

# Playa del Fuego 2016 Annual Report

**About Playa del Fuego (PDF).** Playa del Fuego, Inc. is a non-profit, participant-directed organization whose mission is to hold interactive events that promote artistic creativity and freedom of expression. PDF provides the framework and the infrastructure to allow artists such as sculptors, painters, musicians, DJs, fire performers, dancers, and any other creatively-minded individuals to come together to practice their unique form of self expression and create a viable volunteer-based community that exists beyond the boundaries of the event itself. A fundamental tenet of these events is the establishment of a zone that does not involve any currency-based commerce aside from the initial ticket purchase, thus creating a gift-based economy wherein all participants can exhibit, demonstrate, and educate others about their particular form of creativity.

Playa del Fuego, also known as PDF, is a Mid-Atlantic Regional Burning Man Event. Events are held every Memorial Day and Columbus Day weekends in Odessa, Delaware.

Playa del Fuego is an experiment in collaborative community, featuring art and music. Volunteers work together to build community, utilizing the [Ten Principles of Burning Man](#) as a guide. There are no spectators at Playa del Fuego; everyone collaborates in some way to create the event. It's a place for radical self-expression, acceptance, inclusivity, and respect.

This is a sincere experiment in creating a gift economy. There are no concession stands. No cash transactions (except ice sales) are permitted at Playa del Fuego. Even bartering is discouraged. If you need something, ask for it. If you have something, gift it!

Potable, and non-potable water, porta potties and firewood are available on site and are paid for with money raised by tickets sales. There are no garbage cans: everyone is responsible for packing out their garbage or throwing it into one of the handy dumpsters.

The event began with about 20 East Coast residents, many of whom had been to Burning Man in the Nevada desert, and wanted to get together a little closer to home to celebrate the spirit of the event. They joined together on the beach of Assateague Island on Maryland's coast in 1998 for a weekend. Since then, Playa Del Fuego has grown so much that a new site was needed to accommodate all the participants. The event was moved to a horse farm run by Vietnam Veterans in Delaware where it remains today. Now it has grown to over 1,200 participants, with a large team of volunteers, many of whom work year round to make PDF come to life.

For more information, visit our website at: <http://playadelfuego.org>

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## Organizational Structure

Playa del Fuego is entirely volunteer run and includes the Board of Directors, the Planning Committee, the Arts Grants Team, and a Web Team. Playa del Fuego has four Burning Man Regional Contacts on its Board of Directors: Damian Masterson, Greg “Gandhi” Goodman, Oscar “O Man” Yong, and Patty Simonton.

The Board of Directors includes members who are elected by sitting members of the Board from a pool of nominees submitted by the Playa del Fuego community. The Board of Directors works to ensure that the organization fulfills not only its legal and financial responsibilities to maintain non-profit status within the United States, but that the organization meets all requirements to be a “Regional Burn” within the Burning Man network. The Board maintains communications with the Veterans who own the land, and welcome discussions with them regarding infrastructure improvements to the land, sound, and parking. The Board oversees all organizational finances, decides on community art grants, defines short and long term strategic plans, maintains oversight of all official organizational communication, ensures the event fulfills the proper fire and safety regulations, and has the final say on participant ejections from PDF.

As of December 31, 2016, the Playa del Fuego Board of Directors included the following members:

### Active

- Ben Sarsgard
- Damian Masterson – Rochester Burning Man RC
- Dave Diller- President
- Ed “Lizard” Rosen
- Greg “Gandhi” Goodman – Houston RC
- Jonathan “Batnips” Delano
- Kate “Monster” Bell
- Mike “2E” Toohey
- Oscar “O Man” Yong – New York City RC
- Patty “DirtyGirl” Simonton- Treasurer and Washington, DC Burning Man RC

### The Playa del Fuego Planning Committee

The Planning Committee includes Department Coordinators, Co-Coordiators, and any community participants who choose to participate in the monthly Planning Committee phone calls. The PC proposes and approves department budgets, and Coordinators work with one another to oversee the details of the event planning for the Regional event.

The following list reflects the list of departments as of December 31, 2016:  
Art Grants

- **Burning Arts** (includes pony-wrangling and build team)
- DPW
- Drum Conclave
- Exodus
- Fire Conclave
- **Fire Perimeter**
- **Fire Safety Team**
- **Gate/Greeters**
- Lamplighters
- MASH
- MOOP
- Parking
- Planning Committee
- Purchasing
- Rangers
- Sanctuary
- Sound
- Stage
- Theme Camps
- Volunteer/Participation Station
- **WWW**

**Art Grant Coordinators.** The Art Grant Coordinators work with a team of volunteers to select pieces for each event. Each year, Art Grants are allocated 10% of the previous year's ticket sales, with a rolling total for any budgets not used during a given year. In 2016, Playa del Fuego distributed \$16,590.10 in Art Grants that appeared at the event, well over 50% more than the amount distributed in 2015. Details of these projects are explained below.

**Web Team.** The Playa del Fuego Web Team is open to anyone who would like to participate. Those interested should speak with Darrell Duane.

## Financial Summary

The financial summary Profit and Loss is included below for FY 2013-2016. Below, please find details on some noteworthy elements of the 2016 financials. Yearly P&L statements can be found here (<http://playadelfuego.org/content/board-docs>), including an updated 2015 P&L Statement, which reflects changes in category tracking and adjustments to the Art Grant and Land Purchase balances.

- **Ticket Sales.** The substantial growth in ticket income between 2013 and 2014 was primarily because reserved tickets set aside for Artists, Coordinators and Board of Directors were added above the 1275 ticket cap, bringing the new total to around 1350.
- **Art Grants – Community and Event.**
  - In 2016, Art Grants distributed for projects at the event and community art grants totaled \$18,585, which includes \$2,500 was awarded to Michael Verdon's 2016 Catharsis Temple of Rebirth.
  - The accounting difference in the total for 2016's Event Art Grant totals listed here and in the P&L report reflect a payout for a 2015 project, which was delayed as a result of exceptional circumstances.
  - Effigy expenses, while listed under the Art Grant category, are considered infrastructure expenses and do not come from the official event Art Grant budget.
  - In 2015, Art Grants totaled \$16,366.54. This includes \$4,400 toward Community Projects, including contributions toward Michael Verdon's Temple of Transformance, and Tutus for All, a project run by Rebecca Looney and Tiffany Joslyn.
  - In 2014, Art Grants totaled \$11,693.44. There were no Community Art Grants distributed in 2014.
  - In 2013, Art Grants totaled \$19,162.52, with \$15,579 going toward PDF Art Grants and \$3,585.52 going toward Community Art Grants, including FIGMENT Phila and the Bring It Home Grants.
- **Board of Directors.** The Board did not hold a retreat in 2016. In 2015, the Board spent \$4981.01 on the annual retreat in Wilmington, DE, which was run by a professional facilitator, Vikki Frank. This retreat included two full days of strategic planning, including a day with Department Coordinators. In 2014, the Board spent \$1398.26 on our annual retreat in March 2014. In 2013, expenses for the annual retreat totaled \$3909.86 including room rental, facilitator fees, materials, and food. The use of a facilitator was a new, and much needed addition for the retreat. In 2014, two members of the Board attended the annual Burning Man Global Leadership Conference in San Francisco for \$100 each, 4 attended in 2013.

- **Capital Purchases and Improvements.** In 2016, Playa del Fuego spent \$5,795.75 on Capital purchases, including \$1982 on an AED machine for MASH, shade structures for both the Participation Station and the Rangers Station, and speakers and equipment for the Main Stage. In 2014, Playa del Fuego purchased MURS radios and a new canopy for the gate. In 2013, Playa del Fuego spent no funds in this category.
- **Golf Carts and Equipment Rental.** Our golf cart expenses have doubled in the last two years, rising to \$4,213.00 in 2016. In 2015, equipment rental was \$3487.80. In 2014, equipment rental totaled \$2769.82, up from \$2116.50 in 2013. Equipment rental for these years applies exclusively to department golf cart rental and gas.
- **Insurance.** Event insurance expenses for 2016 totaled \$8685.00. Our Spring event was approximately \$500 more expensive than the Fall event. In 2015, event insurance totaled \$8176.00, the lowest in 4 years.
- **Infrastructure Improvements.** In 2013, Playa del Fuego purchased \$1100 for four loads of crushed concrete to fill in holes in the back lot to improve parking conditions.
- **Printing.** Printing covers all badges for volunteers, waivers, tickets, WhatWhereWhen guides, Ranger handbooks, and the VET Guide to PDF, distributed for the first time in 2014. Categorization of expenses may also list printing under individual department expenses.
- **Stage.** In 2016, the PDF Main Stage purchased a new speaker system for the Spring burn, which were listed under Capital purchases. Stage expenses for the Fall event reflect new transportation requirements needed by the Stage team.
- **Wristbands.** The approximately \$800 increase in cost of wristbands from Spring to Fall 2016 is because the team decided to move to fabric, individually numbered wristbands. Prior to 2015, wristband printing was included under Gate and Parking expenses.

## Event Growth and Tickets

Playa del Fuego offers 1275 tickets for purchase at each event. An additional batch of tickets are made available to Coordinators, Board members, and Artists who were awarded an Art Grant. Total ticket sales each event top are around 1375. Attendance has occasionally been lower than ticket sales would predict due to inclement weather. Tickets sales are non reimbursable.

## Ticket Sales and Land Purchase

In 2004, Playa del Fuego's Planning Committee decided that any additional funds raised through tickets sales above the cost of the event, a \$25k rainy-day fund, and funds set aside for event-related art grants would be considered part of the PDF "Land Fund," to be used for a future land purchase.

In 2014, the Board of Directors voted to modify this broad rule to enable additional funds to be set aside for Community Art Projects and other non-land related activities. The land-fund contribution was capped at \$15 per ticket.

In our 2015 Annual Report, we shared numbers that our land budget at the time was approximately \$361k as of December 31, 2015. We have adjusted that number to reflect an error in our reporting, which miscalculated the amount of funds set aside for the upcoming years' art grant budgets. As of December 31, 2015, the amount in our land budget totaled approximately \$349k. We added almost \$41k to that fund in 2016, bringing our total to just over \$390k, plus approximately \$17k in unallocated funds.

## **2016 Art and Community Projects**

Playa del Fuego was pleased to once gain award an Art and Community Grant to Michael Verdon through our Community Art Grant Program for his Temple of Rebirth, which was displayed at Catharsis on the Mall in November 2016.

