

fem*MAP BERLIN. FEMINIST SPATIAL SYSTEMS FOR A NON-SEXIST CITY.

QUEER* FEMINIST SPACES OF EMPOWERMENT Mapping Social and Physical Networks

**Rowaa Ibrahim
Sebastian Georgescu
Katrina Neelands Malinski
Solveigh Paulus**

Spaces of Empowerment Statement

In order to approach a non-sexist city, it is important to understand its structural conditions in all their subtleties and dimensions. Cities can be seen as conglomerates, composed of both material and non-material factors, such as the built environment and the social sphere¹.

Queer² feminist spaces rely largely on the behaviour of their users to provide a space of empowerment. In order to enable this, a code of behaviour has developed across a geographically disparate but socially networked series of spaces throughout Berlin³. By mapping the network of spaces where this code of conduct is present, we seek to understand the variety of ways in which they are linked socially and financially, while exploring how this code of conduct manifests spatially in individual members of the network.

The research zooms into three queer spaces located at Kottbusser Tor, each selected from a list of suggestions provided during our initial survey. Using three different spaces - Südblock, Schokofabrik and Café Kotti - the different layers are analysed to understand how social and physical factors come together to create a space of empowerment.

Although these places are spatially fragmented, they are part of a very close and diverse network. External circumstances or threats can through these means be responded to as a community. This includes actors from different fields: political groups, festivals, magazines, performers and many other feminist actors. The network addresses not only feminist issues, but also intersectional topics such as racism and classism.

The connection between the spaces is often evident in the code of conduct users of the spaces adhere to - sometimes this is spatially manifested in form of a poster, sometimes there are social agreements that are reflected in the behaviour of the visitors. This above all demands openness and tolerance and often explicitly forbids anti-discriminatory behaviour of various kinds.

An interesting example of how these social agreements can be expressed spatially are gender-neutral toilets. On the social level, heteronormative gender roles are

deconstructed, the gender binary dissolved and space for different genders is created⁴. In the physical space, this means a departure from the traditional division of toilets into women and men and making a single gender-neutral toilet is available in the space.

Gender-neutral toilets, which are also visible in some of our case studies, are an interesting example of the interaction between the social and the physical aspects of creating an empowering space.

The network as well as the code of conduct are subject to constant negotiation processes and are continuously being expanded. Both are not tied to any specific place, which means that they can be expanded or transferred to any place at any time.

Reference

¹ Martina Löw, Raumsoziologie, 1. Aufl, Suhrkamp Taschenbuch Wissenschaft 1506 (Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 2001).

² The term queer is used because it unifies many complex identities, no particular roles are set up in advance

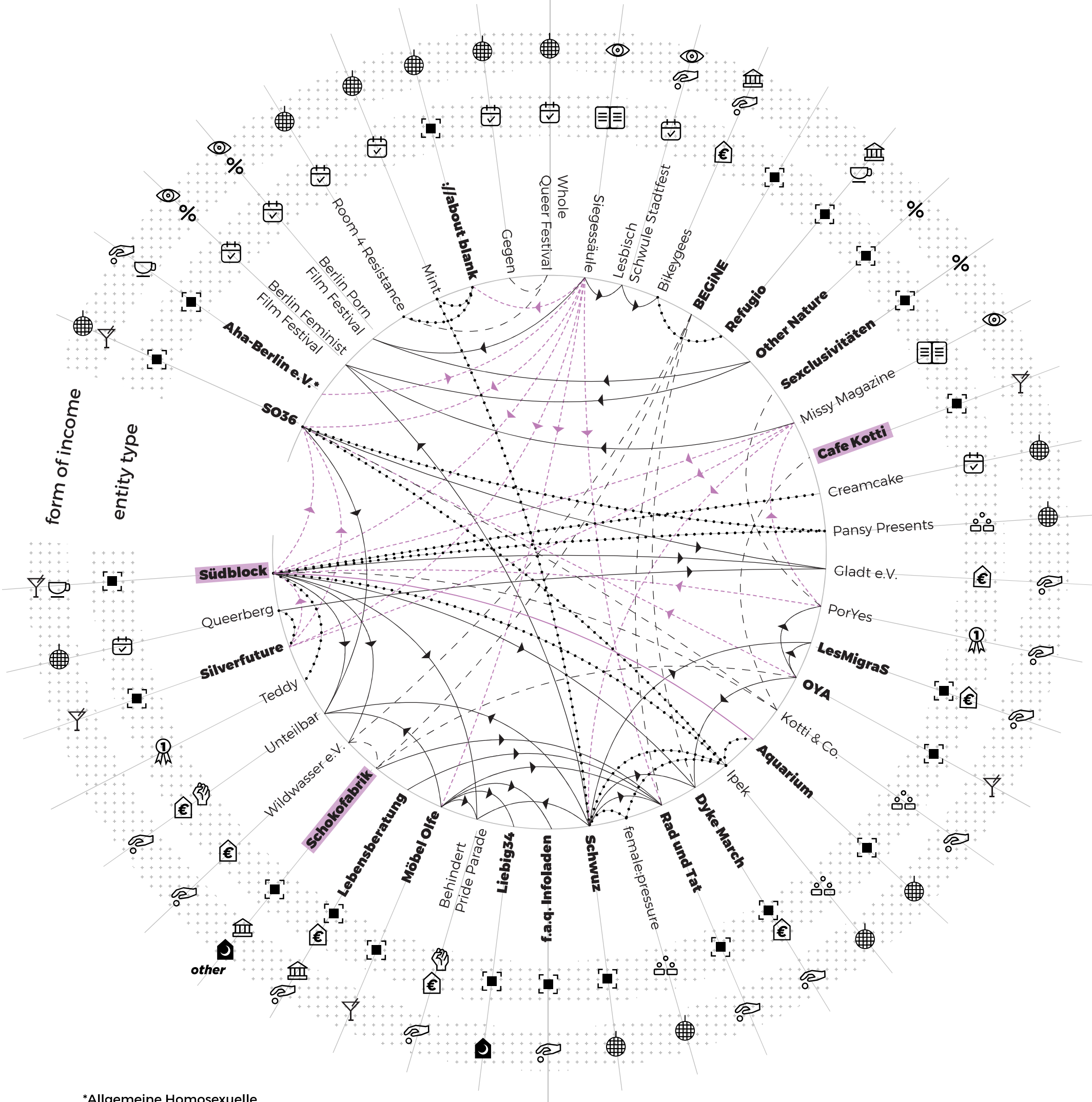
³ Alice Dundon, "Exploring Berlin's Underground Female & Queer Party Scene," Culture Trip, March 19, 2018, <https://theculturetrip.com/europe/germany/articles/exploring-berlins-underground-female-queer-party-scene/>.

⁴ Simona Castricum, "Public Bathrooms Are Gender Identity Battlefields. What If We Just Do It Right?" | Simona Castricum, The Guardian, October 3, 2018, sec. Opinion, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/oct/03/public-bathrooms-are-gender-identity-battlefields-what-if-we-just-do-it-right>.

Social Network Map No Scale

Description of the mapping: mapping of relationships between queer feminist spaces, events and institutions within Berlin. Data gathered from literature research as well as field observations of the spaces.






Relationships are sorted by nature (financial support, advertising, etc.) and direction. Sources of income and the type of each entity is also noted.











*Allgemeine Homosexuelle
Arbeitsgemeinschaft

Spaces of Empowerment Legend

connection type

- takes place in 
- fundraising 
- advertising for 
- owns 
- member of 






form of income

-  Cafe
-  Bar
-  Club
-  Donations
-  State funding
-  Advertisement
-  Sales
-  Housing


threats

-  threat
-  resistance
-  real estate
-  social encroachment
-  COVID-19

entity type

-  Space
-  Event/ Party
-  Charity
-  Demo
-  Collective/ Network
-  Publication/ Magazine
-  Award

