

# FirePony Creative Society\*

## 2021 Annual Report

This report includes information about Playa del Fuego 2021, and Constellation 2021 (both canceled), Virtual del Fuego 2021, and ongoing efforts of the FirePony creative society in 2021.

*\*In February 2018, Playa del Fuego, Inc, a 501c3 registered in Maryland, filed for the trade name of FirePony Creative Society. This report is written to reflect information for the organization as of December 31, 2021.*

### Table of Contents

<b>About FirePony Creative Society (FPCS)</b>	<b>3</b>
History of Playa del Fuego (PDF) and of FirePony Creative Arts Society (FPCS)	3
High Level review of 2021	4
<b>Firepony Organizational Structure</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Governance and Finance</b>	<b>6</b>
Fiscal Overview	6
Current Earmarked Allocations:	7
<b>Community Art and Civic Engagement (CACE)</b>	<b>7</b>
CACE Grants	7
Community Connections	8
R.I.D.E	8
<b>Land</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Technology</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Conduct</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Safety</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Ranger Council</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Playa del Fuego (PDF)</b>	<b>11</b>
Playa Del Fuego Event Planning Structure	11
PDF Cancelation	13
Subcommittee Rules Book	13

Playa del Fuego Leadership Retreat 2021	13
Overview	13
PC Coordinator Perspective - Fiona	16
Wrap-up	17
Location info - Stonehedge	18
Financials	19
NEEDS ASSESSMENT BY DEPARTMENT	19
60 day ACTION PLANS	22
Conclusion	22
<b>Virtual del Fuego 2021</b>	<b>24</b>
Introduction	24
Overview and Summary	25
Data & Numbers	26
Musing of the Mayor	26
Event	27
Finances	27
Art Grants	27
Tools Used	28
Design requests / suggestions from VDF 1.0 addressed in VDF 2.0	28
Event Setup	31
Policies and Procedures	34
Recognized Challenges and Shortcomings	34
<b>Constellation Burn</b>	<b>35</b>
Constellation Event Planning Structure	35
Constellation 2021 (CB2021 - Canceled)	36
<b>Appendix I: Profit and Loss Statement</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Appendix II: Playa del Fuego 2021 &amp; Constellation 2021 Cancellation Newsletters</b>	<b>39</b>

## About FirePony Creative Society (FPCS)

FirePony Creative Society is a 501c3 non-profit, participant-directed organization whose mission is to build an interactive, experiential, sustainable environment that encourages a culture of play, artistic creativity and freedom of expression. Our stated organizational vision is to *Attract, inspire, and nurture a diverse community to celebrate and encourage experiments in the creation of art, a culture of play, and the collective sharing of ideas and skills.*

Historically, the signature activity of this organization has been to hold multi-day art centric camping events called Playa del Fuego (PDF). In 2017 a second multi-day art/ camping event called Constellation. These interactive events promote artistic creativity and freedom of expression. FPCS 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. In more recent years, FPCS has also supported more community events with our Civic and Community Arts grant program, and been the fiscal sponsor of events such as Burning Man Mid-Atlantic Leadership Conferences.

## History of Playa del Fuego (PDF) and of FirePony Creative Arts Society (FPCS)

An event called Playa del Fuego began in 1998 when about 20 East Coast residents, many of whom had been to Burning Man in the Nevada desert, wanted to get together closer to home to celebrate the spirit of the Burning Man event. These people joined together on the beach of Assateague Island on Maryland's coast for a weekend for the first "Playa del Fuego", or Beach of Fire. Over time, this event grew into a group of over 1200 participants, with a large team of volunteers, many of whom worked year-round to make the event come to life. In 2001, the event was moved from Assateague Island to a location in Townsend Delaware. For over a decade, PDF was a twice-yearly event in Townsend Delaware – a spring event over Memorial Day weekend, and a Fall event over Columbus Day weekend.

In 2017, it became untenable to hold future PDF's in the Delaware site. Fall PDF was canceled and a new location search commenced. That fall, FPCS started a new event, Constellation, in Elkins, West Virginia. This has become a yearly event. In 2018, PDF was moved to a new location in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania for Spring 2018 PDF, and it became a once yearly event.

As the Playa del Fuego event grew, a governing structure came into place in the form of a 501c3 nonprofit incorporated in Maryland in 2003, named Playa del Fuego, Inc. This nonprofit is now the recognized legal entity that sponsors the Playa del Fuego event and Constellation event. These events are recognized as official Burning Man Regionals. The organization has grown to also support community art in the mid-Atlantic region. In February 2018, Playa del Fuego filed for the trade name of FirePony Creative Society, reflecting the growth in scope beyond hosting the Playa del Fuego event.

Both Playa del Fuego as an event and Constellation, are experiments in collaborative community, featuring art and music. Volunteers work together to build community, utilizing the Ten Principles of Burning Man as a guide. This is a sincere experiment in creating a gift economy. One fundamental tenet of the 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. There are no spectators at Playa del Fuego or Constellation; everyone collaborates in some way to create the event. It's a place for radical self-expression, acceptance, inclusivity, and respect.

In an effort to bring the burner ethos to our local communities, in 2019 FPCS formed a subcommittee for Community Art and Civic Engagement (CACE). Our longstanding community art grants moved under the CACE umbrella and reworked to be a community arts and civic engagement grant. Also under the CACE umbrella are trainings, workshops and other community programming. For example, in years past, FPCS was the fiscal sponsor of the MidAtlantic Leadership conferences for leaders in the east coast burner community.

## High Level review of 2021

As the pandemic entered its second year, 2021 proved again to be a challenging year for FPCS. One again, due to COVID-19 safety issues, Playa del Fuego and Constellation were canceled. Without being able to hold our cornerstone camping events, it was a challenge to stay engaged and connected.

As Playa del Fuego was canceled, it was decided to do a virtual event Memorial Day weekend when PDF is traditionally held. As in 2020, this event was called Virtual del Fuego (VDF). The afterburn report for VDF is included in a later section of this document.

High level outcome is that it was a qualified success. Disappointingly, participation was substantially down from VDF 1.0, we believe due to a number of causes, including perhaps a general sense of fatigue by would be participants in having to experience their world through a screen. Also, the world was starting to open up for in-person gatherings, which also drew people away from VDF. Those who attended and participated in the three-day event, found it to be rewarding -- an array of virtual experiences, generously offered, beautifully performed, and highly engaging. We had 100 registered participants with a peak of 41 active concurrent users.

In preparation/anticipation of Playa del Fuego 2022, a coordinators retreat was held in January. This was a strong event for reconnection between our event leaders and kickstarted the planning for 2022. More on that retreat is included later in this report.

In the latter part of 2020, we spun up a Connections committee to nurture a feeling of community. This committee continued in 2021 and meets regularly and now sponsors a monthly Burner banter hour plus occasional Art Card exchanges.

# Firepony Organizational Structure

The Board of Directors includes members who are elected by sitting members of the Board from a pool of nominees submitted by the FirePony community. Board members serve a 3 year term, and can serve at most 2 consecutive terms. 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. FirePony has two Burning Man Regional Contacts on its Board of Directors: Bryan “Soapbox” Boru Straube (New Jersey) and Millie McMillain (Baltimore).

The Board responsibilities include engaging with landowners over event space rental. 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.

As of December 31, 2021, the Playa del Fuego Board of Directors included the following members:

- Ursula Sadiq – President
  - Second term ends June, 2023
- Miles Miner - Treasurer
  - First term ends December 2022
- Bryan Boru “Soapbox” Straube
  - Second term ends June, 2023
- David “Karnak” Dugard
  - Second term ends June, 2023
- Christopher “M4” Venghaus
  - Second term ends November 2024
- Diana “Smiles” Svendsen
  - First term ends December 2022
- Jordan “Epic” Michel
  - First term ends December 2022
- David Wilkes
  - First term ends February 2024

Caitlin O’Dwyer stepped down after her term ended in November 2021. Millie McMillan also stepped down around this time due to personal reasons. Both agreed to continue supporting FPCS as their time permitted by joining the FPCS advisory board.

