



**MEET MY SISTER**  
**50 Years Sister City Partnership Tübingen—Ann Arbor**

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### **Metzger, Schlanderer, Zeeb: Swabians in Ann Arbor**

German family names are common in the city of Ann Arbor, and many of these sound very Swabian. The large number of people living in Ann Arbor with German descendants was a major reason why there was an initial interest in looking for a Southern German partner city. In addition to the German Club of Ann Arbor there was also a Swabian Support Association, which met in the “Schwabenhalle.”

“Let’s look for a place in the old world we can establish a connection with,” said the City Councilor. “And why don’t we choose Germany? Many of us have German ancestors, and many of us were in Germany during the war...it’s a nice country. Let’s look there for a place to cast our anchor.”

The American Cultural Attaché Michael Weyl spoke about the German-American relationship in a speech in 1976.

Shortly after the city was founded by English settlers in 1824, the 19<sup>th</sup> century wave of German emigration brought many new settlers to the town. Many of these new arrivals came from Württemberg, including some from the Tübingen area. Among the various ethnic groups, the Germans were considered to have the strongest sense of community. They were rather conservative but, nevertheless, had the largest number of bars (saloons). Around 1880 almost 50 per cent of the population of Ann Arbor had German roots; they lived in “Germantown” in the western section of the city. There was a German language newspaper “Die Washtenaw Post,” three churches, an association for workers, one for gymnastics, and a riflemen’s association (“Schützenverein”), two German choirs, one of which was the “Beethoven-Gesangverein,” and a brass band. Karl Rominger’s story is one example of an immigrant in Ann Arbor who came from Tübingen. He went to Ann Arbor in 1848, the year of the 1848 revolution with which he sympathized. He had studied medicine in Tübingen and had been an assistant at the

university to the chemist Christian Gmelin. He was also interested in geology and cooperated with the Tübingen paleontologist Friedrich Quensted. He was friends with the revolutionist Karl Mayer who was forced to flee to Switzerland.

After having been a physician for six years in Ohio, Rominger returned to Tübingen to marry his childhood sweetheart, Friederike Mayer. She was the sister of his friend and the daughter of the poet Karl Mayer, a member of Ludwig Uhland's circle. Otilie Wildermuth, a Tübingen author, wrote about the "groom from America." "He isn't good-looking. His face is weather-beaten and the color of yellow leather." Her remarks were more positive shortly before the wedding: "Everyone takes great pleasure in him. He is an industrious and solid person, cordial and straightforward; if one has to cross the ocean, then it is best to go with such a person."

Later the couple settled in Ann Arbor where Rominger was a doctor in the German community. He also became Michigan State's geologist.

Uhland dedicated the following poem to the couple on the occasion of their wedding. (Loose and informal translation):

At midnight, on a wide, pathless sea  
When all the lights on the ship have long since been extinguished,  
When no star shines anywhere in the heavens,  
Then a small little lamp burns on the foredeck,  
A wick protected from the monster wind,  
Keeping the steersman's needle illuminated  
Which shows him the course unerringly.  
Oh yes! When we tend it, a light will lead  
Through every darkness, burning quietly in the breast.



Among the Jewish emigrants who were able to flee from the Holocaust is the former Tübingen resident Doris Doctor. Although today she lives with her daughter Ruth in Tel Aviv, Israel, she is a link between Ann Arbor and Tübingen because of her regular visits with her daughter, Linda Jo Doctor-Ginzburg, who lives in Ann Arbor.

Doris Doctor is the daughter of Adolf and Hanna Bernheim and was born in 1923. Her father had a textile factory in Bronnweiler in Reutlingen county. In order to provide their children with a good education, the family moved to Tübingen and lived on the present day Stauffenberg Street on the Österberg. Doris Bernheim attended the Wildermuth Gymnasium. In 1938, as the persecution of the Jewish people became evident, her parents took her to England for safety. They themselves were able to emigrate to the USA a year later, shortly before the outbreak of WWII. Doris was reunited with her family in Cincinnati, Ohio. Later she lived with her husband in New York.

To this day Doris Doctor-Berheim has maintained contact with her earlier friends in her hometown Tübingen. Since Tübingen's mayor Eugen Schmid first invited former Tübingen Jews to visit the city, Doris has visited Tübingen several times and is always accompanied by her daughter Linda Jo from Ann Arbor. In 2004 she attended the premier of the documentary film "Paths of Tübingen Jews," and in 2014 she was at the presentation of the autobiography of her mother Hanna Bernheim who died in 1990. Her autobiography "History of My Life" has been published in German and English.

## Diminishing German influence

Both World Wars and the Nazi regime severely diminished the standing of German-Americans in the USA and in Ann Arbor as well. Clear expressions of loyalty were required of German-Americans and many fought on the American side in the wars. The German language disappeared from public life.

In the meanwhile new immigrant groups from Latin America and Asia have displaced the once strong ethnic German influence.

This trend is evident in school language programs, which increasingly are taking up other (world) languages. This has influenced the German-American school exchange programs where interest in an exchange is much greater on the part of Tübingen students wishing to go to the USA than the other way around.

Participation in the three-week high school exchange programs, which have been taking place regularly every two years since 1979 between Tübingen high schools and Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor, is clearly greater on the Tübingen side. Michael Reder, an English and sport teacher from the Wildermuth Gymnasium, has been organizing these exchanges for years. The 16 to 17 year-olds live with families in Ann Arbor and are able to practice their language skills in everyday life. They also have a lot of fun.

The same trend holds true for student exchanges at the university level. More Tübingen students are interested in attending the University of Michigan than the other way around. This has led to the limitation of exchange places. The high university fees at the University of Michigan are waived for the Tübingen students. For the year 2014/2015 ten students from Tübingen went to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Five to eight students come to Tübingen from the University of Michigan for one or two semesters every year to attend a special program. They first attend a language program in Schwäbisch Hall.



### **Why Ann Arbor? Beginnings**

Once the worst of the effects of World War II were overcome in the Federal Republic of Germany, the 1960s were not only a time of modest prosperity, they were also a time to seek international understanding and encounters. The Germans began to travel abroad again and the resentment against the Nazis began to be replaced by a newer and more conciliatory point of view.

At this point in time Ann Arbor became interested in having a partnership with a German city. Since the 1950s the organizations People to People (founded in 1956 by the government under President Dwight D. Eisenhower) and Youth for Understanding (founded in the 1950s with its main headquarters in Ann Arbor) had been active in Ann Arbor. Their intention was to strengthen the young democracy in Germany through personal contacts, by arranging personal visits of young Germans in American families. "By teaching a group of young people how families lived together in the United States, the hope was that they would be motivated to go back to Germany and rebuild a new country, a democracy, according to what they had observed while living in the United States."

Among the cities under consideration, Tübingen was Ann Arbor's first choice for a partner: Tübingen was a small town with a large university, and its structural similarity with Ann Arbor was convincing. In the spring of 1965 the People to People group from Ann Arbor contacted Mayor Hans Gmelin through Tübingen's America House. In June Richard E. Balzhizer, city councilor and university professor, came as an emissary from Ann Arbor to prepare the partnership.

