

Call for Support

Those of us engaged in the Berlin-Brandenburg Economic Archive share a conviction: our success in preserving the memory of Berlin and Brandenburg's complex economic history will shape our region's cultural and material future.



The Berlin-Brandenburg Economic Archive requires your personal support.

Our situation

Regional economic archives exist today in eleven of Germany's sixteen states. Unlike our peer institutions, the advancement of the Berlin-Brandenburg Economic Archive since its inception in 2009 has been made possible due solely to our own initiative and activities. To date, we have received no institutional support from state governments. Neither the Chamber of Commerce, nor individual firms in our region, provides our organization institutional support. Convincing the state governments of Berlin and Brandenburg, as well as the economic actors in our region, to acknowledge the necessity of our organization to our region's future is an ongoing challenge.

Call for Support

The future of our region depends on our ability to preserve and interpret Berlin and Brandenburg's rich cultural and economic heritage. The Berlin-Brandenburg Economic Archive seeks your support for efforts to deepen awareness of our region's industrial and commercial past. Since our founding in 2009 we have had the good fortune to list among our supporters many important scholars. They, together with other prominent contributors, have chosen to lend their support to our archive. Their engagement has inspired us to establish a wider network of supporters, including economic historians alongside leading figures in the fields of industrial heritage, data protection and privacy, and formal learning. Our decision to reach out to professionals beyond our region is the reason we are issuing this call for support. Begun in June 2015, our aim is to facilitate greater exchange among business leaders, academics, and public figures about the work of the Berlin-Brandenburg Economic Archive.

Can we count on your support?

Our Idea

We are asking that you add your name and institution to our growing list of personal supporters. We want to hear from you about why you feel our regional economic archive is an important endeavor. Your name, along with your brief testimonial, will be highly important to us in our efforts to convince public authorities of the relevance of our archive.

The Berlin-Brandenburg Economic Archive

The Berlin-Brandenburg Economic Archive is a research center for our region's economic history and industrial heritage.

Our mission is to preserve and make accessible historical and business records produced by firms and professional associations. Our audience is the general public, academic researchers, as well those working in educational and cultural organizations.

The highest elected body in the federal state of Berlin has accorded our archive the status of a cultural institution. A certified nonprofit, contributions to our archive are tax deductible. We are pleased to provide charitable receipts for all membership fees and donations provided to our archive.

The Berlin-Brandenburg Economic Archive cooperates with other document repositories, educational organizations, as well as scholarly and cultural initiatives.



What you should know about our archive

- The Berlin-Brandenburg Economic Archive collects files, photos, maps, architectural plans, and films. Donors include firms, associations, as well as private estates. We make select archival materials available for research purposes. Present holdings include more than sixty commercial collections from firms across Berlin and Brandenburg, as well as 18,000 print volumes of economic historical literature. Among our most important collections are the membership files of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Berlin and the Friedrich Flick research collection.
- Our collections enable interested parties to document the economic historical development of the federal states of Berlin and Brandenburg.
- During the past five years, over 1,700 researchers have made use of our collections, including 410 pupils carrying out research projects based on the holdings of our archive.
- Our Advisory Board includes eleven individuals from various fields of commercial, academic, and cultural life. These experts advise and make recommendations, as well as provide more general support to the further development of partnership networks in and around the national capital region.
- Eleven members drawn from the economic life of Berlin and Brandenburg support the work of the Berlin-Brandenburg Economic Archive.

Services provided by the Berlin-Brandenburg Economic Archive

- We conduct archival research to document the economic history of Berlin and Brandenburg.
- We offer assistance to archival projects, archival development and management, corporate anniversaries, and related brand promotion initiatives.
- We organize different types of professional meetings and academic conferences in Berlin and Brandenburg devoted to economic history and industrial heritage.
- We prepare exhibitions, publications, talks, and professional articles.
- We write columns in magazines, journals, and online publications about entrepreneurs and enterprises from our region.
- We support educational projects for pupils, apprentices, and other adult learners.
- We cooperate with other voluntary organizations in Berlin and Brandenburg whenever the opportunity presents itself to strengthen knowledge about the industrial and commercial heritage of our region.

About us – recent developments



Our most recent academic conference devoted to the economy, history, and industrial heritage of the federal states of Brandenburg and Saxony was held this past autumn in the city of Cottbus.



In 2014, the Berlin-Brandenburg Historical Archive was honored to receive the highly competitive “Economic Archive of the Year Award” for our contribution to strengthening history and historical awareness.



Our archive is pleased to announce that Edzard Reuter, son of Ernst Reuter, West Berlin’s Lord Mayor during the Berlin Airlift, will this autumn bestow on select students our Economic History Prize.

The Mission

Our economic archive is uniquely positioned to promote regional entrepreneurship and industrial heritage. The Berlin-Brandenburg Economic Archive is the place where the historical development of companies and entrepreneurs across our region is discovered, preserved, and made available.

What can you do?

What makes a company unique is its history. Knowing a company's past, how a firm shaped a particular region, offers any business a strong competitive advantage, an observation as true of large industrial firms as smaller niche enterprises. We need your support to underscore the argument that historical business documents create enduring value. Preservation of economic history is a public good, an argument you can help us to make in different ways. Here are a few we've thought of:

- Visit us whenever you are in the Berlin-Brandenburg region.
- Share this Call for Support with others in your personal network.
- Provide us with your testimonial about the value of the Berlin-Brandenburg Economic Archive.
- Become a member: we welcome the opportunity to share with you our application materials.
- Propose ways to work together.
- Plan a joint project with us.

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Testimonials provided at our founding in 2009



“The ebb and flow of a region's history are reflected in the development of its firms. The history of business is after all a not inconsiderable part of the history of society as a whole.”

-- Klaus von der Heyde, former president of the Association of Berlin Merchants and Industrialists

“The significance of our own traditions for the present and future lead us to support the Berlin-Brandenburg Economic Archive. For Siemens, a global player founded in Berlin in 1847, the partnership is a natural fit.”

-- Wilfried Feldenkirchen, former director of Siemens Corporate Archives

“I hope that the federal states of Berlin and Brandenburg, together with the economic community of the region, will acknowledge their shared financial responsibility for this project in the years to come. This endeavor is highly important to the future of this region”

-- Günter Stock, president of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of the Sciences

“Our associate membership underscores our commitment to the Berlin-Brandenburg region. It is also intended to inspire other companies in Berlin and Brandenburg to lend their support to this project.”

-- Ulrich Köstlin, member of the board of directors of Bayer Schering Pharma AG
