

VENICE AFTERBURN 2021 WRAP-UP REPORT

The Venice Afterburn 2021 went very well, considering the many challenges it had to overcome.

This year is was a 2 day event, with the participation of about 30 artists, as well as many djs, some live acts, and a fire spinning circle on both nights. About 30 volunteers helped put the even together.

After almost 2 years of pandemic, putting together a large Regional event presented a lot of challenges. Since the event happens in public ground, the City of LA required an articulate Covid19 safety plan. Our committee drafted a plan, which included a temperature and vaccine screening at the door or proof of negative Covid test; social distancing, and signage. The plan was approved by the City of LA as well as by the Dept of Recs and Parks.

Another challenge was to get enough large scale art and mutant vehicles; after 2 years of canceled Burning Man, many bigger mutant vehicles have retired, or found a permanent place of storage away from the big cities. There were no new honorarium art installations. Even though there was probably a little less art than previous years, we managed to fill the grounds and have a numerous participation of artists.

Another novelty of this year's Afterburn was the presence, for the first time, of a Beer Garden. It was very successful and the profits from the Beer Garden helped put together the budget for this free event, since we weren't able to host any fundraising events throughout the year.

La League of Arts offered another art grant fund, to be split into mini-grants and distributed amongst the artists participating to the Venice Afterburn 2021.

The attendance was large: burners and curious filled the area, we counted about 300o people in the course of the 2 days. Unfortunately the Covid screening caused some lines at the entrance but with the help of the 30+ volunteers we tried to get them in as quickly as possible.

There was also a good Black Rock Rangers presence, and throughout the weekend there were a few incidents that had to be addressed by the Rangers on duty.

The Venice Afterburn was produced by the 501c3 non profit organization 'Dogtown Artists United'.