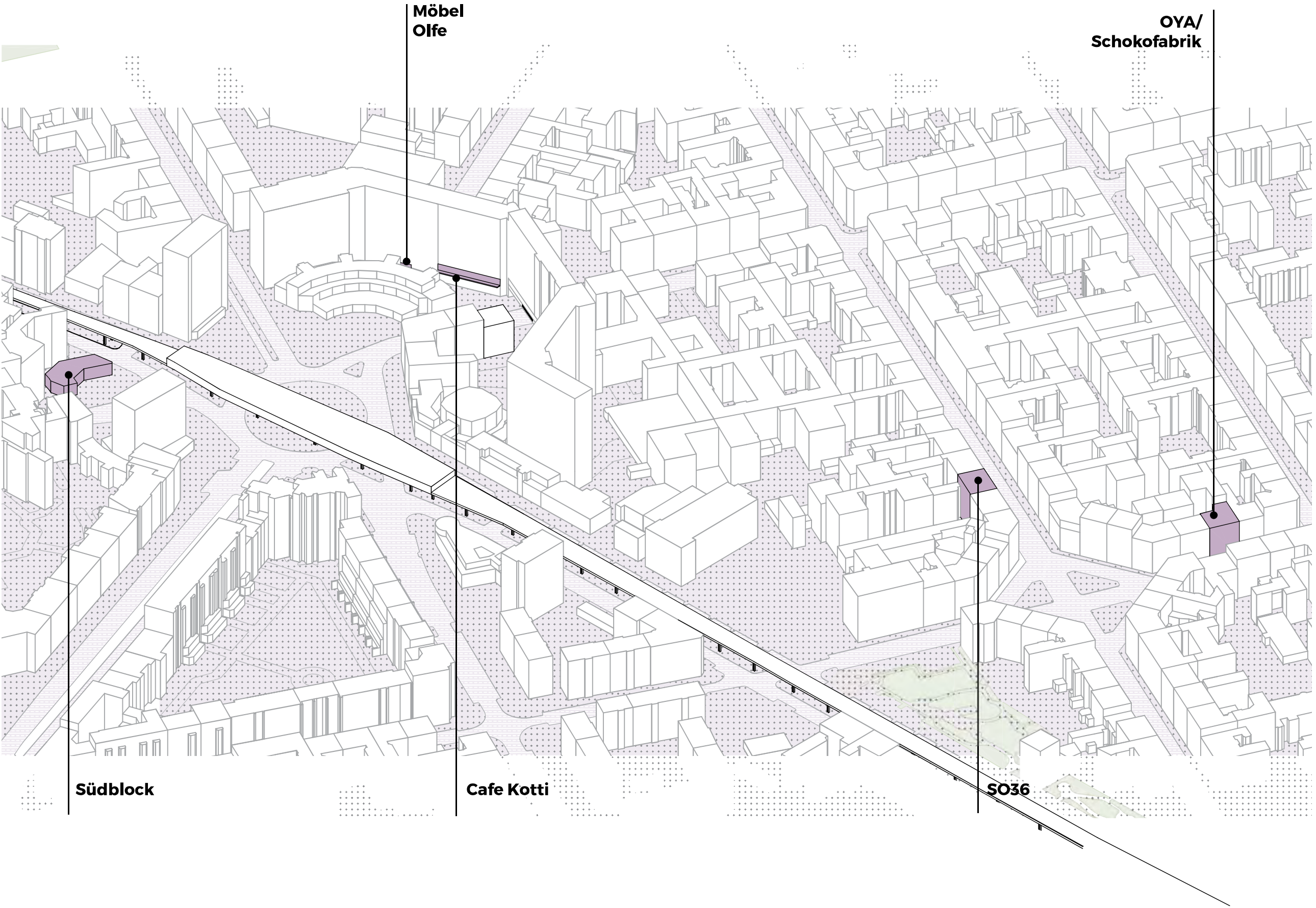
event type

-  Anti Racism
-  Migration or Asylum
-  Accessibility Issues
-  Advertisting
-  Workers Rights
-  Feminist Issues
-  Trans Issues

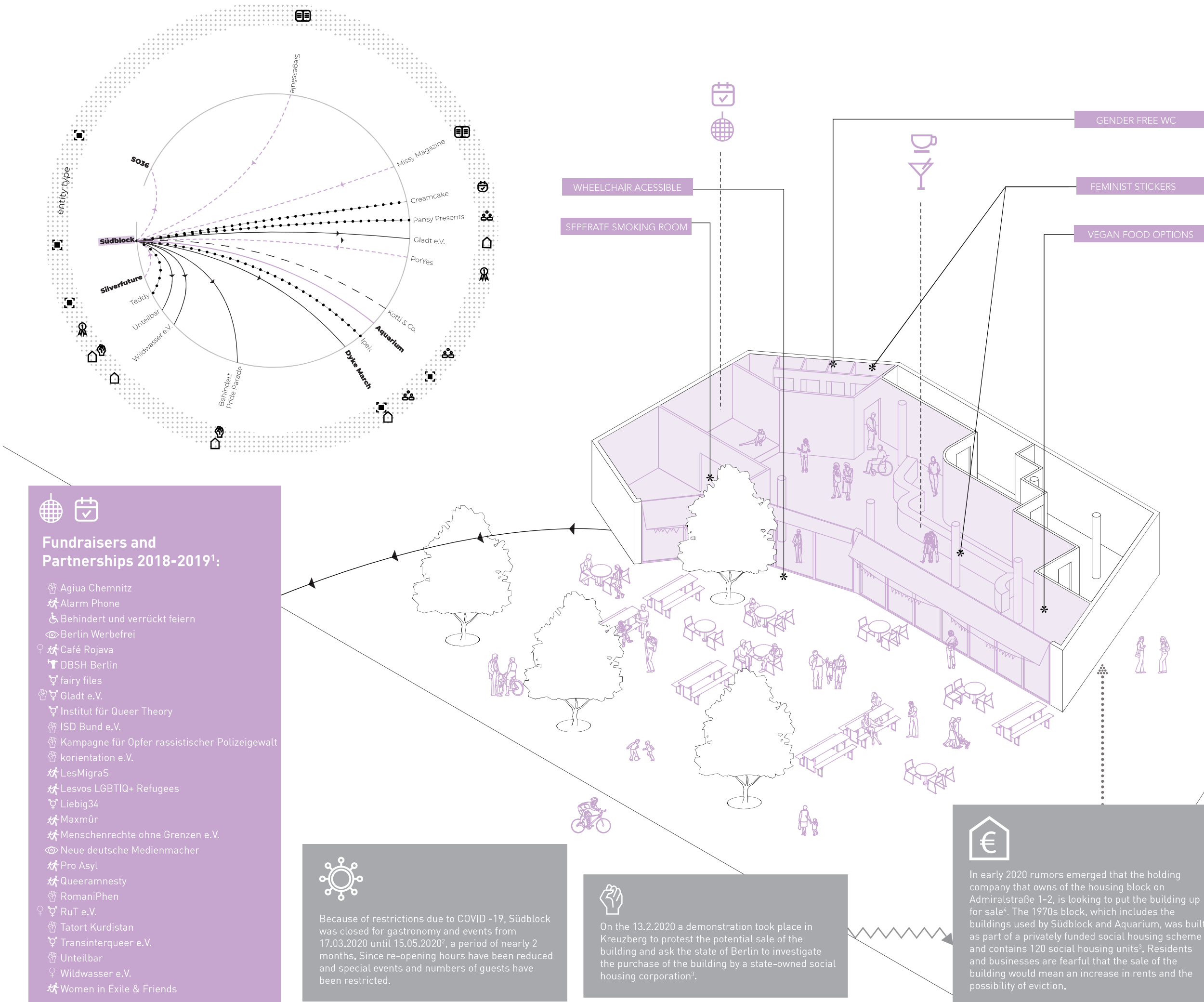
Queer* feminist spaces at Kotti

M 1: 2.000

Description of the mapping: axonometric of the area around Kottbuser Tor showing spaces described by survey respondents as empowering.



Spaces of Empowerment Südblock



Spaces of Empowerment Südblock



Südblock from the Street, Photo by Authours, 2019



Südblock Exterior Space, Photo by Authours, 2020



Stage, Photo by Authours, 2020



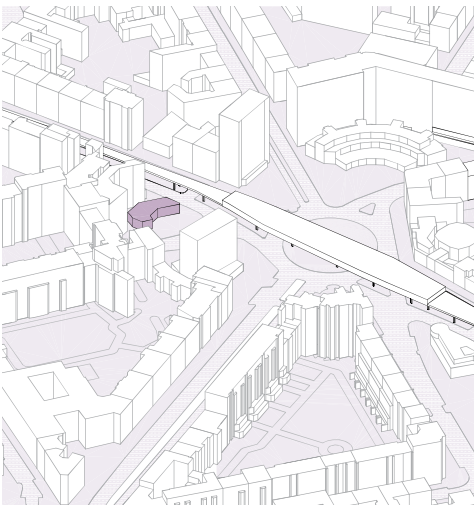
Feminist Toilets, Photo by Authours, 2020