Art and Community Grants are designed to provide artists and organizations around the mid-Atlantic region with funding to further the mission of Playa del Fuego, Inc. These grants are specifically meant to support participatory, interactive art, and community projects beyond the Burning Man Regional Event, Playa del Fuego. Eligibility: Artists and organizations that share a passion for the burner ethos and demonstrate a commitment to bringing participatory, interactive art, or forward-thinking collaborative projects to their communities may apply. Priority will be given to individuals and teams that have demonstrated a commitment to the Playa del Fuego community. Applicants may apply as an individual or as an organization. Organizations must be a registered non-profit in the US in good standing.

## **2016 Mid-Atlantic Leadership Conference**

Playa del Fuego served as a fiscal sponsor for the first annual Mid-Atlantic Leadership Conference (MALC), held in Washington, DC November 11-12, 2016. The DC Burning Man community hosted regional coordinators, community leaders, and artists from Virginia through New York. The event gave participants the opportunity to share their ideas, best practices, and inspiration. It was also a fantastic opportunity to strengthen the personal connections within our region.

As a fiscal sponsor, Playa del Fuego tracked and managed all accounting for the event, and Ben Sarsgard set up the the same ticket system used for Playa del Fuego to enable participants to easily contribute funds toward the MALC. A number of Playa del Fuego Board members participated in the event, some as representatives of PDF and as Regional Contacts for their local communities.

## 2016 Playa del Fuego Art Grant Projects

The following artists were awarded grants to bring their work to Playa del Fuego in 2016. Not all artists completed their projects, turned in receipts for reimbursement, or spent their entire budget. The numbers below reflect the amount distributed to the artists. Additional information about the event art grants can be found in the After Burn reports below.

Spring 2016:

- 1- Prancing Pony's Bungee Barrel Rodeo by Nick Consagra --- \$1,665
- 2- Balloon Chain by Michael Cha --- \$490.49
- 3- Baggage Drop Off --- \$350.00
- 4- Ripple by Quentin Davis --- \$300.00
- 5- Tye Dye in the Sky by Cheryl Erickson --- \$250.00
- 6- I Like Big Ball by Ursula Sadiq --- \$228.90
- 7- The Loan Card Shark by Bobby Reynolds --- \$175.41
- 8- Pony Screening by Doug Shire --- \$100.00
- 9- Eyes On You by Leah Umberger --- \$92.60
- 10- Focus Light by Betty T. Kao --- \$400.00
- 11- Gate of Change by Glenn Richardson --- \$1,621.16
- 12- Ziggy Stardust by Glenn Richardson --- \$230.50
- 13- Tower of Babel by Alan Schechter --- \$700.00
- 14- Incendia Fiore by Aaron Parness --- \$4168.27

TOTAL GRANTS PAID  
\$10,972.22

Fall 2016

- 1- The Rage Cage by Tim Dougherty --- \$850.00
- 2- Flaming Dance Pole by David Serrahima --- \$867.19
- 3- Pile by Quentin Davis --- \$308.00
- 4- Tower of Babel by Alan Schechter --- \$300.00
- 5- Boob's Rainbow Dangles by Jessica Koob --- \$499.74
- 6- Wandering Hypnagogic Dream Bar by Nicole Russo --- \$140.66
- 7- LuminUS by Anatoliy Kaverin --- \$550.00
- 8- Tetris Shadow Stage by Jeffrey Owens --- \$568.67
- 9- Gendermazing by Asher Kory --- \$800.00
- 10- Propane for Flame Throwers by Joseph Robins --- \$155.00
- 11- Dreams by Scott Frias --- \$74.05

TOTAL GRANTED \$5113.31

Total Art Grant Payouts for 2016 = \$16,085,64

# Comprehensive Afterburn Report Spring and Fall Playa Del Fuego 2016

## Contents:

Art Grants - Spring & Fall  
Burning Art - Spring & Fall  
DPW - Spring & Fall  
Drum Conclave - Spring & Fall  
Exodus - Spring & Fall  
Fire Conclave  
Fire Perimeter - Spring & Fall - MISSING  
Fire Safety – Fall & Fall - MISSING  
Greeters - Spring & Fall  
Lamplighters - Spring & Fall  
MASH - Spring & Fall  
MOOP – Fall – MISSING SPRING  
Parking - Spring & Fall  
Participation Station - Spring & Fall  
Planning Committee - Spring & Fall  
PONY Wrangler – Fall – MISSING SPRING  
Purchasing - Spring & Fall  
Rangers - Spring & Fall  
Sanctuary - Fall  
Sound Patrol - Spring & Fall  
Stage - Spring  
Theme Camp Placement - Spring & Fall  
Ticketing - Spring  
Who What Where - Spring & Fall

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**//ART GRANTS//**

**SPRING 2016** (Submitted by: St. Greg)

\*\*\* Overview \*\*\*

20 projects submitted, 20 grants awarded for a total of \$13,638.50 (out of a budget of \$14,000), with 2 declining (unable to attend PDF or unable to complete project), 1 never sending in their contract or receipts and 1 unable to bring their project at the last minute. After removing those 4, we granted a total of \$11,644.00. Since receipts and expense reports are still being collected, we have not listed reimbursements sent out.

\*\*\* Full list of granted projects \*\*\*

- \* 1 --- Bigger Better Lifeguard Chair --- \$550.00 --- (Declined grant)
- \* 2 --- The Luminous Dance Floor --- \$400.00
- \* 3 --- Baggage Drop Off --- \$350.00
- \* 4 --- The gate of change --- \$1,800.00
- \* 5 --- Ziggy Sawdust and the Chainsaws from Mars --- \$300.00
- \* 6 --- The loan card shark --- \$250.00
- \* 7 --- Ripple --- \$300.00
- \* 8 --- Tye dye in the sky --- \$250.00
- \* 9 --- Focus light --- \$200.00
- \* 10 --- Incendio Fiore --- \$4,198.00
- \* 11 --- Underwater Haven --- \$400.00 (Declined grant)
- \* 12 --- The Hive of Splendor --- \$644.50 (Unable to bring project)
- \* 13 --- Balloon Chain & Projection Art --- \$550.00
- \* 14 --- Lotus-- the magic of transformation --- \$180.00
- \* 15 --- Eyes on You! --- \$121.00
- \* 16 --- Pony Screening --- \$100.00
- \* 17 --- Weird Wired Work --- \$400.00 (Never sent in contract)
- \* 18 --- Prancing Pony's Bungee Barrel Rodeo --- \$1,665.00
- \* 19 --- I like Big Ball --- \$280.00
- \* 20 --- Tower of !Babel --- \$700.00

TOTAL GRANTED: \$13,638.50

TOTAL GRANTED MINUS DECLINED GRANTS / NO CONTRACT / NO SHOW: \$11,644.00

\* We hosted an artist reception on Saturday afternoon, that was advertised in the What Where When. Although we intended to do an art tour, due to the intense heat, it was called off.

\*\*\* What went well \*\*\*

\* Process

--- We received 20 applications and granted all 20, which I think is a first, at least during my time. 7 of these were fire art.

--- Posting in the P.O.N.Y., BPE, regional BM lists and regional FB groups still seems to work pretty well for us in terms of getting the word out on applying for a grant, though we don't have a real sense of which is most effective.

--- Our process of discussing applications initially via email, then focusing the conference calls on decision making still seems to work well, though there is some interest in using software specifically geared towards this type of thing. We may investigate using Slack or Trello.

--- We're able to keep our voting process to one meeting that takes 2-3 hours, with some email-based follow up afterwards as needed.

\* Reception

--- Organized by O Man (Co-Coordinator) and Sara Muskulus (Archivist).

--- Relatively low attendance, likely due to the weather conditions (high heat).

\* Tour

--- Cancelled due to intensely hot weather condition.

--- Art Grant Archivist, Sara Muskulus, took photos of art grant recipients as well as the pony, despite the tour being cancelled.

\*\*\* What could go better \*\*\*

\* Process

--- While we did bring on a small number of new people into the Art Grants Committee, having some more wouldn't hurt. We will likely send out a blast to the community once more to see who is interested.

--- We may look to utilize an online project management software to better organize our evaluation and voting process. Trello and Slack have already been mentioned with the group.

--- More reminders seem to be needed for artists for: sending in signed contracts, posting placement requests on PDF website, adding WWW entry for related events, and sending in receipts.

### --- Project issues

- Some concerns were expressed that the Focus Light project was not displayed prominently enough and may not have been available to the community as long as we would have liked. We will likely take this into account when considering placement of future projects.

- The big ticket item, Incendio Fiore, never quite reached its fully completed state. There were issues with completing the fire piece of it, partly as a result of sharing components with one of the other artists with a nearby piece doing flame effects. We will see if the artist has an interest in bringing the project in the fall to let the community experience the completed form.

### \* Reception

--- Attendance from artists and art grant committee members was still a bit low. We may want to consider measures to encourage greater attendance. Perhaps the date and/or time isn't ideal? Suggestions welcome.

--- This event has yet to generate much participation from the general community. We always welcome them, we need to find ways to draw them in. Doing a pre-event sweep of the playa to announce the event may be a good idea. Other suggestions welcome.

### \* Tour

--- Did not happen due to weather. Still likely need to find ways to draw in the community to encourage greater participation.

### \*\*\* Other noteworthy items \*\*\*

--- Reception budget - \$100 for drinks, snacks and tableware

--- Art Grant Coordinators are working with Hatter and Art Grant Archivist, Sara Muskulus, to create an online space to share art grant photos. Project not yet complete, but we now have 3 PDF's worth of photos to post.

--- We are still searching for a new co-coordinator to take O Man's place.

--- "Art Grant Winner" signs were made by Jill for this event. While some artists expressed appreciation for them, some other community members saw the use of the word "Winner" in the signs to be problematic. If done for future events, we will seek to have signs read "Recipient" instead of "Winner".

## **FALL 2016**

(Submitted by Gregory "St. Greg" Thomas)

The Good:

### **\*Process**

- 16 applications were started in the application portal, 14 were actually submitted (with 2 stating they were unable to move forward with their initial plan), 1 was rejected by the Art Grant Committee (for requesting funds solely for durable equipment), 1 was declined due to being unable to make it to PDF, and 1 was a no-show. 5 of these were fire art.
- Application numbers were a bit lower than usual, and there was only 1 large burnable project submitted, which is significantly fewer than usual.
- Posting in the P.O.N.Y., BPE, regional BM lists and regional FB groups still seems to work pretty well for us in terms of getting the word out on applying for a grant.
- Sending reminders for each step of the process (finishing applications, sending in contracts, sending sending in receipts) seemed to help ensure artists got things completed in a more timely fashion.

