

PRESS RELEASE



Ein Museum von:

DOMiD

Redesign: DOMiD is considering a significantly scaled-down migration museum at the Cologne-Kalk site



This is what the Museum Selma is set to look like based on the selected design concept: the project is to be realised at the site in Hall 70 in Cologne-Kalk through a major redesign. Visualisation: ATELIER BRÜCKNER

Cologne, 30.04.2026 – The Kulturzentrum am Neumarkt (KAN) cannot serve as the home of the Museum Selma. This is the conclusion reached following extensive assessments. As a result, the museum’s supporting organisation, DOMiD, is now exploring the possibility of realising the Museum Selma at its original location, Halle 70 in Cologne-Kalk, within the allocated budget, by making significant cuts to the spatial programme.

Following the Cologne City Council’s decision in March to consider relocating the Museum Selma construction project to the Kulturzentrum am Neumarkt (KAN), the feasibility of this alternative has been assessed. Initial findings point clearly in one direction:

Locating the museum at Neumarkt involves massive project risks – risks that the client cannot take. In particular, initial assessments by the Cologne District Government, as the supervisory authority for grant and procurement law, make implementing this location unrealistic: a new procurement procedure would most likely be necessary for this. However, initial funding-related assessments for the KAN indicate that a repetition of Scope of

Services phases 1–3 within the framework of the existing funding application is not possible. The final assessment is still pending.

Due to the multitude of project risks, the general assembly of the museum's governing body, DOMiD, has decided not to pursue this route further. "We are grateful to those involved who, with great commitment, made it possible to examine this alternative. As the planning client, it is our responsibility to decide at all times, based on the available information, which route offers the most realistic way to realise the museum building," says DOMiD Managing Director Robert Fuchs.

During the council debate and in public discourse, it has become clear just how much support the Museum Selma enjoys in the city. "Our hearts have always been set on Kalk. The other options are closed off. There are no further funds available, nor is integration into the KAN possible. Realising the Museum Selma in Hall 70 is only feasible if the agreed spatial programme is significantly scaled back. That is painful, but it is the route we will now be exploring."

Over the coming weeks, DOMiD will assess the feasibility of this route and present it to the funding bodies. Close cooperation with the city administration is crucial to success, given the tight deadlines and the many project interfaces.

If, following DOMiD's assessments, the State of North Rhine-Westphalia releases planning funds from the existing grant money for a scaled-down redesign in Hall 70 in Kalk, DOMiD will be able to plan a significantly reduced version of the museum. Such a design plan is a prerequisite for being able to draw down federal funds by 31 December 2026.

"The Museum Selma fulfils a public function: it preserves the cultural heritage of our migrant society and aims to make this accessible to a broad public through a unique exhibition. We are talking about almost a third of the population, which is being represented on this scale for the first time," says DOMiD board member and co-founder Ahmet Sezer. "We regret that politicians are not supporting an institution of this national stature with the additional costs caused by inflation. As the initiators and developers, we bear the responsibility for realising this widely shared vision of a nationally significant venue for social cohesion."

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Naming Conventions

The migration museum planned by DOMiD is titled Museum Selma. Since this refers to an institution and not a person, we ask that you refrain from shortening it to "Selma" and avoid alternative names such as "Migration Museum Selma." Museum Selma is a registered trademark throughout Europe.

About Museum Selma

Funded by the German federal government, the state of North Rhine-Westphalia and the City of Cologne, the Museum Selma – a museum of migration – is set to be established in Cologne over the coming years on behalf of DOMiD. It will showcase how migration has shaped German history and continues to influence our society today.

As a cultural and community centre, the museum will also provide a space to discuss key issues surrounding identity, coexistence and participation. The German Bundestag and the State Parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia each allocated €22.13 million in their budgets to cover the investment costs. The non-profit organisation DOMiD gGmbH was founded in 2021 to run the museum. The project has been enshrined in the Federal Government's National Action Plan on Integration to "honour Germany's cultural wealth, which is also thanks to immigrants". A location for the museum is currently being assessed.

www.museum-selma.de/en

About DOMiD

The Documentation Centre and Museum on Migration in Germany (DOMiD) is a non-profit association founded by migrants in 1990. DOMiD is home to Germany's largest collection of objects and documents documenting the diverse history of migration in Germany. The ongoing collection emerged from civil society and currently comprises more than 150,000 social, cultural and everyday historical artefacts.

With its exhibitions, publications and events, DOMiD is one of the pioneers in the museumisation of migration and the communication of migration history. The organisation stands for a multi-perspective view of history and is committed to an inclusive culture of remembrance.

The DOMiD office in Cologne currently has 16 employees (salaried and freelance). The organisation is politically independent and ideologically neutral. DOMiD is institutionally funded by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia and the city of Cologne.

<https://domid.org/en/>