The board met regularly through the year. Meeting minutes are posted on the Firepony.Org site under About>Board Meeting Minutes <https://firepony.org/about/board-meeting-minutes/>

The board activities are arranged into committees. Every Board member sits on at least 2 committees. Committees are also open to community members. Current 2021 committees are

- Governance and Finance
- Community Art and Civic Engagement (CACE)
  - Subcommittee Grants
  - Subcommittee R.I.D.E.
  - Subcommittee Community Connections
  - Subcommittee MidAtlantic Leadership Conference
- Playa del Fuego Burn Event
  - Subcommittees Virtual del Fuego
  - Subcommittee Rules Book
- Constellation Burn Event
- Land
- Communications
- Technology
- Conduct
- Safety
- Ranger Council

## Governance and Finance

### Fiscal Overview

With no events, we had a quiet year of primarily just paying operating expenses. Our major expenses were around two activities: 1. VdF, particularly the art **Grants totaling \$3,906** given out for this event and 2. A PdF leadership retreat. **\$1180.44.**

In August we invested an additional \$80,000 on top of the \$400,000 we have invested with a management firm Financial Services Advisory (FSA). More information about FSA can be found at their website <https://fsainvest.com/>.

The rest of our funds are in Wells Fargo accounts or Paypal.

With almost no income but still incurring operating expenses, VDF expenses and PDF leadership retreat expenses, the net operating loss was \$13,702.95. Taking into account gains from our investments, the Net Revenue was \$37,861.82

Profit and loss for 2021 can be found in [Appendix I.](#)

List of funds as of December 31 ,2021

<b>FSA Investment account</b>	\$598,513.49	Invested \$400,000 on 11/2018
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		Invested \$80,000 on 8/2021
<b>Wells Fargo Accounts</b>	\$13,524.54	
<b>Paypal</b>	\$18,149.00	Primarily funds for rolled over PDF tickets

## Current Earmarked Allocations:

These are the list of set asides as of December 31, 2021

<b>PDF Tickets</b>	\$ 17628.00	Held In paypal
<b>Land</b>	\$508,736.47	85% of FSA
<b>PDF Art</b>	\$15,741.12	
<b>CB Art</b>	\$4,859.36	
<b>CACE</b>	\$27,969.48	
<b>Admin</b>	\$30,252.60	Will be drawn down to reflect admin charges.
<b>Rainy Day</b>	\$25,000.00	

## Community Art and Civic Engagement (CACE)

CACE is all about bringing the burner ethos out from the events and into our local communities and daily lives. To this end we have grants, underwrite leadership conferences, have year long outreach, and support topical seminars.

### CACE Grants

In late 2021, we opened a round for CACE grants. This program supports and funds artists and organizations around the mid-Atlantic region in their efforts to create art and projects that are accessible to the public, civic in scope and invites action and participation. These grants totaled \$2000 and were awarded in March 2021.

## Community Connections

In November 2020, FirePony formed a committee to nurture community connections. From this effort, a monthly Burner Banter Hour was launched. This informal monthly zoom call now happens the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 PM east coast time.

## R.I.D.E

In July the board moved to start a task force around anti-racism and include. This committee became the FirePony R.I.D.E committee which stands for Radical Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity. This committee continues to meet and focus on what efforts are needed to address R.I.D.E issues in our community.

## Land

For many years, FirePony has been setting aside funds for land purchase. The last contribution to the land fund was in 2017. We currently consider the land fund to be 85% of the funds we have invested with FSA. This value of course fluctuates with the market. As of 2021 year end the land fund value was \$508,736.47

The land search committee met several times in 2021 and has become quite active in the planning and search for land. The committee includes both board members and community members, with discussions ongoing on both suitable land as well as models for ownership. We expect 2022 to make even more progress with the land search.

## Communications

The Communications committee for FirePony covers our newsletter, website content, and social media posts. We have 3 websites: [playadelfuego.org](http://playadelfuego.org), [constellationburn.org](http://constellationburn.org) and [firepony.org](http://firepony.org). Constellation Burn and Firepony are Wordpress sites. Playa Del Fuego is on Drupal.

We have 3 newsletter: Burning Pony express for PDF, Shooting Star for Constellation, and the Firepony newsletter. We use MailChimp as our newsletter platform.

On social media, we have on instagram a mostly dormant @playadelfuego site with approximately 175 followers. There is a Constellation instagram account of @constellationburn with 229 followers, also mostly dormant since the last burn in 2019.



We have a number of pages and groups on Facebook. This includes Playa del Fuego group with over 8.4k members, Constellation Burn group with over 2.8k members, Virtual del Fuego group with 957 members, and a FirePony Creative Society page with 1.6k total page likes.

In October 2020, we launched a youtube channel for FirePony Creative Society. (Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaJrliRgwJ4UgczhZ14XAA/featured> )

These communication efforts are supported by a number of community members and board members.

## Technology

In 2020 we moved to Google Suite for nonprofits. This allowed for us to have better oversight and recoverability on documents associated with the organization. The previous system of relying on individual user ownership was judged to be a risk, so we made this change. As an organization we continue to

We use a number of tools in our technology stack. These include

- Zoom for meetings and for webinars.
- Slack for internal communications
- Trello for task management
- Google suite for a group calendar and document store
- We have a ticketing system originally developed by Ben Sarsgard called Black Rock tickets (about info: <http://tickets.playadelfuego.org/about/>).
- This ticketing system links to our PayPal account, which is how we receive funds.

For event support, we allow coordinators a large amount of leeway in selecting tools that they wish to use to support their efforts.

## Conduct

FPCS has a conduct committee to review conduct/consent violations within our community. FirePony Creative Society (FPCS) encourages an environment where participants can solve their conflicts themselves or with the help of the community, but we recognize that it may not always be possible. In those cases, you may file a formal incident report with the FPCS Conduct Committee.

Any community member can submit an incident in person to Rangers at an event or anytime via our online FPCS Incident Report Form. The FPCS website has a comprehensive outline of the policy and procedures at <https://firepony.org/conduct-incident-policies-and-process/>.

In this year of no burns, the conduct committee was fairly quiet.

# Safety

In late 2019, FPCS formed a Safety committee. In 2020 the committee charter was nailed down and membership was recruited.

The committee was chartered is : To establish policies, standards, and oversight of practices; established to ensure the safety of all participants and volunteers, to eliminate and reduce any and all potential safety incidents, as well as properties utilized for and at FPCS events

The safety committee *Areas of Concern* are as follows:

- Fire art & performance
- Safety of all participants
- Stability of structures
- Missing persons
- Civil and criminal disputes
- City pathing & Evacuation routes
- Evacuation procedures
- Sanitation
- Trespassers
- Vehicle management & Transportation

In this year of no burns, the safety committee was fairly quiet.

# Ranger Council

The Ranger council is envisioned as the governing body for Rangers at the multiple events produced by the FPCS. The Council has three primary mandates which may be summarized as: Recognize – issues and concerns facing the Firepony and the BMOrg Ranger community at-large.

Advise – Collaborate with the Board and Ranger leadership to design comprehensive solutions by conducting research and outreach to distill best practices.

Standardize – Ranger policies, procedures, and training across Firepony burns to ensure that Rangers are fully equipped and supported at each event to perform their roles of keeping the Firepony burn community safe and functional.

The council currently consists of four members and a board liaison, all senior rangers with many burns of experience.

The current membership is as follows:

Ranger Wax, Ranger Inkwell, Ranger Gandhi, Ranger Sauerkraut, and *Board Member and Ranger Council Liaison*, Ranger Epic.

In this year of no burns, the ranger committee was fairly quiet.



## Playa del Fuego (PDF)

### Playa Del Fuego Event Planning Structure

The Planning Committee (PC) for the Playa del Fuego event includes department coordinators, co-coordinators, and any community participants who choose to participate in the monthly Planning Committee (PC) zoom 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, 2021:

- Art
  - Art Grants
  - Burning Arts
- City Planning
- DPW (Department of Public Works)
- Drum Conclave
- Fire Conclave
- Fire Perimeter
- Fire Safety Team
- First Aid
- Gate
- Greeters
- Lamplighters
- LNT (Leave no Trace)
- Parking
- Rangers
- Signage
- Sanctuary
- Sound
- Ticketing Sales
- Volunteer/Participation Station
- WWW (What Where When Guide)



## PDF Cancellation

PDF2021 was to be held over memorial day May 24-28 in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania. The Planning Committee (PC), with community input, voted on Feb. 16, 2021 to cancel Playa del Fuego 2021 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Details of that decision, as messaged to the community, can be found here :

<https://us17.campaign-archive.com/?u=a8d5371e309cdc0abb367ecfa&id=5ed2b6e8c2> (and also copied into [Appendix II](#))

We gave current ticket holders the choice of a refund, a rollover to 2021, or to donate the ticket with no answer defaulting to refund. 288 ticket holders chose refund, 138 chose to roll over, 23 chose to donate. (Ticket holders could have up to 4 tickets). After the cancellation of 2021 we again offered any ticket holders to chose roll over, refund or donate.

The Planning committee continued to meet periodically throughout the year. By year end, planning was in full swing for PDF 2022.

## Subcommittee Rules Book

The Planning Committee Rule book subcommittee continued to meet through To preserve operational sustainability as volunteers rotate in and out of leadership positions, the PDF Planning Committee is drafting a rulebook for the committee's overall operation. Current subsections include meeting procedures, proposal and voting processes, membership eligibility and responsibilities, and the roles of department coordinators, co-coordinators and how those coordinators could be removed, if necessary.

It is our hope that when the document is finalized and has been adopted, it will strengthen our culture and allow us to focus on the work of planning PDF, knowing that the entire team is "on the same page" about what to expect from each other.

## Playa del Fuego Leadership Retreat 2021

### Overview

Playa del Fuego (PDF) is a long-running Burning Man regional, typically held every Memorial Day weekend, put on by FirePony Creative Society, a Maryland 501(c)(3) non-profit. In 2018 & 2019 PDF was held on property in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania. The 2020 and 2021 event was canceled due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

The PDF Coordinators' retreat, held on the weekend of July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at Stonehedge in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, was intended to brainstorm what each department would need to grow PDF 2022 from approximately 800 participants in 2019 to 1,200 participants for 2022. Knowing that we could accomplish more if we were in one space than if we were on Zoom, 30 leaders and several guests spent two days outlining what resources their department would need to increase capacity in a safe and fun way.

The leaders present were:

Bear	DPW
Alessandro	Parking
Andy Wing	Participation, Advisory board & Board emeritus
Barb Wire	Parking
Bucky	City Planning
Charles	DC Regional Contact
Chef Phil	Parking
Cramer	Lamplighter
David Wilkes	BoD
Epic	BoD, represented Rangers
Fiona	Planning Committee Coordinator
Hug Inspector	Greeters
Jen Finkle	Communications
Juicy	Greeters
Kailah	WhatWhereWhen
Karnak	BoD
Maura	Participation
Mel	Signage
Pandora	Ice
Robin	Parking
Sludge Gurl	Participation
Smiles	BoD
Syphon	Lamplighter
Ursula	BoD, represented Art Grants
Zahmer	Burning Arts.



*Final day group photo*

Some departments were not represented as their coordinators could not make the retreat. In particular: gate, art grants, rangers, conclave, acculturation, and first aid were absent. Other participants who had background in these areas stood in for the missing coordinators.

The themes that emerged as the most important were the need for more co-coordinators in every department and the need for better communication among departments. More co-coordinators would ensure that each department is run effectively while giving all of our leaders time to relax and have their burn. Communication, while good, needs to be strengthened in several ways including procedures for emergency situations. Specific need assessments and action plans for each department are later in this report.

As an overview of the event, the working sessions took place from 10:00 am to 5:30 pm on Saturday and then from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Sunday. Saturday's schedule included a welcome by the owner of Stonehedge, an ice breaker activity on the principle of consent led by Juicy, and then individual brainstorming on what each leader believes their department needs to grow.

The operational departments then left to travel to Coal Creek (the site of PDF). These departments had the chance to walk the land to discuss its physical capacity for growth. Meanwhile, the remaining departments brainstormed in small groups and then presented to each other on what their resource needs would be.

After lunch, the group who left the morning session presented on what they learned and the group from the morning updated the others about what was discussed. At this point, challenges

and opportunities were brought up and cross-department solutions were suggested for further consideration.

Dinner was served and revelry began promptly at 6:00ish.

On Sunday morning the program was opened by Smiles who presented the idea of a work group to address diversity and inclusion within Fire Pony. The group conversation lasted 90 minutes and was rich, respectful and illuminating. Juicy followed that with a brief discussion on issues of consent and a commitment to bring these two topics into future meetings and discussion groups.

In closing, Ursula led a plus/delta exercise and all the leaders gave their takeaways from the weekend. A full agenda is included as an appendix.

### PC Coordinator Perspective - Fiona

As the new PC Coordinator, this retreat was integral to my ability to organize the group well in the coming years. Meeting everyone (some for the first time) individually helped me to build relationships that will endure the stress that we will face next May and learning what every department does *and why*, allowed me to see the totality of what coordination has to take place to make this work. I was impressed by the wealth of knowledge among our leadership as well as their willingness to share, teach and be taught.

The lessons that I learned in terms of organizing and implementing the next retreat were that, while an agenda is good, it should be considered a guide and that if burner time is not respected, people get cranky. I also learned that we don't need to compress the entire agenda into one day because our leaders are happy to stay for the full weekend to keep working.





*Fiona, our Planning Committee Coordinator Extraordinaire*

## Wrap-up

As a wrapup exercise, everyone was asked to reflect on the weekend, and to offer up highlights (plusses) and things that could be improved (deltas). While not an exhaustive list, the below are some of the key things mentioned by the participants.

### Pluses

- Getting to see people face-to-face
- Being heard
- Feeling included as a newcomer
- Creation and staffing of a new department - Signage
- Filling of previously vacant leadership positions, particularly in Parking
- Excellent Number of Hugs that could be inspected
- Reenergizing
- Very productive way to get stuff discussed and done.
- A fabulous new location with great future potential
- Hand wash station
- The Inclusion/Diversity conversation
- The baked ziti

### Deltas

- Some departments were not represented
- Need more time in total

- Need more time onsite
- No communal music
- No large burn/fire
- Would have preferred having the Inclusion/Diversity conversation earlier
- Need more structured breaks (bio breaks)
- Portos were suboptimal (placement, number, lid goes down!)
- There was occasional abrupt cutoff of voices
- Not enough coffee. Not enough ice cream trips
- Both too many and not enough clowns

Additionally, a number of ideas were floated throughout the event. These ideas are ones that, while not directly impacting the ability to grow PDF, are interesting for the overall health of the event.