A few days later Gladys Davis, a second emissary from Ann Arbor, brought a taped recording of greetings from the Mayor of Ann Arbor, Wendell E. Hulcher, former President Eisenhower and the Governor of Michigan, George Romney.

On the 1st of June 1965, Tübingen's town council passed a unanimous resolution to accept Ann Arbor's invitation to become their partner city. Thus Ann Arbor became Tübingen's third sister city following Monthey and Aix-en-Provence.

Public interest was enormous: an information evening which took place at the America House (later to become the German-American Institute) during which Katherine A. Rempp, the daughter of the then president of the Schwaben Association in Ann Arbor, showed slides of her hometown, was overcrowded.

At that time the people of Tübingen found a lot of things typically American about their guests. A scene described by the music impresario Helmut Calgéer and at the time music teacher at Kepler Gymnasium shows just how different and foreign the everyday cultures were 50 years ago.

"In December 1965, Mary Ellen Lewis, the general secretary from Musical Youth International and Rachel Andresen from Youth for Understanding came to sound out the chances for an exchange of young musicians. They appeared at a rehearsal of the youth symphony orchestra wearing candy colored clothing: one in purple and the other in pink with their matching hats. The students were amazed and giggled. However, the women's idea of a musical exchange was met with enthusiasm."

The first official partnership visit from Tübingen to Ann Arbor was made by Dorita (from Tübingen) and Jack Lohrmann (a New Yorker with Danube-Swabian roots who was employed at the university). They had already made plans to celebrate their wedding with their American relatives in New York. They were offered a three-day wedding trip to Ann Arbor. They did not have much time for a honeymoon, because they went from one event to the next with the intention of meeting as many people as possible. They were royally treated by their hosts and were almost overwhelmed by the local hospitality and their impressions.

In December 1965, city council member Prof. Georg Melchers, the first official representative of Tübingen, visited Ann Arbor where he was handed the Golden Key of Ann Arbor by Mayor Wendell E. Hulcher. This was to open the door of Ann Arbor to numerous further visitors from Tübingen. In Tübingen, "People to People - Chapter Tübingen" was founded and Georg Melchers was elected its President. This would have very personnel consequences four years later.

The American German teacher, Carolyn Murphey, with a group of Pioneer High School students from Ann Arbor, visited their sister city Tübingen in April 1969. She was the guest of the city council member Georg Melchers. His son Christoph fell in love with Carolyn and arranged that she be invited to Tübingen in July as an official representative of Ann Arbor for the inauguration of the newly renovated city hall. She stayed in Tübingen and the couple married the same year.

The 1966 visit of Tübingen guests in Ann Arbor began adventurously. The trip began with a two day delay caused when their charter airplane, an old plane from the Vietnam war, arrived at the airport in Echterdingen in need of repair. Underway, additional defects appeared and the plane had to land several times for repair. The Ann Arbor hosts had to wait three days for their guests' arrival. The headline in the *Schwäbischen Tagblatt*'s article about the travel group's return home read: "Hurrah, they are back home!" – at that time crossing the Atlantic by plane was not an everyday event. For many Germans, America was still an unknown "new world."



### **The Friends of the Sister City Partnership Tübingen – Ann Arbor**

The origins of the sister city project began with two civic organizations working for international understanding in Ann Arbor: Youth for Understanding and People to People. For decades Tübingen's involvement was managed by institutions and organizers working with the city's cultural office, the German-American Institute (d.a.i.), schools and the university.

This changed in 2005 with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the partnership. In Tübingen, under the leadership of Carolyn Melchers, the Friends of the City Partnership Tübingen-Ann Arbor was born. Since then private citizens working together with Carolyn have worked hard to maintain an active partnership. At the same time, a group of Friends of the City Partnership Tübingen-Ann Arbor was founded in Ann Arbor with Lisa McDonald as president.

Lisa McDonald lived and worked in Tübingen for several years. After her marriage to an American, she moved to Ann Arbor where her husband worked. Lisa has set up a Tea House in Ann Arbor where the Friends of the City Partnership meet.

The Tübingen group accompanies and supports all kinds of exchange projects. In spite of the great distance between the cities, regular exchanges with musicians and artists have been able to take place.

In co-operation with the d.a.i., the Friends of the Partnership have already had three successful exchanges among local citizens. 27 people from Tübingen went on the first trip in 2008. Mayor Boris Palmer and some members of the city council were part of this group. At the same time the Big Band from Tübingen's music school as well as a high school exchange group from Wildermuth Gymnasium were in Ann Arbor.

The Friendship association organized a second trip to Ann Arbor in 2011. This trip was organized around the subject of architecture and city planning and development. 17 visitors, including Cord Soehlke, Tübingen's building commissioner, went to Ann Arbor. The return visit from Ann Arbor took place in 2012.

These trips have included many excursions during each visit, such as a side trip to Detroit. In connection with the trips to Ann Arbor, follow-up trips have been offered: for example, to Washington D.C., Chicago, and in 2015 to the nature reserve, the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore on Lake Michigan.



### **Exchange with Homestay: Close-up on the Life of Others**

Citizen and project-oriented trips between Tübingen and Ann Arbor have a much higher experience value than ordinary city trips and group tours. One outstanding reason is that guests are housed in private homes and with families. The “homestay” makes possible personal relationships between hosts and guests, which sometimes last for decades.

Joyce Chesbrough, a pioneer in the City Partnership Ann Arbor-Tübingen, and Erika Bendorir from Poltringen, got to know each other during Chesbrough’s first visit to Tübingen with her husband Dick in 1965. The guests from Ann Arbor were staying at that time in the Hotel “Krone.” As they said farewell, Dick Chesbrough pressed a ten dollar bill into Erika Bendorir’s hand, as an invitation to come to the USA. One year later Bendorir travelled with her partner to Ann Arbor, where they spent “three wonderful weeks” in the Chesbroughs’ house and on a trip together to Niagara Falls and Canada.

The friendship was maintained through letters and telephone calls on Christmas, and the Chesbroughs always made a stop in Poltringen during their European travels. It wasn’t until 40 more years later, in 2005, that Erika Bendorir visited Ann Arbor a second time. Joyce Chesbrough died on Christmas, 2014, which Bendorir learned when she made her usual Christmas telephone call.

During a homestay the guests can see their hosts’ everyday lives from the inside. They get to know how they organize their professions, free time, family life, shopping, meal times, transportation, use of the media, trash disposal, social contacts, and political opinions. They experience typical or original living arrangements, are astonished about gigantic refrigerators and hear which issues and problems occupy their hosts.

The American partners also treasure homestays in the German homes on their Tübingen trips, offering a personal, close-up view of the society.

A homestay is in addition a great opportunity to refresh and expand language skills in dialogue. Even participants with minimal English skills got along fine with their guest families on the citizen trip to Ann Arbor. Nice experiences of successful understanding, sometimes with the help of a dictionary, have been reported. The Friends of the City Partnership Tübingen-Ann Arbor make a big effort to pair up guests and hosts that will suit each other.