Exterior Stickers, Photo by Authours, 2020



Interior Stickers, Photo by Authours, 2020

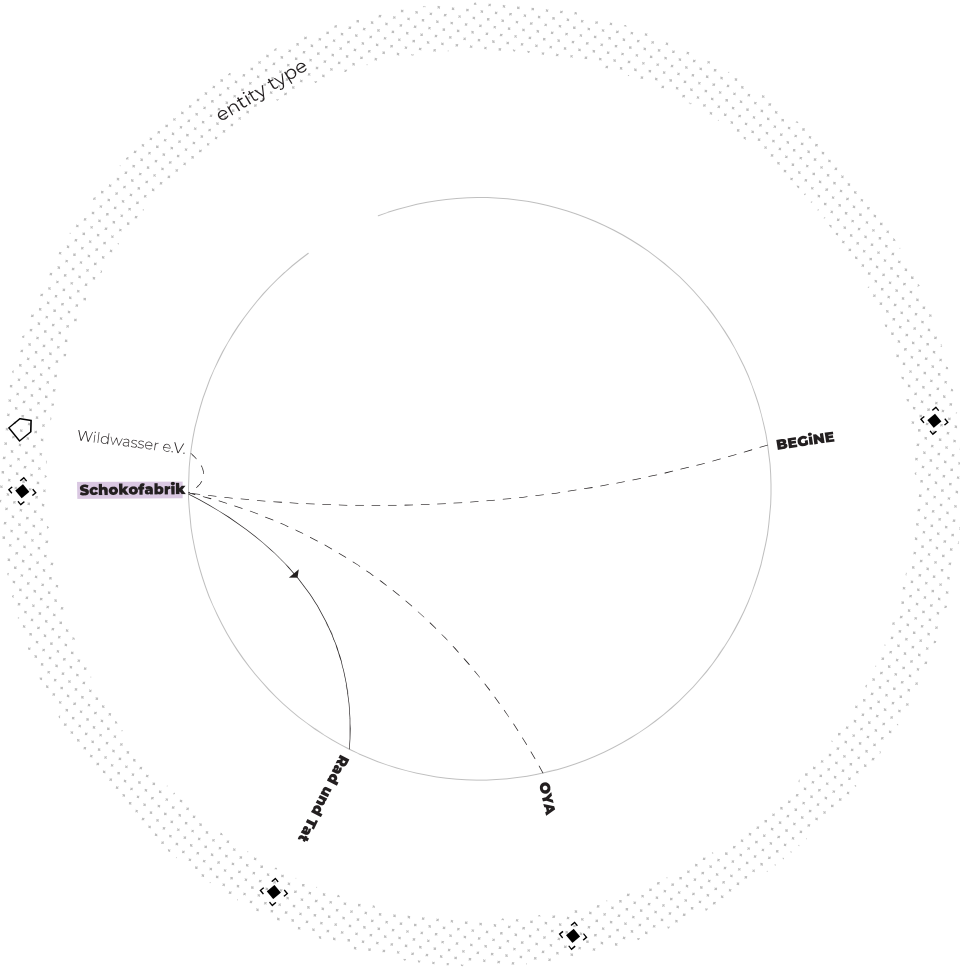


Location, M1:5000

Reference

- ¹ “Südblock,” Facebook, accessed June 15, 2020, <https://www.facebook.com/suedblock/>.
- ² “Willkommen im Südblock,” Südblock, accessed June 15, 2020, <https://www.suedblock.org/wp/>.
- ³ Nele Jensch, “‘Wer hier kauft, kauft Ärger’: Protest gegen geplanten Verkauf von „Südblock,” Tagesspiegel, accessed June 15, 2020, <https://leute.tagesspiegel.de/friedrichshain-kreuzberg/macher/2020/02/13/109338/wer-hier-kauft-kauft-aerger-protest-gegen-geplanten-verkauf-von-suedblock-und-aquarium>.
- ⁴ Phillip Wurm, “Kampf Um Kreuzberg: Investoren Kaufen Am Kottbusser Tor Ein,” Tip Berlin, February 17, 2020, <https://www.tip-berlin.de/kreuzberg-investoren-kottbusser-tor/>.

Spaces of Empowerment Schokofabrik



Despite the formalization of the initially illegal occupation of the building in 1982 through the signing of a rental agreement with GSW, the renovation of the Schokofabrik was largely funded by money made available through the IBA 1989¹. Further funding to cover operating costs is still being provided by the state, however this is problematic as this money was often unreliable. Budget cuts in the 1990s and the privatization of GSW (the owner of the property) posed a serious threat to the project².



In 2004, due to the privatization of GSW, the Schokofabrik decided to buy the four buildings of Mariannenstr. 6 und Naunynstr. 72, including the spaces of the women's center on order to ensure the continuity of the project. In order to finance this, 14 of the purchased apartments were sold and a cooperative was formed to ensure the Women's Center could continue to operate without needing to pay market rents². This funding method has enabled the further renovation of the buildings, including adding apartments in the attic of Mariannenstr. 6 and the renovation of OYA³.

WHAT MAKES UP THE SCHOKOFABRIK??

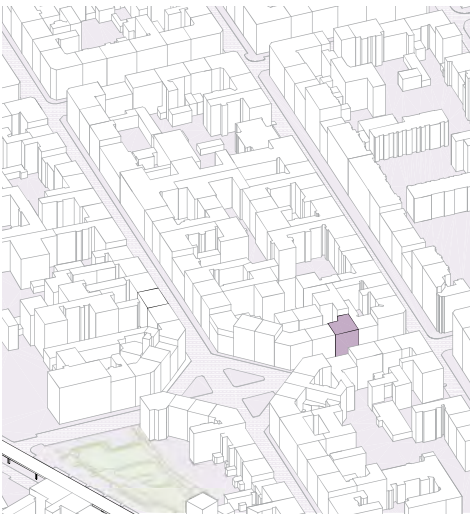
ASSOCIATIONS:

- Frauenzentrum Schokoladenfabrik e. V.:
- Training
 - Counselling
 - Sport
 - Hamam
 - Treffpunkt

- Frauenkrisentelefon e. V.
- Schokospäne e. V.
- Schokokids e. V.

COOPERATIVE:

Schokofabrik eG



Location, M1:5000



Bildtitel, Ines Schaber, 2012

Spaces of Empowerment

Schoko-fabrik



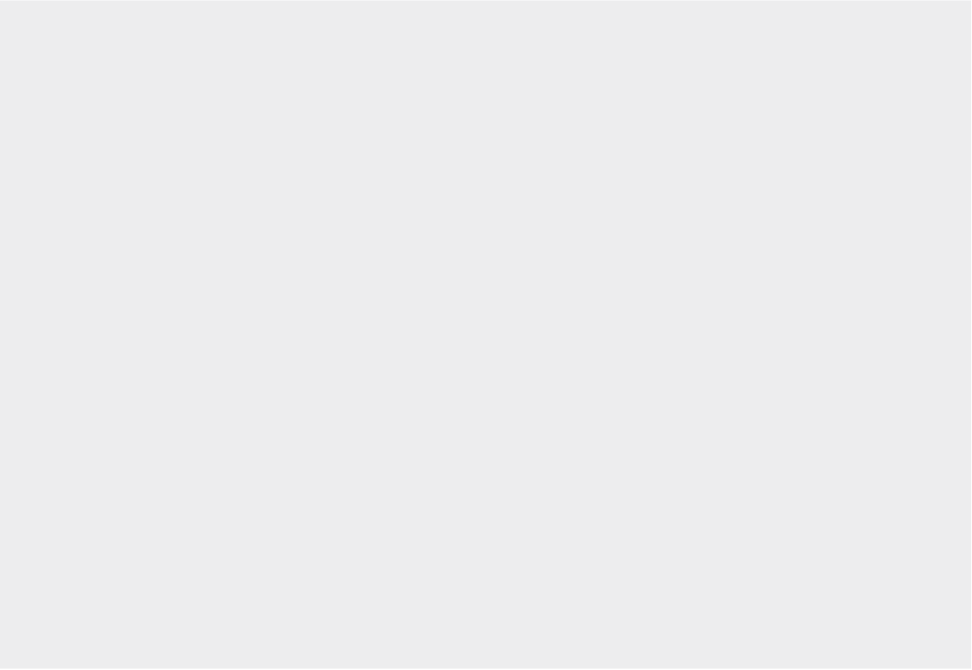
Schokofabrik Entrance, Photo by Authours, 2020



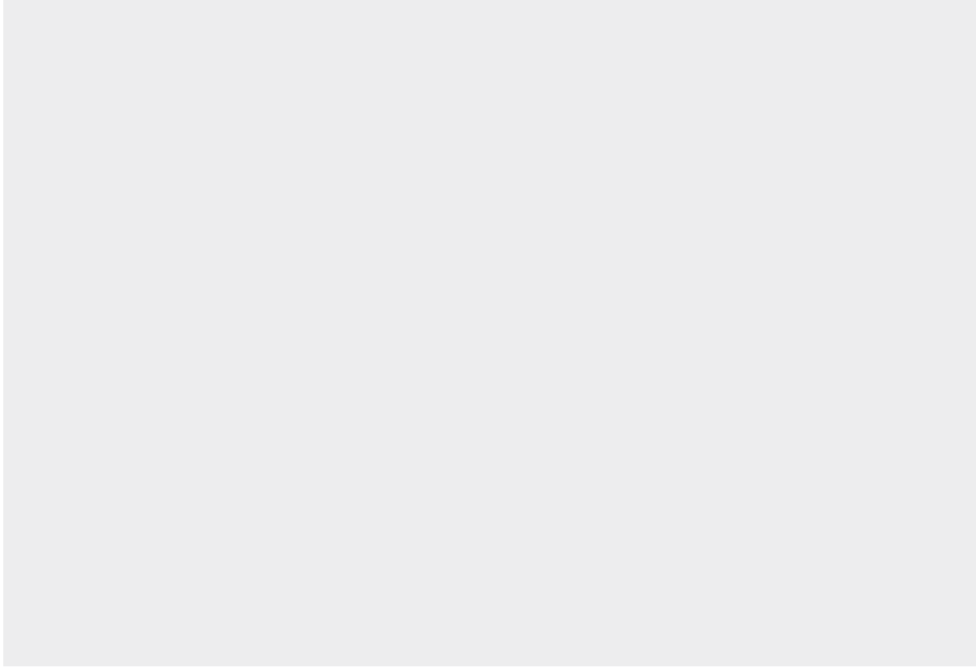
Hammam Entrance, Photo by Authours, 2020



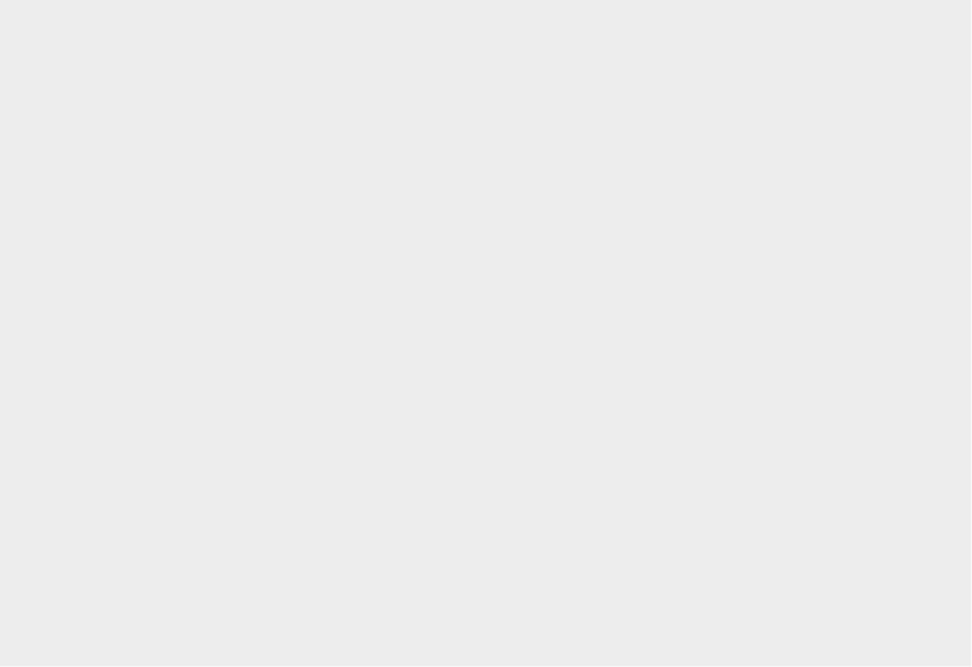
Flyers, Photo by Authours, 2020



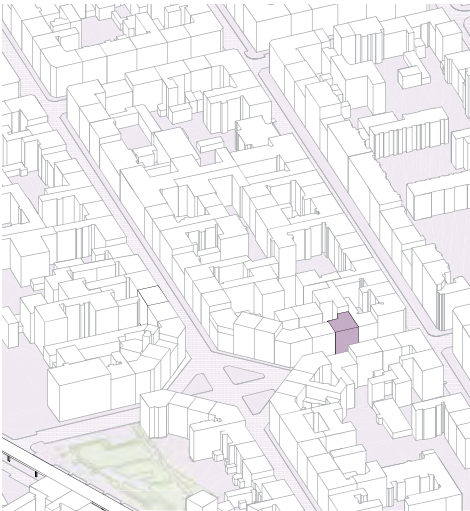
Schokowerkstatt, Marleen Wilhelm, 2019



Entrance in 1982, FHXB Museum Archive, 1982



Roof Repairs, FHXB Museum Archive, 1985



Location, M1:5000

Reference

¹ S.T.E.R.N Gesellschaft der behutsamen Stadterneuerung Berlin mbH, “Informations-Blatt: Frauen-Stadtteilzentrum, Umbau Schokoladenfabrik,” 1988, FHXB Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg Museum, https://fhxb-museum.de/fhxb_lp/objekt.php?o=12348&m=1692.

² Frauenzentrum and Schokoladenfabrik e. V., “30 Jahre Frauenzentrum Schokofabrik,” n.d., <http://www.schokofabrik.de/>.

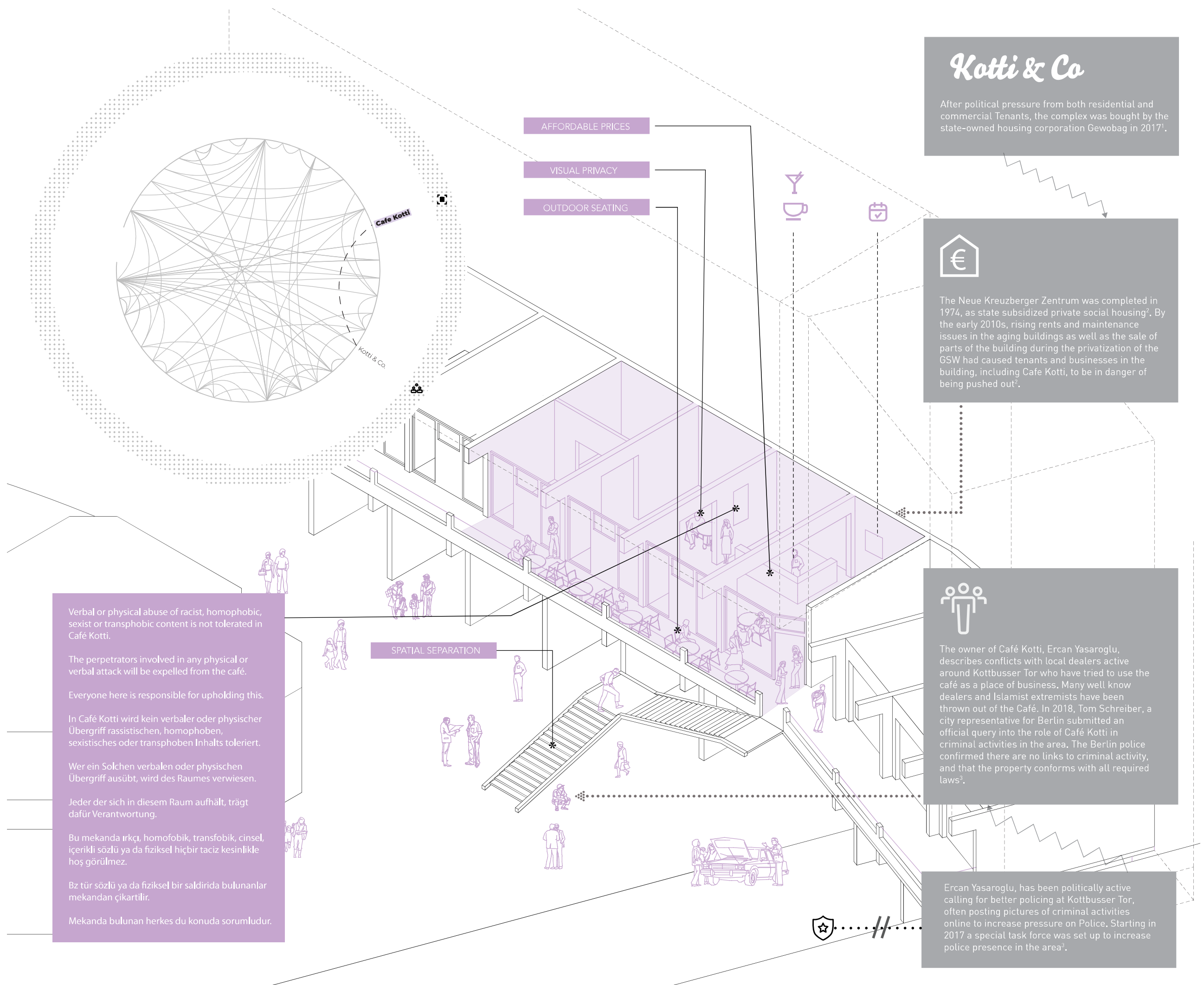
³ “O Y A CaféKneipe,” Facebook, accessed July 4, 2020, <https://www.facebook.com/oyacafekneipe/>.

Bildern

S.T.E.R.N., Diapositive: Naunynstr. 72, 1982-1984, 1982, Photograph, Höhe: 24 mm, Breite: 36 mm, 1982, FHXB Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg Museum, https://fhxb-museum.de/fhxb_lp/objekt.php?o=15345&m=5166&next=25.

S.T.E.R.N., Diapositive: Oranienstraße, Mariannenstr. 6, Naunynstr. 72, 1985, 1985, Photograph, Höhe: 36 mm, Breite: 24 mm, 1985, FHXB Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg Museum, https://fhxb-museum.de/fhxb_lp/objekt.php?o=14809&m=7597.

Bildtitel, Ines Schaber, 2012



Spaces of Empowerment

Cafe Kotti



Entrance Stairs, Photo by Authours, 2020



Ext Seating, Photo by Authours, 2020



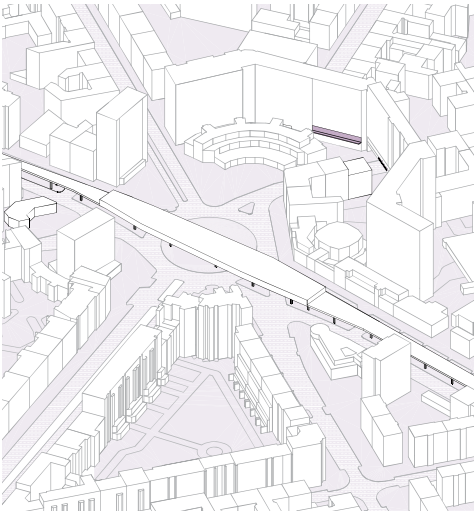
View of Kotti, Photo by Authours, 2020



Signage, Photo by Authours, 2020



Ext Seating, Photo by Authours, 2020



Location, M1:5000

Reference

¹ Michael Klockmann, "Neues Kreuzberger Zentrum endlich in öffentlicher Hand," Berliner MieterGemeinschaft e.V., July 2017, [mietercho/archiv/2017/me-single/article/lehrstueck-nkz/](https://archiv/2017/me-single/article/lehrstueck-nkz/).