### Ideas

- Do a leadership retreat as an “afterburn” exercise three or four weeks after the PDF event. To get the afterburn written and to address future plans while the event is still fresh.
- Do a gathering (at Epic’s?) once every month or so
- Leverage technology/Create an onsite App. This could to cover maps, events, ranger contacts, reporting, ice sales and possibly more

### Location info - Stonehedge

Stonehedge Gardens & Holistic Learning Center is a beautiful, landscaped sanctuary with walking trails, ponds, perennial gardens located in Tamaqua, in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Stonehedge is working on weaving the principles of permaculture, natural building and sustainability to create structures in a meaningful way by connecting people to the land. We were hosted by Tom Moroz, who was generous with his time to discuss the property and vision, and to open the shop for us on Sunday.

More details can be found on Stonehedge at their website <https://www.stonehedge.us/>

This was a great fit as a location for the leadership camping retreat. There was ample space to set up campsites and to gather around a communal fire. There was indoor space for meetings. Though we primarily met outside, rain did move the discussion inside for part of Sunday. There was a kitchen with a refrigerator that we were able to use, plus power with household current used by one of our campers for his c-pap machine. FirePony is looking forward to growing a relationship with Stonehedge going forward, and we are hoping to host similar events there in the future.

## Financials

As mentioned above, the retreat was held at Stonehedge which provided ample space for camping. Stone Hedge charged FirePony \$10 per person per night. With th 33 attendees over the 2 nights, this amounted to  $33*2*10 = \$660$

There were also 2 porta johns rented with a handwashing station, which ran \$170.

Additionally, FirePony covered the Saturday night meal, which cost \$350.44

Total cost was thus  $\$660 + \$170 + \$350.44 = \mathbf{\$1180.44}$ . The FirePony board covered these costs out of their discretionary funds.



*Needs assessments and Growth Planning session 1*

## NEEDS ASSESSMENT BY DEPARTMENT

Specific names are **bolded** where important collaborations need to happen

**Burning Arts** - **Zahmer** will be organizing the artists with burnable art, coaching them on how to create it and burn it safely. She will also be managing the art on-site. Need a co-coordinator (executive secretary with good organizational skills) for off-site meeting planning with the artists, closer collaboration with **Bucky**/City Planning, more burn pads, more sober fire perimeter volunteers, collaborate with **Maura and Sludge Gurl** to have the spinners work the perimeter after they finish, more wood (fuel) for burning art, 5' to 6' stakes to create a higher perimeter during set-up

**City Planning** - There is more land available for parking and car/RV camping, We can possibly move parking to the open camping and move open camping to the space beyond the temple, need administrative support to communicate with TCOs and RV applicants off-site, need a few volunteers but they need to be able to take direction and be very reliable, entire department needs to be on-site earlier

Ideas related to early theme camp entry to explore - Create an artist village to keep the effigy and temple builders in one place, change the lease to Monday access,

**Communications** - Updated Website, Co-Coordinator, Content from each department to promote through the BPE (Burning Pony Express), Email addresses for each department's volunteers for targeted emails, all cords and co-coords need to be on Slack (if possible)

**Department of Public Works (DPW)** - ALL departments need to submit a list to DPW with their infrastructure needs (tents, tables, chairs and lighting) by January, need a work weekend, Sparkle Pony Blvd needs to be dried out, landowner agrees to mow before the event (not just brush hog (?)), visit site 1 week before the event to check the land and see if it was mowed. If mowed we may be able to stake out the city but we shouldn't plan on it,.

Radio discussion - 5-Channel MURS-based system would need an upgrade, we need more (cheap) radios and a repeater which would need to be programmed on-site OR we can lease a full set of everything which comes with a tech to set it up for us but it costs more. This project needs its own logistic coordinator

**Gate** - There was no formal rep from Gate. However, parking conversation led to a larger conversation about gate closure - should participants be allowed to come in and leave their car in camp to move in the morning or "unload at parking - park - drag gear to site" or be told where there is a Walmart parking lot or local motel until the morning? All options are on the table but gate HAS to close on-time

**Greeters** - Need more parking spaces at the greeter station for cars to pull out of traffic to be greeted, move at least one port-o-potty closer to the greeter station, more greeters scheduled at the heaviest traffic times, increase coordination with **city planning/rangers/parking** to have access to the list of who gets to park on-site and what to write on the windows (besides penises), a large (at least 18"x24") laminated map of the city

**Ice** - Would like 2 ice chests instead of one but there may not be enough electric to support it, possibly allow participants to buy ice with their tickets to speed the ice pickup and make ordering more accurate, we can get more frequent deliveries but the overall cost of ice for the org should be lower this year, the board should take over the on-site payment system for the ice so that if one coord doesn't come, there is a sustainable way to collect the payments, need data on ice sales from 2019

**Parking** - Increased need for space, the option to park across the street and use a shuttle was pushed back to another year, recruited Robin, Alessandro, Barb Wire, Chef and George - need

more co-coords and shift leads, should be 6-7 people on every shift, need more deliberate training, dedicated golf cart, gates need to close on-time

**Participation** - Need to create lead shifts for the PS, further integrate volunteer sign-ups with the ticket sale platform, work with the theme camp organizers (TCOs) to organize theme camp takeovers of different stations, get the Standard Operating Procedure manuals (SOPs) for all departments so that they can recruit more targeted leads and co-coords, an instruction book, "Dharma Guide", which is a 1-page handout for each departments' volunteers should be created by each department to be distributed at PS as a quick training guide.

**Rangers** - (**Epic** represented the rangers at this event) Safety concerns regarding expansion are low but having campers past the temple provides low-visibility - may be a place to put family camping instead of open camping, creating zones of blue or pink light "cornerstone camps" could increase participants' access to help when needed - these camps could encircle the burn field. These camps could also have a radio or we could use the app to create a quick way to call a ranger in an emergency.

Staffing/training challenges among regional burns - we need one training standard for emergency protocols, FirePony needs its own manual between PDF and Constellation, Role playing/Scripted Shenanigans would be very useful for impromptu training sessions for new rangers, need more leads, ranger exchange program needs to be strengthened

Some ideas for tech solutions to safety concerns included using the app to submit a ranger alert, hanging QR codes around the playa for people to scan when they need help which would send an alert to the ranger team.

**Sanctuary** - Total of 4 co-coords and leads to work off- and on-site, **Serenity** will be organizing pre-event classes in holding space and harm reduction for volunteers so will need to communicate with **Maura and Sludge** to promote the trainings, one 10x20 or 10x30 tent for a quiet space and a dome tent for group things, move away from center camp to a quieter location - possibly where the corn field was

**Signage** - **Mel** agreed to be the Signage Coordinator! We need content from each department as to the signs needed, collaborate with **Bucky**/City Planning on the different ways that physical signs would be posted (in the ground vs. in the air vs. on a tent), a laminator and markers for signs "on the fly", power for the laminator, Wren Spencer and Ian Broverman could be helpful here. **Karnak** - can Mel get their contact info?

**What Where When (WWW)** - Collaborate with **Hatter and Whiplash** on getting the content on the web, work with Acculturation for content in the guide, possible increase in budget to print more guides, Can we use a mobile app for the WWW?

The mobile app evolved into a larger concept as we realized that more and more important things could be put on a PDF app.

## 60 day ACTION PLANS

All coordinators have agreed to:

- Work on their Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) by October
- Get a list of the infrastructure needs to DPW by January
- Update all contacts for co-coords

**Burning Arts** - Continue holding “build a Burn” workshops, recruit an executive assistant, schedule a meeting with City Planning and All Safety Departments

**City Planning** - Create new map of the land and recruit co-coords

**Communications** - Work with Hatter on the website, updating the structure, meet with the radical inclusion and consent committees

**DPW** - Announce event to load equipment out of the storage unit and separate gear between PDF and Constellation, work on buying a container and getting it to Tamaqua, research a new radio system

**Lamplighters** - More lamps. Also need to coordinate with Bucky/City Planning on how many more spires we need and work with Mel/signage to know where the road signs will go and whether they will be hung on the spires. Solar lighting was discussed with other brighter options for safety

**Greeters** - Update the Dharma into a short handout, need to recruit two leads for shadowing, will map the greeter area, create a list of supplies for the station, schedule painting parties for the new canvases, work with Acculturation

**Participation** - collect the SOPs from all departments, get a list of theme camps and who the TCOs are from Miles (?)

**Parking** - Alessandro will begin their Dharma Guide, they will get info/input from Brutal about where things need to go next, contact previous volunteers to hustle up leads

**Rangers** - Epic will communicate with Wax and work on recruiting leads, update safety sphere guide

**Sanctuary** - Recruit co-coords and leads

## Conclusion

In this being the first coordinator retreat in recent memory, we were a bit unsure of how it would play out. It turned out that this was one of those rare events where everything came together. The participants universally worked to support the common goal of growing Playa del Fuego. Participants were focused, engaged, and generous with their time and thoughts. The

weekend strengthened bonds, energized our leadership base and commitments, and identified key items needed for the next few months as we plan PDF 2021.

In the future, we believe we will have more of these events. We feel that these sorts of gatherings are exactly what we need to do to further FirePony Creative Society's vision of *Attract, inspire, and nurture a diverse community to celebrate and encourage experiments in the creation of art, a culture of play, and the collective sharing of ideas and skills.*





## Virtual del Fuego 2021

Virtual del Fuego (VDF) was virtual event that was held over memorial weekend. The idea was that since PDF could not happen in person, an online digital event should be attempted. It was hosted at <https://virtual.playadelfuego.org/>

The full afterburn report with several appendices can be found on the FirePony website at <https://firepony.org/about/financials-and-reporting/> under Afterburn Reports 2021 - VdF Afterburn Report. Below is the high level content from that report.

### Introduction

Playa del Fuego (PDF) is a long-running Burning Man regional, typically held every Memorial Day weekend, put on by FirePony Creative Society, a Maryland 501(c)(3) non-profit. In the past few years, PDF has been on property in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania.

On February 18, 2021, the FirePony Board of Directors communicated the decision to cancel Playa del Fuego for a second year in a row, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In 2020, just 9 weeks prior to the 2020 PDF event, the FirePony Creative Society canceled the event and put into motion a challenging plan to conduct that year's event virtually, under a Virtual del Fuego (VDF) brand. Ambitious timelines were set and met, and VDF 1.0 was launched on time to the enjoyment and delight of its participants. It was one of the first such



virtual events among Burningman Organization's vast network of regional burns. VDF has been sanctioned as an "official" Burning Man Regional Event.

In 2021, faced with the disappointment of canceling its physical PDF burn as second year, FirePony set out to host VDF 2.0, using improved technologies and leveraging all that had been learned from its inaugural event. The result was the creation and launch of a technically enabled and enthusiastically supported virtual event that fostered radical self-expression, immediacy, gifting, and communal effort among its participants.

VDF 2.0 had many of the familiar trappings found in its parallel physical events, including the help of Rangers, the comfort of Sanctuary, the guidance of Playa Information, the welcoming of Greeters (automated), performance and virtual artwork funded by an art grant program, and communities of Theme Camps. VDF succeeded in harnessing technology to provide a virtual playa to platform these activities. This was entirely due to the dedicated volunteer efforts of the community.

VDF is aligned with the mission of PDF: *to build an interactive, experiential, sustainable environment that encourages a culture of play, artistic creativity and freedom of expression.*

## Overview and Summary

By and large, we consider VDF to have been a successful endeavor. The metrics revealing registration, attendance, time on the VDF site, and events are presented later in this report. Disappointingly, participation was substantially down from VDF 1.0, we believe due to a number of causes, including perhaps a general sense of fatigue by would be participants in having to experience their world through a screen. Also, the world was starting to open up for in-person gatherings, which also drew people away from VDF. Those who attended and participated in the three-day event, found it to be rewarding -- an array of virtual experiences, generously offered, beautifully performed, and highly engaging.

As in its inaugural year, VDF 2.0 implemented the 10 Principles. We balanced our **civic responsibility** to keep minors from seeing **self-expressed** adult content with the use of the 18+ rooms. We **de-commodified** and used **communal effort**, by using open-source programming to **gift** the technologies developed to other Burningman communities for reuse. Everyone was welcome to **participate** in VDF, and the new platform was able to **include** those that are differently-abled and may not be able to take the physical rigors of Pdf or Burning Man. **Self-Reliance** changed from eating and shelter to mastering tech. People **participated**, and the inclusion of **Immediacy** Rooms gave the event spontaneity, which gave the event a true burn feel. And when it was over, we took down the website and **Left No Trace**.

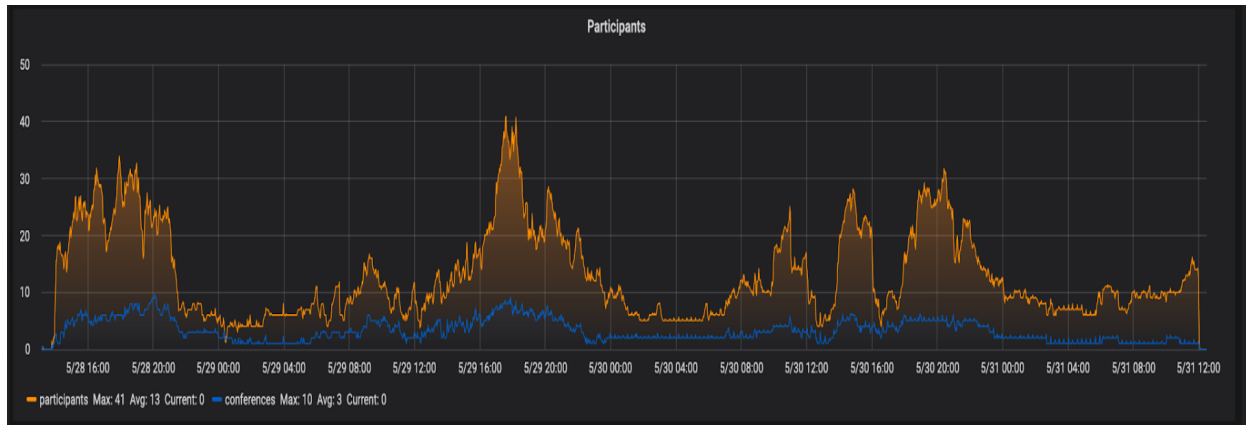
Details about VDF are captured in the report below. If there are additional questions on VDF, they can be addressed to [BOD@FirePony.Org](mailto:BOD@FirePony.Org)

## Data & Numbers

NOTE: All times given in this document are Eastern Daylight Time, unless otherwise indicated.

Event date Friday May 28th, 6 pm - Monday May 31st Noon

Admission: Free



Some official counts

- 100 registered on the platform
- 75 of those set an avatar
- 72 Earned a mustache by completing the Virtual Greeter welcome
- 84 rooms created
- 13 Theme camps registered with presence
- 47 Scheduled events
- 76 Pieces of Artwork in Artery

Peak participation was Saturday at 8:30 EST with 41 active on the platform

Pony Burn was the most popular event, 38 in attendance

## Musing of the Mayor

There is a tradition of a board member holding the position of Mayor for PDF, and now for VDF. For VDF 2.0, the Mayor was David. Here are some of his thoughts:

The days of VDF 2.0 provided a wonderful opportunity for participants to engage in a collaborative and shared experience.

Contributions to the event, in the forms of artistic expression, event participant support, and technical design and implementation, demonstrated a vibrancy at the core of this

Burningman event and reflected the generosity of all who gifted their time and talents to make it happen.

VDF is appreciative for all of the contributions made, but for few more so than the participation of the Black Rock VEST team that stepped in to recruit, train, and staff the support services team. Without the VEST team, VDF 2.0 may not have happened.

## Event

### Finances

During the creation of VDF 1.0, a grant request was submitted to TechSoup.Org. which is a clearinghouse for technology grants to nonprofits. The cost to apply for the AWS grant was \$175. We were approved and received \$2000 in AWS credits.

The credit from AWS has been sufficient to fund both VDF 1.0 and 2.0 events. Incremental direct costs of hosting the VDF 2.0 event were trivial.

### Art Grants

VDF 2.0 implemented an art grant program. **Grants totaling \$3,906 were disbursed** to 10 artists / art teams for the development of 13 art projects. Below is a listing of the art grants awarded, the grant recipients, and the amount of grant awarded. The project entitled “The Heart” was VDF’s unofficial effigy burn.

VDF enabled event participants the ability to make online donations to VDF art through the VDF site. Donations of \$150 to the art grant program were received.

Name of Project	Artist(s)	Amount Granted
Beauty's Boutique	Ranger Beauty	\$50
Creching It	Geckospot & Rozebud	\$60
Infinity and Beyond Bar	BEYOND Art Collective	\$200
Internet Controlled Pinball Machine	Vincent Scellini	\$343
Peep Show	suzQ!	\$50
Plasma Flame Headdress	Scho	\$257
PUNGER Games	Lauretta Prevost and Stephanie Avery	\$950
The Cloud Board	Red Hot	\$791
The Heart	Sheck and Yash	\$750
Pony X Utopia Monster	Flightless	\$455

Eco-Angst Virgil del Fuego		
	Total	\$3,906

## Tools Used

We used a combination of online tools in the planning and coordination of this event.

- We rely heavily on **Google Drive** for documentation.
- We actively use **Slack** for more real time coordination and chatter.
- **Email** was used for some communication.
- Planning Meetings were held primarily in **Zoom**, although also in **Jitsi** upon occasion.

We used **MailChimp** to communicate to the community through our newsletter “The Burning Pony Express”. We also posted info on our **Facebook** pages/groups, and posted info on our **PlayaDelFuego.Org website**.

On the tech side, the VDF site was primarily based around **Jitsi**, an open source video conferencing system. This was combined with **Django** and a custom authentication backend called **MatchBox** to create a service we called “pyromania” that managed users and rooms. The project was developed and coordinated via **Github** and hosted on **Amazon Web Services**.

Greeters were automated on the VDF site. Participants were greeted using three videos hosted on **YouTube** that we spawned from VDF.

Sanctuary volunteers used **SignUp Genius**.

The Moderangers handled sign ups via **email**.

Event submittals were through a Google form, as were the after burn department report collections. Theme camp submissions were via Jot Forms.

You may note that we use different tools for the same function at times. PDF has long had a tradition of letting the leads choose what works best for their department. We recognize that there are pluses and minuses to this approach. It works for us, your mileage may vary.

## Design requests / suggestions from VDF 1.0 addressed in VDF 2.0

In the course of the VDF 1.0 event, and in follow up debriefs, we collected a list of “wouldn’t it be nice if” enhancement requests to the VDF platform. These are all items that were not part of the minimum viable product, but are captured for “better next time” experience. VDF 2.0 gave us an opportunity to address a number of those niceties, as shown in the table below.

Experience Improving Recommendation	Addressed?	How Addressed
Needed some kind of badging or identification for Board Members, other event staff.	Yes Directly	Badges were developed and assigned to individuals to designate Board Membership, Support Team Affiliations, and whether the participant had been officially “Greeted” through the online greeting process.
Find a way to hide/minimize empty rooms. Empty Rooms took up a lot of space. On smaller devices such as a smart phone it might be challenging.	Yes Directly	Less active rooms were automatically moved down in the list of events in the Events Calendar. After extended inactivity, empty rooms were closed.
Find a way to have an inviting late night hub room. Suggestion -Use of a “burn barrel” room could be more inviting for participants especially at night.	Yes Indirectly	Less active rooms were demoted or closed. Especially during off-hours, it was easier to discern which rooms were active, welcoming, and attracting participants.
Improve room count accuracy. Leave room button and pick another room button - throws the room count off.	No	Issues on active counts for participants persisted into VDF 2.0.
Request a panel that would show who is in each room and room overall.	Yes Directly	Implemented as described, including the ability to locate any person in the site at any given time.
Turn off somewhat annoying message that would come up whenever anyone entered	Yes Directly	Implemented as described.
No ability to delete rooms, like after a pop-up event ended	Yes Directly	Less active rooms were automatically moved down in the list of events in the Events Calendar. After extended inactivity, empty rooms were closed.
Sanctuary was hosted on zoom, so room count did not show.	Yes Directly	Sanctuary move to within the VDF 2.0 site (although room counts persisted as an issue)

On a Tablet - icon to show that it was an 18+ room was not present.	Yes Directly	Corrected as described.
Request: "Ask a Ranger" in addition to "Call a Moderanger" buttons.	Yes Directly	Ability to reach Rangers and other Support Services was enhanced, including the placement of a call button on each page of the site.
A Moderanger "burn barrel" room as the public "front porch" where Rangers could be hanging out and would allow Moderangers and participants to shoot the shit and casually ask for help if they needed it. And the private room for Moderanger operational tasks.	Yes Directly	<p>Rangers were able to gather on the Jitsi platform in a "hidden" room called Ranger HQ for shift change and debriefs.</p> <p>The Ranger Shift Lead "Khaki" generally hung out in this room so that Volunteers on shift could conveniently find Khaki for a face-to-face</p> <p>Reorganized VDF 2.0 Events significantly heightened the presence of the Main Stage, which served the purpose of providing a communal "porch" while being one click away from a Ranger "private room".</p>
Tools that might aid in Moderangering - peek into a room function. A "short drive by" feature to get a sense of what is going on to see if you wanted to participate or not.	Yes Indirectly	Events page restructured to provide easy access and entry for either a "drive by" or an extended visit.
As a virtual event, time zones/time differences are important. A standard posted "time" or "clock" would have helped	Yes Directly	Implemented as described, allowing participant to configure schedule of events to be presented in a selected time zone
Request "tools" to help the community. In particular, a tool Turn their video off, which would especially helped with the burn lag issue.	Yes Directly	Enabled participation without video, as described.
Maybe an ask for consent option to come into the room.	Yes Directly and Indirectly	Consent capture and filtering of content accordingly was added throughout the VDF 2.0 site, starting with registration. At the room / event level, access to 18+ material was removed for minors.

		Room / event hosts had the ability to configure whether adult content was to be included in the event.
For moderators kicking a person out a room - tiered response option such as a “time out” for 5mins and incrementally longer.	Yes Indirectly	Focus generally placed on using removal of access for the protection of other participants, where deemed appropriate. Added the ability of any participant to put other (or all) participants on mute setting until they re-enabled audio.
Creation of private rooms so that they are hidden.	Yes Directly	Implemented as described.

## Event Setup

The event had different types of rooms

- Greeter room
- Main Stage
- Backstage (18+)
- Theme Camp rooms hosted by theme camps
- Immediacy rooms
- Artery Gallery
- Infrastructure rooms staffed by VDF department volunteers for essential support teams, including
  - Rangers
  - Serenity
  - First Aid
  - Playa Info
- Event scheduling, using What, Where, When calendar
- Event Rooms for scheduled events

## Events

We had 47 scheduled events during the event.

