

Default Diversion: Victoria Decompression 2016

The Producers, Natalie Gregory and Yvonne Higginson would like to thank our extended family, **YOU**, for your participation in producing Default Diversion. These events don't happen without our community, extended family and friends. Default Diversion would have been a dark janky farm yard without the communal efforts of everyone. From theme camps to artists, volunteers, leads, co leads and participants. This was a community creation and we certainly created a night to remember!! Thank you, thank you and thank you.

What have we done??

When Default Diversion was a little glint in their eyes Natalie, Yvonne and Ben T Forx set out on a little field trip searching for a venue that would allow all the elements of a Grande Decompression. Fire, capacity, and close to home, but not so close that sound would be an issue. The words "*you know that place with the trains near the ferry*" became a little voice that echoed. After a meeting, a walk through and a presentation to the venue board we secured our new home. We held meetings at the site with leads whose eyes were all big and full of sparkle of what we all could create. It was Game on!

Official Status

We applied for official Burning Man Regional event status with the support of Squishelle, Amara and Edd. We were very happy to be granted status and officially represent our wonderful community! It was official Victoria was having a Decomp!

Tickets

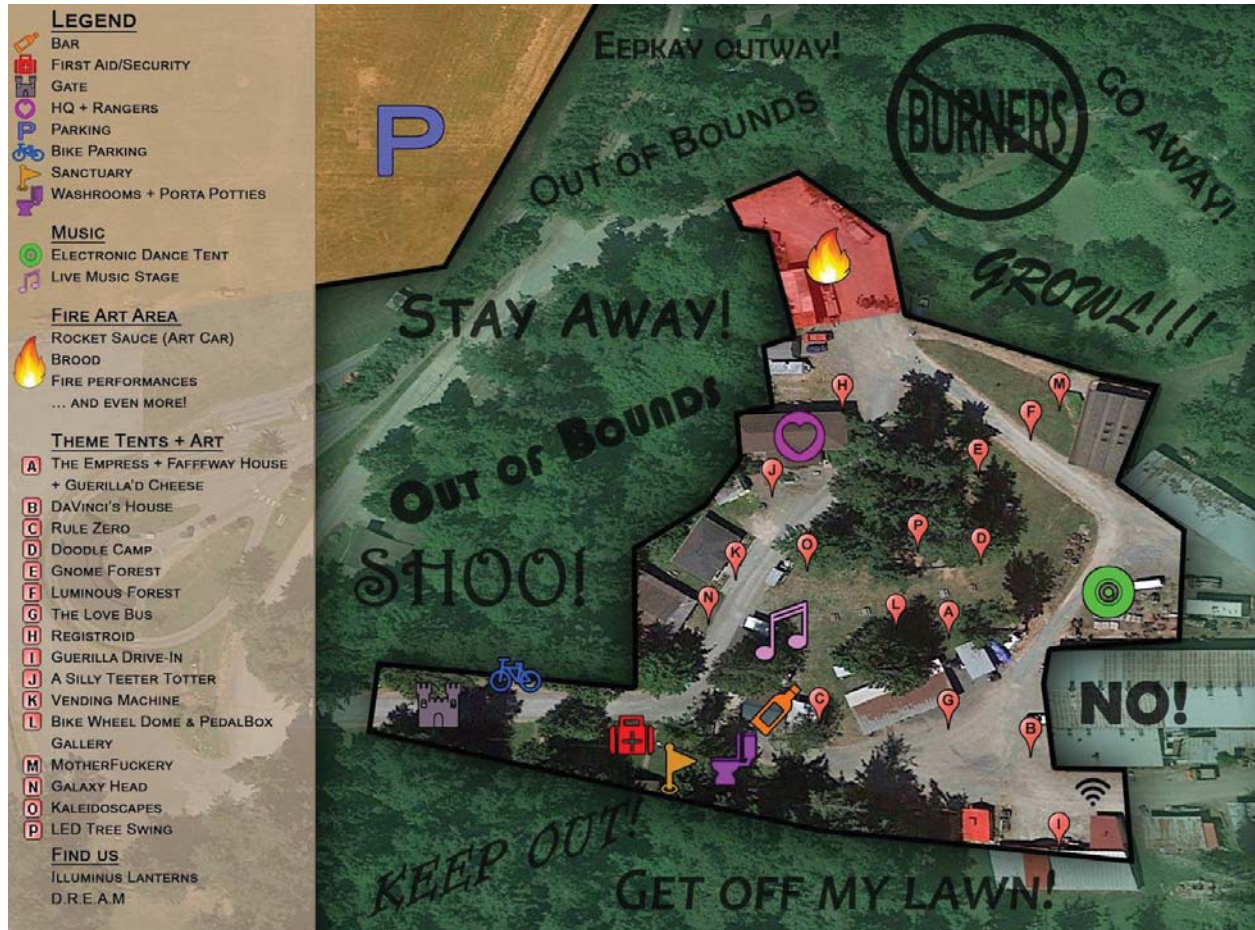
Ticket sales went smoothly, utilizing the custom system of a burner based business who did not take fees for Default Diversion. HUGE thank you for the mythical magic to make our process smooth as always. Nato you are a super star! Nato looked after the immediate responses to questions with ticketing which was super vital in supporting the production team, having the one person streamlined everything. Communication was amazing, even at 11pm at night when we forgot ticketing passwords Nato was there on the phone/emails.