² Isabell Jürgens, "Gewobag bekommt Zuschlag für NKZ am Kottbusser Tor," April 22, 2017, <https://www.morgenpost.de/berlin/article210319365/Gewobag-bekommt-Zuschlag-fuer-NKZ-am-Kottbusser-Tor.html>.

³ Til Biermann and Ufuk Ucta, "Ich Habe Amri Rausgeworfen, Jetzt Muss Ich Mich Rechtfertigen," BZ, April 1, 2018, <https://www.bz-berlin.de/berlin/friedrichshain-kreuzberg/ich-habe-amri-rausgeworfen-jetzt-muss-ich-mich-rechtfertigen>.



Stickers, Photo by Authours, 2020

Spaces of Empower- ment fem*MAP puzzle piece

Through our research we explored how queer feminist groups strive to build alternative spaces, using physical and spatial strategies to produce spaces free from the oppressions of everyday life. In these spaces, women* can be free from the patriarchal and heterosexist norms that permeate mainstream culture. What can we learn from these spaces? How do we foster the social and physical conditions of empowerment?

Our drawings are of heterotopias, each different in nature and none of them perfect, but each offering some degree of shelter from the oppression faced by women* and queer people in the mainstream. Why are these spaces the exception and not the rule? What would a city look like if these spaces were no longer necessary?

Our non-sexist city:

Believes that everyone should have access to spaces that empower them.

Seeks to identify and minimize structural oppression, by recognising the physical and social barriers to spaces of empowerment.

Is sensitive of the need for anonymity and experimentation, and embraces the ability of everyone to reinvent themselves and try on new forms of expression.

Strives to create a space free of fear and judgement, where people can express themselves without fear of repercussion .

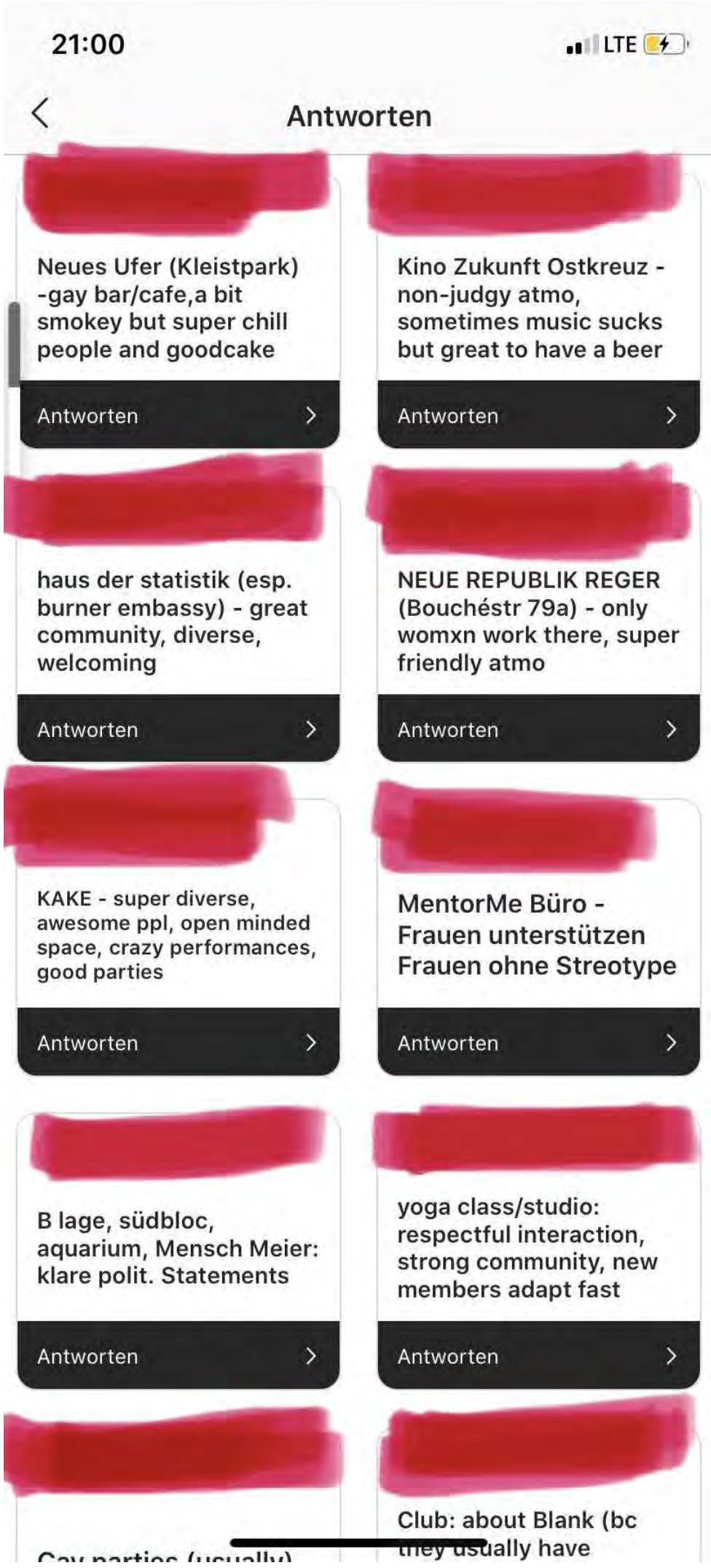
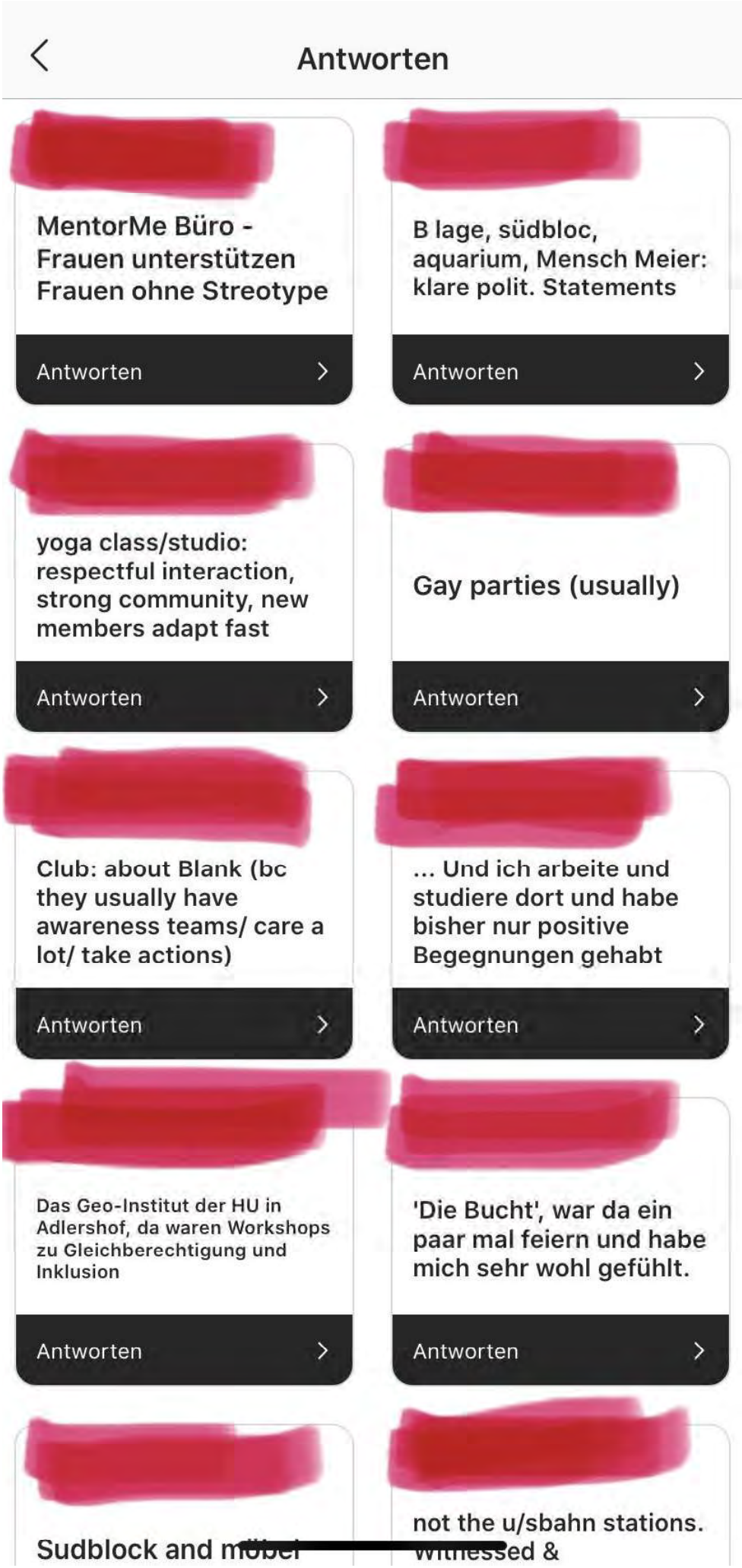
In the future we would like to see our little network of heterotopias grow, to encompass the whole city. Instead of queer feminist spaces being islands in the city fabric we would like them to start to build bridges, fill in the gaps and start to form a tapestry.