In one case, the Partnership Association helped to organize a longer homestay for an Ann Arbor pupil in Tübingen. 16-year-old Emily Corwin-Renner came to Tübingen with her parents and sister for a 10-week stay in 2009. The daughters were able to attend Wildermuth Gymnasium. Emily liked it so much that she stayed in Tübingen and lived with host families until she graduated with her Abitur in 2012.

Three times the Ann Arbor District Library has made possible internships of several months for library trainees from the German-American Institute Tübingen (d.a.i.) Thanks to the Partnership contacts, these interns could also be housed in homes with families, where they very quickly felt at home.



## Music Partnership

Many contacts were established in the early days of the City Partnership Tübingen-Ann Arbor through music. This was due to the high standard of music and orchestra training in the Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor, the Tübingen Kepler Gymnasium and the Tübingen Music School under Helmut Calg er.

As early as July, 1966, a youth orchestra and chorus from Ann Arbor gave a concert in the Stiftskirche (main city church), in the Festsaal (main university auditorium) and in Dettenhausen. In August of the same year, the symphony orchestra of the Kepler Gymnasium accompanied the first official Tübingen delegation to Ann Arbor. The orchestra was in America for three weeks in 1970. In Tübingen, different ensembles from the partner city performed in the castle courtyard, on the Platanenallee, in the Stiftskirche and in the courtyard of the B rgerheim (Seniors home).

In 1989, the symphony orchestra of Pioneer High School gave an impressive concert in the Tübingen University Festsaal, with an ambitious program of works by Weber, Max Bruch and Dvorak, evidence of their very high level of musical training. The pupils had taken jobs and collected donations for months to pay for the trip to Europe, which was connected with an invitation to the International Youth and Music Festival in Vienna.

The pianist and piano teacher Kathryn Goodson, also wife of the former mayor John Hieftje, has performed several times in Tübingen. She will round out the 50-year Partnership Anniversary Program with a concert in the Pflughofsaal.

In 2005, there was even an opera production of "Vid God," a musical spectacle with light, film and computer animation about a futuristic police state. It was staged in the LTT-Werkstatt. Michael Rodemer, a design professor in Ann Arbor, who was also a lecturer in the American Studies Department of the Tübingen University, wrote the libretto. The composer Stephen Rush wrote the music.



The Tübingen audiences were almost more interested in “typically American” music from Ann Arbor than in classical music. The sextet “Jazz Vantage Point” was enthusiastically received in the summer of 1977. The musicians sent a cassette tape of their newest recordings to the editorial staff of the *Schwäbisches Tagblatt* for Christmas. The local Tübingen newspaper offered the tape “for recording in the editorial secretarial office.”

The R.F.D. Boys, a bluegrass combo, with a pathologist born in Swabia named Richard Dieterle as a bandleader, were cheered during several appearances between 1983 and 2002.

Heinz von Moisy, a percussionist and former teacher at the Tübingen Music School, taught in Ann Arbor at the university in 1984 and 1986. 18 Tübingen music students accompanied him on his second trip and gave several concerts locally.

In 2005, the community high school presented their jazz ensemble under the direction of Mike Grace for the 40th Anniversary of the partnership, which was celebrated during the City Festival. In 2006, 2007 and 2009, Mike Grace taught several jazz improvisation workshops in the Wildermuth Gymnasium, together with Mike Lorenz.

David A. Leach, another music teacher from Pioneer High School, and his symphony band performed for the closing of the Soccer World Cup 2006 on the World Cup Stage of the Anlagensee, a big public viewing area on a lake. Mr. Leach will perform at the Independence Day Celebration on the Platanenallee on July 4, 2015, after a 2-week workshop with the Tübingen Music School Big Band.

Tübingen even exported jazz to America. The Tübingen Music School Big Band played for the official visit of Mayor Boris Palmer to Ann Arbor in 2008, and on that occasion Tübingen vibraphonist Dizzy Krisch showed the locals that Swabians know how to swing, too! It made a great impression.

Incidentally, Dizzy Krisch traveled on to Chicago, where a productive professional relationship and artistic friendship began with the Tübingen-born jazz pianist Thomas Gunther, a teacher at Columbia College, Chicago. The guests at the Tübingen-Ann Arbor Farewell Party of 2012 enjoyed their duo program "American Jazz Made in Germany." The duo will play together again at the Independence Day Celebration in Tübingen on July 4, 2015.



## Art Exchange

In contrast to music, the art exchange between Tübingen and Ann Arbor was slow in coming. It wasn't until 1978 that the Tübingen Künstlerbund (Association of Artists) under their chairman Kurt Hafner took the initiative to co-organize a citizens' trip with Mayor Eugen Schmid to the partner city. In their luggage, the visitors had material for an exhibit called "Cross-section of the Graphic Art of Tübingen Artists." 27 lithographs, etchings, woodcuts, silkscreen prints and offsets were exhibited in the City Hall of Ann Arbor and presented as gifts to the partner city.

One year later, in 1979, the photographer Manfred Grohe and the draftsman Georg Salzmann exhibited pictures of Tübingen in City Hall. Then for a long time nothing more happened, presumably because transportation and security for artwork was too expensive.

In 1987, an art encounter suggested by Thomas Buchsteiner, the former Business Manager of the German-American Institute (d.a.i.), created a fresh start: Paul L Stewart, Professor of drawing and lithography at the University of Michigan, was in residence for a few days in the Künstlerbund quarters in the Metzgergasse in Tübingen and worked there with the heavy printing press of the Tübingen colleagues. Stewart created abstract landscapes and different structures by overlapping patterns.

The following year Paul L. Stewart, who was an expert in paper and book art, invited the Tübingen artist Gerhard Walter Feuchter as an instructor for a project workshop in the art department of the University of Michigan. Artwork and a slide performance by Feuchter were also presented by the Ann Arbor Art Association.

In 1989 Martha Keller (1926-2013), art instructor, art publicist and member of the Ann Arbor Art Center, was invited to Tübingen as a guest artist. In her exhibit in the library,

she displayed Michigan landscapes painted especially for that occasion, as well as an installation of “waterfalls” made of white paper spirals that cascaded out of the ceiling.

After a reciprocal visit in 1990 by Hug Munding of the Tübingen Künstlerbund to Ann Arbor, the artist exchange didn't get going again until the citizen's trip in 2008. On that trip, the Tübingen artists Susanne Höfler, Thomas Nolden and Gudrun von Funck showed selected works in an exhibit in the Washington Street Gallery in the city center of Ann Arbor, a gallery that was run by a regional artists cooperative. The artists themselves traveled to Ann Arbor to establish contact.

In 2010, the local paper *Ann Arbor News* spoke of a “sibling swap,” but in reality, five artists from Ann Arbor were exhibiting in the Kulturhalle: “Textile Alienation” (Valerie Mann), gouaches with silver leaf (Lynda Cole), acrylics (Elizabeth Schwartz), Michigan Landscapes (Karin Wagner Coron, Michelle A. Hegyi).

