument Protection (DSD), the students have been involved in the restoration process. The public event will take place at the Sinti Mausoleum in Osendorf, Karl-Meißner-Straße 42, 06132 Halle (Saale).

Dr. Alexander Vogt, Mayor of the City of Halle, will speak about the restoration of this valuable historic monument, which stands as one of the rare stone testaments **to the history of the Sinti and Roma in Central Germany**. The state government will be represented by Education Minister Jan Riedel. Speaking on behalf of the descendants will be Dr. Henk van Iterson, and on behalf of the national minority, the Chairman of the Central Council of German Roma and Sinti, Romani Rose.

Civil society has actively supported the restoration of this historic monument. It is represented by the director of the Roter Ochse Memorial and, not least, by the students of the Elisabeth-Gymnasium in Halle. They share their efforts to make the monument a living part of remembrance work in the school and among the general public. Heike Böltzig, the teacher leading the project, says: “Our school project to preserve the Sinti mausoleum is an example of the far-reaching significance of remembrance culture and raising awareness of authentic sites to which memory can be linked.”

For the 9th and 10th-grade classes at the high school, the mausoleum has been an important extracurricular learning site for several years. They have explored its design and symbolism, its architecture, and its state of preservation, and have repeatedly drawn the attention of the local community to the monument’s value, for example during Open Monument Day.

The Sinti Mausoleum was built in 1915. The single-story, gabled brick building was in danger of falling into disrepair by 2024. The restoration work included, among other things, reinforcing the building’s foundation, masonry, and barrel vault. In addition to funding from the federal government’s special program for historic preservation, the city’s own funds and grants from the state of Saxony-Anhalt were made available.



The School Program of the
German Foundation for the
Preservation of Historical Monuments

Information about the Elisabeth-Gymnasium Halle's school project on the mausoleum is available at <https://denkmal-aktiv.de/schulprojekt/elisabeth-gym-sinti-mausoleum-halle-osendorf-wird-restauriert/> **denkmal aktiv – Cultural Heritage in Schools**, the school program of the German Foundation for the Preservation of Historical Monuments, brings students into direct contact with historic buildings and their stories. Since 2002, the German Foundation for the Preservation of Historical Monuments has been using this program to support projects at schools nationwide in which students learn about monuments as authentic architectural testimonies of their time, and publishes materials that tap into the educational potential of monuments for classroom instruction. The program is committed to helping children and young people understand the value and significance of architectural heritage and to conveying the idea that historic preservation is a societal responsibility.

Bonn,
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