What does a non-sexist city look like? We would like to think we have found the fragments of it, those fragments just need to grow, and maybe they won't be fragments anymore, but a whole new city.

Spaces of Empowerment

Appendix

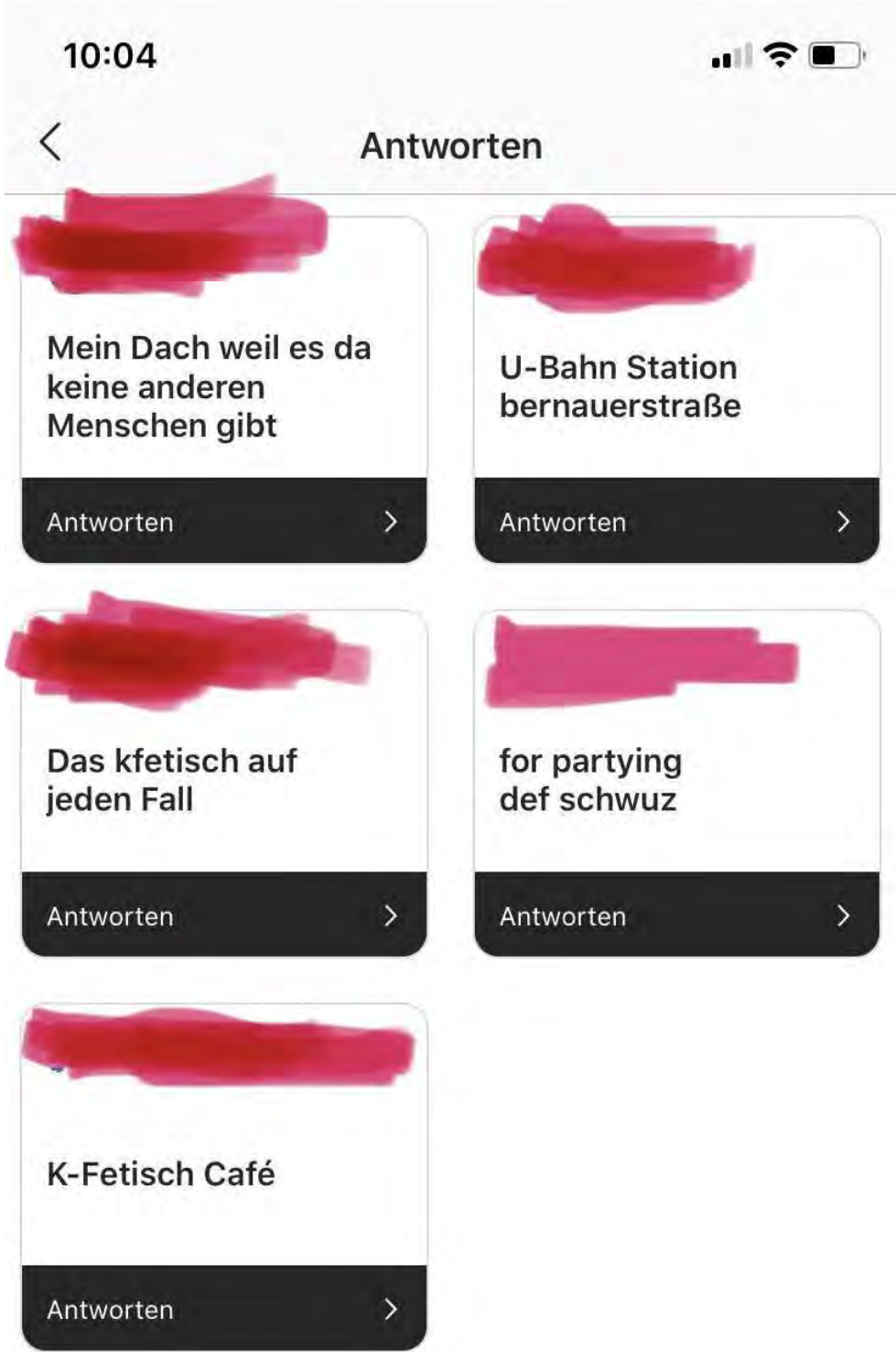
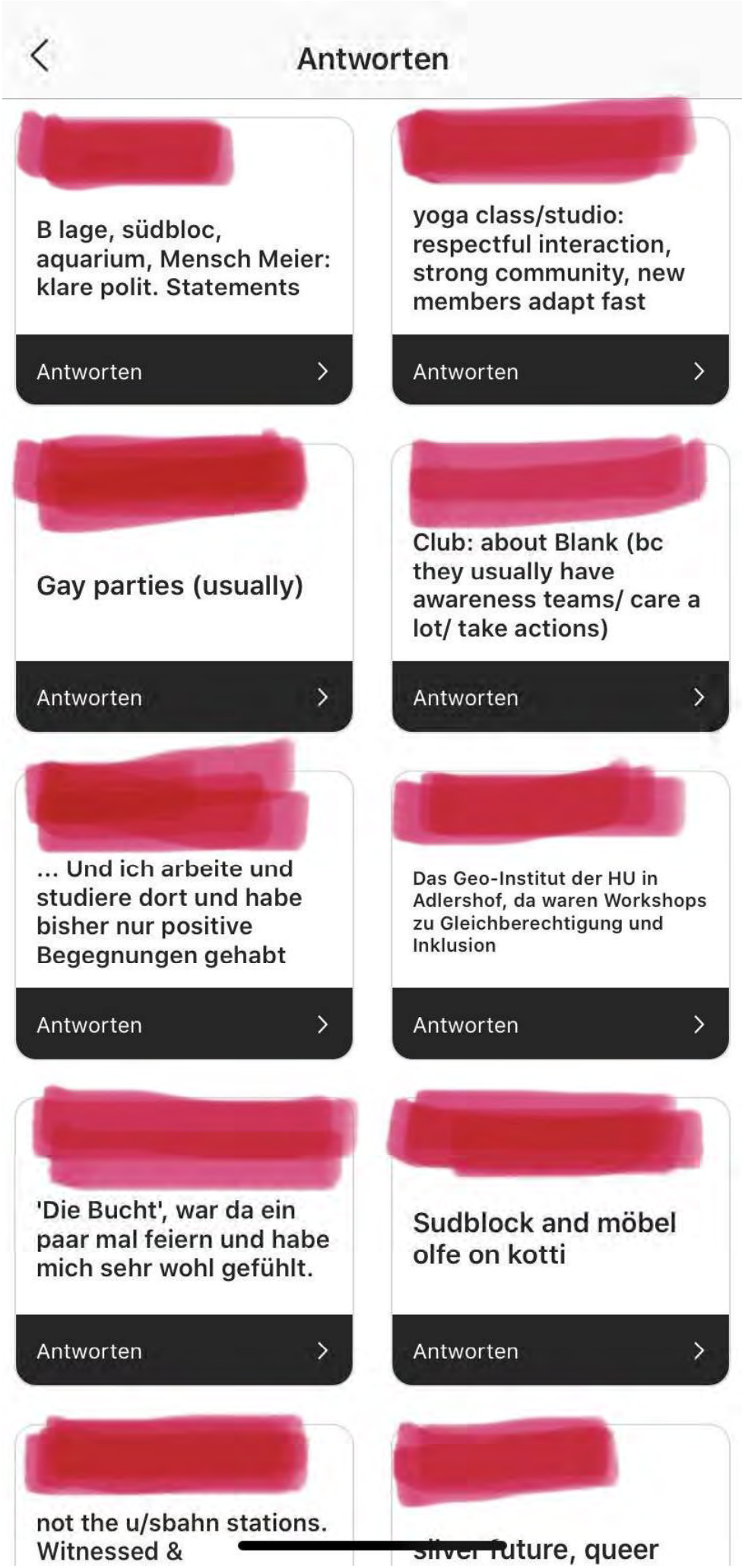
Appendix 1: introductory survey about spaces of empowerment.



Spaces of Empowerment

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Appendix 1: introductory survey about spaces of empowerment.