We moved towards implementing an online waiver system, and it went over with great success. This process was approved by the Kindle Arts Society board, and we hope they will continue to adopt this new process in the future. Let's face it none of us want to spend time at gate reading paperwork, it's also easier for digital record keeping too.

The event sold out with 300 tickets. This financially secured our event, more about that later!

The Map

Something new and just another reason to put the awesome map up, kudos to our map makers Blair Wilkinson and Charlotte Wood!!!



Lead Reports

Gate (Rose Neary and Shannon Rands)

Gate went very smoothly at decompression. Enough people showed up for shifts to cover the need and there were no reports of gate problems. I had 22 volunteers plus my Co-Lead (Shannon Rands) and myself (Rose Neary). The gate was manned for 9 hours from 6PM to 3AM with the last three hours for people leaving the event only.

The most common report of something that could be improved was confusion around box ticking when purchasing a ticket. People I spoke to thought they just click all of the boxes they're interested in maybe doing and then pick later on. Some clearer communication could be useful in helping leads determine how many volunteers they actual have to work with. I asked Nato to turn off the option to volunteer for gate because I had ~ 50 volunteers signing up and nearly half said they were doing other things and couldn't help.

This event was very easy to do gate for because no paperwork was needed to be done at gate. Showing ID, having a name crossed off, and receiving a wrist band were the only duties my volunteers were required to do. Easypeasy.

Bar (Doug Clarke and Ryan Stanley)



Thoughts on the Bar at Default

Minus being a tonne of fun here are a few things to consider for future events;

How much to buy?

Drink calculation in order to determine how much to purchase – we ordered ~4 drinks/ticket sold. Would have been fine buying 3.

Scheduling

Online spreadsheet worked wonders but kept the control by having people email to claim their shifts, delegated one scheduler to manage the emails. We scheduled ~20 people with 2 on per hour. At times more people came to help out or stayed longer if required. Note to lead – best to schedule yourself or someone at each shift change to ensure you can let your volunteers go and train your new bartenders.

Our biggest weakness was cash handling. This area, we needed more control only in that there was about \$4000 floating around the bar with only the lead being responsible for it. My suggestion for future events is the following;

When removing any \$\$ from the cash box – have a recording system and two sets of eyes on all cash counting.

A secure site onsite where \$\$ can be locked.

A sign off when locking the \$\$.

A plan for deposit.

Bathroom Busters (Garret Flowers)

Bathroom Busters was a new lead and Garret was a rockstar!! Flowers, mints, MUSIC, MOOD LIGHTING and clean well stocked biffys all night!

Parking (Sharon Parker)

What Went Right: Pretty easy getting vehicles into designated areas. All scheduled Volunteers showed up for their shifts.

What Could be Improved for Next Time: Pop-up tent mandatory for any weather, and shelter. People parked incorrectly during set-up, they had no direction as to where their vehicles should stay for the entire duration of the event when they arrived to set-up. Suggest the Parking Lead be on site before set-up. A bit of a scramble to get around a dozen vehicles moved right at the start of event. Clear information regarding exit time.

Other: Fire pit was an awesome addition for volunteers and visibility. Hot chocolate was shared , and much appreciated. =)

Fire Show (Ben T Forx)

I was genuinely impressed with our fire show at Default Diversion, as it turned out. I was a little worried, as I had many late add ons to the register (late ticket buyers). The final list had 22 members signing up for the fire show with their ticket purchase. Of those, 7 responded to my pre show questionnaire, and of those 7, only 5 indicated they wanted to perform, and 2 wanted to be safeties. I was thrilled to have Carolyn and Leona as our safeties, it is a MAJOR stress relief for me to know the safety positions are being handled by strong, capable people. At the event itself, people started strolling up asking if they can be in the show too, the final count was 15 performers and 2 safeties!!! One included a gentleman who said he was an employee of Heritage Acres!!! There was a problem with the music however, the mp3 with the sound track on it, "froze" up! Don't know what the problem is/was, but there was a last minute panic of "Who's got a dance soundtrack on a phone???" We were rescued with a last minute tunage offering!! The Rocket Sauce sound system was great, loud enough for the performers to hear while they spun. YAY!! The only other incident that occurred was some dummy knocked over the gas lamp, spilling lit fuel (granted only a small amount). With the assistance of our Safety, we were able to extinguish the flame quickly and return everyone's attention back to the show. I promise not to knock over the lit lamp ever again) :/ What would I change for next time? The age old problem of "herding cats", getting people to commit to the show, say what they are going to do, and have them do what they said they would do. If I had gone with the registered 5 performers, I would have only brought one can of gas, I brought THREE!! And we used up 2.75 cans!!!! Also for consideration next year, there was interest in some folks continuing to have a "fire Jam", not a performance, but just an opportunity to continue with the fire.... I think that would be AWESOME, as many of my favourite Fire Moments at Kindle Events have not been the

official ones but those that developed on the side in an organic fashion. No burns, No damage, I call the Fire show a success! Thank you for letting me express myself via my passion in fire. If I could do only one thing at these events, it would be unanimously fire. Thank you for providing all the firebugs an opportunity to “do their thing”. These moments are few and far between



DPW (Clamb)

Event Planning / Leadup;

Through a series of conflicts I was only able to make a couple of the planning meetings. Downside of this is I wasn't quite sure what was going on and all the things that were required. However, Producers were good at outlining the requirements for hanging some signs, creating a tarp wall, and providing lighting and cabling to electrical outlets. Through some very lucky happenstance a new burner joined the community and had several hundred meters of xmas lights that he brought that lit the area very well! Producers were able to source tarps and when my coLead was unable to make the event they stepped in and took ownership of the tarp wall. I sent out requests for DPW help about 2 weeks before the event to people who had checked DPW on their volunteer signups. In hindsight - i should have made connections sooner as several people wrote back that they had already volunteered for different things at Default Diversion.

Pre-Event Setup;

Day of setup went smoothly; brought a couple of ladders that were shared around as needed. Enough electrical extension cords were brought and sufficient numbers of popup shelters were provided for all the needed spots. Some confusion on a meal being provided but other than that everything felt like it went smoothly.

During Event;

Added caution tape to a few locations and blew a fuse for the Empress; but very quiet. Two sets of lights were damaged between setup and time to turn them on. It appeared that someone had driven a tractor through a roped off area to park it; likely they didn't see the lights and made a mistake.

Event Cleanup;

10am was very early to get back up to take things down but everyone chipped in and things were cleaned up quickly. Provided breakfast was good, if we were doing it again - using the cook shack would be nice so we could grab food as it was available instead of popping in/out of the main house.

Note;

Only one noteworthy piece of communication fail; I found out on Sunday that there were signs that had been made to hang on the Galloping goose trail.





Live Stage (Yvonne Higginson)

Live stage was a big hit with scheduled performances and open stage jam sessions. Boy this community has talent. The instruments were all rented to ensure insurance coverage in order to allow all participants to join in should they wish to jam along. Suggestions for next year would be more of a lounge set up for those watching or dancing in the audience.



Electronic Stage (Matt Gibson and Allister McRae)

From my point of view our stage was an absolute success. Our planning and vision came together nicely - the tent looked good inside with the decorating and lights, sounded great with the selection of DJs and had excellent support with people attending our area all night long. Very little I wasn't happy with.