Friday May 28

11:00:00 PM	Beauty's Boutique
11:00:00 PM	Talk to God Virtual

Saturday May 29

12:00:00 AM	Furry Happy Hour
12:00:00 AM	Philosophy Booth
1:00:00 AM	Night time fun
2:00:00 AM	Burner Scavenger Hunt
2:00:00 AM	PlayaTel BBS
2:00:00 AM	Utopia Monster: Evening Rounds at the Biohazard Containment Facility
1:00:00 PM	Burner Cup Coffee Hour
2:00:00 PM	Eco-Angst: Morning Rounds at the Biohazard Containment Facility
3:00:00 PM	Frenemies of Bill W.
3:30:00 PM	The Cloud Board Debut
4:00:00 PM	Fuck a Duck Book Club
6:25:00 PM	Sexy recycling show
7:00:00 PM	At-Home Film Development
7:30:00 PM	Turtles On The Half Shell
8:21:00 PM	The Feast of the Emergence!
9:00:00 PM	Videogasm Pickleback Happy Hour
11:00:00 PM	Playtesting #89
11:00:00 PM	PUN Happy Hour SATURDAY
11:30:00 PM	Creching It burny burn burn

Sunday May 30

12:00:00 AM	PONY X and the Magicicada PhoeniX
12:30:00 AM	Watch Us Eat Cake
1:00:00 AM	Burn Night! All the ponies burn!
1:00:00 AM	Stuff happening



1:00:00 AM	Videogasm Reunion and Effigy Burn
2:00:00 AM	Play REAL pinball!
2:00:00 AM	Saturday Night Rounds at the Biohazard Containment Facility
3:11:00 AM	Pony Butn a little late
4:15:00 AM	Fun after midnight
5:00:00 AM	Dance Party
2:00:00 PM	(U.M.) Morning Tour Canceled
2:00:00 PM	coffee with smiles
5:00:00 PM	FirePony Creative Society Board of Directors Meet n Greet
6:00:00 PM	Death Cafe with Jhada
9:00:00 PM	Another Wasted Hour Trivia
9:00:00 PM	Eric Plays Songs
9:00:00 PM	Videogasm Pickleback Happy Hour Pt. Duex
11:00:00 PM	PUNGER GAMES

#### Monday May 31

12:00:00 AM	Come Play Some Pinball!
12:00:00 AM	Play a REAL pinball machine!
12:40:00 AM	Sound Bath
1:00:00 AM	Temple Burn Extravaganza!
1:00:00 AM	Videogasm Requests Unlimited!
2:00:00 AM	DJ mTp Presents: HIGH Humidity
3:59:00 AM	Art at Midnight Sunday
5:00:00 PM	The Last Ride

## Policies and Procedures

In the course of planning the event, we identified the need for a few new policies and procedures, including the updating of our policies from VDF 1.0. As mentioned above, these Appendices can be found in the full VdF 2021 afterburn report found on our website.

As this was going to be different from an in person event, we created an *Online Code of Conduct*. When signing up for a VDF login, participants had to agree to the code of conduct. The code of conduct is appended to this document.

We created a *Privacy Policy* around our use of participant information that was collected at login. The privacy policy is also appended to this document.

We created a fire safety recommendations document since we were asking participants to create a piece of burnable art.

Policies and the VDF 2.0 site changes were made to comply with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA).

## Recognized Challenges and Shortcomings

Virtual is of course not real physical space, and as such you can't completely translate a live burn to virtual space. There are some things that will always be hard virtually. These include people who spend their days on video calls and have no desire to do more of that as a weekend event. Also, when video rooms get more than a handful of people talking, it can get chaotic and hard to prevent people from talking over one another. There is a blowback effect that after a good few hours with friends on a video call, people burn out, more acutely miss real life interaction and aren't recharged as they would be in meatspace.

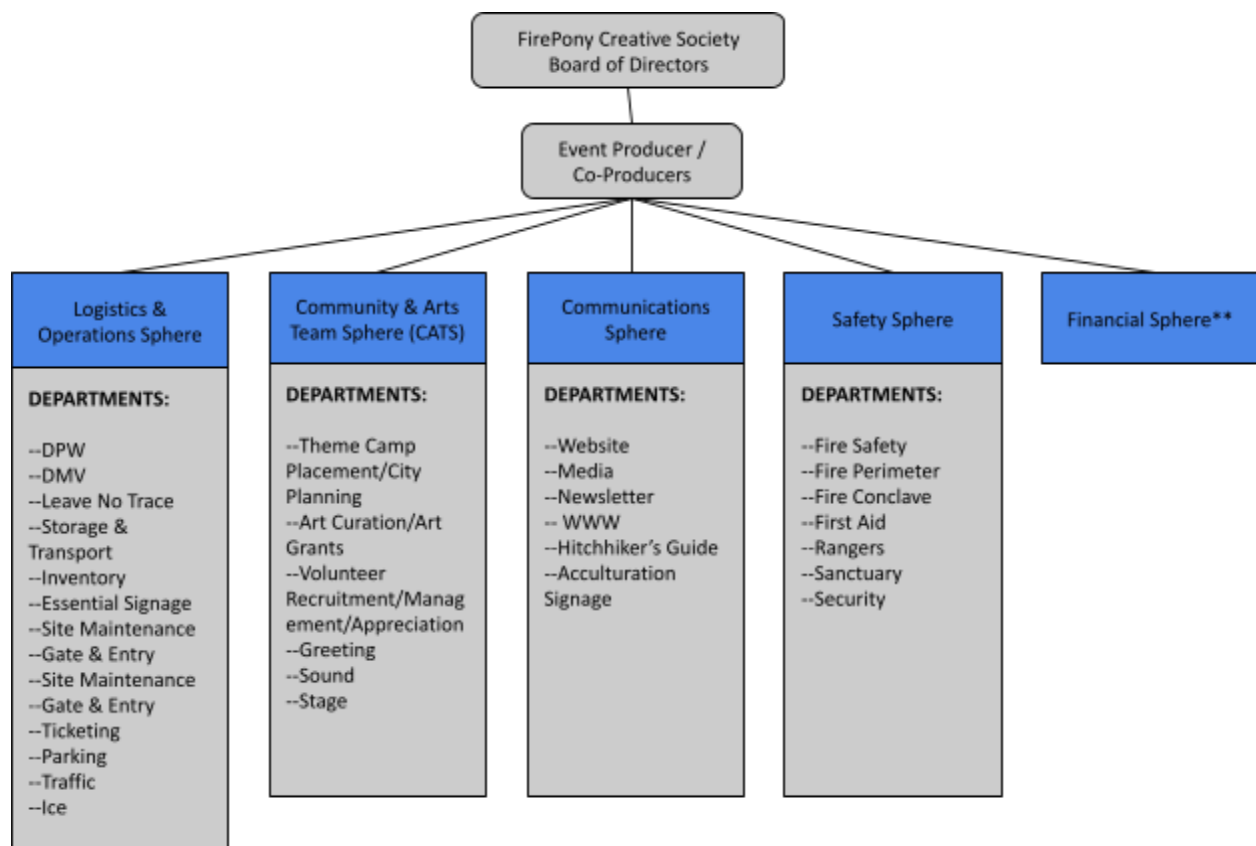
And finally, we could have marketed this event much more heavily. In hindsight, we could have done more. We could have reached out to other burns more intentionally, the planners could have leveraged personal contacts to create even more events and activities. We could have leveraged its Facebook Event, and other social media to deliver a compelling unique selling proposition to encourage and attract participation. VDF could have been much bigger, more geographically diverse, more demographically diverse.

# CONSTELLATION

## Constellation Burn

### Constellation Event Planning Structure

Constellation is led by an Event Producer or two Co-Producers. Under this producer, there are four spheres: Safety, Operations, Communications, and Community and Arts. Each sphere is run by a lead. The lead then had sub departments in each sphere.



