

## **Colorado Bernal Equinox 2022: Apocalyptic After Burn Report**

Attendance: 95 • Tickets Purchased: 118 • Gross Revenue: \$10,940.00 • Total Expenses: \$8073.94 • Net Revenue: \$2,866.06 • Philanthropy: \$287 • Planning Team: 16 • Total Volunteers: 40

### **Overview**

Colorado Bernal Equinox has existed in Colorado for 7 years. This year was its third as an overnight event rather than a 12 hour event in the city. It was its third year for budget and planning in the new format. The intent behind this event is to produce as little everything that is safe and legal and encourage the participants to facilitate all the entertainment, activities and content. We believe that this year, we hit that mark.

### **Financing Organization**

The event continued thanks to the financial backing of the Denver Regional Fund in 2022. The role the 501c3 took was to pay for the upfront costs and then collect the revenues after the event. The event made a profit of \$2,866.06, which is exciting because we lost \$1500+ in 2019 and lost \$1000 in 2020 when we had to cancel due to Covid a week before the event.

### **Weather**

This event was moved from March to mid April (three weeks later than previous years) due to the high variability of weather in the CO Mtns. in March. There

was also hope that more people could attend with fewer barriers to entry(Gear, Clothes etc...) The calendar had cleared since the pandemic, it was no longer an issue of CBE conflicting with other events.

We were in luck: It was in the 50s and 60s during the day and didn't get below freezing at night during the event in 2022

### **Event Management**

It has been encouraged since the inception of CBE that the production team would be responsible only for those items that were required by law, the permit or the insurance. CBE works because no rules are created by the production team.

Event Lead continued asking everyone to come with an open mind and new ideas in the initial planning meetings. It was encouraged to present ideas outside the box. CBE would be a blank slate for a new burn with as few rules as possible. We emphasize the principle of radical self reliance, while still making sure we had the ingredients for a safe event. We followed the 10+1 principles and created space for art and community.

### **Event Name**

The event theme was Apocalycious. This was the first regional burn in Colorado post-pandemic, and it was delicious and post-apocalyptic.

### **The Big Risk: Covid**

Attendees had the option of wearing wristbands to indicate the following:

- Fully vaccinated
- Recently tested negative OR fully recovered after positive test within the last six month

We have not gotten word of Covid being caught at this event.

### **The 11th Principle**

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

The CBE Consent Lead had several additional volunteers who served as consent leads, raising insightful conversations about consent around the event. These ranged from basic conversations about the nature of consent to deeper conversations around implicit consent and whether "enthusiastic consent" is a reasonable expression.

### **Volunteers**

CBE tried 2 unique tactics to incentivize volunteering. First, all volunteers were given an extra day for the event by allowing them to arrive the day before the event officially began, which would still be below our permitted allotments on site for setup. Second, volunteer options extended beyond shifts in the database, and included different forms of significant contributions

that people made for the event, such as setting up a theme camp or bringing art installations. The number of shift volunteers were 40, just about half of the participants, and many volunteers took more than one shift.

### **Leads**

Colorado Bernal Equinox had 16 community members step up into the role of Lead. They each took on key responsibilities and many managed other volunteers. Events like this are a testing ground for people that may have never "led" anything in their life. Leads are accepted by the Event Lead knowing that if they fall short on their duties, the ultimate responsibility lies on the Event Lead to carry out those important tasks. There was one lead who, in the end, was unable to attend the event. He was in charge of radios and had already fulfilled his duties before the event started.

### **Sound camps**

Only one DJ (the sound lead himself) was bringing a sound camp, despite a call out online. A few DJs stepped in to take turns DJing. This worked well because the whole camp had one soundtrack, unifying the soundscape and getting everyone on the same page.

For next year, discuss whether they ought to record their sets. Would this destroy the immediacy or would it enrich people after the fact.

### **Stickers**

The event gifted stickers that were voted upon during planning meetings that were designed during those meetings.

## **DPW**

14 or so people signed up for DPW, both seasoned DPW pros and total newbs. The tasks consisted of

- Felling dead trees
- Cleaning dead trees and loose wood off the side of the road leading to the land
- Chopping wood
- Setting up carports for the event (3)

Only 7 individuals who signed up for DPW showed up, but most worked more than one shift, and good times were had by all. There is hope of getting more DPW help for future CBEs.

## **Safety Third Supplies**

CBE has worked in conjunction with other local 10 principle events to maintain a solid supply of basic medical inventory. CBE encourages participants to bring their own first aid kit and not rely on the event for basics. Over the course of the event, 3 band aids were requested.

## **Porta Potties**

Portos were ordered generously. The cost of this necessity is important to maintain comfort at the event. The ratio used is roughly 1 potty/15 paid participants.

## **Roads**

Road clearance is always a concern with this event. Since some of the road is north facing and uphill it is important that the roughly 1 mile of driveway is

cleared 1-2 weeks before the event so that it is dry when the gates open. Road maintenance continues to be the largest line item in the budget.

**What went wrong:**

- (1 report) Person touched other people's things without consent, was reported to the Consent Lead
- Survival guide could've been out more ahead of time
- Complaints about finding the place - sign at the gate - lots of people passed by the Gate, make sure the Survival Guide is accurate and there's a long blurb about how mile markers work
- Event communication could always be better
- New mics for the radios
- Survey question about BIPOC, just ask about inclusivity or if you were comfortable, not call out BIPOC
- Add question on survey about Consent successes
- I would like to see more DPW help for strike, the lead team is bad ass
- Some DPW didn't come

**What went right:**

- Later in the spring is a huge win
- Radio Lead will be in better condition next year
- Black light pens were super fun and will be helpful beyond the event
- 66% of survey respondents said they learned about cold weather camping
- The survey was great
- The sticker art was awesome - community in action

- Only one visit to medical - required a bandaid, 3 band aids were given out
- Everyone who volunteered said they loved it - from the survey
- There was a lot of fire art
- Most all volunteer depts were covered over 66%

### **Ticketing Breakdown:**

# of Tickets Presale (\$75) = 17

# of Tickets General Sale(\$85)= 36

# of Tickets General Sale February(\$95)= 15

# of Tickets General Sale March(\$105) = 29

# of Tickets General Sale April(\$115) = 13

# of Tickets at Door(\$130) = 3

(Participants were required to use the application as no cash is handled at the door)

Low income/Vital Role Tickets(\$50) = 5

### **Expenses Breakdown:**

\*\*these are rounded for reporting

\$850 Art Grants

\$556 Insurance

\$1500 Land Lease

\$1700 Snow Plow for Main Road

\$1432 Porto rental

\$0 Radios

\$651 Propane for fire and heating

\$150 Permit for Park County

\$219 Stickers

\$65 Medical

\$40 Wristbands

\$50 Office supplies

\$10 Placement costs

\$493 Infrastructure transportation

\$42 DPW setup costs

\$45 Generator

\$92 Wrap party

Link to expense spreadsheet: [Click here](#)