

# Colorado Bernal Equinox 2018: That Thing in the Snow (tTITS) After Burn Report

Attendance: 97 • Tickets Purchased: 116 • Gross Revenue: \$7377.93 • Total Expenses: \$7179.22 • Net Revenue: \$198.71 • Philanthropy: \$0 • Planning Team: 15 • Total Volunteers: 47

## **Overview**

CBE has existed in Colorado for 3 years. This year was its first as an overnight burn rather than an event in the city, and the first year it was created under a new, separate organization. It was like a first year event in budget and planning. Still, it had the support of shared equipment and skills from other Colorado events, including Apogaea (Burning Man sanctioned regional), and Elsewhence (non-sanctioned event, run according to the 10 principles).

## **Financing/Organization**

In order to throw the event in this way, Event Lead and Burning Man Regional Contact Steve Maruska had to finance the event out of pocket, with no guarantee he would be fully reimbursed. While he did end up reimbursed (costs were low due to lack of snow, which was the biggest budget item), next year will require a different financial plan. CBE plans to rejoin the Denver Regional Fund (DRF), a nonprofit regional Burning Man organization that also includes Denver Decompression.

## **Event Management**

Event Lead Steve asked everyone to come with an open mind and new ideas. CBE would be a blank slate for a new burn with as few rules as possible, while still making sure we had the ingredients for a safe event, following the 10 principles and creating space for art and community.

## **Event Name**

The name That Thing in the Snow, or tTITS, was unanimously voted on at one of the planning meetings. Some members of the community expressed discomfort with the name, which they did not know stood for that thing in the snow.

## **The Big Risk: Weather**

Throwing this event in the Colorado mountains in late March was a risk. We were entering a new burner frontier, preparing for possibly unfriendly terrain and weather, and it therefore had a small number of participants. As the event began and the weather was lovely, several people bought last-minute tickets. It was an intimate event, with several new-to-Colorado burners choosing CBE as their first event in Colorado, and there were great feelings all around about how it went from burners old and new.

## **The 11<sup>th</sup> Principle**

CBE adopted Consent as an official 11<sup>th</sup> principle, as part of a community effort to bring increased awareness and vigilance to consent, so that our participants feel safe to radically participate.

## **Volunteers**

CBE tried 2 unique tactics to incentivize volunteering. First, all volunteers were given an extra day for the event, allowed to arrive the day before the event officially began. Second, volunteer options extended beyond shifts in the database, and included different forms of significant contributions that people make for the event, such as setting up a theme camp or bringing art installations. Volunteers were not carefully tracked at this event, and specific numbers exist for volunteers outside of traditional shifts. Total shift volunteers were 47, or about half of participants, and many volunteers took more than one shift.

## **Leads**

- There were a couple of leads who were unable to attend the event, and the lead team chose to assume it wouldn't be a problem (and it wasn't).
- The Gate lead may have been overtaxed, but realized prior to the event that the addition of a Radio lead would help him, and that position was added.

## **Porta Potties**

Portos were ordered generously, since this event was taking place during the winter, with people wearing lots of layers, to keep things especially easy and clean. It didn't cost much extra and was worth the cost to keep them extra clean.

## **Work Weekend**

There was a work weekend the weekend before the event, with basic setup work done on the minimal infrastructure for the event. Most of the infrastructure stayed in place, though one carport blew down due to weather. There was no DPW lead, Event Lead Steve took this on, and this position should be added for next year.

## **Feedback for Next Year**

- Overall, leads and other organizers were overwhelmingly happy with the event, and nobody shared any major criticisms.
- There should be a Radio Lead position and a DPW Lead position added.
- The Medical and Ranger leads were worked hard, with limited staff in both cases. Fortunately, the event was free of major events requiring handling by these 2 departments, but thanks to the leads they were prepared. We should try to increase volunteers for both departments.
- Rangers and Medical need to keep their radios until the very end of the official event, they should not be taken away any sooner.
- Medical needs a way to be able to make rounds at the event, but still have a way for someone to get help at the medical tent, given a limited number of volunteers. Several

ideas to handle this included more volunteers, a radio at the tent, another non-medical volunteer at the tent, and teaming up resources with Rangers.

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#### Ticketing Breakdown

# of Tickets at Tier 1(\$65) = 69

# of Tickets at Tier 2(\$80)= 11

# of Tickets at Tier 3(\$90)= 12

# of Tickets at Door(\$100) = 2

Low income/Vital Role Tickets(\$35) = 24

(2 tickets were refunded 1@35 and 1@65 plus fees = \$107.07)

\$215 was collected for art grants in 2019

#### Expenses Breakdown (these are rounded for reporting)

350 Apogaea for replacement of carport and refilling 6 propane tanks

520 DPW needs(ratchet straps, transportation needs, gasoline)

550 Propane for fire and heating

970 Porto rental

1600 Insurance

200 Radios

250 Wrap party

500 Land Rental

150 Setup/Teardown food

550 Medical needs mostly 1/3 of an AED to share with other events in CO

1000 Legal and Entity Formation

150 Permit for Park County

275 Heaters

175 Wristbands and stickers