### **\*Reception**

- Organized by Ursula (new Co-Coordinator).
- Reception was attended by about a dozen people, including 3-5 artists

### **\*Tour**

- None. Did not occur.

The Bad:

### **\*Process**

- Small number of Art Grants Committee members attended the decision-making call. Will look to recruit more members before the next cycle starts.
- Project issues - The relatively short grant cycle for the Fall paired with the timing of the Burning Man event, may have caused us to lose a project. We may need to consider having a shorter application or evaluation process, or push for extending deadlines for reserve tickets in the Fall.
- Onsite, some people lamented the lack of a Temple structure. We may look into making the Temple an officially sanctioned piece with its own application process.

\*Reception

It would have been nice to see more attendance. It appears the weather kept a lot of folks from coming out of their camps.

\*Tour

There was no interest in the tour primarily due to the rain - so we cancelled it.

The Ugly: None

\*\*\*Summary\*\*\*

- 14 projects submitted, 13 grants awarded for a total of \$6,650.86 (out of a budget of \$14,000), with 1 declining (unable to attend PDF). After removing those 2, we granted a total of \$6,022.86.

- New Co-Coordinator has joined the team, replacing O Man. Her name is Ursula Sadiq.

- We hosted an artist reception on Saturday afternoon, that was advertised in a last minute edition of the Burning Pony Express and the digital What Where When (our submission was not entered in time for the print edition). About a dozen or so folks stopped by the reception.

- Tour did not happen due to lack of interest - it was raining.

\*Full list of granted projects:

# --- Project Name --- Granted amount --- Notes

- 1 --- Ellipse Staff --- \$8.00
- 2 --- Boobís Rainbow Dangles --- \$500.00
- 3 --- Tower of !Babel (Tower of Not Babel) --- \$300.00
- 4 --- Propane --- \$375.00
- 5 --- Balloon Chain & Flying Foam --- \$628.00 --- Declined art grant
- 6 --- Dreams --- \$75.00
- 7 --- Gendermazing --- \$906.00
- 8 --- The Wandering Hypnagogic Dream Bar --- \$155.00
- 9 --- Pile --- \$308.00
- 10 --- The Rage Cage --- \$850.00
- 11 --- Flaming Dance Pole --- \$1288.86
- 12 --- LuminUS --- \$550.00
- 13 --- Tetris Shadow Stage --- \$707.00

TOTAL GRANTED: \$6650.86

TOTAL GRANTED MINUS DECLINED GRANTS / NO CONTRACT / NO SHOW: \$6022.86

\*\*\* Other noteworthy items\*\*\*

- Reception budget - \$100 for drinks, snacks and tableware
  - We have a new Co-Coordinator in the department! Ursula has taken the place of O Man who has moved up to the PDF Board of Directors. We welcome Ursula to the team and thank O Man for his years of awesome and dedicated service!
  - Art Grant Archivist, Sara Muskulus, is working with Hatter to create an online space to share art grant photos. Project not yet complete, but we now have 3 around PDFís worth of photos to post. Her position has also been granted a reserve ticket starting with the Spring 2017 event.
  - New Art Grant Recipient signs were made by Ursula for this event. Thanks to Jill for offering golf cart rides Friday morning for sign placement.
  - Wren, an artist and member of the community who is especially knowledgeable about propane according to the Burning Arts team, has agreed to serve as a propane consultant for the Art Grants Committee.
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//**BURNING ART**//

**SPRING 2016**

(Submitted By Rev. Dave)

The Good: We had a lovely pony, we had some really cool art, and everything burned. We had a wedding proposal by the burning pony, and a wedding by the embers after the Pony fell. As far as I know, there were no reports of art-burn-related injuries, so much yay.

Gold star to Jill Nado for handling the wood deliveries. Gold star to MASH (and especially Fernando) for dealing with a crazy workload this burn. Gold star to Epic for starting movement on a workshop for folks interested in burning art. Gold star to Thudd for doing the heavy lifting with regard to people-wrangling to support a very special moment for Epic and his young lady.

The Bad: We ended up having to burn everything except the pony in one big fire on Sunday, because the logistics of trying to get all the little stuff to burn separately were daunting. Apologies to any of our artists whose piece didn't burn the way they had hoped. Also, yay for a mostly-dry PDF, boo for Sunday evening rain.

The Ugly: People trying to burn stuff that we don't burn, like couches - I think a couple cushions went before Devin intercepted the folks responsible. Also, some weird chipboard-and-lumber bench thing that got randomly abandoned in center camp.

## **FALL 2016**

(Submitted by Rev Dave)

The Good: We had what may be the most awesome pony I've seen so far, and Quentin managed some magic to get a spectacular burn on Sunday night. Despite cold wet weather, we appeared to have enough firewood. As far as I can tell, there were no burning-art-related injuries. We had some neat propane art.

The Bad: Cold wet weather. Also, limited art on Sunday night (but hey, get 5 different festivals in the same region on the same weekend and that happens...). We need to be more proactive in communicating expectations to propane artists on stuff like shutoff valve presence and placement (art grant committee has identified someone to vet propane pieces during the selection process, which should help).

The Ugly: Nothing really rises to the level of ugly

The Other: Could we get clarification on what the vets are doing with that berm in the back field? It doesn't seem like it's helping the drainage situation.

Skeleton report for Fire Safety (if Lizard puts in a report, replace this with his report)

The Good: Enough firefighters. Weather cool enough to make bunker gear comfortable. No reported injuries or property damage.

The Bad: No obvious bads or uglies.

Skeleton report for Perimeter (if Thudd puts in a report, replace this with his report)

The Good: Perimeter crew showed up and were able to stay on top of the crowd, even in the mud. Kudos to the perimeter crew for getting toasty to accommodate Quentin's request for the smallest possible perimeter on Sunday night.

The Bad: No obvious bads or uglies.

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**//DPW//**

## **SPRING 2016**

(Submitted by: Yeti)

GOOD

-Volunteers arrived as scheduled.

-Structures were assembled, and were ready, in time for the needs of each department,

(Ticketing and MASH were setup as the first priority setups, the rest of the setups followed in a timely manner).

-Areas were cleaned up, and freed of moop.

-Structures were disassembled, as they were made ready to be by each department.

-We cleaned up after our collective selves.

-Department infrastructure was returned to the shed.

The following structures were assembled, and then disassembled;

- Front Gate Ticketing
- Sanctuary
- Mash
- Rangers
- Participation Station
- Back Gate Greeters
- Out Back Parking

The following areas were marked off, and were un-marked off after the event;

- Anti-Aircraft Battery
- Helicopter
- Service Monuments along the road leading to club house
- Flag Pole
- Front Field Open Camping
- Front Field Open Camping Walkway
- New Walk In Camping Area Boundaries
- Out Back Along The Electric Fence, going as far back as we have stuff for it.

The following places were cleaned, and had moop removed from them them, before and after the event.

- Shed Area
- Showers Front
- Showers Barn
- Pavilion
- Stages
- Burn Pads

### The Good

-We used the straw as best as we could, in the places where it was most needed.

-Communications within DPW, and inter-departmentally, were robust.

-random participants helped, as needed, when supplemental labor was required.

-DPW and the vets worked together to bury a pvc pipe, for power cords, under the road by the back gate. A vet used a front loader to crack up the earth, and a couple of volunteers assisted in the head and grunt-work of laying the pvc pipe, and pulling through the cord.

-DPW assisted camps and participants during different phases of their setups, and their tear-downs.

-DPW helped get cars unstuck from the mud.

### The Bad

-There was a slight initial lack of available volunteers, when emergent tasks occurred during portions of the event ongoing, and during periods of breakdown(not during setup, that was fine). It seems that this had to do with weather and people leaving early.

-We left a few things out not put away in the shed. A stop-sign(that belonged to a participant who later returned for it), a burn barrel, and wood piles.

-The coordinator of DPW did not submit an after-burn report in a timely manner.

to make it less bad

-In the case of an initial lack of available volunteers it worked out because random people stepped up to help when the need was expressed to them.

-For Fall burn we have been conducting a more robust recruitment campaign for take-down volunteers.

-We have a more multilayered verification-of-work-done protocol in effect for Fall burn to help with minimizing and avoiding the leaving out of items etc, and to help with overall trust but verification of the completion of DPW tasks..

-We are communicating to the community that any extra wood is to be left at the main pile are, and not to be left at camp.They may take it with them if they are not leaving DE with it.

-The DPW coordinator will submit future reports in a timely manner. The DPW coordinator and willing parties are working together to ensure this.

The Ugly

The weather was good, bad and ugly.

Budgeted Items:

Straw \$175.00 for 25 bales of straw

Emergent Items:

Power-washer(paid for out of pocket so far, due to difficulties in proving proof of purchase, we are continuing to work on this)

Additional straw delivery \$175.00

Total Spent and Reimbursed/Paid for by PDF \$325.00

## **FALL 2016**

(Submitted by: Yeti)

The Good \*

Early Entry/Arrival Setup went well. Volunteers arrived on time, structures and the rest were assembled on time. During take down each dept readied itself, for take down and put away, efficiently and in a timely manner. Straw was useful where ever it was applied.

The Bad \*

There was low turnout of willing and able volunteers for take down. Take down of some structures did not begin in earnest until late in the afternoon. Everything was done, and when getting done did not take super-long, its just got started moving in earnest too late in the day

## The Ugly \*

The shed doors need to be replaced. The shed is nearly completely filled. The lack of open space makes maneuvering inside of it more difficult. If it is not packed precisely, then there is not enough room.

Additional Notes (ideas for improvement / etc)

We need more willing and able core volunteers for take down. Use reserve tickets to encourage core volunteers for take down. We need a bigger/better storage solution. Willing, and able, individuals may follow along with the dpwcoord, during all of the times that dpw coord is fulfilling his onsite duties, to gain a holistic and comprehensive understanding of the process from the beginning to the end.

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## //DRUM CONCLAVE//

### **SPRING 2016**

(Submitted by: Moose)

The Good:

Had a decent core of drummers to keep the rhythm. Kept the burn time to about a couple hours which is reasonable for how long I can play straight and let others take shifts in and out. People did a decent job staying together.

The Bad:

Didn't think about teaching classes. Gonna do two in the fall. See if I can't get us all synced up on 3 or 4 specific rhythms to keep everyone together. Going to reorganize the way we set up to keep the drummers together to help hold the beat and have additional instruments such as shakers and such along the sides.