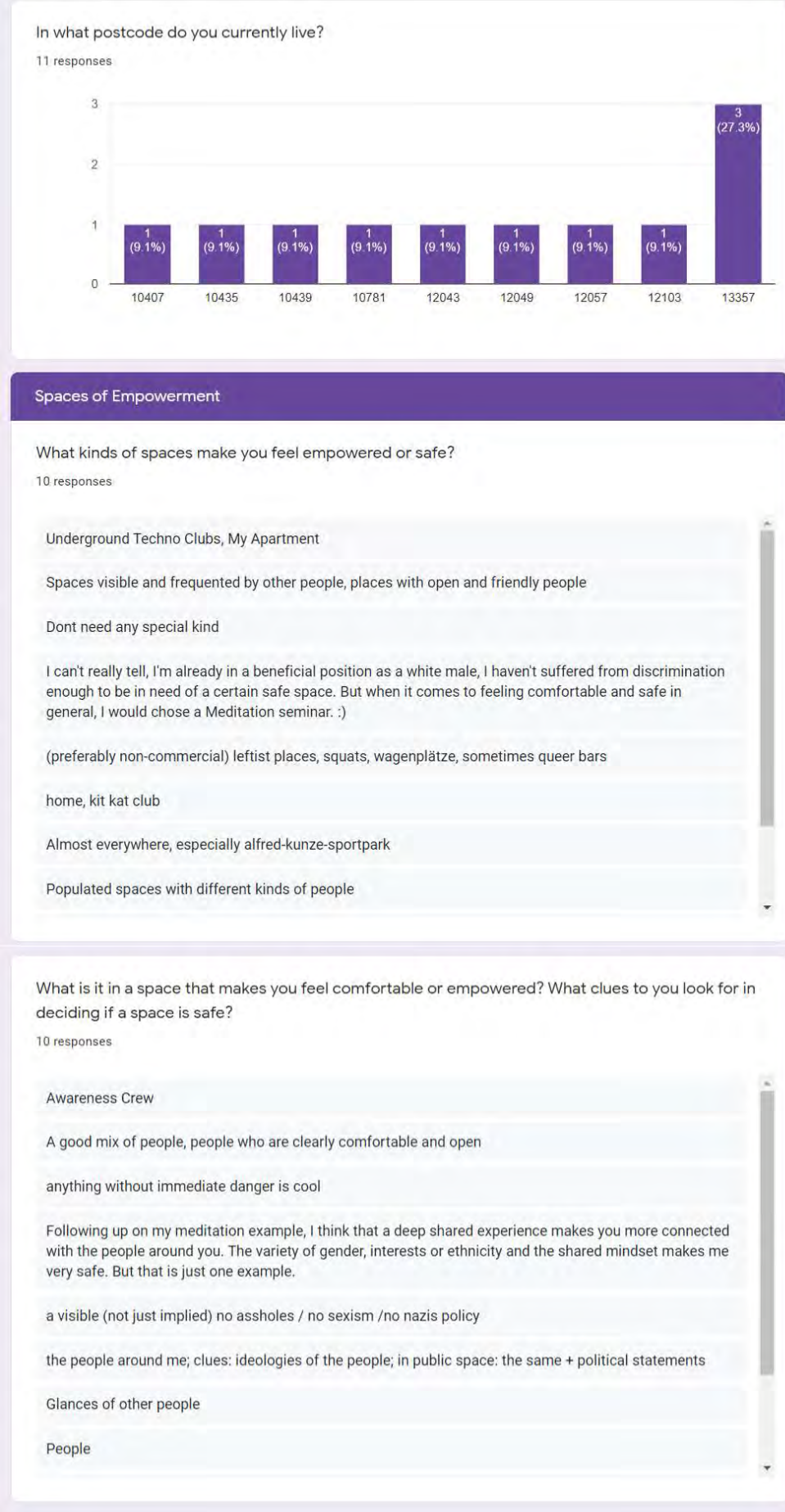
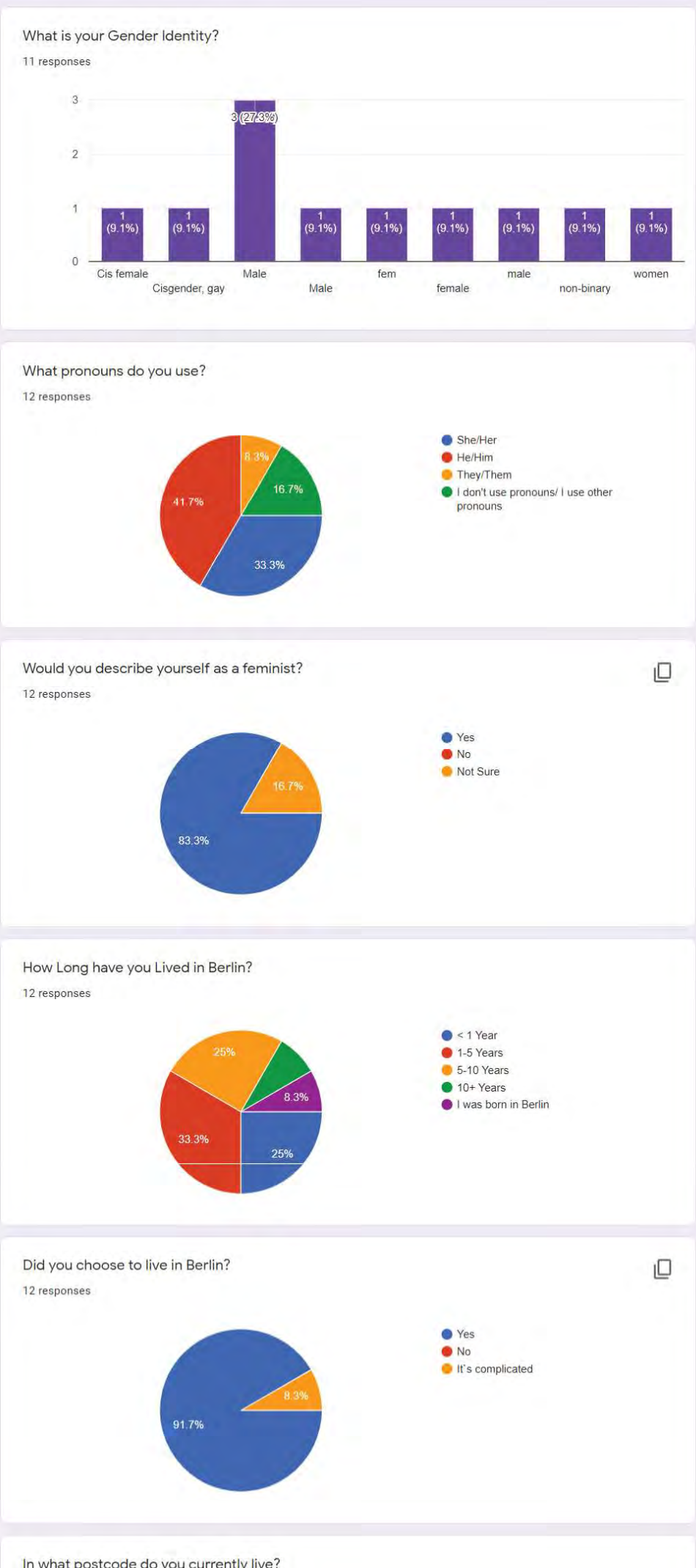
oh darf ich auch was sagen? ich hab seit 5 jahren 2 sage spaces in berlin:
1. das ijgd-büro in kreuzberg, der verein hat meinen freiwilligendienst organisiert und ich geh da immer vorbei, wenn ich in b bin und 2. die wohnung der eltern meiner besten freundin alice, dort bin ich immer willkommen, wenn ich strande. sind aber keine public spaces

My safe spaces are always outside of home - because the permanent WG search has been really tough so far in Berlin.. before corona times I would say that places like silver future or sameheads were great safe spaces, since then I find my safe space is getting into nature in a park or lake outside the center has helped, like südgelande, or straussee, but actually some of the people in these places are judgy af since it's kind of outside the city center... Other than that my therapist's office 😂😂