Joanne Leonard was the last artist from Ann Arbor to have an exhibit at the d.a.i. in 2013. Her work combined photography and collage to illuminate moments of contemporary history and heighten perception. At the same time, Leonard takes a feminist look at “Women's Spaces” with her photography.

Friedrich Förster and Sabine Weissinger from Casa Magica exported their projection art to Michigan in September 2014. They projected their site-specific video “Sound Spheres” onto the building of the project developers Zachary and Associates in Midtown Detroit, during the Festival DLECTRICITY. The contact for that projection had been made through the architecture and urban development partner exchange in 2011/2012.

Tübingen showed its artistic side in Ann Arbor in this anniversary year of 2015 as well: With the support of the Tübingen Cultural Office, Ursula Buchegger installed “Sister Cloud No. 1,” a filigree object made of colored straws, in the Washtenaw County Farm Park in Ann Arbor. The installation was related to a similar one, which floated among the trees in the Arboretum of the Tübingen University in 2014. Their counterpart, “Sister Cloud No. 2,” will take shape over the Neckar River in Tübingen, near the Hölderlin Tower, as of July 4, 2015.



### **City Partnership for Everyone: Exchange with the theme "Participation"**

The newest exchange project between Tübingen and Ann Arbor explores the life situation of people with disabilities in both cities and what possibilities they have to participate in the public, cultural and social life there. For the first time, a group of people with disabilities, from the organization "Care Service for People with Disabilities" (Lebenshilfe für Menschen mit Behinderung) in Tübingen, travelled to the USA.

From May 25-30, 2015, 21 exchange participants from the Lebenshilfe stayed in Ann Arbor, 12 people with disabilities, some in wheelchairs, with 9 people accompanying them.

The group with people of very diverse ages (18-67 years old) lived in a dormitory at the University of Michigan. Their partner organization in Ann Arbor is the Center for Independent Living (AACIL), a self-help organization that grew out of a movement in 1972 for inclusion of people with disabilities on the Berkeley University campus. Since then, 400 local groups have been formed all over the USA. One guideline of the CIL states: the local centers should offer free time activities, help in the search for barrier-free apartments and politically formulate the requirements for self-determined participation. The centers are administered by the people with disabilities themselves.

The trip to Ann Arbor was a long held wish of the Tübingen Lebenshilfe, which had already cultivated a lively exchange with all of the Tübingen Sister Cities since the 1990s. With the goal of learning from one another, trips to Perugia, Jena (after the fall of the wall—not an official Tübingen Sister City), Aix-en-Provence, Durham and Petrosawodsk had been made and seminars with representatives of different Partner Cities organized. A volunteer co-ordinating group of the Lebenshilfe, which keeps in contact with the organization in the Partner Cities, meets once a month. They even communicate via video conference with a partner organization in Villa el Salvador (Peru).

The “America Group” of Lebenshilfe prepared the trip to Ann Arbor for a long time and thoroughly. Some participants equipped themselves with a course in English, “Simple English,” at the Tübingen Adult Education Center.

Up to now any actual encounter with Ann Arbor had fallen through because of finances. But for the 50th Anniversary of the City Partnership the German Ministry of Economic Affairs approved financial support through ERP funds. It was the very first time that an application from people with disabilities was granted money from this fund.

A reciprocal visit by people with disabilities from the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living will take place in October 2015.

The encounters and touring of the Tübingen Group in Ann Arbor were organized around the themes of living and work, free time, mobility and public transportation. They also cooked together. Speaking barriers were always overcome with nonverbal communication.

An excursion to the capital of Michigan, Lansing, was part of the program. There the travelers from Tübingen visited Peckham Inc., a nonprofit institution where people with disabilities can work.

In Ann Arbor itself the Germans visited the huge stadium of the University of Michigan, together with the group on the citizens’ tour. At the close of the visit in the Partner City, the Lebenshilfe group went on to New York, to experience the city where the United Nations Convention of 2006 passed a resolution for the rights and equal opportunity for people with disabilities.



### **Future theme for the partnership: Women**

Like Tübingen, Ann Arbor also has an ambitious, committed and to a large degree academically educated female population and its own local history of women's emancipation.

The pioneer and immigrant tradition of a region, which was settled scarcely 200 years ago, escalated women's liberation in the American West. Women had to help with building up society. After the death of a husband they were less insured and had to rely on themselves more than in "old" Europe.

The story of Mary E. Foster, the first woman lawyer of Ann Arbor, illustrates this well: At age 49 in 1874, when she was a widow three times over, she began studying law at the University of Michigan. After graduation she established a law firm. The Women Lawyers' Association, a union of women lawyers in Washtenaw County, has given an award in her name each year since 1988.

Women had been trying to be admitted to the still young University of Michigan since 1850, but the all-male Board of Regents rejected the requests. Only after the state allowed admission of women by law did Madelon Stockwell from Kalamazoo become the first regular student to be admitted, and she studied the ancient Greek language. Even so, that was two decades before Maria Gräfin von Linden became the first woman student in Tübingen to be admitted because of special permission for the natural sciences. It wasn't until the beginning of the 20th century that it was possible for women to study regularly in Tübingen. In 1875 the University of Michigan had 100 women students. That the former women students were definitely aware of their historical significance is shown in a letter to the women students of the next century:

*"We, the Junior girls of 1876, send a greeting down through the century to the Junior girls of 1976.*

*We have faith that our Alma Mater will even cherish her daughters as her sons, and that before the year nineteen hundred and seventy-six, the world will know of some great or noble work done by a woman at the University of Michigan."*

Now the University has had a woman president, the biochemist Mary Sue Coleman (2002-2014), and a very successful one: During her term Ms. Coleman was named one of the 10 Best University Presidents in the USA by Time Magazine. She gave research at the university a very high profile and raised a huge amount of sponsorship money.

Since 1973, the university has had its own Department of Women's Studies. In 1995, an Institute for Women's and Gender Research was founded, which supports and coordinates related interdisciplinary research projects and courses.

In addition, since 1964, the Center for the Education of Women (CEW) in the city of Ann Arbor has been applying the results of women's research to practical initiatives for the betterment of women. It is similar to the Tübingen Center for Women's Education and Archive for Women's History (BAF).

The organization F.E.M.M.E.S., founded at Duke University in North Carolina by the student Vicki Weston, has a chapter today in Ann Arbor at the University of Michigan. They organize after-school programs, Saturday Science Capstones (refresher courses in the natural sciences) and city events, all with the goal of encouraging girls to take an interest in the sciences, mathematics and technology.

A good example of a woman who entered the workforce late is Josie Parker, the Director of the Ann Arbor District Library. The huge community library with the best possible tax support is considered one of the best in the USA. It is used by 75 % of the inhabitants on average once a week. Josie Parker, inspired by the library in her home state of Mississippi to read and become educated, began her studies in Library Science in Ann Arbor in her middle 30's, after her children were old enough. One of her goals is to make new media in public libraries accessible to all levels of society.