Natalie and Yvonne your support was outstanding! I sent both of you messages on a regular basis; they would be returned promptly every time. You guys provided me with a budget from day one making everything so much easier to plan. You provided me a tent which was absolutely from heaven, thank you, thank you, thank you! It wasn't cheap but the tent took the weather out the equation completely, as well as made it easy to decorate and visualize. Stress was a minimal because of the this, will be forever grateful that it was provided!

I was shocked how well the tent contained the sound...I didn't notice the sound once you were out of the immediate area which was ideal.

Our crew was a hybrid from different groups including Jellyfish Lounge, Love + Bass and Treehouse. I've never had a larger crew to help out before, it was a breath of fresh air to have everyone involved. The crew worked extremely well together, despite being together for the first time.

Very little could be done differently but here's a few things things of note...

First - I had several communication breakdowns with an out of town DJ. I need to do better in this aspect - next time I need to assume a new face doesn't have any info at all and provide them with every small detail along the way.

Second - I was a bit surprised to learn that the location of our tent was going to be moved from the gravel area we originally discussed, onto the grassy area nearby. I understand why the decision was made to move it there (fire access), but if there's any chance we could have some dialogue ahead of the event that would be a huge help. Learning of the change on setup day caused us to have to change our layout entirely, and pack more tools leading to more work overall. Yvonne my apologies for being a bit cranky when we discussed this on site, I absolutely wasn't intending to have it come out that way. In the end I felt the tent location (and subsequent layout with a slight hill inside) looked better than the original design and worked awesome!

Third - I had some really big distractions in August ahead of the event. I was absent for a couple meetings, and I wasn't posting about the event very often on social media. I also didn't really get deep in planning until around Labor Day. I'm sure you noticed I was very quiet compared to the usual. Thank you both for having confidence in my abilities to do this - everything came together nicely in the end but I was late getting started. I can confidently say that I'll be more involved and ready earlier next time we do an event.

That's it guys...loved this event, it exceeded my expectations everywhere I went! I was very thankful to be a part of it and am already volunteering next year if we go again. You guys should be proud of what you provided for the community, people are going to talk about this weekend for years to come!

Rangers (Ben T Forxx)

Rangers went relatively well. We had 31 register with Rangers during the ticket purchase phase. I had only 14 of those registrants fill out the pre-event questionnaire. Between the time of their ticket purchase and the event itself, I had seven cancel, including one notifying me two hours before her shift. I had fifteen not respond to my emails and not sign up for any shifts at all. On the plus side, I had the opportunity to work with three Rangers with great Khaki qualities, Chris Daly, Lyle MacGregor and Gabe Shaw. They did an awesome job keeping the dirt rangers on point. We also had a drop in, Edwin (Ted), no Ranger training, but we put him on the first shift as a "tag a long", heard good things back about his demeanour, and he volunteered his time for two more hard to fill shifts!!! Edward White also put in three shifts, and Cam Bremner gave us two. YAY!! We also were able to integrate Kindle members with previous Rangering skills back into the ranks without having taken the BC Ranger training for the last two years. I believe only one person fit this description, Amara Smith, and being on an earlier shift, of course had no issues to contend with.

Only one official Ranger Call, an interaction between a participant and two Foot Print Security members. Apparently, the Participant had acquired a Foot Print Security Sign during Otherworld, and had kept it for some undisclosed reason. He chose to bring it out at Default Diversion, “taunt” the security personnel.... He made a point about the crappy security we had at Pachena Bay Campsite (Otherworld: End Of The Road), but I felt it began to go past the point of humour. Both the security showed impressive deescalation skills, and Yvonne Higginson interjected that the participant was now keeping the guards from their duties, where he finally surrendered the signage. He claimed it was “performance art”. It was funny to a point, but I think they (the guards) were the wrong target audience.

Things I would change for next year... Really hard to say. The age old problem of getting people to sign up for the late night shifts was ever prevalent. I had three 2400 – 0130 hrs and three 0130 – 0300 hrs shifts that were never filled in during the signup process. We were able to scrape together enough to fill the four slots including the Khaki on duty. But, it really shouldn’t come down to last minute rallying like that. I would be interested in hearing other’s perceptions of the Ranger presence at Default Diversion, should you hear any.