Changes requested: Added Rod Gnarley aka Hippee as co-coordinator since he has both dedicated himself to this community and to that drum circle a many a times through the years, and he has proven himself a good hippee wrangler.

### **FALL 2016**

(Submitted by: Moose)

The Good: Despite the rain we drummed. The pavilion makes for a good shelter spot during weather like that considering you can't have an expensive wood and leather instrument get soaked.

The Bad: Due to the combination of the weather and me getting sick to my stomach Friday the drum classes were a bust, my co-coordinator couldn't play due to feeling I'll as well, and that made it harder to maintain rhythm due to a lack of familiarity with each other.

The Ugly: Heard some big dude in a hard hat was being snarky about us drumming under the pavillion on Saturday. Guess he was just being snarky for snarks sake and didn't know what he was talking about since he's not a drummer

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**//EXODUS//**

**SPRING 2016**

(Submitted by LilBit)

The Good:

A majority of participants left on Sunday due to reports of potential inclement weather. Actual Exodus volume was light, traffic jam was avoided.

All non-DPW/non-Exodus staff were off site by approximately 2:30pm.

When asked, participants stepped up to help with shower (both the barn & pavilion showers) MOOP. Special props to Justice League, who gladly pitched in, as well as 3 volunteers who answered a general call out into the pavilion (Raina Raspberries, Pete Stone, and a 3rd whose name unfortunately has escaped me.)

There was a dedicated volunteer who both directed traffic and manned the ash dump for the majority of the day. And she had fun doing it (does anyone know her name, so I can get in touch for next burn?)

Only 2 ride orphans, both were found rides with other participants.

Special props to Purchasing Coord Jim, Parking Coord 2E, and Jenny Wood, who went above and beyond. Jim & 2E carted the Asst. XitUs Coord (me) around then carted the leftover firewood into one giant pile; Jenny and Karnak rocked the pavilion MOOP sweep (it was in terrible shape), and the 3 of them handled the majority of final MOOP Sweep.

HUGE reverence and thank yous are owed to Raina Raspberries and Purchasing Coord Jim for each handling an over-the-top egregious MOOP situations (see 'The Ugly' below.)

Exodus actually had 10 volunteers sign up to help, however due to the major storm threat the majority were unable to stay for the shift. Most did at least check in at PS to let us know they couldn't make it.

#### The Bad:

Several vehicles got stuck in the mud, Pineapple had to tow out most of them. Due to the light traffic day we didn't think restrictions were necessary, but going forward Exodus will do a better job marking out the non-drivable spots or working with Parking to make the call for walk in only.

Once again, flyers were left up in the porta potties, leaving a single Exodus volunteer to take them all down. Reminders that "if you put them up you must take them down" need to go out.

In the new camping section, copious amounts of caution tape was used to indicate the event boundaries. While it needed to be there and held up well all weekend, taking it down was troublesome as it was wrapped around every tree and bush, including many thorn bushes. Will work with Theme Camp Placement coordinators prior to next burn to see if there are alternatives.

Pavilion MOOP: The Pavilion was a disaster area, has not been that bad in a couple of years.

Firewood collection: There was discussion and disagreement in regards to firewood collection. In years past our arrangement with the vets was to leave the firewood in place, they would come and collect it. This burn, rather late in the day, Pineapple asked that the wood be placed into one big pile. While this new request caused some chaos on this particular day, going forward we will assume this as standard process and ask participants to carry their unused wood back to the pile prior to departure.

#### The Ugly:

There were a number of instances of egregious MOOP left by participants. There was a large unburnt structure, which the vets graciously agreed to take off our hands, an enormous pile left under the small shelter next to PS, a used feminine hygiene product left in the ladies showers, and what appeared to be soiled mens undergarments, along with several used baby wipes, left in a pile in the back parking lot. Pictures of all except the ladies showers available upon request.

## FALL 2016

(Submitted by LilBit)

We lost one of our own on Exodus Monday. Out of deference to those still on site at the time, I'll keep this report to a minimum. We can hold our heads high knowing that every volunteer worked in a professional, calm, and compassionate manner - keeping it together during this uniquely difficult day.

(Quick Note: In addition to the usual jobs assigned to Asst. Coord, I also filled in on site for Fritz Kitz, XitUs Coordinator, who was not able to attend again this burn.)

The Good:

- \* An excess of stuck participants resulted in fresh volunteers, more than we could handle. Many were motivated, energetic, and expressed interest for next time. We'll be prepared to harness that energy much more efficiently in Spring.
- \* Superstar Volunteers (including Booga Booga, Raina Raines, and Godshot) & several Coordinators from key departments sacrificed their Monday respite, staying on site as long as needed. This includes all of the usual suspects as well as some new ones (such as Sam Buca and Brutal from Parking). Much appreciation goes out to them.
- \* DPW rocked the house, thanks to Yeti and Karnak for their perseverance and ability to lead the crew through (or around) the tough spots to get it all done.
- \* We were able to feed a majority of volunteers throughout the day due to leftovers being donated and to Poptart being a good cook.
- \* Significant mass exodus on Sunday night, with only 50% (approx.) of cars still on site Monday AM. Although roughly half (est, by Parking) of the remaining cars needed a push or tow, to my knowledge all cars except 1 were rescued by Monday night.

The Bad:

- \* Too much mud to comprehend, it was the source of major issues across the board, and completely out of our ability to control. It demanded a massive increase in manpower that we initially weren't able to match. We moved slower and learned to deal best we could.
- \* The pavilion was overcrowded with both MOOP and people. Poptart stated it'd been cleaned up several times, only for her to turn around and find it destroyed again. Despite the sweeps, at the end of the day Purchasing Jim still had to cart 5 full bags to the dumpsters. Then Fernando and Raina, each catching their fifth or tenth wind of the day, somehow summoned the energy to handle the rest of it. (thank you)

\* Many participants, and some volunteers, were slow to move throughout the day. Some were cranky on top of it. It was rough all around. I'll chalk it up to the rain, mud, and other things out of our control and just call it a day. (However, we're already planning to step up our GTF0 procedures for Spring.)

The Ugly:

\* Anything that could have been ugly was overshadowed by circumstances completely out of our hands.

For Next Time:

\* Ideas include laminated checklists, our additional reserve ticket (the third we're already allowed), define specific positions/posts such as MOOP Map Volunteer, Hippie Wrangler (stationed at the pavilion), Traffic Director, etc. And checklists so to make sure we don't miss anything.

\* Holding off on anything more specific until we find out how the department will be impacted by impending community, PC, and Bod decisions and new efforts to collaborate with other departments

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**//FIRE CONCLAVE//**

**SPRING 2016**

(Submitted by: Pena)

The Good: There was a lot different fire props used and a good number of performers. No one was injured.

The Bad: Skully the conclave coordinator was unable to make it to the burn and was unable to call someone to let them know he was not able to make it. The conclave meeting was rescheduled several time and people were confused.

The Ugly: The person who was temporarily put in-charge to organize the conclave was relieved of their position.

**FALL 2016**

(Submitted by: Pena)

The Good: There was a lot different fire props used and a good number of performers.

The Bad: The muddy ground mad it difficult to walk around the pony and made the circle smaller

The Ugly:

-skully the conclave coordinator was unable to make it to the burn and was unable to call someone to let them know he was not able to make it for the second time.

-the rain made it hard for the props to light.

Future Changes:

for skully to be removed from position and replaced with Sarah groove

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**//GREETERS//**

**SPRING 2016**

(Submitted by: Alfred)

The Good

-Gillian and I (Alfred) worked very well together for their first burn coordinating with each other.

-We had art at the back gate, information about our event and consent for burners new and old, and activities ready for people while they waited in line for their parking passes.

-Volunteerism was decent Thursday and Friday.

The Bad:

-Gillian ran into an issue regarding the 5 gallon water dispenser getting refilled. I'm not certain on the details at this time and will defer to her in regards to this situation.

-We need better radios. Of the radios that did work, many of them did not reach the Back Field.

-Bandanas were somehow not ordered with Parking's. I paid out of pocket for them and rush delivery to get them there by Friday.

-It would be really great if we could figure out a way to get Greeters even just one golf cart. I spent a majority of my Thursday and Friday nights shuttling folks and their gear, some with injuries, some just to help out. I don't mind doing this, especially during Carry In conditions. (I'm very open to PC input on this, actually. Is shuttling a service "we" want to make available? Maybe put a pin in this for later.)

### The Ugly

-Greeters had great laid plans for the Back Gate that became pretty useless once Carry In policies were implemented. People did not really want to stop to be "properly" greeted while hauling their gear in. The "theme camp infrastructure only" caveat became a bit of an issue. Currently working with shift leads for ideas on how to make this better in the future.

-Carry Out policies coupled with the impending storms on Sunday resulted in a DRAMATIC reduction in volunteerism and participants in general.

-Friday night there was an issue with the Vets relieving the Back Gate. Eventually Butterbean was able to contact Pineapple and it was resolved.

### **FALL 2016**

(Submitted by: Alfred)

### The Good

-Set up was glorious (thank you dpw!). The structure was well assembled and decorated. Greeter resources were dispersed throughout. There were plenty of snacks and water for volunteers.

-Nyk Giove was imperative as my temp assistant coord. Thank you to him and all my shift leads as well.

-Volunteerism was up for Thursday and Friday.

-Hug menus were a great success. Volunteers appreciated swag. Officially out of bandanas for Greeters.

-There was a megaphone at the Back Gate which saved my voice.

-There seemed to be more/better radios this burn. Puxing seem to be superior for distance.

-Despite Sunday's conditions, super volunteers (Steve Brodie, Jamilah Dalton, Tim Crawford, and Greg Morse to name a few) stuck it out and helped clear the road and lot for several hours.

-Breakdown of the Back Gate infrastructure was masterfully handled by Chef Phil and Patty.

### The Bad

-Two radios bit the dust-one due to battery acid, one due to falling in the mud.

-Thursday and Friday evenings were a bit clustery, as to be expected during peak times. Carry In/Carry Out was implemented which lead to some less than pleased participants-again as expected.

-We had no power at the Back Gate Thursday. The problem was rectified by the Vets by Fri evening.

-Vet relief was late again on Friday; showed up at 3:30 am.

-Sunday was a cluster again. Mass exodus due to Sunday and storms greatly affected the amount of volunteers available/at the back gate. The back road to the back lot was flooded which led to adjustment in typical GTFIO procedures.

