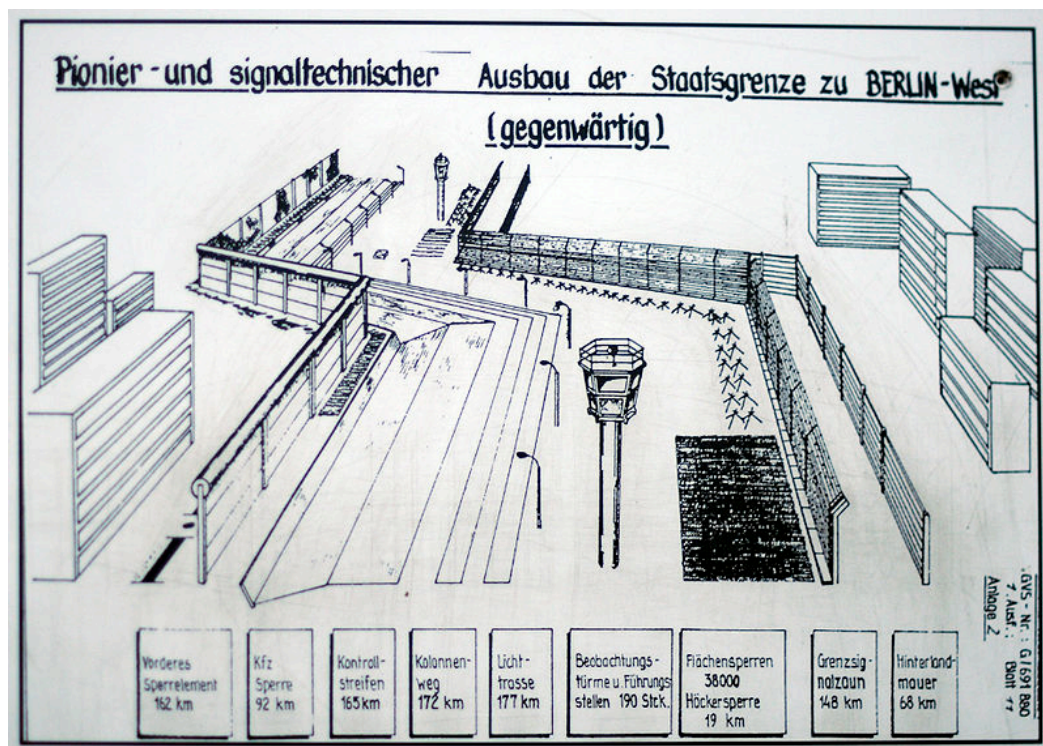


## Mauerpark – What's with the name?

Though the name of the Institute was originally inspired by the fact that it is one of the favourite hang-out place of many of the founders, the history of the park, its present use and its possible future are emblematic of where we want to go with our project, what values we espouse and what issues we want to work with.

During the division of Berlin in two following the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961 until its fall in 1989, the Mauerpark ("Wall Park") formed part of physical barrier, the most concrete manifestation of the Iron Curtain (no pun intended) erected between the citizens of the city. The term "Berlin Wall" is actually a misnomer, as the border installations actually consisted of two parallel sets of walls, between which was a strip of land patrolled by armed border guards, and further reinforced with obstacles such as razor wire rolls and anti-tank obstacles. This area between the two walls was known colloquially as the Death Strip as until 9 November, 1989, the border guards had orders to shoot anyone trying to escape over the walls.

Fast forward a few short years and the formerly silent Death Strip of concrete and steel has become a lively, blossoming park, where people of all kinds of social and ethnic backgrounds, of various ages come to enjoy their lives, to lie in the sun, smell the flowers, have a beer, play music, sing karaoke or sell some funky artwork. From a place where two systems stared each other down it has now become a place where in more than one way can now 1000 flowers blossom. What gives it its special flair is its laid back tolerance, and its open spaces for individual, grassroots creativity - values which are close to our heart. And these are values we not only want to passively enjoy on a sunny Sunday afternoon, but which we want to actively work towards - also in the concrete case of the Mauerpark itself.



Mauerpark Today:



View of Sunday Karaoke and Flea Market:

