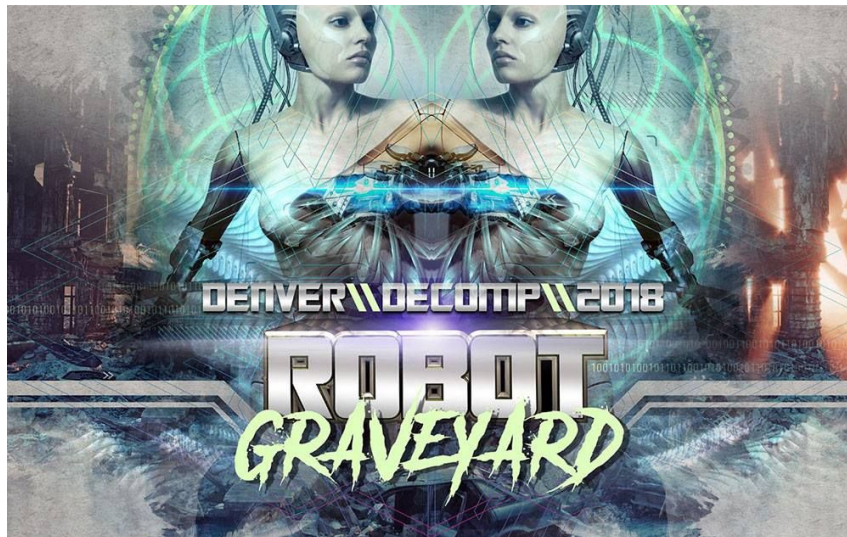


2018 Denver DeCOmp After Burn Report

Date: 12/12/18

Prepared By: Sante Suffoletta (sante303@gmail.com) and Liz Taylor (elizannetaylor@gmail.com)



Event Details

Date: Saturday, October 14, 2018

Time: 11am to 11pm

Location: Fox St Compound, 725 W 39th Ave., Denver, CO 80216

Event Website: denverburners.org/events/decomp

Theme: Robot Graveyard

Theme Narrative:

A machine stops working and its parts are harvested and reappropriated, but given new purpose. A human, heartbeat stuttering and breath stalling, slowly returns to the earth.

After mortality is extinguished, a creative spark lives on, and resurrects, whenever a life is changed by passion, art, expression, connection, love, and freedom in a community.

Celebrate the connection between machine and human. As the robot, we carry within us

continuity of ages and life states, like living dead. This begs the question, is every place we consciously occupy then also a graveyard?

Ticket Information:

- Tier One: \$15 tickets available until sold out or September 15
- Tier Two: \$20 tickets available until sold out or September 23
- Tier Three: \$25 tickets available until this sold out or September 30
- Tier Four: \$30 tickets available until sold out or October 7

Volunteers were provided a code to receive a discounted ticket of \$5. All tickets were purchased online through GiveBackTickets.

- DeCOmp is enjoyed by all ages until 9pm, 18+ after 9pm
- Feed the machine with several food trucks on site (vegan & gluten free options available)
- Denver DeCOmp is a pack in, pack out LNT event. BYO small plastic bag & ashtray to pack out personal disposables
- BYO beverage container or water bottle (must be empty)
- BYO best expression of the 10 Principles
- BYO playa-wear or themed costume

Summary

Starting at 11 AM on Sat, Oct. 13, the 2018 Denver DeCOmp was an all day long event with full sound stages, fire performers and aerialists, live painting, art cars, photo booths, workshops, food trucks, full bars, and more!

Denver DeCOmp 2018 was located at a new location, Fox St. Compound, a huge non-profit resource and art gallery space.

Advertised Highlights of the 2018 Denver DeCOmp

- Four sound stages with live bands, acoustic & packed DJ line ups!
- Over 68 fire & non-fire performers & full aerialist stage!
- Dozens of art installations, art cars & theme camps!
- Full service bars & mouth-watering food trucks!
- Photo booth, live painting, workshops, cuddle puddle & more!

Community Participation

Volunteer participation was encouraged throughout the planning and ticket sales process. Volunteer shifts were marketed as a beautiful way to get involved and meet other radical people in the community, as well as receive a discounted volunteer ticket priced at \$5. Volunteers were also invited to mingle with the other movers, shakers, and makers at the DeCOmp Volunteer Appreciation Party, which occurred on Fri, Oct. 12, the evening before the event.

In addition to volunteering, applications for participation were submitted by the community in the following categories:

- Funded and non-funded art, theme camps, and art cars
- Fire and non-fire performances
- DJs
- Non-DJ musical artists
- Photographers
- Workshop facilitators

Also even if artists didn't receive a grant this year, they were still encouraged to place and share their project for the event.

Challenges

Due to changes with event lead and DRF board members, the planning for the event did get off to a late start. Unfortunately, overall attendance, revenue, and net income for this year's event were slightly down and expenses were slightly up due to increased production costs. Sante Suffoletta took over as event lead and the core team began planning meetings in late April.

Due to issues and increased cost with the previous year's venue, the team selected a new venue in 2018, Fox Street Compound, which had many initial attractive features. However, after approaching city permitting offices, we learned the venue was on the radar for several noise violations and for hosting multiple events without proper zoning permits. As a result, we were required to change the event time even after starting sales that advertised a later and more desirable end time. These complications put a strain on getting contracts signed, funding approved, and permits approved.

Despite these challenges, in the end the planning committee team pulled together and delivered an event that was well received by the community (based on anecdotal evidence and post event surveys). Our team connected well as a group and worked hard to overcome many obstacles right up to the event date, embodying the principles of Communal Effort, Participation, Immediacy, and Civic Responsibility. About 80% of the core team plan to return

in a planning capacity next year and Sante will return as event lead. Planning meetings will start in late winter.

[Click here for Detailed Finance Report](#)

2018 Event Stats

Total Attendance	1328
Total Revenue	\$26,615
Total Expenses	\$22,312.49
Net Income	\$4302.51
Charitable Donations	15% of Net Income (\$1,289.72)
# of Members of Planning Team	42
# of Art Grants Awarded	18 (a record #, distributed in even amounts)
# of Volunteers	366
# of Art Installations	48
# of Workshops	8
# of Fire Performers	55
# of Non-Fire Performance Artists	70
# of DJ / Musical Acts	~40
Leave No Trace Impact	~80% (750 gallons) of waste was recycled

Planning Committee Team

The team connected extremely well as a group. 95% reported enjoying their role and all reported feeling like they were part of a community. The 2018 committee was made up of the following members and roles:

- Sante Suffoletta.....Event Lead

- Chris Dugan.....Budget
- Steven Mena.....Venue, Sound
- Bruiser Smith.....Sound
- Brian Weatherhead.....Sound
- Schmid-e WitchTwerk.....Sound
- Nick Rinaldo.....Placement, Fire Safety
- Liz Taylor.....Secretary, Communications, Gifting
- Patrick Karbon.....Gate, Volunteer Station, Radios
- Steve Maruska.....Regional Contact
- So Rachel Cain.....Regional Contact
- Paulie Snyder.....Fire Performance
- Marcus Nielson.....Volunteer Coordinator
- Kate Kelly.....Volunteer Coordinator, Art Grant Committee
- Angela Japangela.....Art Grant Committee
- Ginger Jones.....Art Grant Committee
- Josh Forster.....CAD / Venue Map, Placement
- Stephanie Amber.....Pleasers
- Jenny Wetter.....Volunteer Appreciation Party
- Chris Williams.....Safety Third
- Jesse Hanshaw.....Graphics
- Portia Velvet.....Food & Beverage
- Sam Carstens.....Placement
- Devin Jewel.....Leave No Trace
- Dave Welly.....Rangers
- Lea Flynn.....Ticketing
- Cyndi Moon.....Greeters
- June Rodgers.....Non-Fire Performance
- Calamitee Meg.....Workshops
- Nicholson Elliott Neisler.....Non-Fire Performance
- Gretskey Von Shtup.....Website Lead
- Jacob Bacon Battaia.....Website Tinkerer
- Brett Harrison.....Website Tinkerer

About 80% plan to return to the planning committee next year. We are very excited for 2019.

2018 Event Schedule

DENVER DECOMP 2018 :: ROBOT GRAVEYARD

EVENT SCHEDULE //

ALL TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

	MAIN STAGE	MAIN STAGE PERFORMANCE	EVENT HORIZON STAGE	EVENT HORIZON STAGE PERFORMANCE	PIRANHA ART CAR	AERIAL RIG STAGE	FIRE STAGE	WORKSHOPS	PHOTO BOOTH	
11:00 AM	Billy Love // Tribal / Psy Dubstep		Notus							11:00 AM
11:30 AM										11:30 AM
12:00 PM	Snipez // House									12:00 PM
12:30 PM	Kimberly St. John // House		Tony Knight							12:30 PM
1:00 PM										1:00 PM
1:30 PM	Dugan // Tech House / Techno	Smiles	Josh Ritter		Gretsky	Vickitty Lollipop				1:30 PM
2:00 PM										2:00 PM
2:00 PM	Greg Eversoul // Tech House / Techno	Logan Stanimal	Just B		DJ Wa YuP High	Vickitty // Kitty Lyra (2-25pm)		Wire Rings w/ Krailg Cotney		2:00 PM
2:30 PM										2:30 PM
3:00 PM	Chris Irvin // Tech House / Techno	Smiles Logan	Tom Schoppel					Drop in Anytime!	The Secret Manifesto & Creating Your Best Life with Vision Boards	3:00 PM
3:30 PM					SolarDaddy	Vee // Lyra (3-40pm)			Slinky Manipulation 101: The World's Newest Flow Art w/ Portia Terrell	3:30 PM
4:00 PM										4:00 PM
4:00 PM		Camellia	Matt Lafontaine							4:00 PM
4:30 PM	Samie // Classic Trance	Taylor Starr & Rufio			Princess Stephanie	Alan // Rope (4-40pm)		Biotech Your Biohacking	Chilla Yoga	4:30 PM
4:30 PM		Logan & Hoopleamily	Schmid-e					With Dr. Sam Shay, DC	w/ Chinchilla Roo	4:30 PM
5:00 PM		Wildfire Hoops								5:00 PM
5:00 PM	Gibby // Liquid DnB	Hoopleamily						Electronics in Art		5:00 PM
5:30 PM		Camellia			DSQISE	Memerie // Silks (5-25pm)		w/ David Danny		5:30 PM
5:30 PM	Damara Apple // Taylor Starr // Smiles		Citrus			Tori Bear // Lyra				5:30 PM
6:00 PM		Cefalopod								6:00 PM
6:00 PM	Ben Easley // Tribal / Psy Dubstep	Vee // Stanimal // Wildfire Hoops & Hoopleamily	Malia					Drop in Anytime!	Qigong Liberation	6:00 PM
6:00 PM		Chard // Damara Apple & Wildfire Hoops // Cefalopod			DJ Orion			Burner Improv Show Whose Burner Lines It Anyway	w/ Brian Seriah Wood	6:00 PM
6:30 PM	Quantum Beings of the Miraculous II Live Band (until 7:00pm)					Vickitty // Kitty Lyra (6-50pm)				6:30 PM
7:00 PM										6:30 PM
7:00 PM	Hot Coco Burlesque Performance (7:10 - 7:25pm)	Presley Peach	ElectroFI	Caitlin Morris // Smiles // Taelor // Ground Fire // Tias // Chris // Gizmo // Eric						7:00 PM
7:30 PM		Melinda Cary // Taylor Starr & Rufio		Camellia // Squirrels // Cefalopod // Dani // LawnCar // Brooke // Phe		Alan // Rope (7-15pm)				7:00 PM
7:30 PM		Smiles // Melinda Cary		Seven // Vee // Flow // Drama // Hannah // Kat // Wildfire Hoops	SILEC					7:30 PM
8:00 PM	Fonzie // Glitch (7:25 - 8:10pm)	Squirrels & Hoopleamily	Citron	Cefalopod // Chard // Mariah // Channing // Gabby // Diana		Memerie // Silks				8:00 PM
8:00 PM		Chard // Damara Apple & Wildfire Hoops // Cefalopod		Cedar // Dani // Moon Frackles // Anemita // Emily // Stanimal // Smiles						8:00 PM
8:30 PM	Dubwood // Baby Makin Bass Music (until 8:55pm)	Presley Peach // Logan		Hannah // Shelby // Gizmo // Rufio	Sami					8:30 PM
8:30 PM		Damara Apple // Cefalopod								8:30 PM
9:00 PM		Vee // Divintrie	Fire Performance	Roxy Thorn // Avi // Squeex			Fire Performances			9:00 PM
9:00 PM	Kanyon Walker // Breaks & Bass (8:55 - 9:40pm)	Taylor Starr & Moon Frackles								9:00 PM
9:30 PM		Damara Apple // Roxy Thorn // Melinda Cary								9:30 PM
9:30 PM				Tias // Gizmo // Vickitty // Cluster Dusk // Deja Vu						9:30 PM
10:00 PM	Keith MacKenzie // Booby Bass (9:40 - 10:20pm)	Vee & Vickitty // Roxy Thorn & Rufio	John Perez	Gabby // Eric // Ground Fire // Misty // LawnCar // Emily						10:00 PM
10:00 PM		Diana Sabreen // Wildfire Hoops		Ground Fire // Camellia // Stanimal // Melissa // Smiles						10:00 PM
10:30 PM		Roxy Thorn & Presley Peach // Divintrie		Kat // Chard // Brooklyn // Taelor // Taylor Starr // Squirrels // Eric // Damara // Vee						10:30 PM
10:30 PM	Brian Seriah // Tribal Breaks & Liquid DnB (10:20 - 11pm)	Vee // Logan // Diana Sabreen		Channing // Papa Smurt // Chris						10:30 PM
		Squirrels & Moon Frackles // Chard // Melinda Cary		Open Spin						

What Went Well

- The synergy amongst the members of the planning committee team. Best team to date. Awesome communication, creativity, caring, passion, and follow through. Great chemistry as well.
- The most art grants for artists and performers were awarded to date of the Denver Decompression.
- We left the venue cleaner than we found it. Roughly 80% (or 750 gallons) of our waste was recycled from the event. LNT recommendations were communicated throughout the sales process leading up to the event.
- A fair amount of communications were sent out via social media and email that helped in building momentum about the event. Important relevant information was shared out, as needed. The website was updated with current information and kept it alignment with other communications.
- Tickets were purchased through givebacktickets.com, which provides an awesome benefit of donating a percentage of ticket sales back to our choice of local groups.

What We Learned

- It's important to start meetings early, such as in late Jan. Starting in late March was key to planning this year. We were able to be very organized and avoid last minute emergencies dealt with in 2013.
- One major reason is because it's important to start looking at possible venues early. We learned we need to check zoning / permitting with the city on any new venues before signing a contract.
- Don't get overly emotional about venue selection. Have a viable plan B early on. If Plan A venue can't deliver a contract on our timeline or deliver as promised, walk away and use plan B.
- Get information for funding approval into DRF as early as possible.
- Have a way to track # of artists who attend the event and follow up with artists who apply to confirm them going into the event.
- According to the public survey, people really enjoyed the sound stages and performances and fire art!
- Almost half of the respondents would like to see more interactivity and then, a third of all respondents also wanted to see more performance stages, fire art, and non-fire art.
- People seemed to enjoy the big open space, but there were a lot of mentions of wanting indoor space.
- A longer event also seems necessary.

Opportunities Moving Forward

Overall

- Start meetings in late Jan 2019.
- Start looking at possible venues early. Check zoning / permitting with city on any new venues before signing a contract.
- Don't get overly emotional about venue selection. Have a viable plan B early on. If Plan A venue can't deliver a contract on our timeline or deliver as promised, walk away and use plan B.

Communications

- Send out Facebook blasts from a generic DeCOmp persona
- More communication about the ticket tiers
- More email communications, instead of just Facebook event

- Creating the event schedule was a good idea, but start putting it together earlier. Also it would be a good idea to print it really large to hang at the venue.

Administration

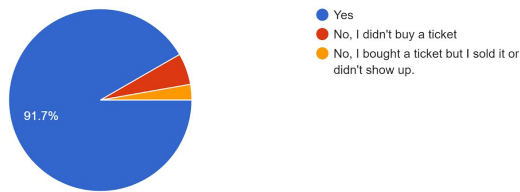
- Make sure we look at the institutional knowledge and burn reports from previous years at the beginning of the planning process
- Make sure everyone is set up with their generic Lead email addresses and uses them, update the website with this information
- The FB chat was great and necessary, but we should have a FB group for the Leads that doesn't have 800 people in it, for keeping info and documents
- Before each meeting, take a look at the meeting notes from the meeting before

Miscellaneous

- We should vote on the theme graphic / branding if more than one is submitted
- The whole workshops department kinda broke down with us not getting approved until late and the misaligned expectations and responsibilities of the department lead
- We need to make sure we have more break down volunteers

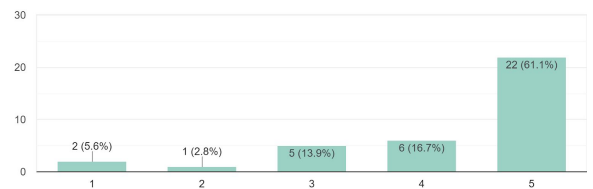
Full 2018 DeCOmp Survey Results

Did you attend Denver DeCOmp 2018?
36 responses



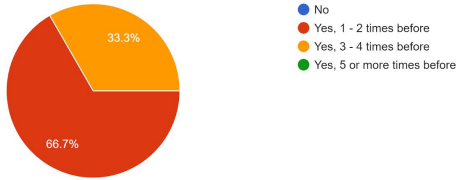
Denver DeCOmp 2019 (last question)

Would you attend Denver DeCOmp if it were an overnight event?
36 responses



Denver DeCOmp 2018 Non-Attendees

Have you ever attended a Denver DeCOmp in the past?
3 responses

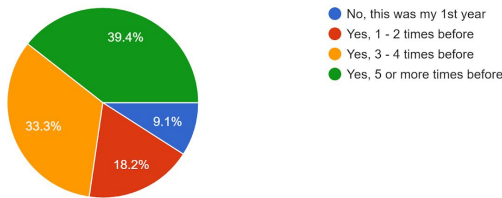


Why didn't you attend Denver DeCOmp this year? 3 responses

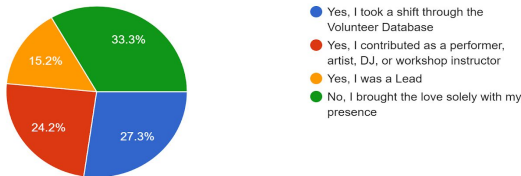
Decomp in AZ was on the same weekend
Sick and heard it wasn't awesome
I did

Denver DeCOmp 2018 Attendees

Have you ever attended a Denver DeCOmp in the past?
33 responses

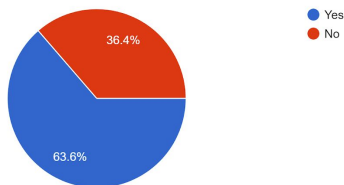


Did you volunteer for Denver DeCOmp this year?
33 responses



Denver DeCOmp 2018 Non-Volunteers

Have you volunteered at previous Denver regional events?
11 responses



Why didn't you volunteer at Denver DeCOmp this year? 11 responses

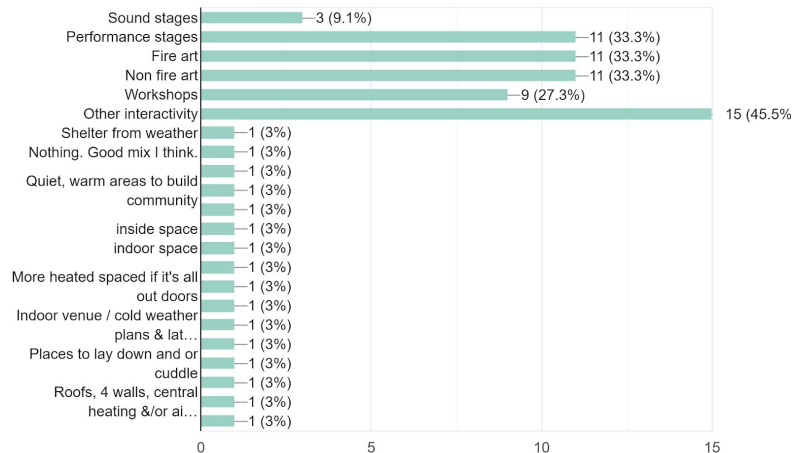
I prefer just to go
Unsure

time constraints
too hard to with a 2yr and 4yr old with me
I could only attend for a few hours
Unsure of work schedule
Wanted to enjoy the evening
other burner volunteer commitments
I work every Saturday and have for years. It's my busiest day of the week, so I rarely take the day off.
I had a lot of physical problems develop in the last year. My mobility and endurance is limited enough to where I can no longer perform the duties of the volunteer shifts available.
I didn't have time.

Denver DeCOmp 2018 Attendees

What do we need more of at Denver DeCOmp next year? Check all that apply.

33 responses



What were your favorite parts of this year's DeCOmp? What should we do again next year? 33 responses

Big space, variety of activity
 warm fire
 The large robot of fire
 Going home when there was ice shards hitting me in the face
 The freaks
 Size of the venue, ability to wander around.
 The venue was awesome, and I feel it perfectly meshed with our vibe and needs for space/open plan.
 Hugs
 Workshops, community, music, fire performances....
 It was all incredible
 Fire art. The venue was very interesting.
 Sunshine with friends.
 art, fire, bars were on point
 FIRE!!! YES
 Robot & photo booths
 I think the venue was excellent, big enough for all of the music!
 The people are always my favorite part
 The art
 Meh
 Event Horizon
 Event horizon

Big Charles
 I liked the openness of the event but I do wish there was an indoor main stage room.
 I liked the daytime schedule and outdoors
 Playing for all the wonderful people was great and running lights for my Camp Event Horizon Stage definitely made it worthwhile seeing how much people loved it! Can't wait for next year!
 fire art
 Taco truck was the best part. Have that again.
 Stayed for an hour then left. So much had already been taken down. It was actually pretty lame. Sorry, guys. I know you all put what you could in to it. The venue & the elements just weren't in your favor.
 I enjoyed seeing my friends. Overall I was very disappointed with this year's event
 Conclave was badass.
 Stage and sound were on point. Bunch of art was awesome. Cool workshops.
 Fire Art
 Great music. Cool art.
 The large open space, music, performers, & photo booth
 The people attending

What was missing this year? What other ways could we make Denver DeCOmp better next year? 33 responses

Wish it went longer

Indoors. Oct is too dicey for a pure outdoors event
An indoor/outdoor space (like EXDO), open until at least 1-2 am, not increasing tickets to \$35/\$40, not pretending that LNT means not having trash cans
Indoors

Indoor space

Liked the venue but October is a challenging month for an all outdoor event in Colorado. The last couple hours of the event were a bit rough. The Lee Burrige event the previous weekend that was scheduled to be outside as well had to be cancelled. With that said, thanks so much for organizing, it was still a great time.

Overall, organizational communication probably could've gone a lot smoother.

I personally experienced the brunt of a pretty embarrassing mixup in performance scheduling (embarrassing for me as well as the organizer). I heard from other performers that they were given incorrect times and locations for their performance as well. I also was not met by anyone at the start of my LNT volunteer shift to supply me with trash bags or gloves, I got these things about halfway through my shift.

Not horrible, but could've gone smoother.

Inside space. Illuminated entrance or at least an entrance you could readily find.

Maybe a stage inside. It got cold.

Nothing I can think of

More leadership. A decent and trustworthy venue owner or .manager which apparently doesn't exist in Denver.

An indoor space is necessary for an October event.
indoor space

we missed the workshops, but our fault for getting there later than planned

The entrance was tough to find - more signs or a map available on the FB event page in advance would be helpful

More heated spaced

A picnic table area to eat food truck stuff

Event should go later

It's always better next year ;) Keep up the excellent work!)'(

Art cars

Walls and a roof

Moar heaters and maybe tents/carports to host djs

More art

Wasn't a huge fan of the cash bar and no outside food. One of the things I love about burns is the sharing. I've had some of the best food in my life off a burners grill. I know quotas had to be made but let's see if we can't another way next year. Overall I loved it and think everyone that came did as well.

Bravo

I did not care for the DJs--lottery might do better when mixed with curating; did not like having it outdoors only; parking was lacking; missed having places to sit. Next year, if the new space is as large, compress the placement--it felt empty most of the time because it was too large a space for what was there and attendance.

Walls, a roof. Central heating...yadda yadda. I already mentioned all of that.

But seriously though. It was a rough one & we do appreciate the fact that all of you did what you could to make it happen, so thanks.

Indoor space was greatly missed. The sound stages were too close. The music overlapped. Where was the art this year? I remember lots of art, sculptures, and art cars at previous events. Felt like a basic lot party as opposed to a burner event. Very disappointed, will not be as quick to attend next year as I have been former years. Definitely will not go back to the venue used this year.

Missing? The inside of the venue?

More workshops during the day. Maybe some kind of fun activity people can participate in.

Indoor and outdoor space

Please choose an indoor venue. Being outdoors was miserable after dark and made it impossible to stay late.

Going late into the night

Warmth and shelter

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