### The Ugly

-No real ugly to speak of-muddy conditions and low volunteerism on Sunday were the worst of it. Maybe the fact that some participants were lying about where they were camping to get a parking pass-that's about as ugly as it got.

### Potential Changes

-I would like one golf cart for Greeters to shuttle participants arriving at night and when Carry In policies are in effect. If the Vet's tractor is not working for some reason, this would be helpful for our community members. I feel this would be useful for Back Field participants especially and will cut down on the amount of cars we have driving into the back (if drive on is permitted). I'm interested in feedback from the PC on this topic. Is this a service "we" want to provide?

The following changes would require data from Ticketing regarding peak arrival times.

- Martie and I briefly discussed the possibility (emphasis on possibility) of earlier Gate closure time due to low volunteerism during those times. The idea of Greeters at the Front Gate during peak times was also discussed.

-I would like to see either extra shifts during peak times for Greeters or Exodus (which would then turn into some sort of GTFIO team aka Transformus) that could direct traffic inside the gates. The front field/back field parking pass debacle plus a new departure

traffic pattern lead to quite a car cluster. I'd love to discuss this more and see if there is a way we can make this easier on everyone.

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## // LAMPLIGHTERS//

### **Spring 2016**

(Submitted by: Starboy)

What went well:

1. My co-coordinator, Violet, our team of volunteers, and I were able to get the laborious job of putting up the spires done by late afternoon Thursday. We put up a total of 18 spires this Burn.
2. We were able once again to light the "street" cutting through the lower field for the first time in the last several Burns.
3. We had ample volunteers for the lamplighter processions. We also had ample volunteers to take down the lamps each morning.
4. We now have a surplus of rebar and lamps, which will mean (presumably) we will not have to order further replacements for Fall 2016.
5. We came in well under budget.
6. Tear-down was completed well before the exodus (see below for more details).

What could go better:

1. I neglected to buy the dedicated flashlights for which we had budgeted. I'll resubmit this line item for Fall and make sure to get this purchase accomplished.
2. One apparently-functional spire went unused as it was sitting outside the shed, unnoticed until it was too late. Hopefully we can use it for fall, upping our total to 19 spires.
3. We still have a great many lamps in a state of disrepair. I was able to diagnose the problem with several, making them potentially usable once again. However, it remains a longer-term goal to identify those lamps that are not salvageable so that I may dispose of them to make more room in the shed.
4. We could use more shepherds' hooks, and a long-term goal remains to figure a way to repair those few spires with only one hook (the other having broken off).

5. After consulting the weather forecast on Sunday, Violet and I made the difficult decision to cancel the Sunday procession and tear down the spires early. The decision was not made lightly, but our opinion was that the setup and staging of the lamps would be difficult in the rain, and the procession treacherous for our volunteers. We also felt that putting away our (fairly) new robes wet would almost certainly lead to mildew, leaving them ruined. Having seen the conditions during and after the rain, we felt our decision was the correct one.

Special thanks to my co-coordinator Violet for all her help and leadership, to our volunteers for their work, and also to coordinator emeritus Liz K for helping out with getting the new rebar bent.

## **FALL 2016**

(Submitted by StarBoy)

What went well:

1. My co-coordinator, Violet, our volunteers, and I were able to get the laborious job of putting up most of the spires done by late afternoon Thursday; last few (in the lower field) were put up early Friday. We put up a total of 15 spires this Burn.
2. Violet, a volunteer, and I were able to undertake a long-overdue inventory of the lamps. The ones that were completely unusable we cannibalized for parts (bulbs and fuel caps), and discarded. We determined that a majority of the remaining disused ones simply needed new wicks (which we have). Between these, and the "reserve" lamps we purchased last Burn, we should need no new lamps for the foreseeable future.
3. We had ample volunteers for the lamplighter processions. We also had ample volunteers to take down the lamps each morning.
4. We still have a surplus of rebar, and will not need replacements for the foreseeable future, assuming it does not vanish.
5. We came in under budget.
6. We now also have a surplus of fuel (kerosene); presuming this does not vanish between burns, fuel costs should be minimal for Spring PDF.
7. Tear-down was completed successfully.

What could go better:

1. One of our dedicated sledgehammers (which I donated when becoming coordinator) has vanished again.

2. ALL of our dedicated sparkers/lighters had vanished; replacing them led to an unexpected expense.

3. We could use more shepherds' hooks, and a long-term goal remains to figure a way to repair those few spires with only one hook (the other having broken off).

4. Violet and I made the difficult decision to cancel the Saturday procession due to the day-long rain and resultant mud. The decision was not made lightly, but our opinion was that the setup and staging of the lamps would be difficult in the rain, and the procession treacherous for our volunteers. We also felt that putting away our (fairly) new robes wet would almost certainly lead to mildew, leaving them ruined. Having seen the conditions during and after the rain, we felt our decision was the correct one. I am happy to say that despite the overall-bad conditions, we did do an abbreviated procession on Sunday in the middle field, which was not overly muddy.

Special thanks to my co-coordinator Violet for all her help and leadership, to our volunteers for their work.

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**//MASH//**

## **SPRING 2016**

(Submitted by: Fernando)

The Good: MASH as a unit was on point. I cannot think of a team better suited for this work or to have present in a catastrophe. Toaster and Butterfly deserve honorable mention.

The Bad: We were tested by circumstances and came through with honors.

The Ugly: Poor dynamics of communication and solidarity between the BOD and MASH. Those dynamics will never play out again.

## **FALL 2016**

(Submitted by: Fernando)

The Good: We had a solid team that never missed a beat as usual. Our competent crew warmly welcomed several new medics and nurses this year.

Our volunteer schedule was well padded and a pleasure to work with. Major thanks to our rock star and wild card- the Level One Trauma ER Doc , Dr Leila for being a most valued second opinion in a very crucial moment early on a cold wet Sunday morning.

An internal affair that had caused friction was thoroughly resolved and a good working relationship was saved.

Also noteworthy, the BOD was much more reliable, communicative and easier to work with this burn and I am very grateful for the smooth running operation. Thank you.

The Bad: We did have two medical evacuations. One was a complication from a previously appendix surgery that flared up on the Playa. The other was a most beloved volunteer who was found seizing, scooped up and swept into hands capable of healing him well enough to return to the Playa.

The Ugly: Upon doing a tent check on Monday afternoon I found a long time burner who had passed peacefully in his sleep overnight. Outside paramedics, Delaware State Troopers and the Office of the Medical Examiner took several hours to investigate and remove the body. I gave my official statements and remain on the ready to respond to any further inquiries.

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//MOOP//

**FALL 2016**

(Submitted by Cassi)

Good: Brian and Apryl were a great help in taking over until I showed up late Friday. Brian helped show me where supplies for sweeps are kept and I added new supplies as well. Brian "ran" the first moop sweep shift and they had some volunteers.

Bad: Personally, I found out at the very last minute that I could make it to the burn, and so I arrived to the event late and had to leave early which soiled some great ideas I had.

As far as the event, there were not many volunteers signed up or showing up for their shifts. The wind and rain made it hard to hold onto all your things which caused a lot of flying moop, which became "lost in the woods/mud" moop. People were giving up and leaving things if they got too destroyed or far away.

Ugly: Hardly anyone staying for Exodus. This is really when we needed the most help and unfortunately many people, including myself, had to leave early. There also was a lot of theft with the lost and found of people just taking things that weren't theirs.

Ideas for next year:

More online preburn prep (getting more volunteer sign ups early, making posts about LNT tips and tricks, have a solid Exodus crew with full sign up sheet before event etc)

Hold a "moop parade" to go around the playa several times a day to educate and gather volunteers

Moop n mimosas - give out mimosa (or virgin alternative orange juice/seltzer) volunteers can "sip n sweep" while cleaning up the playa

Create and bring more signs, maybe have an event for sign making

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**//PARKING//**

**SPRING 2016**

(Submitted by: 2E)

The Good:

Great volunteers!!

Weather was nice (very hot) for the first 3 days - this helped dry out the parking lot (until Sunday's showers started)

No major traffic blunders

The Bad:

Due to showers the week before, there was a lot of moisture in the parking lot. There were a lot of soft spots and a few participants' vehicles got stuck. One vehicle in particular had to call a tow truck to get pulled out after the event.

Our older radios (used for communicating between the parkers in the lot) are nonfunctional. These could be replaced with cheaper 1 channel models because they are only used for communication between the volunteers in the parking lot.

Golf Carts weren't as durable as our usual ones. Headlights on one of our carts were directed up into participants' eyes as opposed to on the ground where light should be. We attempted to redirect the light with tinfoil and we diffused the light as best we could.

The Ugly: None

## **FALL 2016**

(Submitted by: Brutal)

### The Good:

Rows were beautiful. Greeters and PS had our back we were always fully staffed. Teams formed to get people out of the mud. Random help from the community. Wonderful.

### The Bad:

The gates were not manned during off hours allowing cars to come in during only carry out. Over half the cars got stuck in the mud. There was no traffic management so I stepped in personally and appointed people to run the traffic jams. Normally these shifts are not needed but we had a hurricane mud burn. The parking passes were misplaced. Vets were not sufficient security in the morning - people were driving through. Theme Camps should be prepared to carry in carry out for potential future burns.

### The Ugly:

Our current grounds are not sufficient to handle our rvs and parking in general. That is my professional opinion.

## **SPRING 2016**

(Submitted by: Sam Buca)

### The Good:

The parking team had really good chemistry and works extremely well together. Our volunteers for the most part showed up for their shifts, and when we were low staffed we worked well with other departments to fill shifts. Our stakes and flags were set up well enough so that our volunteers could park people in close together without hitting each other. All RVs, vans, and other onsite parking were successfully directed their designated parking areas without any overflow. And so far as I know, there was very little damage to cars reported due to people losing control in the mud. No person (that I know of) was injured while parking :) Everyone who got stuck in the mud was (eventually) able to get out.

### The Bad:

Minimal damage to some cars, but I think most of it was due to people damaging their own cars through the mud, not a lot of car-on-car damage. Some volunteers were not necessarily in the right headspace to direct people and let them know parking and load in/load out

practices, or lack there of. Temporary load in parking ended up turning into permanent parking because people never came back to move their cars.

The Ugly: The mud. Stuck cars. Stuck tow trucks. General stuckyness and more mud than I've ever had the privilege to see in my life.

