

Press Release

Weimar, 8th July 2008

Foundation council agrees on Master Plan for the *Klassik Stiftung* – Announcement of an international architecture competition for the new Bauhaus Museum planned for 2009

In its meeting today, the foundation council of the *Klassik Stiftung Weimar* approved the Master Plan proposed by the *Klassik Stiftung Weimar* as a future-oriented concept. The Master Plan is based on an investment programme into which the foundation's entire investment means (i.e. also donations and third-party funds) for the years 2008 until 2017 will be integrated. Altogether, a total of 150 mio € are available.

In the context of this special investment programme designated by the national and state governments for the foundation, the Master Plan describes a vision of the *Klassik Stiftung Weimar* in the 21st century. Even though the development of the city palace of Weimar and the construction of the Bauhaus Museum are the most important in terms of volume and significance, the projects involved with securing and maintaining the present assets have top priority. The first on the list of building measures serves to secure present assets by

- constructing a central depot for the foundation and
- extensively reconstructing the Goethe- and Schiller-Archive.

Both measures are to be progressed into the planning phase for construction within the year. In its meeting today, the foundation council gave the president the authority – after clarification of the last questions – to close the contract with the city of Weimar for the purchase of the building site in the Ettersburger Strasse, where the central depot is to be built. After the construction work on the Goethe- and Schiller-Archive is completed at the end of 2010 and the central depot is finished at the beginning of

2011, it will be possible to store the entire inventory of the foundation in modern, purpose-built buildings.

Without proper maintenance of the collection, even the best prerequisites for the security of these assets are not effective. This is why the Master Plan includes great efforts in the area of paper restoration in the Goethe- and Schiller-Archive, the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek, and the graphic art collections of the foundation. Over 10 mio € will be invested over the coming 10 years in special programmes for the restoration of the collections. With this campaign, the foundation pursues the goal of stabilising the condition of the entire collection that is on paper by 2017. A special task that cannot be concluded during the time period of the Master Plan is the continued replacement of the losses due to the fire at the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek. The Master Plan foresees investments to this end of over 15 mio € by 2030.

The most important building projects in terms of volume and significance are the development of the city palace to a new centre of the *Klassik Stiftung* and the construction of the Bauhaus Museum. For both building projects, preparatory measures may now, after the approval of the Master Plan, be undertaken. After the ownership of the city palace has been transferred to the *Klassik Stiftung*, the preparatory examinations will be commissioned within the current year. In this context, the definition of the objectives for the preservation of historical monuments is especially significant and will be the basis for the renovation of the city palace. It is likely that the planning of the building project can be begun in 2009. The implementation of the plans can begin as soon as the depots in the city palace can be moved into the central depot, which is to be finished by 2011. According to current estimates, the refurbishment of the city palace will take the entire period of the Master Plan.

In the future, the major task of the city palace will be to make the superb landscape of museums in and around Weimar more accessible to visitors. The visitor will be able to find all the relevant information and services in the city palace, and most importantly, he will receive an overview of over 500 years of German cultural history from the

specific Weimar perspective by visiting the exhibition “Cosmos Weimar”, which will be a permanent exhibition occupying major areas of the city palace.

The construction of the Bauhaus Museum will be equally important to the development of the foundation. Without this, the foundation would seem to be a historically complete ensemble. The ability to connect the concepts developed during the enlightenment, classicism and early modernism to the 21st century is dependent upon the credible presence of modernism. It began in Weimar with figures such as Harry Graf Kessler and Henry van de Velde; it reached an early climax, which ended all too soon, in the State Bauhaus from 1919 until 1925. The Bauhaus, its reception in Germany and internationally, will be the central aspect of the Bauhaus Museum in Weimar. This museum must also be an educational place just like the central city palace.

Already during the course of the summer, a board of trustees will be formed that will – along with the responsible members of the foundation – present the concept for the Bauhaus Museum. The most important immediate goal is the international architecture competition, which will be initiated in 2009.

The Special Programme of the National and Thuringian Governments

During its meeting on 29 November 2007, the foundation council asked the President of the *Klassik Stiftung Weimar* to prepare a Master Plan for the investment programme of the *Klassik Stiftung* from 2008 until 2017. Until the end of 2007, the *Klassik Stiftung* had investment funds from the agreement between the national and state governments of only 4.3 mio € at its disposal. Because of the special programme of the national and state governments agreed to in the autumn of 2007, this starting position changed dramatically. The total investment programme for the years 2008 until 2017 now allows for investments of circa 150 mio €.

The national and Thuringian governments support the special programme with 45 mio € each. Up to 40 mio € of these investment funds will be used to enable the city palace in Weimar to be correctly refurbished as a historical monument, including

initial furnishings. The remaining investment funds of the special programme amounting to 50 mio € are reserved for four especially important measures:

- restoration of printed and handwritten works
- replacement of the losses of library stock due to the fire
- basic refurbishing of the Goethe- and Schiller-Archive, and
- construction of the Bauhaus Museum.

The restoration of printed and handwritten works including those of the graphic art collection has the highest priority. Within the Master Plan, multifarious refurbishing projects will be realised. The creation of a central depot for 10.6 mio € is the first on the list. The costs for the refurbishing of the Goethe Home are estimated at 2.3 mio € and those for the refurbishing of the Belvedere Orangerie are estimated at 6.1 mio €. In addition, the museum inventory will be systematically restored; a digitalisation programme for a total of 4.3 mio € and IT investments for 4.6 mio € are included. Altogether, these measures will cost 60 mio € in today's terms.

The goal of the Master Plan is to put the 90 mio € investments included in the special programme into the context of the total investments of the foundation and to plan that these means be implemented by the year 2017.

A comprehensive dossier "Kosmos Weimar – Der Masterplan der Klassik Stiftung Weimar 2008 – 2017" is available (in German) at www.klassik-stiftung.de/kosmos-weimar.

For further information please contact Dr. Julia Glesner (0049(0)3643 | 545-104 and 0049(0)172 | 8462910) or Saskia Helin (0049(0)3643 | 545-113 and 0049(0)172 | 79 999 59).