Thank you for allowing me to take on the role of Ranger Herder, for your event, I’m calling it a success.



Participation and Art Grants (Blair Wilkinson)

Art Grants was able to extend funding to 15 projects (11 Art/4 Participation). Of these 13 projects have accepted their funding, with one art project still considering whether or not to accept (due to personal circumstances) and one participation project not attending the decompression. Seven of the art projects displayed at Default Diversion. This appears consistent with the number of projects applying in the “Otherworld” cycle and appearing at this event.

It appears that as our community grows the number of projects and the size of projects grows too. Because of this, the Board was approached for additional funds. The board agreed to transfer leftover funds from the T1 Grant Cycle that went unused and provided additional funds (due to a reduction of art grant cycles leaving additional approved funding to be distributed).



Placement (Blair Wilkinson)

Placement went swimmingly. Only two art pieces were moved from their original location (one due to artist needing to pull double duty and be close to two projects; one to prevent sound overlap). MotherFuckery chill space was also moved (due to me placing them on a hill ... ooops!). There were some issues with vehicles parked where we needed to set up; but most of this was resolved without trouble just due to timing (art pieces arrived after vehicles had been moved due to drivers just leaving the site). Everyone was able to access power but many extension cords needed. We only switched off one breaker through the night (tsk tsk FAFFERS and your sandwich griddle!)

Super big thanks goes out to Charlotte W. for her work on the placement map.

Recommendation:

Attempt to block off spaces for art as early as possible to prevent parking.

Google maps is great for placement – but placement lead should get better sense of ground layout (e.g., hills, power) to ensure best placement.

Mini Theme Camps/Tents

Yes, you can have Theme Camps/Tents at a one nighter, think mini versions! We initially had a very slow response, after a bit of prodding and call outs we had a flurry of emails! 5 Theme Camps participated: FaffwayHouse, The Empress, Rule Zero, Motherfuckery, Mini Doodle Camp. All were well used throughout the event providing warmth, tea, chill spaces, art and the best grilled cheese EVER! Thank you to everyone who participated!





Site Management and Relations

The production team worked very hard to develop a close partnership with the SHAS board. This was SHAS first Burning Man event and we were invited to present to them our community and unique culture. On an early Saturday morning we drove out to the site to meet with the entire board and give a presentation at their monthly board meeting. Massive thanks to Cam and Ben T Forxx for all their help with this we couldn't have done it without your support. Several informal site visits also took place leading up to the event. We had several members of SHAS attend the event and it looked like they were having a fabulous time. We are happy to announce that SHAS would be happy to have us return next year with the possibility of an overnight event.

Fire Safety (Cam Bremner)

I am happy to report that there were no concerns related to fire safety at this event.

There were three art pieces with flame effects on display, a fire performance show, and two propane fireplaces. All of the flame effect art pieces were compliant with the Kindle Arts flame effect safety guidelines, and the fire show went well. There were no issues with the fireplace appliances as they were operated normally and the ground and surrounding vegetation were wet and presented little combustion hazard.

The venue operators had expressed concerns about fire safety and fire art, and requested the involvement of the local fire department. To this end, a demonstration of a typical flame effect was arranged for the fire department and our proposal to operate art pieces as NFPA-160 special purpose flame effects was approved.

The fire department was invited to the event, but did not attend.

Overall, the event operated smoothly with no concerns or incidents related to fire safety.



Medical

For the first time the Kindle Arts Society partnered with St John's Ambulance who provide first aid on a donation basis. We loved working with them, communication was amazing and so were the St John's volunteers who attended our event. We had only one very small cut to a participant's foot, that's is amazing for 300 people for a 9 hour event! We donated \$400, and look forward to watching the relationship between St John's and the Kindle Arts Society grow in the future.

Security

We hired Footprints Security and met for a walk through a week prior to the event with a supervising guard and the onsite caretaker as she was a former employee of Footprints and she was familiar with the site. It was a very informative meeting developing a security plan as a team, this helped boost our confidence having an event so close to town.

