

Colorado Bernal Equinox 2023

Heliotropism: The Thawsoming

After Burn Report

Attendance: 107 • Tickets Purchased: 136 • Gross Revenue: \$12,700 • Total Expenses: \$8502.33 • Art Grants: \$1,625 • Profit: \$4,197.67 • Planning Team: 17 • Total Volunteers: 45

Overview

Colorado Bernal Equinox (CBE) has existed in Colorado for 8 years. This year was its fourth as an overnight event rather than a 12 hour event in the city. It was its fourth 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. It was also the coldest CBE on record.

Financing Organization

The event continued thanks to the financial backing of the Denver Regional Fund in 2023. 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 \$4,197.16, the second year in a row it made a profit after a 2020 cancellation due to the pandemic and road maintenance costs due to weather in 2019.

Weather

This event was held in April 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.

Good weather was not in the cards, though. It snowed three inches on Friday night and got down into the teens every night of the event. While this turned out to be a barrier to entry on Friday night/Saturday morning, most of the snow had melted by Sunday, and the roads were dry.

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 Heliotropism: The Thawesoming!!!

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 17 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

Music was whack, some people thought it was too loud, and there were competing sounds. Especially when DJ free, audience free, and long past when we had put in the guidelines to be playing.

For next year: What is our sound policy? What do we want it to be?

Stickers

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

DPW

- CBE had 5 DPW shifts and only half were filled
- DPW Lead did not attend
- We had a lack of volunteers to set up and tear down carports

- We saw the gap in certain positions that were needed, but we didn't recruit people and then it was a scramble and we were tired

Rangers

One heroic ranger worked the final 2 days solo for the Ranger Dept

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.

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.

Attendees were encouraged NOT to drive in on Saturday morning due to muddy/icy/snowy roads.

What went wrong:

- The weather: Bart said that mid-April was his favorite time on the land. Statistically it was a great time, but we lost the lottery this year.
- Not enough tri tip
- Too much gluten

What went right:

- Did we set up enough carports?
 - We think yes, 2 was right
 - Birthday and Leafwing made a game time decision to combine the Ranger carport and the Medical? carport into a single one
 - We always need to have the third in our pocket, especially if it's really freaking cold
 - Good to set them up side by side and take middle walls out

Plans for next year: Things to do differently

- Sound needs to be fixed
 - Need to bring in Sound Lead, Doc Wilder
 - Ideas
 - Placement decisions:
 - We could encourage sound camps to come early and still place themselves wherever they want and then we need to inform people better
 - Could be facing certain directions only
 - Designate a no sound camps area and/or educate the folks as they come
 - We need to educate participants and share the information of where Sound Camps have placed themselves

- About what the guidelines are and what it means to be courteous
 - Should be talked about at Greeters, in Survival Guide, and at Infobooth
 - We need someone who is part of the Sound Crew that can tune and fix sounds who can walk around and work this out
 - Bruce has been voluntold
 - Quiet hours need to be observed
- We need to build a culture of DPW
 - We need a DPW Co-Lead, might want to recruit Quack and/or Bacon
 - Need to have more DPW volunteer shifts
 - We need to emphasize that taking it down is more the crux of it because there's a strict way to fold carpports and put them away appropriately
- All depts should have a Co-Lead
 - So we have a succession plan in place, you don't get burnt out, and you don't get entitled and bossy about how things have historically been done
 - A good guideline is to hold a lead position for 3 years
 - Watch for 1 year, Do for 1 year, Teach for 1 year
 - Action item Now: Send future Event Co-Lead (Autumn) a Lead Summary
 - 3-4 sentences explaining what your job is so that it's documented for referencing over the next couple of years and for the purposes of recruiting a Co-Lead for all departments, "help people to say yes"
- Ideas for recruiting Rangers

- Maybe an Art Grant to encourage Rangers
- Rangers love a special clubhouse, so leverage the existing infrastructure for a barracks so they just need to show up
- Feed them
- Maybe a Ranger Training can happen at the event? Such as Alpha training. Ask Head Rangers if they are willing, they will get early entry
- This could also be for medical too
 - Cliche suggested a Sexy Ranger calendar, Leafwing agreed, Bright Eyes gives us a *chef's kiss*
- Volunteers
 - Future Event Co-Lead Autumn suggested that she be sent volunteer numbers every week to help keep tabs on how depts are shaping up
- Workshops
 - Autumn can link the speaker and PA, maybe do a fire lesson of some sort, safety, etc
 - Rangers could lead a workshop on NVC and deescalation
 - Meeting the Rangers at the Consent workshop was awesome, people don't really realize how much effort goes into being a ranger
 - We haven't had a Workshop Lead, it would be most efficient to have a program
 - Bright Eyes is interested in taking this on
 - Could help Angela to fill a WWWW
- We're coordinating with Milk, so dates don't again conflict with Rumpus
- Need to add longitude and latitude to the SG

- It currently says "2.7 miles from the turn onto the road" but the address is wrong (even though it was updated this year)
- SG Lead will add in the exact map sharepoint that points right to gate road
- Heaters
 - Someone needed to move away from a heater because their coat almost caught on fire, smelled it happening, burned the carport as well
 - Need to teach participants about the heaters, needs to be in the SG
 - We could invert a burn barrel, make signs and/or place a pretty gate or fire screen that creates a barrier and gives some space around them
 - An art grant could be awarded to make these

Ticketing Breakdown:

of Tickets Presale (\$75) = 15

of Tickets General Sale(\$85)= 30

of Tickets General Sale February(\$95)= 36

of Tickets General Sale March(\$105) = 32

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

of Tickets at Door(\$135) = 1

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

Scholarship(\$45) = 6

Expenses Breakdown:

**these are rounded for reporting

\$1,625 Art Grants
\$519 Insurance
\$2000 Land Lease
\$1000 Snow Plow for Main Road
\$1667 Porto rental
\$0 Radios
\$413 Propane for fire and heating
\$150 Permit for Park County
\$115 Stickers
\$0 Medical
\$0 Wristbands
\$0 Office supplies
\$0 Placement costs
\$644 Infrastructure transportation
\$0 DPW setup costs
\$0 Generator
\$0 Wrap party

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