

Moabiter Kiezfest 16.09.2017

The sun was out for us on September 16, as Misch mit! and our partners took over the streets around Turmstrasse for the annual Moabiter Kiezfest!

Only in its second year with the collaboration of the Network Misch mit!, the Moabiter Kiezfest is fast becoming a firm fixture in the area's social calendar. This year brought together some of our most well-known partners, who used their stalls to share information about the important work they do, with hundreds of locals from in and around Moabit

We saw the return of some of our closest partners, including Moabit Hilft, Im Garten and Haus Leo, while we were also pleased to welcome some new groups like the Berlin-based activist group Lager Mobilisation Network, who are working to address the housing situation for refugees in the city.

But as Claire from Misch mit! says, there could have been a lot more partners involved. "This year, we had so many requests from people wanting to take part in the Kiezfest that we ended up having to turn away because we didn't have enough space."

The two stages hosted a variety of musical and dance performances throughout the day that reflected the diversity of Germany's bustling capital city. Percussion artist Hasan Al Hasan had people tapping along to his unique performance while one of the most popular performances was the funk, rock and soul ensemble The Sticky Tables, who really got the crowd on their feet. The other stage played host to child theatre performer Varia Vineta, who impressed the crowd with her short performance, while the Darjastros Fusion Bellydance had the crowd in awe.

Crowds also enjoyed food from places like the Jamaican Jerk chicken stall and specially made cocktails which had some people tipsy after just one!

One of the artists who performed with the band Rock and Roll Preacher told Misch mit! that he enjoyed the intimacy of the atmosphere, and it was a sentiment that was shared by many of those who attended. Italian Valeria Stenta, who recently moved into Moabit, said: "Moabiter Kiezfest is warm, chilled, inclusive, and is genuine great fun! It made me realize I'm actually in Berlin, finally."

Syrian-born student Naim added that it was a great way to spend the day and he hopes more events like this can happen across the city.

So as we wrap up the second annual Kiezfest, the final word goes to Claire: "It was a great day, and having just the one street made a difference to the atmosphere. We built on the success of last year and we hope that we can make the third one the best of the three!"