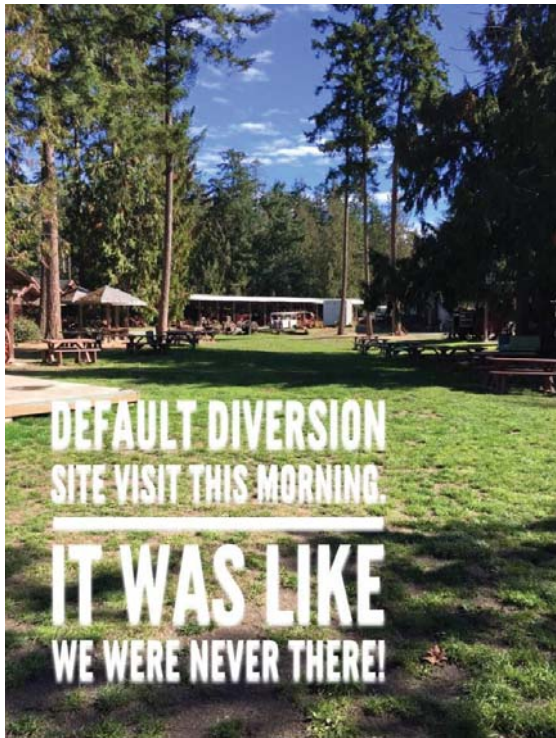
Three guards were on site the night of the event. Unfortunately they did not bring radios as we requested we were fortunate enough to be able to set them up with radios some spares we had on site. This has been fed back to the company for future reference. The guards were three older gentlemen that were respectful and excited to have the opportunity to be onsite at the event. We feel as producers they asked appropriate questions, were able to provide experienced advice during the vacating sweep and often went above and beyond to ensure information was relayed to us.

We had one security event with a confrontational participant which was appropriately dealt with by the security team and production through conflict resolution techniques.

Leave No Trace

Kudos to Bianca for stepping up to this job, unfortunately she only had 2 other volunteers to assist her in this role.

The producers attended on site on Monday September 26, 2016 to do a walk through. The site was very clean with the exception of a few bottles in the parking field which were removed. For the most part it was like we were never there.



Volunteers/Participants

Ticket sales were a smashing success at 300 tickets sold while 145 participants/volunteers logged hours.

Suggestions:

Generating volunteers outside of tickets sales, as the ticket sales seemed to increase substantially in the final days leading up to the event. Leads doing call outs before, directed tickets for leads art and major infrastructure volunteers. Perhaps a volunteer coordinator to keep track of hours and appreciation meals and rounding up more volunteers for leads.

The Future/Suggestions.

- Social media work was extensive and was handled by the two producers, we would recommend that a social media lead be implemented in future to promote the event.
- Consider camping over night at the event, this will need negotiating into the contract with the site.
- Continue the relationship with St John's Ambulance.
- That all board members and leads also promote ticket sales and the need for volunteers
- Start communication with local fire departments asap to secure permits.
- Continue to plan Decompression well in advance, the 5 months we took to plan flew by.

While we both loved the challenge of planning Victoria's biggest Decompression due to prior personal commitments in 2017 we would like to pass the torch along to a new team of producers in hope that this wonderful gathering of community expression continues.

Financials

Revenue

Ticket Sales	\$11,455.00
Donations	\$155.00
Bottle Returns	\$69.35
Bar Revenue	\$3,780.90
Total Sales	\$15,305.25

Expenses

Venue	\$1,825.00
Portapotties	\$504.00
Insurance	\$350.00
EMTs	\$400.00
Security	\$737.10
Event Tent	\$859.61
EDM Stage Equipment	\$369.38
Live Stage Equipment	\$505.29
Bar Start-up	\$2,010.91
Wristbands	\$239.34

Bathroom	\$118.17
DPW	\$210.10
Gate Supplies	\$20.04
LNT Supplies	\$22.99
Appreciation Breakfast	\$118.55
Transport	\$250.00
Contingency	\$272.88
Neighbor Appreciation and Relations	\$38.14
Paypal fees	\$136.07
Stripe Fees	\$282.97
Participation Grants	\$465.00
Total Expenses	\$9,758.54
Net Revenue	\$5,546.71

Photo Credit: The ever marvelous and wondrous Mayor Dingo!