### **Business location Ann Arbor**

Just as in Tübingen, the business sector of Ann Arbor is shaped by the university and the university clinics: high tech, biotech and software companies, which grow out of or further develop research being done determine the economic dynamic of the city. While the state of Michigan suffered under the deterioration of the automobile and other traditional industries, and also had the highest rate of unemployment in the USA, Ann Arbor itself is like a lucky island with low unemployment and 70,000 commuters into the city.

After the service sector (administration, retail, 17.7%), the education sector is the second strongest branch of employment (17.3%), followed by science, technology, and computers (15%). Hightech, health services, and biotechnology are booming. Startups find a lot of support from several local capital venture companies in Ann Arbor. Tübingen's Bioregio Stern has its counterpart in Michigan's Network MichBio.

The workers in Ann Arbor are highly qualified, which is reflected in their family income of an average \$87,000, a third above the U.S. average.

An exchange project between the Partner Cities might develop technology transfer between Ann Arbor/USA and Tübingen/Germany. Qualified employees, unification of family and profession interests, conditions for attracting new companies, etc.; all would profit from such an exchange.

The following is a selection of notable companies in Ann Arbor:

ProQuest: Successor to the company "University Microfilms," specialist for the digital archiving of print media. Their facilities and cost-saving print technology was introduced in the 1960s, an innovative highlight for the first visitors from Tübingen.

The company started in 1938 in the building of a former funeral business in downtown Ann Arbor, securing the collections of British libraries on microfilm. A new market, the publication of dissertations via microfilm, evolved in the 1950s. Newspaper archives were added (including New York Times, The Guardian, The Times of India, Toronto Star, Jerusalem Post) as well as scientific journals.

Since the 1980s, CD-ROMs have been used as storage media. 1998 started with the digitalization of the entire microfilm data material. E-books are archived for 15 years (currently 450, 000). The existing "content" at ProQuest is estimated at 125 billion digital pages.

ProQuest is an important service provider for libraries and researchers, with branches in many countries today. The dissertation collection is officially considered to be a branch of the Library of Congress. One of the most widely used digital archives are the documents of the Civil Rights Movement (National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, NAACP) of 1909 to 1972.

Acció Energy: The company founded in 2009, with the Harry Potter magic spell in its name, developed a new method of Aerovoltaic wind energy production, which should replace large wind turbines with disc modules: lower costs, no noise, harmless to birds.

Truven Health Analytics: The company has offices in ten countries, and 2,500 employees provide support and information for the healthcare industry.

Vericel, formerly Aastrom Biosciences: This company develops patient-specific therapies at the cellular level for serious diseases of the skin, cartilage (for example in the knee) and vascular disease. It was founded in Ann Arbor, and its production facility is still located there. In 2014, the headquarters was moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Google Ann Arbor: In 2006 a branch of Google opened in the middle of downtown Ann Arbor for the sales of online advertising and sales systems for local firms. On its homepage, Google praises Ann Arbor:

*It has all of the culture of a large city, without all of the hassles. It's full of smart, creative people and great bars and restaurants (. . .). As the name might suggest, Ann Arbor is filled with trees, leading to a very green, environmentally conscious city. There's always something interesting happening somewhere, from art fairs and theatre to performances by the Chicago and San Francisco Symphonies. And compared to a lot of places, it's really easy to get around – and really affordable.*

It was recently announced that the company is leaving its too tight quarters downtown and is going to build a larger "Google campus" in the northern part of the city.

Domino's Pizza: The huge headquarters of the pizza franchise company "Domino's" (10 000 stores in 73 countries, 145 000 employees) is located just outside of Ann Arbor. Founder Tom Monaghan commissioned architect Gunnar Birkerts, the designer of the new Law Library of the University of Michigan, to design the Domino's building in the style of Frank Lloyd Wright. The building houses a number of other service providers. The just under a kilometer-long building right in the middle of a green field is one of the longest linear office buildings in the world.

"Domino's" very American success story began in 1960 with two brothers in a small pizza-service in Kalamazoo. One brother preferred to remain a postman than to be a pizza deliveryman, so as his ownership interest, he gave his brother a VW Beetle for deliveries. Under brother Tom, the store then expanded to the second-largest pizza chain in the world.



### **Everybody becomes a Wolverine: Sports at the University of Michigan**

To understand the extent of identification of American students with "their" university (Alma Mater), you have to understand the significance of "college sports" in the United States. The University of Michigan has one of the top college football teams in America, which plays in one of the largest stadiums for one of the biggest crowds: more than 100,000 spectators.

The football stadium in Ann Arbor is a superlative - the nation's largest college Stadium. The record set at its opening in 1927 with 80,000 seats has been extended again and again. The symmetrical number 109, 901 is currently specified for its seats - theoretically every resident of Ann Arbor has a stadium seat.

Home games of the football team are folk festivals and a state of emergency: the streets around the Stadium are hopelessly crowded with parking, and the spectators camp and picnic on the surrounding grass areas. Before the players in their over-padded shirts run into the stadium, a ritual of strong emotional appeal is celebrated for the masses of spectators: the marching band of the University, escorted by female cheerleaders and majorettes with swirling batons, form a large "M" on the football turf and play a fanfare. A compelling sense of home overcomes the UMich students and alumni. From the stands, the battle cry booms out: "Go Blue!"

At such moments, everybody becomes a "Wolverine." The bear marten, also known as a Wolverine, is the "mascot" or animal symbol of the University athletes from Ann Arbor, regardless of whether they play football, baseball, ice hockey, basketball or volleyball, for both men's women's teams. The name "Wolverine" (which, by the way, is also called "Vielfraß" in German, or "much-eater") has been in use for the University athletes since 1861. The name probably goes back to a nickname-insult which the residents of

Michigan in 1805 were given in a land dispute with Ohio: overeaters who can't get enough.

In contrast to other universities, the athletes of the UMich don't use a costumed person mascot. In the 1920s, when the Detroit Zoo was home to ten live wolverines, they were brought to Ann Arbor and carried through the stadium in a cage. The Chevrolet motor company made a gift of a wolverine to the University of Michigan (he was given the name "Intrepidus", the fearless), but it had only a brief career as a living mascot.

The design on the players' football helmets is also one of the icons of the UMich . They wear a yellow wing symbol, which adds a touch of Batman to the players' foreheads. The "winged Helmets" have an almost magical effect, because immediately after the wings were added to the helmets in 1938, the Wolverine football team defeated their rival, the Michigan State University "Spartans," a long undefeated team.

There are 27 kinds of sports for men and women at the University of Michigan, among them 14 public sports. The oldest team sport is baseball (since 1865, stadium: 4,000 seats), followed by football in 1878. Basketball (arena: 13,750 seats), ice hockey and volleyball only became popular in the 20th century.

Athletics in Ann Arbor have a long tradition. In a competition at Ferry Field stadium in 1935, the runner Jesse Owens set 5 new world records in a period of 45 minutes.