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## //PARTICIPATION STATION//

### SPRING 2016

(Submitted by: Diana-Smiles)

#### The Good:

So much was good! Overall, the Participation Station ran well with no drama. The new structure was fantastic (thanks to Jim and DPW!). Other volunteer departments, Playa Shakespeare, and several events were able to use the structure, and the PS was a thriving party of volunteers all weekend. The new SOP and volunteer job descriptions created by Apryl were fantastic and able to help the volunteers if there wasn't a coord or lead present. The new raffle boxes worked great and we had a huge turnout for the raffle. Almost 100% of volunteer shifts were filled on the boards by Saturday, with the exception of exodus and some buzzkiller shifts.

#### The Bad:

The heat. The heat killed our Roving Recruiter program this burn; it was simply too hot. But even with the heat, some of our more proactive volunteers stood at the corner with a megaphone and recruited from there when needed. Other bads: the PS needs more/longer extension cords since we aren't piggybacking off Rangers anymore and we are running the lines from the barn. Also, PS needs fans. We didn't get any new ones over the weekend like the gates, and the one we have a broken stand and was effectively useless all weekend. On Saturday night, the lights in the PS were shut off for the burn and remained off afterwards, but a request came from the Buzzkillers to leave them on, since they now work out of there on Sunday afternoon, which left both gates without volunteers for the final shift. I found a volunteer for ticketing and worked the back gate myself, along with my camp mate. Recommended possible solutions: new cords and fans, leaving lights on, and anticipating the impact of the mass exodus on volunteering.

#### The Ugly:

The golf cart headlights had intermittent problems working. The company was called out, and the switch and wires were replaced and yet the problem continued, rendering the cart useless at night. The new golf carts are barely sufficient for the terrain, I was concerned

about hauling too much weight with the lesser cart and effectively was not able to help with people hauling in; on the plus side, the service from the headlight fixer was excellent. (Thanks Jim!) Also, the radios at the PS are the old Dakota ones that we used before everyone else upgraded. When I was in my camp, all calls from the front field were static. Recommended possible solutions: upgrading radios and attempting to go back to our old golf cart vendor.

## **FALL 2016**

(Submitted by Diana Smiles)

### **The Good:**

Our participants continue to be rock stars! Volunteer coverage continues to strengthen and grow with the PS moved to the new location. We had the best coverage that I can remember on Friday night and almost 100% coverage for all other shifts. The raffle was very successful with even more entries than last burn. The majority of the volunteer sign ups happen onsite.

All-things-in-use inventory was completed with no major issues.

### **The Bad:**

Radios. New radios were not purchased as they take 4 to 6 weeks for delivery so there was not time. Using the old radios was less than ideal; they do not cover the whole length of the site. Radios will be purchased earlier via reimbursement so we have them for Spring 2017.

Volunteer coverage was weak on Sunday afternoon and for exodus, as a result of the hurricane and many participants leaving early. I plan to use social media next spring to encourage exodus volunteers, since this group doesn't have much visibility, and to encourage those that stay through it all to sign up for Sunday shifts, since this is the 2nd burn in a row where bad weather late in the weekend resulted in volunteer no-shows.

Unattended fires at the PS. Twice I went by the PS late at night after it had been closed down for the night and the fire put out to find that the fire had been deliberately re-started and needed to be put out again. As our policy is no unattended fires, this is an item of concern. I have been advised who did this, so I will handle it one on one before next burn.

As a result of the weather and the PS station falling down (will be covered in the Ugly portion), I was not able to inventory the items still in the shed that belong to the PS.

### **The Ugly:**

Hurricane Matthew. Rain. Mud. Wind. All that follows is related to the hurricane.

As a result of the wind on Saturday night while raining, water got into the PS and onto the tub that was holding the radios, causing the generator the vets had set up for our electricity to repeatedly short out. Pineapple traced the short back to the wet radios in the PS and disconnected us from the electricity. As a result, the PS had no electricity for all of Sunday. Going forward, the radios/electric will be put in a waterproof location during inclement weather.

The soft ground from the rain and the high winds that came in on Sunday after the rain stopped, along with improper set up of the PS station cause the structure to fail on Sunday afternoon and the whole PS station was dismantled on Sunday. Exodus and Sound volunteer boards and the Lost and found were moved to the pavilion. Going forward, the PS will use the footers that are supposed to go with the structure, and make sure the proper number of ratchet straps are used and set properly. A number of the poles bent and will need to be replaced for next burn.

Note: taking down the PS on Sunday was very helpful to me and to DPW, who had one less thing to deal with on Monday. Once the logistics of the lost and found and the remaining volunteer panels were worked out, it didn't seem to have much impact on the event. I would consider taking it down early again.

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## //PLANNING COMMITTEE//

### **SPRING 2016**

(Submitted by: Owsla)

Stats: The average number of participants in a meeting this cycle was just under 19, and the average length for a meeting this cycle was just under 49 minutes.

The Good: Meetings were held on schedule and no emergency meetings were called for or required. Discussions remain well-organized using our stacking procedures. We are fairly good at staying on-topic and on-agenda, and meetings are on average under an hour. Decisions from the PC about event budgets and event policies were discussed and completed on schedule for the spring burn.

The Bad

-Issue:

There is still a commonly-voiced feeling that the BOD should have a greater presence on PC calls so that they can stay abreast of our discussions and decisions, and so that we can have

a point of contact when issues arrive that may need BOD input. While it is not required for there to be a BOD member on-call, it does often facilitate the smooth running of the organization (especially in cases where the PC spends time and effort to discuss and make a decision only to have a BOD member raise an objection some months later). Personally I would welcome more BOD participation in PC calls, and also encourage at least quick review of the agendas and minutes that are posted so that any potential objections to potential PC decisions are raised in a timely manner.

--Potential action: I may try sending the BOD direct reminders of PC meetings to invite greater participation (or at least perusal of agendas, etc.).

Note for the community: again it is not required to have a BOD member on our calls, so please understand this is an avenue of encouragement and not one of demands.

-Issue:

Some coordinators still seem to be under-informed as to the rules and procedures that govern our meetings and decisions (such as for budgeting, reserve ticketing, etc.), and that has again caused for some extra work in re-explaining things at length (sometimes last minute) and also trying to wrangle coordinators for budgets, After Burn reports, etc. Some of this may be par for the course due to turnover in coordinator volunteers (i.e., there's always a learning curve!) and that's fine, but in my opinion some may also be due to some coordinators not always reading or paying close attention to coordinator-list emails, and otherwise being a little "checked out" in between events. (Note: Some departments are structured for on-site vs. off-site coordination and that's fine for those coords; I'm mostly concerned when a department as a whole doesn't seem to have anyone in reliable communication between events.)

--Potential action:

To address this I am considering putting together a PC-how-to for coordinators so that we have a short document outlining such procedures as they are relevant to our departments, so that coordinators have written guidelines for how they should be interacting with the PC.

## **FALL 2016**

(Submitted by: Owsla)

### The Good

We came, we met, we planned! Meetings remain under an hour on average. We've seen increased presence of Board Members on calls, too. Decisions from the PC about event budgets and event policies were discussed and completed on schedule for the spring burn.

The Bad: No bad to speak of.

The Ugly: No ugly to speak of!

As has been announced at the last PC meetings and in other forums, I am looking for someone to train to replace me as PC coord because of the possibility that I'll be moving out of the area/country sometime mid-next year. †

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**//PONY WRANGLER//**

**FALL 2016**

(Submitted by: Jill Nado)

GOOD: Yes, it was a great Pony built by Jamilah Dalton. The amount of detail, thought, love and dedication that went into it was astonishing.

BAD: The Pony budget has gotten to be so huge, we can't really ask artists to front half the money any more. \$1200 is just too much to ask for most people. I've already encountered potential Pony builders who are hesitant to apply because of financial concerns, and we don't want to risk turning anyone off to building a Pony, so I'll consult with Dave Diller and Art Grants Committee to see how we may smooth out the money situation. (Dave D because he's in charge of \$, Art Grants Committee because they're going to be encountering the same problem)

UGLY: Nothing ugly at all

P.S. I'm starting the Pony application process much sooner for the upcoming burn than ever before, because when you give artists some lead time, you get amazing things, like our lovely Lego pony. Let the Pony pleading begin!

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**//PURCHASING//**

**SPRING 2016**

(Submitted by: Jim)

The purchasing process for PDF went from coordinating the golf carts and water coolers and water containers to purchasing for more than a dozen people from lots of vendors due to a Purchasing Coordinators credit card being issued to me.

The process was a mess...no coordination or process was in place and hence it became a much larger project than I anticipated. In the end, it all worked out...most people were pleased with the process and everyone in the end received their things in a timely manner.

Learned a few lessons when I agreed to have two of the large shade structures delivered to me (wasn't really thinking how big they were but was over 700 pounds just for the two structures) and I had to send one of my personal vehicles up with it to spread out the weight off of my trailer.

And, had offered to bring up some Gate things...only to realize it was more than six large yellow burner boxes worth of stuff. This time stuff is being delivered to a location near the burn for someone else to bring on site.

We had to change golf cart vendors this burn and they worked out well as we had them put mud tires on all of the carts.

Only glitch was all of the carts arrived half full (their standard method) and I had to purchase additional gasoline and gas them all up throughout the burn. This time they are coming with full tanks which should work fine for each use.

Otherwise...it worked. A new purchasing process is in place for the Fall 2016 burn and working smoothly

## **FALL 2016**

(Submitted by: Jim)

The Good:

The purchasing process went much smoother this burn with the new Google based Purchasing Spreadsheet. Folks placed items they wanted along with URL links to Amazon or other sites and I made purchases and had shipped to desired locations. Spreadsheet helped a lot and may make a few tweaks to it prior to the next burn to allow for notes, updates, etc.

The Bad:

Only big issue was groups ordering radios when we discovered they were on national backorder with a 6-8 week delivery time frame (about four weeks after the burn) so will have to be more on top of this earlier in the process next time.

Additional Notes:

There seems to be a lot of money spent on things that may or may not be being used for more than one burn. I will look at orders, etc over the winter and propose my thoughts in early Feb or March.

Golf carts were great in the mud and after removing a ton of mud off of them late on Monday night they were good as new. Water and other items all worked out as planned and very few issues related to purchasing this burn.

