

**Dear members of the press,**

Here you can find everything you need to know about Forum Groningen in brief.

*Explore the world, meet the future.*

### **Forum Groningen**

Since its opening in November 2019, Forum Groningen has grown into one of the Netherlands' most leading cultural institutions. The striking building on the Nieuwe Markt has become a permanent landmark in the city and a vibrant place where culture, knowledge and social interaction come together.

Forum Groningen was designed by the Amsterdam-based firm NL Architects, commissioned by the Municipality of Groningen. The building has a total floor area of 17,000 m<sup>2</sup> spread over ten floors. Forum Groningen is open seven days a week and hosts a wide range of activities, all united by one overarching ambition.

The aim of Forum Groningen is to inspire residents and visitors of Groningen with the world of today and the possibilities of tomorrow. It does so through international exhibitions, film and literature festivals, debates and talk shows, courses, workshops and lectures. Forum challenges its audience to look at the latest social and technological developments with an open mind. To support this, the Forum offers two exhibition spaces, the interactive museum Storyworld, five cinemas, a multifunctional event hall with a flat floor, the complete collections of the city library, dozens of work and study spaces, a Media Lab and the Smartlab.

All of this makes Forum Groningen an inspiring and accessible place to meet. You can simply walk in, and there is always something happening. The three recurring themes in Forum's programming are current affairs and society, technology, and popular visual culture. Museum Storyworld, located on the seventh floor of the Forum, closely connects to these themes. This museum focuses on visual storytelling in all its forms: comics, animation and games. With its strong interactive character, Storyworld invites visitors of all ages to work with the building blocks of visual stories and discover their power.

### **Free access**

A ticket is required for (film) screenings, exhibitions, events and for visiting Storyworld. However, large parts of the building are freely accessible. This includes the city library collection spread across several floors, as well as the many comfortable study, work and meeting spaces. The same applies to the three catering venues in the building. There is a café on the ground floor with a terrace overlooking the Nieuwe Markt, a film café near the cinemas halfway up the building, and a café-restaurant on the tenth floor. From the rooftop terrace at a height of 45 metres – and thanks to the large glass atrium also from

many floors inside the building – visitors enjoy a stunning view of Groningen’s historic city centre. Beneath the building there is a car park and a public bicycle parking facility.

### **Artistic car park**

Anyone who parks their car beneath the Forum and makes their way upward will inevitably encounter *Wervel*. This is the name of the artwork suspended in the void of the parking garage: an ingenious, 20-metre-long LED sculpture inspired by the shape of a tornado. *Wervel* ripples through the concrete, follows the contours of the architecture and already reflects what awaits visitors above: imagination, light, movement and turbulence. The artwork displays colourful, composed visuals based on natural phenomena and the science behind them. *Wervel* was commissioned by CBK Groningen and created by artist Nicky Assmann. On its own, *Wervel* already makes a visit to Forum Groningen worthwhile.

### **NL Architects on their Forum**

*‘Endless browsing through the building – you find more than you are looking for.’*

Forum is characterised by a remarkable central space: a unique atrium that, with its horizontal ‘tentacles’, forms the beating heart of the building. The void acts as a spatial ‘interface’ that connects all facilities and enhances the confrontation of perspectives and the exchange of knowledge and ideas. Forum can be seen as a built version of Wikipedia. It is designed as a ‘search engine’: you can browse endlessly through the building – and in doing so, you find more than you were looking for.

### **6 years of Forum**

Over the past six years, Forum Groningen has welcomed millions of visitors. Its success is partly due to close collaboration with local and (inter)national partners, ranging from schools and universities to cultural institutions and festivals.

In recent years, Forum has distinguished itself through a diverse and innovative programme. In addition to film screenings, lectures, debates and festivals, Forum has hosted international exhibitions and regional initiatives. Topics range from digital culture and new technologies to literature, visual arts and social issues.

### **Practical information and contact**

For more information about Forum Groningen, its building, organisation or programming, please contact the Communications Department via the general phone number +31 (0)50 368 36 32 or email [communicatie@forum.nl](mailto:communicatie@forum.nl).

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