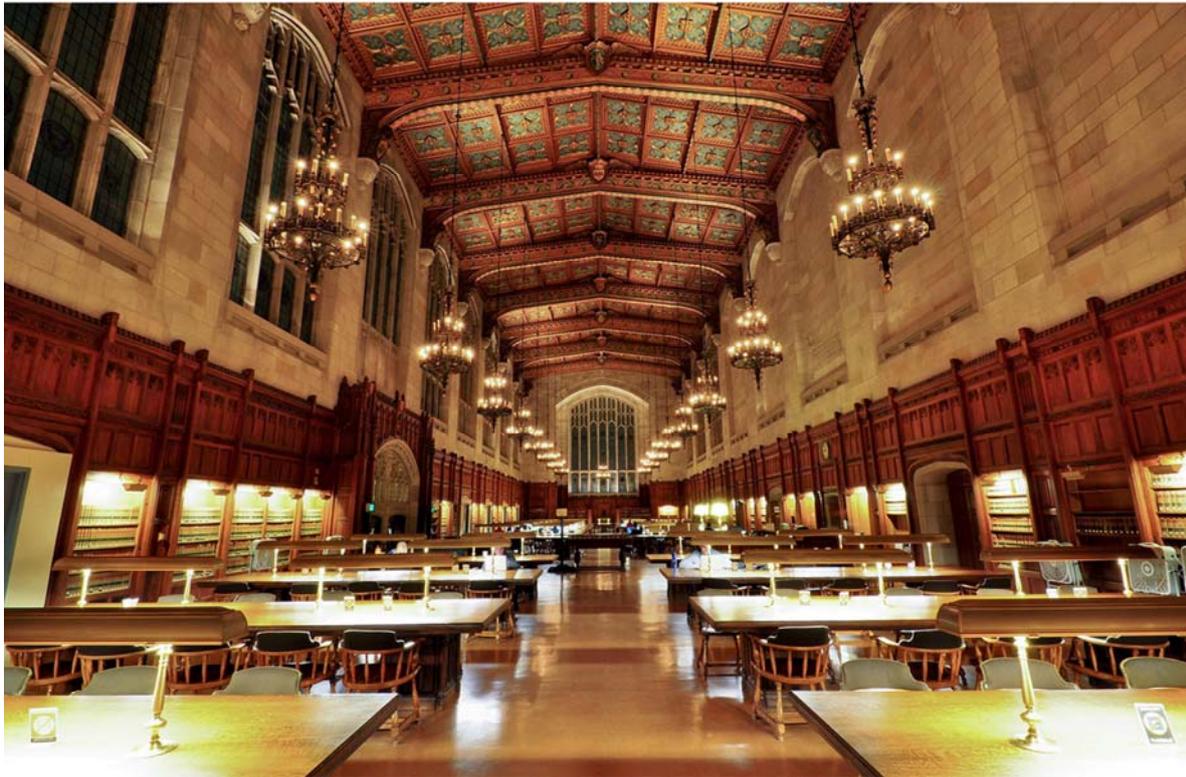
In addition to the football and baseball teams, the University of Michigan swimmers are particularly successful, as well as the current women teams in gymnastics, tennis and softball. The University has an impressive list of Olympic participants and medal winners.

The significance of university sports makes it clear why the university has its own television show to report daily about the Wolverines. Outstanding athletes are awarded a place in a "Hall of Fame." Sports and pathos are inseparable companions, as we see in the Wolverine fight song "The Victors" refrain, which the music student Louis Elbel wrote in 1898 :

Hail! to the victors valiant

Hail! to the Conqu'ring ' ring heroes!

Hail! Hail! to Michigan, the champions of the West!



## **Top-notch University of Michigan**

As in Tübingen, Ann Arbor is defined by its university. The University of Michigan belongs to the best in the nation, which is unusual for a state university. It was recently ranked 17th in an international comparison (Times Higher Education World University Rankings). Certain graduate faculties such as those in medicine, law, business and education are considered among the best in the country.

The university is also among the most wealthy in the USA, with foundation assets of 9 billion dollars and an annual budget of about 6 billion dollars.

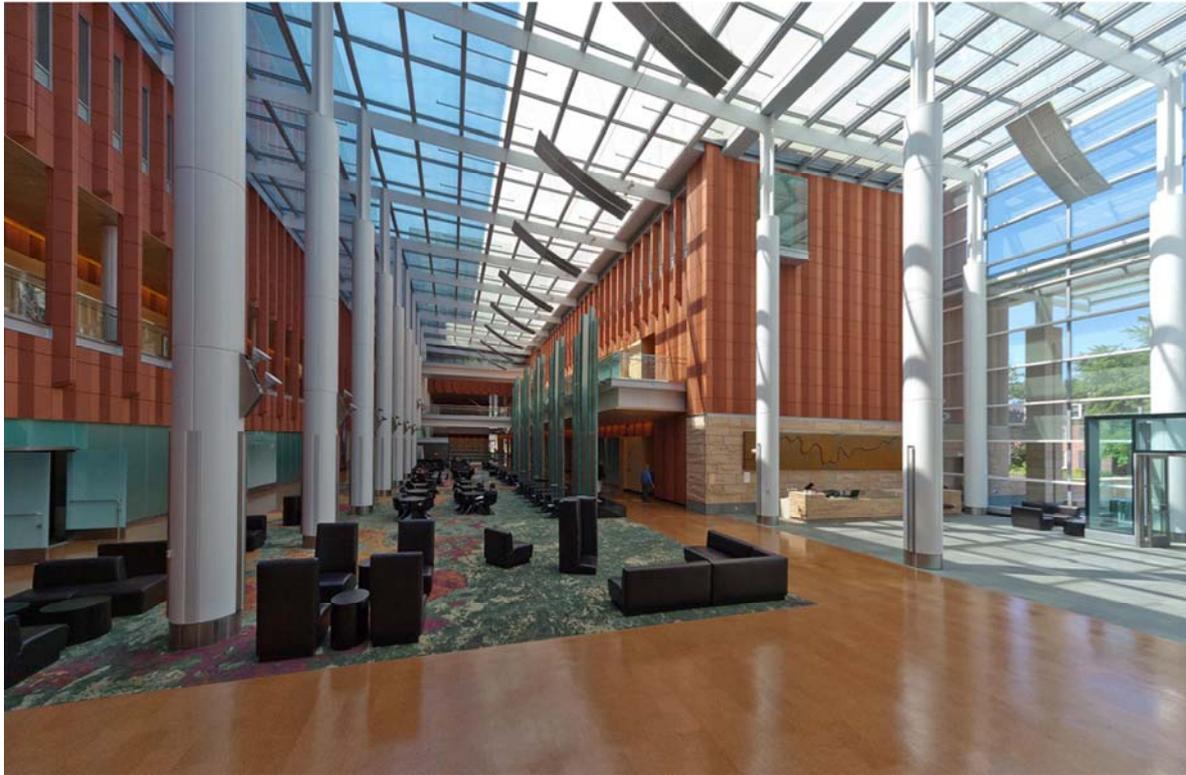
Studying there comes at a price. Undergraduates pay almost \$14,000 per academic year if they are residents of Michigan. Out-of-state students pay over \$40,000. Graduate business school students might pay up to \$60,000 per academic year, law students \$54,000, and medical students \$50,000.

The University of Michigan has three locations: Ann Arbor, Dearborn and Flint, with a total of 60,000 students. In Ann Arbor there are 43,500 students and 7,000 members of the academic faculty, out of a city population of 115,000.

In 1817, Michigan founded its first public university in Detroit. The rapid population growth of the young state—7,000 in 1817 to 100,000 in 1837—soon called for advanced educational institutions. Influenced by a report on the Prussian educational system, Ann Arbor was found to be a university location with growth potential. The city, barely 14 years old, had at that time 2,000 inhabitants. The 40 acres (16 Hektar) granted for a university settlement was considered a “consolation prize,” because Lansing, and not Ann Arbor, was chosen to be the capital city of Michigan.

Lectures were first held in 1841 by two professors with seven students. In the first several years, the campus was surrounded with a wooden fence to keep cows out. The university custodian received part of his salary in the form of a wheat field on site.

The first Black student was admitted in 1853, the first woman student in 1870, in 1876 the first Black woman. In the 1920s and 1930s, when many of the elite Ivy League universities were limiting the admission of Jews, many Jewish students came to Michigan. The University at the time was known as the “Harvard of the West.”



Alumni: There are 540,000 living “UMich” graduates worldwide, organized through the Alumni Association, one of the largest in the world. Astronauts, Nobel laureates and CEOs of big companies belong to the group of former students, along with the rock singer Iggy Pop, popstar Madonna (no degree), the former U.S. President Gerald Ford, the Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, the swimmer and Olympic champion Michael Phelps, and the writer Arthur Miller. The Alumni make a significant contribution to the financing of the university through donations and foundations.

Students: UMich students are traditionally very active and politically engaged in diverse ways. There are 1400 student organizations at the university, and the student center is the “Michigan Union,” comparable to the Tübingen Clubhouse.

About a fifth of the undergraduates live in fraternities or sororities, similar to the German fraternities. In the U.S. they are designated with Greek letters and are therefore called “Greeks.” Besides the student dormitories, shared apartments are a popular form of student living.

Since 1890, students of journalism have been producing during the semester a daily newspaper, *The Michigan Daily*, with university, local and world news. Since the local newspaper *Ann Arbor News* has been published only online for quite some time, the student newspaper is the only local daily paper in Ann Arbor in print.

Research: Medical biochemistry and engineering are the beacons of research at the University of Michigan. The virologist Jonas Salk developed the first polio vaccine in a research group in Ann Arbor (at the time of the announcement in 1955 he was a professor in Pittsburgh). A new laboratory building opened a few years ago to promote interdisciplinary research in the life sciences.

The University has been committed for years to technology transfer. In 2009 the former site of the pharmaceutical company Pfizer was purchased to develop a kind of technology park with start-up companies and spin-off research groups.

In the social sciences, the university is a center for national election results research. The traditional Institute for Social Research is also a top address for empirical social research in the USA.

Museums: The university has its own museum for its significant art collection, and there are also large museums of natural history and archaeology. A manuscript by Galileo Galilei from the year 1610, with recorded celestial phenomena, is one of the treasures in the University Library.



**Open for what's new, ready to protest:  
Ann Arbor's political culture**

Reform-minded politicians and election candidates from the Democratic Party can count on support from the liberal university city Ann Arbor. President Bill Clinton was elected here with more than 80 percent of the vote in 1992, Barack Obama in 2008 with 83 percent. A thousand people celebrated the end of the Bush era late into the night with an improvised parade.

President John F. Kennedy won over students with an historical speech during his election campaign in 1960, in which he announced the founding of the Peace Corps, America's new voluntary service organization for the Third World. He spontaneously held this unplanned speech at 2:00 in the morning on the steps of the Michigan Union (the students' clubhouse), impressed by the thousands of students on campus who had held it out to hear him live.

The Peace Movement: A visit by a Tübingen delegation, led by the peace activist and Green/Alternative List City Councilman Volker Nick, aroused great interest in Ann Arbor in 1985. Mr. Nick was a protagonist of the protest against the deployment of American nuclear missiles. He wore a "Swords to Plowshares" pin on his (borrowed) necktie. He held a vigil together with American atomic weapon objectors in front of a factory which manufactures engines for cruise missiles.

In 2003, Ann Arbor declared itself a "City for Peace" in protest against the Iraq War, along with 90 other U.S. American cities. Whether to demand a ban on military research at the university is repeatedly a topic of discussion.

The Student Movement: As a university city, Ann Arbor has a special history of innovative student policy initiatives and protest. The student movement of the

„68ers“ was shaped primarily by the Black Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War. The American SDS, “Students for a Democratic Society,” was founded in Ann Arbor in the early 1960’s. The “Teach-Ins,” information events before a “Go-In,” an occupation, or a “Sit-In,” a blockade action, were invented on the campus of the University of Michigan in 1965 and are now held, 50 years later, on the “Diag” of the university central campus.

A climax of the protest movement of that time, and a deep frustration, was the “Chicago Seven Conspiracy Trial” of a group that organized a protest march by several hundred thousand people against the Viet Nam War during the Democratic Convention for the nomination of the presidential candidate in Chicago, a protest which ended in riots. Shortly afterwards, a militant minority group called The Weathermen split away from the SDS. Two of their central figures, Bill Ayers and Diana Oughton, were students of pedagogy at the University of Michigan. Oughton, a gifted, idealistic young woman, was so radicalized by the Viet Nam War and the poverty she experienced in Latin America, that she went underground. She was killed building a bomb in Greenwich Village, New York—her story sent shockwaves through the antiwar movement.

In the Hippie period of the 1970s, students tried to gain influence in the local politics of Ann Arbor. They elected to the City Council two representatives of the leftist “Human Rights Party,” who announced the following goals for their election platform: “to overturn drug laws, promote socialism, end sexism and fire the police chief.”

Student protests continue to take place in Ann Arbor. In 2006, the “Students for Work and Economic Equality” were able to pressure the University of Michigan to cancel their delivery contracts with Coca Cola because of their unethical business practices in Columbia.

Solidarity and self-organization were the original principles of the Co-op movement, which began in the economically difficult 1930s in Ann Arbor. At that time students created their own living spaces in self-administered houses. This way of communal, affordable living is practiced in many Housing Co-ops today. Every house occupant is obligated to do work 4 hours a week for the house community.

This is an example of how the social and liberal political cultures in Ann Arbor connect with the American tradition of volunteering, which is reflected in a variety of social and creative citizen initiatives—from hot meals for the poor through the Food Bank and a “People’s Food Co-op & Café Verde,” to a “Hands-on Museum,” which offers scientific experiments for children and adults and was founded by older university researchers.



### **The nearby big city of Detroit**

What Stuttgart is to Tübingen, Detroit is to Ann Arbor: the neighboring metropolitan city, the industrial city, the nearest international airport. Like Stuttgart, Detroit is a car town (Ford, General Motors, Chrysler), which, however, went through huge structural change at the end of the 20th century. The decline and then the exodus of the auto industry destroyed jobs, the financial crisis of 2008 did the rest. Within three decades, the city lost almost half of its inhabitants (from 1.2 million to 680,000). Today it is the poorest city in the United States and had to declare bankruptcy in 2013. 80,000 buildings stand empty.

But the city and its citizens are fighting against the image of decline, and the morbid aesthetics of ruin (“ruin porn” as the Detroiters say) fascinates the photographers. Low rent and empty factory buildings attract the young, the creative, and start-ups. The desolate downtown districts, mostly the downtown, midtown and new center areas are being revitalized and have stores and restaurants again. Social workers, citizen groups and project developers are fighting for a better quality of life and the formation of locally sustainable economic structures through anchor projects in residential and urban areas. “Urban Farms” are thriving in vacant lots (Detroit was a pioneer city for this movement). Citizens are fighting successfully against the sellout of art work from the excellent Detroit Institute of Art, and they are fighting to keep their symphony orchestra. Bicycle riding is promoted and supported to date by a network of 46 miles of designated bike paths. Public transportation, which barely existed before, is being revived, even with a new streetcar route along the legendary Woodward Avenue. This spirit of optimism today makes Detroit an interesting tourist destination. A visit to this neighboring city is a must in the travel plans of visitors to Ann Arbor. Almost as if you were in a laboratory, you can study great art deco buildings from the city’s heyday at the beginning of the 20th century, and at the same time you can see evidence of exciting new forms of urban lifestyle, experiencing the decline and reinvention of the city at the same time.



**Exchange of Expertise: Sustainable Development**

Urban planning for sustainability, which involves the balance between the preservation of historical buildings and structures on the one hand, and both contemporary and future-oriented development on the other hand, has been an important municipal topic in both cities for decades.

And in both cities primary focus is on the city center, on university and hospital expansion, as well as on new development of residential, industrial, and mixed areas.

Representatives of the partner city councils and city administrations discussed these issues during reciprocal visits.

An intensive exchange with vital participation by freelance architects and urban planners was initiated in 2011, with the first visit in Ann Arbor focused on special issues affecting Ann Arbor and Detroit, followed by a program in Chicago. The exchange visits were sponsored by the professional institutions The Chamber of Architects of Baden-Württemberg/ Tübingen Chamber, and the American Institute of Architects (AIA)/Michigan-Huron Valley Chapter.

The colleagues from Ann Arbor returned the visit by coming to Tübingen in 2012 and expanding their tour to the Neckar-Alb region and to Stuttgart.

Of particular interest to the visitors were the development concepts realized in the French Quarter, Loretto, and the Mill District. The guiding principles of these up-to-date neighborhoods were stimulating and considered to be promising approaches for Ann Arbor and even Detroit.



### **Green and Eco-conscious**

Ann Arbor not only has a tree in its coat of arms, it is also proud to call itself a “Green City,” which first refers to the many trees and parks that mark the city landscape. 43,000 trees in public green areas and 158 parks in the metropolitan area have been counted. About half of the parks have been recently declared “smoke-free,” with no-smoking laws. By the way, one of them is “Tübingen Park,” a small forest north of the North Campus.

In addition, environmental awareness has a long tradition in Ann Arbor: Campus action days under the motto “ENACT” (ENvironmental Action for Survival) were held as early as 1970, dealing with topics such as urbanization and air and water pollution.

Last but not least, due to its good environmental conditions, Ann Arbor is regarded as one of the most livable cities in the United States, just as Tübingen is in Germany. An intact environment is a big factor in promoting Ann Arbor as a desirable location for high-tech companies. Ann Arbor is one of the 130 American cities that support the UN Kyoto Protocol of 2005 to limit greenhouse gas emissions, which the U.S. government has never agreed to support.

“Citizen Involvement in Social and Environmental Issues” was the theme for a trip from Tübingen to Ann Arbor in 1997, organized by the travelers themselves. Environmental experts who participated were the former First Mayor Gabriele Steffen, Environmental Commissioner Sybille Hartmann and the Director of the Environmental Center, Manuel Haus, among others.

The Tübingen visitors learned, among many things, how a nonprofit organisation could make sure that water from the Huron River remained clean: volunteers went on canoe expeditions to track illegal discharges, and the polluters were brought to court. The

former Mayor, John Hieftje, participated in this project. The visitors were also astonished to see a recycling station organized and run by volunteers.

A central environmental problem in Ann Arbor, as in all American cities, is the car traffic. Because the city is so spread out, everything has to be done in a car. You see pedestrians and bicyclists only in the inner city and on the campus. The railway is not very efficient, because the rail network in Michigan was bought out and abandoned by General Motors in the 1920's, in favor of the car.

Students in Ann Arbor can use free shuttle buses among the three campuses. By American standards, the city bus network is quite well developed.

In 2006, the city started their campaign "Ann Arbor's Green Energy Challenge": by 2015, the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the city should be reduced by 20%. Since then, the city buses have been converted to hybrid technology (electric and bio-diesel motors). The conversion of street lighting and traffic signals to energy efficient and low-maintenance LED lamps have helped to reach the climate goals. Ann Arbor was a pioneer in the United States and a model for Tübingen with this campaign.

Tübingen's Green Mayor Boris Palmer, on his first visit to Ann Arbor in 2008, stimulated great interest with his speech "Climate Change and the City" and received a standing ovation.

The first professional exchanges involving architects, city planners and interested citizens took place in 2011 and 2012, with a focus on "Sustainable City Development," during which progress already achieved was shown and further objectives discussed.



## Ann Arbor at a Glance

Ann Arbor (abbreviation: A2) is situated in the southeastern part of the U.S. state of Michigan

The city was founded in 1824 by two settlers who both had wives named Ann, “Arbor” in the city name stands for an oak grove (Latin arbor = tree).

Population: 114,000

Area: 71 square kilometers

Ann Arbor is the administrative seat of Washtenaw County, with 357,000 inhabitants in 1,870 square kilometers.

The county name “Washtenaw” is of Indian origin.

The City Council of Ann Arbor consists of the Mayor and ten City Councilors, elected for a two-year term. Currently there are six men and four women on the City Council, all in the Democratic Party except for one Independent.

Since November, 2014, the acting Mayor is Christopher Taylor, member of the Democratic Party, legal advisor for medium-sized companies, and former Councilmember.

His predecessor John Hieftje was elected 7 times, in office for 14 years.

Besides Tübingen (since 1965), Ann Arbor has 6 other Partner Cities: Belize City (Belize, 1967), Hikone (Japan, 1969), Peterborough (Canada, 1983), Juigalpa (Nicaragua, 1986), Dkar (Senegal, 1997), Remedios (Cuba, 2003).

This booklet offers the translation of texts on the wall banners in the exhibition "Meet My Sister", Kulturhalle Tübingen, July 2 - 25, 2015

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