

Previous state

The grounds of the Sechseläutenplatz, located between Bellevue and the Opera House, were not always among the most desired addresses on Lake Zurich; until the middle of the 19th century they were for the most part covered by the lake. Part of this land was reclaimed and used as a harbour. A Kornhaus (Granary) was constructed. After demolition of the Kornhaus – which was meanwhile used as a concert hall – the harbour was backfilled and the area was left open as a meadow.

Since the early 20th century, the traditional Sechseläuten spring festival has been celebrated on this meadow. This celebration starts with a parade of trade guilds and reaches its climax on this site with the burning of the Böögg (an artificial snowman). This event has given this public square its name since the middle of the 20th century. Maintaining the meadow became an increasingly difficult and expensive task due to the intensive use of this central area. The adjacent Theaterplatz (Theatre Square) in front of the Opera House was used as a parking lot.