\*\* The financial sphere is BOD treasurer

## Constellation 2021 (CB2021 - Canceled)

Constellation 2021 was scheduled to be in October 2021 in Elkins, West Virginia. In consultation with the Board of Directors, the event Producers announce the decision to cancel the event on August 4, 2021. That announcement can be seen at this link, and also copied into [appendix II](#)  
<https://us17.campaign-archive.com/?u=a8d5371e309cdc0abb367ecfa&id=a7ccc77c6e>

# Appendices

## Appendix I: Profit and Loss Statement

<b>Playa del Fuego dba FirePony Creative Society</b>					
<b>Profit and Loss by Tag Group</b>					
<b>January - December 2021</b>					
	<b>Admin- istration</b>	<b>CACE</b>	<b>PDF Events</b>	<b>Total Programming</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Revenue</b>					
Amazon Donation	40.86			0.00	40.86
Donations			153.99	153.99	153.99
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 40.86</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 153.99</b>	<b>\$ 153.99</b>	<b>\$ 194.85</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 40.86</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 153.99</b>	<b>\$ 153.99</b>	<b>\$ 194.85</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Art & Artist Support		2,000.00	1,700.00	3,700.00	3,700.00
Event Art Grant			1,810.00	1,810.00	1,810.00
<b>Total Art &amp; Artist Support</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,510.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,510.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,510.00</b>
Bank & Transaction Fees	20.00			0.00	20.00
PayPal Fees	48.70		3.99	3.99	52.69
<b>Total Bank &amp; Transaction Fees</b>	<b>\$ 68.70</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 3.99</b>	<b>\$ 3.99</b>	<b>\$ 72.69</b>
Board of Directors Expenses				0.00	0.00
Board Retreat				0.00	0.00
Housing	865.01			0.00	865.01
<b>Total Board Retreat</b>	<b>\$ 865.01</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 865.01</b>
D&O Insurance	954.00			0.00	954.00
<b>Total Board of Directors Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,819.01</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,819.01</b>
Communications & Technology				0.00	0.00
Newsletter Software	660.38			0.00	660.38
Web Hosting	1,067.43		175.00	175.00	1,242.43
Webinar Technology	179.88			0.00	179.88
<b>Total Communications &amp; Technology</b>	<b>\$ 1,907.69</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 175.00</b>	<b>\$ 175.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,082.69</b>
Meetings & Conferences Supplies			830.00	830.00	830.00
Event Food/Drink			350.44	350.44	350.44
<b>Total Meetings &amp; Conferences Supplies</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,180.44</b>	<b>\$ 1,180.44</b>	<b>\$ 1,180.44</b>
Misc. Event Expense	46.97			0.00	46.97

Professional Fees				0.00	0.00
Accounting	75.00			0.00	75.00
<b>Total Professional Fees</b>	<b>\$ 75.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 75.00</b>
Rent				0.00	0.00
Storage Unit	3,070.00			0.00	3,070.00
<b>Total Rent</b>	<b>\$ 3,070.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,070.00</b>
Tax	41.00			0.00	41.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 7,028.37</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,869.43</b>	<b>\$ 6,869.43</b>	<b>\$ 13,897.80</b>
<b>Net Operating Revenue</b>	<b>-\$ 6,987.51</b>	<b>-\$ 2,000.00</b>	<b>-\$ 4,715.44</b>	<b>-\$ 6,715.44</b>	<b>-\$ 13,702.95</b>
Other Revenue					
Interest Income	2.77			0.00	2.77
Other Income	2,200.00			0.00	2,200.00
Investment Gains or Losses	49,362.00			0.00	49,362.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$ 51,562.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 51,562.00</b>
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 51,564.77</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 51,564.77</b>
<b>Net Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 51,564.77</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 51,564.77</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 44,577.26</b>	<b>-\$ 2,000.00</b>	<b>-\$ 4,715.44</b>	<b>-\$ 6,715.44</b>	<b>\$ 37,861.82</b>

# Appendix II: Playa del Fuego 2021 & Constellation 2021 Cancellation Newsletters

## **The Burning Pony Express**

**February 18, 2021**

### **Playa del Fuego 2021 Cancelled**

**After a Community and Planning Committee (PC) vote on Feb. 16, 2021, the consensus is that Playa del Fuego 2021 will not be held as a physical event due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.**

As we all know, vaccines are rolling out and the pandemic landscape shifts day to day. Unfortunately, this was a decision that could not be delayed as PDF needed to notify the landlord of our intentions regarding PDF 2021 as soon as possible.

A proposal was received to cancel PDF 2021 and the new voting process was engaged.

**As a result of that vote, PDF 2021 has been canceled.**

It breaks our heart to cancel for the 2nd time. Thank you to all the community members who took the time to participate in the vote!

Under the newly instated Planning Committee voting rules, the Community vote is a simple majority of the votes cast via playadelfuego.org and counts as 1 vote on the live PC call. The results from the open community vote were 46 Yay in favor of canceling and 22 Nay to go forward with planning the event.

The decision was made official during the Feb. 16, 2021 Planning Committee live vote. The final vote tally was 16 Yay, 0 Nay, and 2 Abstain.

More details about the new voting process can be found on the PDF website

# Shooting Star



**August 04, 2021**

*The Constellation Burn Producers, with full support of the FirePony Board of Directors, are announcing the cancellation of Constellation 2021. We on the board want to commend Emily and Toaster for their ongoing efforts on behalf of FirePony, and for making this difficult decision. Please read the below for details on Constellation 2021 cancellation and plans for moving forward.*

Hello friends!

First off, we want to thank everyone for their patience while we've worked to determine the feasibility of holding Constellation 2021. In a second year of uncertainty and isolation for many in our community, we understand the desire and almost NEED to burn and all be weird together again.

However, after weighing all the factors, we have decided not to hold an event this year. We know this is disappointing to hear, but please trust when we say that we did not make this decision lightly. We discussed and debated all the ways we could potentially have the event, and how we could ensure the safest and most "normal" event possible. But when it came down to needing to make an announcement two months before opening up the gates, we decided to err on the side of caution.

The biggest deciding factor has been the increase in community transmission due to the rapidly-spreading Delta variant. When we first started hearing accounts of Delta, we wondered if canceling the event was too risk-averse: were we making a rash decision based on a small



amount of data? But in just the last few days, case counts and hospitalizations as a result of COVID-19 have skyrocketed across the country, and the likelihood of holding a “safe” event has (in our minds) diminished significantly.

But “Safety Third!”, right?! As strong proponents of personal responsibility, we can understand the mindset of wanting to take the risk, of encouraging radical self-reliance, of keeping Burns “potentially fatal”. However, as the event producers, we need to take into account the benefits and risks to the greater community — including the surrounding residents of Elkins, WV — and we’d rather look back and think “oh darn, we could have done it!” than feel responsible for promoting potentially dangerous behavior during an ongoing global pandemic.

We miss you. We really do! We miss the shenanigans, the hugs, the dancing, the art, and (most of all) the community we create with all of you. We even miss the middle-of-the-night wake ups because someone put one of those damn sheep right outside our tent again, the music that won’t someone just turn off already so we can get some sleep, and, yes, even the mud.

At this time, we are not planning for a virtual event, so we look forward to seeing you in 2022! We’re already scheming how to make the event better, how we can incorporate the lessons we’ve learned over the past 18 months, and if you have any ideas, please send them our way!

Taking a break has the added benefit of giving the team some time to plan for future improvements — most importantly around the topics of inclusion, accessibility, and consent/conduct. If you’re interested in helping, please shoot us an email at [producer@constellationburn.org](mailto:producer@constellationburn.org) as we’re looking to start up a few advisory committees/task forces over the next few months. We’re also looking to fill a few key positions for 2022 in case you’re looking for a way to help out!

We encourage everyone to talk to your friends and campmates. Reach out to each other. Have fun together. But, above all else, be safe. We can’t wait to see all your beautiful faces again as soon as we can!

Hugs,

Emily, Toaster, and the FPCS Board of Directors