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**//RANGERS//**

**SPRING 2016**

(Submitted by: Mythic)

**\*\*Please note, I am abandoning our usual format of "the good, the bad, and the ugly." I found this report required a more nuanced approach to the events that transpired this burn than that structure permitted.\*\***

Contents:

- i. Report on the Ranger Budget for Spring 2016
- ii. Infrastructure, Ranger administration, materials, accounting
- iii. Shift activity
- iv. Comments

I. Budget Report

Proposed Budget Itemization Actual Expenditures

Item

Burn Items

Printing for burn:

Ranger Field Guides \$100.00 \$100 50 x \$0.78 \$39.00

Consent Posters \$15.00 \$15.00 30 x \$2.38 \$71.40

Water\*, Juice, snacks \$75.00 \$75.00 Donated

Office supplies \$60.00 \$60.00 100 Safety pins \$5.58

Stapler \$16.97

Golf cart rental and delivery \$325.00 \$325.00 \$325.00

Extra gas for gold cart \$25.00 \$25.00 \$25.00

Uniforms \$700.00 \$700.00

Patches 50 x \$6.95

Set up \$40.00

Reflective \$2.75 \$577.00

Hats 12 x \$15.08 \$181.00

Plain t-shirts 10 x \$4.58 \$45.88

Infrastructure

New shade structure \$650.00 \$650.00 \$651.00

Lighting \$75.00 \$75.00 \$75.06

TOTAL \$2025.00 \$2012.83

Comments:

\*We did not receive our water cooler (Budgeted \$25.00) and water (\$25.00) because of a communication snafu with purchasing.

The overall Expenditures for Rangers were \$12.17 under our proposed budget.

I. Infrastructure, administration, and materials

Golf Carts

Despite concerns that the lighter weight carts may not handle the terrain or Ankle Breaker Bridge, the golf cart proved invaluable once again for the Ranger team. It facilitated set-up, tear-down and was extremely useful in rapidly getting Coordinators on Com to where they were most needed throughout the burn.

## Ranger Structure and Lighting

The new 18' x 30' structure was delivered to the site courtesy of Jim in Purchasing and erected by DPW. Lock boxes were also delivered by DPW. Radios and lights were powered by outdoor extension cords run from the barn. Ranger HQ set up was completed and fully functional on Thursday, well before the gates opened. The structure withstood the rain and elements well. The lighting was excellent. A clogged drain in the barn showers contributed to some saturation of the ground at Ranger HQ. Pineapple was able to fix the clogged drain.

## Ranger Training

We saw almost 20 new Rangers attend Ranger training on Friday night. Ranger training began with a shared session with Sanctuary and MASH teams covering radio protocols. Following radio training, Rangers, MASH, and Sanctuary broke off to cover team-specific training. Ranger-specific training included break-out sessions for new Rangers with experienced mentors.

Newer Shift leads communicated that they would like to have Shift-lead specific training since we have expanded Shift lead responsibilities. We are in the process of gathering information about what kind of training this would include and how best to deliver it.

## Uniforms

We debuted the new Ranger Uniform this burn. This was done in response to requests from the community and the BoD that Rangers should be as visible and identifiable as possible, especially at night. The Uniform now features a 6" x 10" reflective patch and Khaki attire of the Ranger's choosing above the waist. We received positive feedback about Ranger visibility.

We also instituted a new method of tracking Uniform items that are distributed. Uniforms are no longer given out at Ranger training but rather are handed out and recorded by Shift leads when Rangers show up for their first shift.

The following is a record of all uniform items distributed to Rangers this burn:

Please note that 7 patches were missing and remain unaccounted for when the new Shift Lead reported for her shift at 2PM Sunday. We are looking into this discrepancy.

## II. Shift Activity- General

This burn, the Ranger team continued to maintain a detailed log of events that transpired during every Ranger shift. This log book was kept in the primary Ranger lock box along with our radios. All Rangers were asked to record events that occurred during their shifts with as much detail as possible, including timelines. In addition, the Ranger team has newly adopted a Shift Lead Log. The Shift Lead Log is kept in a separate lock box accessible only by Ranger Coordinators and Leads. The Shift Leads were responsible for accounting for all

Rangers coming on and off shift, handing out and recording who received patches, hats, and shirts, and any additional information about their shift that was note-worthy. A compilation of these logs is being prepared and will be submitted to the PDF Board of Directors.

#### Summary of Events:

Only 2 shifts were reported as “all quiet”: Sunday 2PM-8 PM and Monday 8 AM- Noon. Every other Ranger shift saw significant activity, most involving participants enjoying the party.

There were 4 reports in the Ranger log concerning consent violations, each dealt with by Rangers.

One participant fell from Love tower and required medical evacuation by ambulance.

A summary of the number and type of significant incidents Rangers encountered is shown below:

#### Type Number

Consent 4

Domestic 1

Theft 1

Med Evac 1

Non-participant entrance 1

#### Minor issues:

The Ranger cabinet containing our radios was found unlocked a few times on various shifts. Rangers will be alerted that the box must be kept locked.

Ankle Breaker Bridge took a toll on participants, all well handled by MASH. The bridge was prohibitive for most carts to navigate, limiting cart access to the back field.

#### III. Comments

The Ranger Coordination team is considering several different plans to facilitate participants in the back field reaching a Ranger expeditiously whenever needed.

Rangers continue to work very closely with both MASH and Sanctuary this burn in an integrated manner, as needed.

At the beginning of the burn, we had fewer than three board members on-site even though the event was live. Throughout the event, Ranger coordinators were in greater demand and for more extended periods of time due, in part, because of an inability to expeditiously contact the BoD despite attempting to do so through multiple communication channels. The inability to contact the BoD in a timely fashion contributed to prolonging timelines for incidents that would have benefitted from a more rapid response.

Some policy gray areas were also noted that affected the decision making process for BoD members such that once contacted, decisions took longer to make. Based on this experience and discussion with BoD members, the ranger coordinators are working with MASH coordinators to adjust protocols currently involving the BoD. The goals of these policies will be to (1) clarify the decision making process; (2) facilitate the formulation of action plans based upon the policies; and (3) enact said action plans expeditiously on site, as necessary. Any new protocols will be submitted to the BoD for review, discussion, and approval prior to being enacted.

## **FALL 2016**

(Submitted by: Mythic)

The Good:

Rangers continued to serve the PDF community in their roles as observers, resources, and mediators. The Channel 1 teams consisting of MASH, Rangers, and Sanctuary worked well together to ensure the safety and well-being of PDF participants.

In continued efforts of increasing accountability and transparency, Rangers continue to develop their methods of tracking inventory as well as individual performance.

The Bad:

Rodents once again infiltrated our chests, ruining our shade tarps and using much of our materials for nesting materials. This delayed set up so that items could be disinfected to make them safe.

Two participants required medical extraction; while unfortunate, MASH and Rangers worked well together to ensure the safety of all those concerned and together effected as efficient of an extraction as possible.

Overnight shifts need more volunteers.

The Ugly: Ranger HQ continues to suffer from significant drainage issues, although efforts to trench the area did help somewhat. Rodent infiltration of items stored onsite resulted in damage of shade tarps and delay of set up.

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//SANCTUARY//

## **SPRING 2016**

(Submitted by: Jen)

### The Good:

Sanctuary was set up (thank you DPW) and had adequate lighting and signage. I think people realized that sanctuary was actually there and the people I spoke with seemed to understand the purpose. There was a short write up in the WWW which I think helped. We had 3 cots and 3 chairs and it seemed like that was enough.

Sanctuary training went well and was fairly well attended. I think that having training listed in the "events" list in the WWW would be beneficial as opposed to the information only in the description in the back. It would be nice to have a training manual in the future, as well as better logs of participants.

The structure of one lead and 2 volunteers from 4pm-4am worked out well. It is still my belief that this is sanctuary's busiest time. However, some of the "on call" shifts were hard to cover.

### The Bad:

The structure of sanctuary may need to be addressed in the future, it seemed to really whip around in the wind and I am not sure how weather proof it is. I would love to hear from anyone who has been in the structure during inclement weather like high winds and heavy rains, as this is a concern for the future.

There seems to be a radio missing from Sanctuary. We located the box and the extra battery but the unit itself was missing. Any information relating to this is helpful.

### The Ugly:

It is my belief that sanctuary is in need of SEVERAL more coordinators. I don't think that sanctuary is quite at a sustainable level of people at the coordinator level. I am open to suggestion and discussion for how to structure coordinators but I think that there should be 3-4 total coordinators involved. PLEASE CONTACT ME (JEN) IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS INTERESTED.

## **FALL 2016**

(Submitted by: Jen)

The Good:

We had great volunteer signup and turnout, building up some amazing "regulars" who have been able to help train others as well. I think we are gaining more name recognition and attention.

The Bad:

We are running out of room in our structure for participants and volunteers to move around. The structure itself is complicated to put up and a big thank you to yeti and Dan laz for figuring that out and doing the hard work.

The Ugly:

I am still unhappy with Sanctuary's placement. It is too loud next to the stage to have meaningful conversations and is agitating to sanctuary participants.

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**//SOUND PATROL//**

## **SPRING 2016**

(Submitted by: Pena)

The Good:

Zero neighbor complaints or police reports again; this makes at least 5 consecutive years with no external sound issues.

Nearly everyone remained well within levels the entire weekend. DJs were happy to do whatever was necessary to get in levels when asked.

Few complaints made it to my radio, and all were resolved amicably. Always remember, you can always ask (nicely) too, it's the neighborly thing to do!

On Saturday and Sunday, all camps had subs off before even starting up again after the burns.

Some awesome, and MANY on some nights. Word of mouth even brought in a few!

No real issues from the front or back fields.

The Bad:

Sound patrol never got the items we got approved for in the budget

Got a few calls about a loud speaker in the back field be used late sat. night

Camp wrong way had to be told to turn it down several time's and almost had to cut there sound off.

The Ugly:

A co-coordinator had to leave early and also quit so I had to cover his Sunday shift.

## **FALL 2016**

(Submitted by: Pena)

The Good (some copy/paste from last time, with embellishment)

- Zero neighbor complaints or police reports again
- Nearly everyone remained well within levels the entire weekend. DJs were happy to do whatever was necessary to get in levels when asked.
- Few complaints made it to my radio, and all were resolved amicably. Always remember, you can always ask (nicely) too, it's the neighborly thing to do!
- On Saturday and Sunday, all camps had subs off before even starting up again after the burns. Awesome.
- No real issues from the front or back fields.

The Bad:

- A radio was lost
- had to shut down a sound camp friday night b/c after 5 times, the sound levels keep being turned up after levels were set.
- The rain

The Ugly: not enough volunteers

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**//STAGE//**

**SPRING 2016**

(Submitted by: Rmorris2112)

**The Good**

This year the stage got new equipment and some new faces! The org purchased two new main speakers for the stage as well as new mic stands, new wireless microphones and 10 new XLR cables to boot!

