

What German Leaders Are Saying About Us

Frank-Walter Steinmeier, President of Germany

“Germans and Americans have so much in common. We Germans are grateful for the political guidance that led us back into the fold of the international community and laid the groundwork for German reunification. But most importantly, the German-American friendship is built on a myriad of personal connections that span the Atlantic – centuries-old family ties and new friendships, twin towns and sister cities, and friendships between schools and universities.

All of these ties have one thing in common: they require tending if they are to thrive. We want to nurture and celebrate this friendship – through Deutschlandjahr USA 2018/19, a series of more than 1000 events that will run for over a year. The aim is to create many opportunities to see old friends and make new ones, and to discuss the issues we care deeply about.”

Heiko Maas, German Foreign Minister

“America is not only Germany’s partner, but its closest partner outside of Europe. Despite recent challenges, our countries remain, and must remain, close. Wunderbar Together offers us an opportunity to renew and preserve the historic bonds between our people. By celebrating German-American friendship and cultural exchange, we will facilitate increased and enhanced dialogue between Germans and Americans.”

Klaus-Dieter Lehmann, President of the Goethe Institut

“Wunderbar Together highlights all aspects of society, including art, science, business, media and civil society. By building educational and cultural relationships, this initiative will underscore America and Germany’s shared interests, democratic values, and rich history – as evidenced by the 50 million Americans with German roots. But the program is not only about affirming a common past, but looking to the demands of the 21st century. By supporting cultural exchange and education in the United States, we look forward to an increased role in this important friendship for years to come.”

Dieter Kempf, President of the Federation of German Industries (BDI)

“German-American relations are built on mutually beneficial economic ties. Today, German business makes an important contribution to the US economy through direct investment, advanced manufacturing, and high-quality job creation. Moreover, German-style apprenticeship programs offer promising and successful career paths for many Americans. German innovation and technology contribute to new, sustainable solutions in the United States. Wunderbar Together is an important opportunity to highlight the many ways our two countries make each other stronger through our economic and business ties.”

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