

Tanzhaus Zürich

Green Codex Tanzhaus Zürich

*«Anstatt nach der Parole von Profit und Phantombesitz uns selbst und die Natur zu erschöpfen, könnte menschliche Tätigkeit regenerieren:
Nähren, Versorgen – und Tanzen.»*

Eva von Redecker

«Instead of exhausting ourselves and nature according to the maxim of profit and phantom ownership, human activity could be regenerative:
nurturing, caring – and dancing.»

Our Vision

Tanzhaus Zürich sees itself as a creative space for new stories and for shaping a liveable future together. We understand sustainability not as renunciation or imposition, but as an opportunity for innovation, creativity and positive transformation. Sustainability transformation is, at its core, a cultural task – because art and culture are a resource for critical thinking, knowledge creation and innovative processes.

Why Art and Culture?

Art and culture hold transformative power:

- They make the interconnections of our vulnerable existence visible – and tangible in our own bodies.
- They create spaces for existential questions and new answers.
- They foster a playful approach to uncertainty and complexity.
- They invite people to step out of their shell and try new things.
- They can question what society takes for granted.
- The "soft skills" developed in contemporary dance practice hold enormous potential here: creativity, flexibility, dealing with complexity and uncertainty, understanding of differences, active listening, reflecting, adapting and perseverance – precisely the skills our society needs for sustainable change.

Our Principles

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1. Recognising and acting together

Climate protection is a cross-cutting task that runs through all areas and is embedded in the DNA of our organisation. All of us – staff, artists and audiences – share responsibility.

2. Collaboration instead of solo effort

Transformation work depends on collaboration. We seek cross-disciplinary partnerships, people willing to change, and accomplices – even beyond our own "bubble".

3. Confidence and the capacity to let go

We practise a mindset that sees change as an opportunity and cultivate "the capacity to let go" – the ability to give up what is superfluous without losing the core of our artistic work.

4. Regenerative action

Rather than merely doing less harm, we want to actively regenerate: nurture, care – and dance.

Our Measures

For Staff

- Green working group: our Green Team continuously develops sustainable practices for handling resources.
- Strategic anchoring: the environmental perspective is firmly embedded in our strategy paper and considered in all decisions.
- Everyday awareness: saving energy, waste separation, sustainable catering

For artists and productions

- Sustainable production: binding guidelines apply to all productions.
- Material cycles: set and costume design should follow the principle of "reduce, reuse, recycle".
- Local sourcing: we favour regional suppliers and second-hand materials.
- Sustainable mobility: we prioritise public transport and avoid air travel wherever possible.
- Conscious catering: catering is 100% vegan, regional and seasonal.

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For our audience

- Raising awareness: Tanzhaus Zürich is a source of information and inspiration for sustainable action.
- Programme choices: we support artistic approaches that engage with sustainability.
- Leading by example: we make our sustainable practices visible and exchange ideas with other institutions.

Our Path

We are on our way. Not all our goals have been achieved yet, but every step, however small, counts. We keep learning, experiment with new approaches and share our experiences.

Over the past months, we have developed a new approach to institutional transformation that cultivates greater connectedness through physical movement, along with innovative and mindful practices of inclusion, diversity and sustainability.

Get Involved!

Transformation needs all of us. Whether as an artist, staff member, audience member or partner – we invite you to become part of this movement. As James Baldwin said:

*«Not everything that is faced can be changed,
but nothing can be changed until it is faced.»*

Together we create new narratives for a liveable future – dancing, creative and regenerative.

For questions and suggestions, our Green Team is happy to help:

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