There were minimal no shows from performers and the schedule was almost completely filled.

**The Bad**

Rain and a need to keep gear safe forced an early stage closing.

We still need more help with stage. Planning on a larger staff for the fall

Any experienced audio engineers that would be willing to dedicate time to running the stage please contact us.

**The Ugly**

We may need a different plan for MASH in inclement weather if more bands come and store more gear on the stage in the fall. Pavilion?

Early confusion about camping areas and space around stage for stage crew

Coordination for gear resting place/transport ongoing: Speakers are in secured storage (will be done tonight) Emyrs still owed \$90 for mileage

**FALL 2016**

(Submitted by: Scott Frias)

**The Good:**

Stage ran like a clock for the entire event. Good participation from the community; no equipment malfunctions during the event and we drastically improved the live improvisational aspects of the stages use, which will continue to increase in the spring. All equipment rented was returned with no damage.

The Bad:

None really. Could use more permanent equipment. †

The Ugly:

Just lost all the paperwork that I JUST found again, hence the extra long delay in submitting this report.

Additional Notes:

I am going to instantiate an open entry house band in order to prove the point that music is generative and in a crowd of burners with particularly great power.

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**//THEME CAMPS//**

**SPRING 2016**

(Submitted by: Katherine Miner)

The Good:

Weather for setup was dry and agreeable.

We were able to recruit the volunteers we needed; all arrived on time as arranged.

I was able to make a site visit three weeks prior to the event for the purpose of surveying the grounds and updating the placement map with the changes that were made by the Vets.

New Rangers location was well received and worked well for Rangers? Needs a new structure, based on my onsite check-in with Ranger coordinators.

The Bad:

Significant rainfall in the weeks before the event contributed to saturated and muddy grounds, and restricted where we could place camps and roads, primarily on the South side of Fields 5 and 6. Large tracts of swamp made it impossible to run roads/paths to certain areas we typically place theme camps.

A few days before the event, we got a request from Art Grants to place 8 art grants that hadn't submitted placement applications. This was a week after Art Grants reviewed the completed map draft and it was published on the PDF site and submitted to print in the WWW. We were able to find spots for these late requests, but we had very little information, which made it more challenging. Going forward, we will work with Art Grants to better align our processes.

The Ugly:

Pineapple suggested multiple times to "have your Board buy gravel" (to smooth and fill out the road), but there was no time before the event to submit a proposal on the PONY, and budgets had already long been finalized for that cycle. I strongly feel that I would be better equipped to do my job well if the BoD informed me of changes coming down the pike that would affect the event map or placement. We will continue to do our best to share information and work cooperatively with other PDFers.

## **FALL 2016**

(Submitted by: Kathleen Miner)

The Good:

Yes, it was all good! We successfully placed 35 fabulous Theme Camps (including 8 Sound Camps) and 12 fantastic pieces of art. Weather was favorable for setup ñ 11am to 3:30pm (ish) on Thursday. Our five volunteers were absolutely exceptional! Huge thanks!

Leading up to this burn, the Vets removed the wooden road into the back field. They also built up some swampy parts of the back field with clay/dirt (Fields 5 & 6 South). These changes to the land, along with dry conditions in the weeks leading up to the Burn, allowed for a reasonably clean marking off of the complete backfield loop with cross streets.

The Bad:

There are certain areas of the back field where dirt was added to build up the ground, but it wasn't completely spread out. I would love to these areas leveled out before the next Burn. One specific area is the buggy mountain of dirt and decaying hay between Fields 4 & 5 (spot 4c on the Fall 2016 map). Another area is the South side of the back field loop where dirt was added before this Burn.

The Vets piled lots more mounds of dirt/gravel along the back field North fence, extending their "shooting range." This is over 100 feet along the main footpath that is unusable to us.

One Theme Camp pulled out of their assigned placement on Thursday. We talked onsite and seem to be on the same page moving forward, which is great. However, if a Theme Camp is bailing on their reserved spot as a trend, this is problematic. It creates holes in the layout and takes a prime spot away from another Theme Camp. If your placement significantly restricts your ability to do whatever it is you do as a Theme Camp, please reach out to [themecamps@playadelfuego.org](mailto:themecamps@playadelfuego.org) ASAP after the map is published (1 week before the Burn). Let's talk about it before the event!

The Ugly: No Ugly.

Additional Notes:

We've gotten feedback from multiple Theme Camps that the South side of the back field is consistently swampy and/or gets too little foot traffic. We'll continue to tweak the layout with this feedback in mind.

Constructive feedback from the community is welcome and valued! Please email [themecamps@playadelfuego.org](mailto:themecamps@playadelfuego.org) with your comments, questions, concerns, and commendations.

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//TICKETING//

## **SPRING 2016**

(Submitted by: Smartie Martie)

The Good: People came, we check them in.

The Bad: Volunteerism was low. We are always looking for more volunteers for front and back gate. We are currently looking for an additional assistant coordinator as well as new coordinator for Gate

## **FALL 2016**

(Submitted by: Smartie Martie)

The Good...

Overall everything ran well at the front gates for the fall burn. †I want thank all the volunteers who helped with setup, breakdown and who volunteered at Front Gate Ticketing.

We had many members of our community step up to fulfill empty volunteer slots on Thursday and Friday evening.

The New Participant/Wristband log was very successful for a faster method for participant waiver look up. We did have longer lines due to this new process, we will be improving this system for future burns.

The new fabric wristbands and wristband art contest was successful for this burn. We will be keeping the fabric wristbands, we will have a different style of fabric wristbands for the spring, i.e. no numbers hanging to be cut off.

The new ticketing sign and the rainbow pony looked good at the front gate. Volunteers loved the Sparkle Pony pendant swag.

The Bad...

Low volunteer turnout on Saturday and Sunday, possibility due to the weather.

The Front Gate structure was not very secure for the rain, due to every other hole was secured, when every hole needs to be secured. I will be purchasing more bungee ball cords, so the structure can be properly secured and safe.

The Ugly...

Nothing really ugly.

Suggestions, Improvements, Proposals

I have discussed with Alfred, we would like to have a pair of Greeters stationed at the Front Gate during high volume check in times, as it is a great opportunity to educate participants.

Proposal

For future PDF's I am suggesting to officially close the Gates at Midnight on Thursday and Friday evenings. Also to officially closed the Gates Saturday night and Sunday night at 6:00 PM. We seem to always be scrambling for last minute volunteers for these times. I would like the BOD to speak with the Vets about increasing the total number of extra hours, which is 16 per burn at 16.00 per hour, total expense for PDF 256.00. Its not going to break the PDF bank.

Proposal

Increasing the ticket cap with volunteer reserved tickets for general volunteers, because every volunteer is important to running the event. I have suggested this in the past and it

has been shot down several times. It's time to make this a reality. Some departments do not have this problem, for Gate departments, such as Greeters, Ticketing and Parking we do....

Yes, this suggestion will create some more work for some coordinators and BOD, it will also alleviate work and stress of coordinators during the event, because we will have a full staff of volunteers before the event starts. I think we would have more slots filled before the event due to the carrot of a reserved ticket.

A participant volunteers for 6 hours, either 2 three hour shift lead shifts or 3 two hour volunteer shifts.

The Front and Back gate we already have a volunteer shift logbook to record volunteer attendance for his or her volunteer shifts.

The volunteer shift logs books can be updated to record additional information such as email address and have two people to sign off for completed shift, such as shift lead, Coordinators and Assistant Coordinator, or G.O.D.'s.

After the event, coordinators would record the reserved volunteer ticket list into a google spreadsheet for his or her department for the following burn.

Send emails out to the volunteers who received the reserved.

During the reserved ticket sales volunteers would be able to purchase a reserved ticket to the burn.

Proposal

A reserved ticket for Coordinators to Burning Man

Still looking for a Ticketing Front Gate Coordinator, Assistant Front Gate Coordinator and G.O.D.'s for Spring PDF, please email [gate-lead@playadelfuego.org](mailto:gate-lead@playadelfuego.org) for more information.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in the Spring.

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**//WHO WHAT WHERE (WWW)//**

**SPRING 2016**

(Submitted by: Erica V)

The Good: It was gorgeous. Miss Fidget really did a fantastic job on her last WWW. She created a color version to be posted online and the black and white to be printed. The

booklets were delivered to the front and back gates by 5 pm on Thursday, by the beautiful and talented Miss Fidget. I got the word out early on social media about the submission deadlines, which might have backfired a bit because we had 180 event submissions! It was too much text to fit in our usual budgeted number of pages, so we went up to 48 pages, which cost more, and we had to do some creative editing to make it fit and the font was kind of small. The printer was paid on time. And some people saw the pdf of the finished product online and wrote to me to ask: "can I get my event in" and I had to politely explain how printing works.

The Bad: We went slightly over budget, but was actually less money than we spent the previous burn. We're using a different printer (Staples in South Philly) and they can only guarantee their estimate for 30 days and it was more than that and we had more pages, so we were slightly over budget, but it was still cheaper than the AlphaGraphics in Arlington. This is Miss Fidget's last hurrah, but we've already found another volunteer to take over!

The Ugly: None.

## **FALL 2016**

\*\*\*WWW\*\*\*

(Submitted by: Erica Vonderheid)

The Good: WWW showed up on time. I didn't attend this burn, but I didn't hear of any major mistakes or complaints. We had a new graphic designer, who did a great job. We used a new printer and, because Whip Lash used a coupon, we were \$15 under budget.

The Bad: We were using a different printer, so there were some communications issues, mostly because I didn't know what I was talking about. Miss Fidget used to talk to the printers, so I didn't know the lingo. This did not affect the finished product in any way, but it created slightly more stress for me. The printer can only guarantee an estimate for a certain period of time, like a week or 10 days, so the actual cost was higher than the estimated cost. But Whip Lash had a coupon for \$150 off, so we ended up \$15 under budget.

I keep getting notes from people saying that they don't understand why if their theme camp or event appears on the web site, why it isn't in the printed booklet. I have to explain the concept of a deadline. One problem is that the WWW deadline is 4 weeks before the burn and theme camp is 3 weeks before the burn. So people think that if they submit their theme camp by the theme camp deadline, it will end up in the WWW as well. Not true. I've talked with the theme camp folks and we agree that the solution is better education, not changing deadlines (we really can't, even if we wanted to). So, that's another point to mention when I put out reminders on the book of faces. This is a fine point, really. Not a huge deal.

The Ugly: No ugly.

