

Final document (abridged version)

Participation process for the Gostenhof Neighbourhood Centre (NHG)

Period: September 2024 – September 2025



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Introduction

This document summarises key findings from the participation process on the future development of the Gostenhof Neighbourhood Centre (NHG). It is based on discussions, workshops and feedback from 2024 and 2025. It is intended to give the newly elected advisory board an overview of what we heard during the process. This picture will never be able to fully reflect all personal opinions.

However, it reflects the key issues that were repeatedly mentioned in the house – and it attempts to keep the NHG as a whole in view without emphasising individual interests. The advisory board will play an important role in further developing and supplementing these findings.

What connects us – and what moves us

We have heard that many people feel uncertain or concerned. Especially those who have been using the house for many years or who helped build it are wondering what the upcoming changes will mean for them personally. These concerns are important. Every story counts. Every person brings their own experiences and fears to the table.

We have also learned that everyone – associations, groups, employees, visitors and the city – shares responsibility for the future of the building. To ensure that the NHG continues to connect, protect and strengthen people in 20 years' time, current needs must be reconciled with the possibilities of the future.

This means thinking together about how the house can be designed so that it remains a good place for the people of today and for the people of tomorrow.

The result is a house that both honours the past and embraces the future.

Why change is necessary

The building is no longer functioning properly in many areas.

There are limitations in terms of accessibility, safety, fire protection, orientation, technology and room quality. The City of Nuremberg has therefore decided to renovate the building.

The renovation offers an opportunity to further develop the NHG in terms of its structure, organisation and social aspects. Which recommendations will ultimately be implemented will be decided in the upcoming planning stages and by the city council.

The three most important goals for the future of the NHG

1 | A place of empowerment – a house that strengthens people

We have heard that the NHG should remain a place where people can realise their ideas.

What it's about:

- Easy access to rooms and equipment
- Flexible usage options
- Support from the building coordination team
- Sharing knowledge instead of keeping it to yourself

Objective:

A house that empowers people to become active and learn together.

2 | Safe place – orientation, trust and protection

We have heard that some people feel uncertain or disoriented.

What it's about:

- clear pathways, better lighting
- good visibility between open and closed areas
- protected rooms for consultations and sensitive topics
- accessible employees
- respectful rules and contact persons in case of conflicts

Objective:

A house where people feel safe and welcome.

3 | Broader participation – a house that many help to design

We have heard that participation should become more transparent, comprehensible and accessible.

What it's about:

- Simple, regular and understandable information
- Transparent decisions
- More open committee structures/composition of working groups
- Offers that also appeal to new people
- Low-threshold formats without costs or registration

Objective:

A house that is designed collaboratively – and thus remains vibrant.

What was particularly important to you – rooms and usage

1 | Rooms for clubs – belonging & good organisation

We understand that fixed spaces are important for groups because they provide a sense of belonging and reliability.

Recommendation: Club cluster

- Group associations on one floor
- Shared infrastructure: kitchenette, photocopier, meeting area
- Lockable storage facilities and secure IT access
- Enable a sense of belonging without wasting resources
- Well-equipped and bookable consultation rooms

2 | Gym – high demand & lack of capacity

We have heard that the gym is very important, but overbooked.

Recommendation:

- Functional improvements (flooring, acoustics, accessibility)
- An additional exercise or meeting room to reduce bottlenecks

3 | Creative spaces & cultural roof

We have heard that creative work and culture should continue to be possible.

Recommendation:

- Easily accessible workshops (woodwork, ceramics, sewing, repairs)
- Sufficient storage space for workpieces
- Desire to revitalise the attic as a cultural and meeting space

4 | Event rooms & catering

We have heard that events, halls and catering work closely together in everyday life.

Recommendation:

- Make halls more flexible
- Improve acoustic separation between hall and catering facilities
- Catering facilities should be accessible, visible and connected to the neighbourhood (on one floor, if necessary)
- Places to linger without having to buy anything
- Friendly lighting, colour and acoustic design

5 | Inclusion – Improving access for all

We have heard that people with disabilities experience barriers in the home – especially people with hearing impairments.

Recommendation:

- Better acoustics in important rooms
- Hearing assistance (e.g. mobile hearing amplifiers, induction loops)
- Clear, high-contrast signage
- Barrier-free paths and accessible sanitary areas

Objective:

A house where people with different disabilities can participate independently.

Conclusion

Connection is a treasure – and at the same time a responsibility. Because the upcoming renovation means change. It is necessary in order to preserve spaces, renew them and make them fit for the future. But change also means interfering with what people are familiar with. The renovation of the building, the redesign of its structures – all of this touches on emotions, habits and memories.

During the course of the event, it became apparent how varied expectations of the participation process were. Many participants wanted clear information about the move and the interim period rather than general questions about the development of structures. Some formats remained almost empty because topics such as opening up to the neighbourhood did not seem relevant to many. For many, the focus was on their own association's interests, familiar surroundings or the existing community spirit.

When people cling to the tried and tested, they do so not out of possessiveness, but out of a desire for stability, security and consistency. The participation process was therefore not only an organisational undertaking, but above all an emotional one: a balancing act between individual needs and collective responsibility.

We would like to thank everyone for their openness and honesty and hope that you receive the appreciation you deserve and find a home that meets your needs and social responsibilities.

Your Urban Lab

The detailed project document is available on request from the service office or housekeeping.