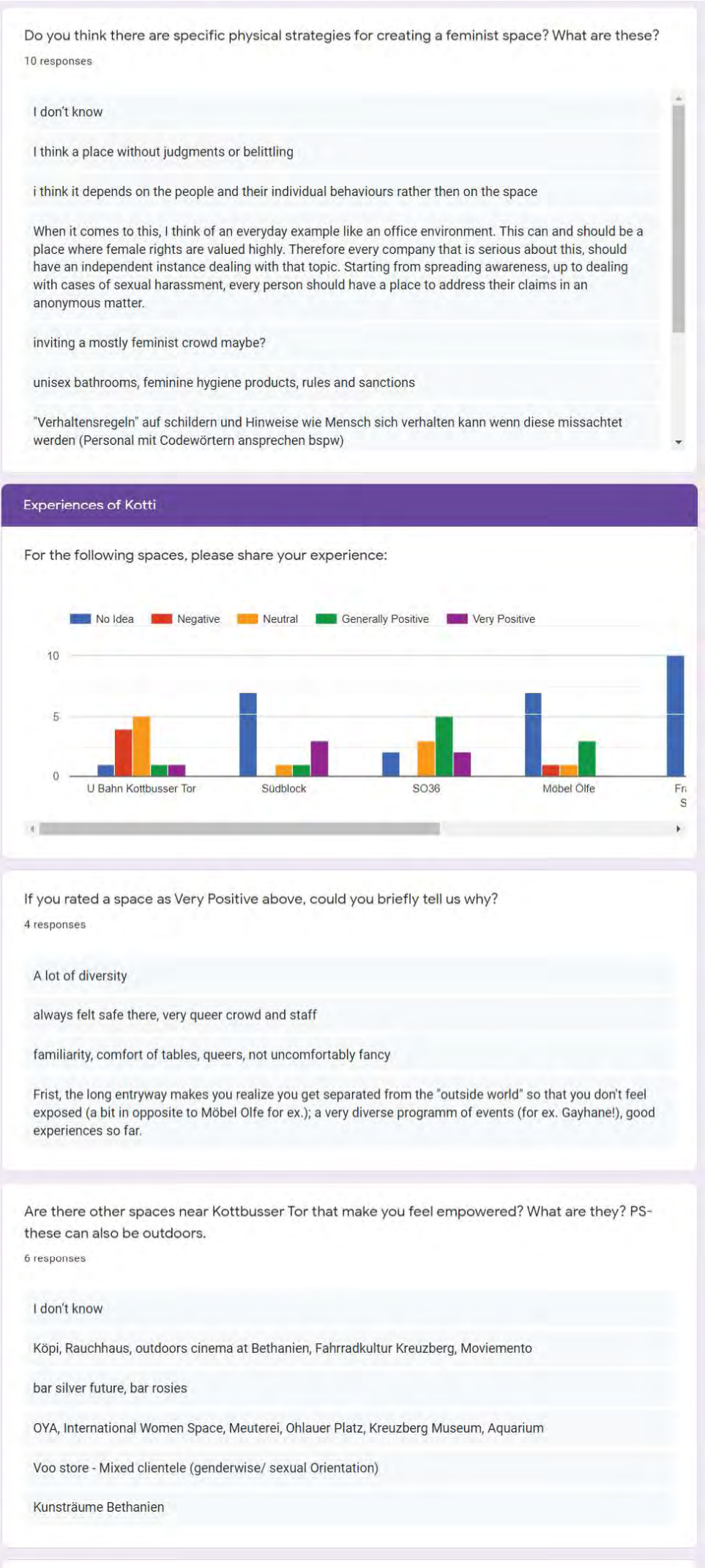
Spaces of Empowerment Appendix

Appendix 2: survey of experiences around Kottbusser Tor



Spaces of Empowerment Appendix

Appendix 2: survey of experiences around Kottbusser Tor



Spaces of Empowerment Appendix

Appendix 3: data for network diagram

Name	Type	Income
Südblock	Space	Bar / Café
SO36	Space	Bar / Club
Queerberg	Party	Club
Silverfuture	Space	Bar
Teddy	Award	?????
Unteilbar	Demo/ Charity	Donations
Wildwasser e.V.	Charity	Donations
Schokofabrik	Space	State Funded / Rent / Others
Lebenberatung	Space / Charity	Donations / State funding
Möbel Olfe	Space	Bar
Behindert Pride Parade	Demo/ Charity	Donations
Liebig34	Space	Illegal
faq	Space	Donations
Möbel-Olfe	Space	Bar
Schwuz	Space	Club
female:pressure	Performer (collective)	
RuT	Space	Donations
Dyke March	Space / Charity	Donations
Ipek	Performer (collective)	
Aquarium	Space	Club
Kotti & Co.	Network (Official)	Donations
OYA	Space	Bar
LesMigraS	Space / Charity	Donations
PorYes	Award	Donations
Gladt e.V.	Charity	Donations
Pansy Presents	Performer (collective)	
Creamcake	Event	Club
Cafe Kotti	Space	Bar
Missy Magazine	Publication	Advertising
Sexclusisvitäten	Space	Store
Other Nature	Space	Store
Refugio	Space /Café	Café / State Funded
Begine	Space	
Bikeygees	Event	Donations / State funding
Lesbisch Schwule Stadtfest	Event	
Siegessäule	Magazine	Advertising
Whole Queer Festival	Event	Club
Gegen	Event	Club
Allgemeine Homosexuelle A	Space	Donations / Café
Mint	Event	Club
Rooms for Resistance	Event	Club
Berlin Porn Film Festival	Event	Films
Berlin Feminist Film Festival	Event	Films
about blank	Space	Club

Source	Target		
Südblock	SO36	1	Advertising for
Südblock	Gladt e.V.	2	Fundraising
SO36	Gladt e.V.	2	Fundraising
Queerberg	Gladt e.V.	2	Fundraising
Queerberg	Silverfuture	3	Takes place in
Silverfuture	SO36	1	Advertising for
Silverfuture	Südblock	1	Advertising for
SO36	Pansy Presents	3	Takes place in
Südblock	Pansy Presents	3	Takes place in
Südblock	Creamcake	3	Takes place in
Südblock	Teddy	3	Takes place in
Unteilbar	Südblock	2	Fundraising
Unteilbar	SO36	2	Fundraising
Wildwasser e.V.	Südblock	2	Fundraising
Schokofabrik	Wildwasser e.V.	4	Member of
Lebenberatung	RuT	2	Fundraising
Möbel Olfe	RuT	2	Fundraising
Schokofabrik	RuT	2	Fundraising
Behindert Pride Parade	Möbel-Olfe	2	Fundraising
Behindert Pride Parade	Südblock	2	Fundraising
Liebig34	Möbel-Olfe	2	Fundraising
faq	Möbel-Olfe	2	Fundraising
Möbel-Olfe	Unteilbar	2	Fundraising
Schwuz	Unteilbar	2	Fundraising
female:pressure	Schwuz	3	Takes place in
RuT	Schwuz	2	Fundraising
Dyke March	Südblock	2	Fundraising
Dyke March	Schwuz	2	Fundraising
Behindert Pride Parade	Schwuz	2	Fundraising
Ipek	SO36	3	Takes place in
Aquarium	Südblock	5	Owns
Ipek	Aquarium	3	Takes place in
Ipek	Schwuz	3	Takes place in
Ipek	Südblock	3	Takes place in
Ipek	female:pressure	3	Takes place in
Kotti & Co.	Cafe Kotti	4	Member of
Kotti & Co.	SO36	4	Member of
Kotti & Co.	Südblock	4	Member of
Schokofabrik	OYA	4	Member of
OYA	Dyke March	2	Fundraising
LesMigraS	OYA	2	Fundraising
LesMigraS	Schwuz	2	Fundraising
OYA	SO36	1	Advertising for
PorYes	OYA	2	Fundraising
PorYes	Südblock	1	Advertising for
PorYes	Missy Magazine	1	Advertising for
PorYes	Sexclusisvtäten	4	Member of
Siegessäule	Lesbisch Schwule Stadtf	2	Fundraising
Siegessäule	SO36	1	Advertising for
Siegessäule	Südblock	1	Advertising for
Siegessäule	Möbel-Olfe	1	Advertising for
Siegessäule	RuT	1	Advertising for
Siegessäule	Silverfuture	1	Advertising for
Missy Magazine	Silverfuture	1	Advertising for
Missy Magazine	Südblock	1	Advertising for
Missy Magazine	Schwuz	1	Advertising for
Whole Queer Festival	Gegen	4	Member of
Whole Queer Festival	Room for Resistance	4	Member of
Room for Resistance	about blank	3	Takes place in
Siegessäule	about blank	1	Advertising for
about blank	Mint	3	Takes place in
Allgemeine Homosexuelle Ar	Siegessäule	1	Advertising for
Mint	Schwuz	3	Takes place in
Berlin Porn Film Festival	Siegessäule	2	Fundraising
Berlin Feminist Film Festival	Missy Magazine	2	Fundraising
Berlin Feminist Film Festival	Schwuz	2	Fundraising
Begine	Schokofabrik	4	Member of
Berlin Feminist Film Festival	Other Nature	2	Fundraising
Berlin Porn Film Festival	Other Nature	2	Fundraising
Begine	Dyke March	4	Member of
RuT	Begine	4	Member of
Wildwasser e. V.	Begine	4	Member of
Bikeygees	Lesbisch Schwule Stadtf	2	Fundraising
Bikeygees	Refugio	3	Takes place in

Spaces of Empowerment

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Authors:

Natasha Nurul Annisa, Edyta Baran, Paul Bostanjoglo, Elif Civici, Yu-Pin Chiu, Hsiao-Lan Chuang, Donka Dimitrova, André Sacharow, Juliana García-Léon, Sebastian Georgescu, Julia Gersten, Jörn Gertenbach, Sena Gür, Tamar Gürciyan, Julius Hempen, Viktoria Hevesi, Maximilian Hinz, Rowaa Ibrahim, Tildem Kirtak, Ekaterina Kropacheva, Kamal Mahajaran, Katrina Neelands Malinski, Elizaveta Mozalevskaya, Roberta Palma, Solveigh Paulus, Amir Hossein Rezaii, Santiago Sanchez, Feyza Sayman, Nikita Schweizer, Jessica Voth, Jelena Vukovic (TU Berlin) and Péter Máthé, Ana Maria Rodriguez Bisbicus & Lara Stöhlmacher (UDK Berlin).

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