

NECTR 2022 Afterburn Report

Message From The Event Leads

NECTR 2022 was a great success and we had a beautiful event with no major issues. We remained the same size this year due to concerns about space for growth and local permitting requirements.

This was probably one of the best weather years that we have had - temperatures during the event were very mild. The terrain was a little muddy due to rain, but vastly better than the previous years.

Weather and conditions for both the effigy and temple burns were optimal and both burns went off very well. Improvements over previous year operations helped to ensure a safe and fun burn for everybody.

For a relatively small event, NECTR has potentially too many volunteer shifts to fill. We are looking into ways to reduce the total number of volunteer shifts by combining and reducing where it makes sense. This will help to make sure we have volunteers for critical shifts.

NECTR continues to grow and change and we are excited to see how it evolves over the next few years especially as more local residents hear about it. As we continue to grow, we continue to consider improvements to the current land as well as looking into the requirements for growing the event.

Your friendly neighborhood event leads and board,

Seth

Thomas

Jill

Jon

Nate

Tatiana

Sarina

CORE: LIGHTING

What went well for your core

- Lights worked!
- Volunteers worked!
- Extra batteries!
- Sign Lights worked great!

What Could be improved for your core

- Storage for lights/batteries, during event, well labeled

Feedback from Survey

- The meeting times didn't match with the schedule. Meeting at noon to install the trail lighting was odd because the gate opened at noon Thursday.

Action Items for a better NEXTR

- Get bin for lights (Steve to buy bin/batteries)
 - Gate and lighting to work on lighting entrance
 - Lighting to be added to our fancy new temple bridge
 - Decide if we want to cut lighting shifts
-

CORE: CENTER CAMP

What Could be improved for your core

- Volunteer No shows

Feedback from Survey

- Not enough sugary hot chocolate at center camp
- I never figured out where the bin for Lost and Found was in Center Camp.

- More fluffers at center camp
- Center camp had pretty clear instructions, very comfortable! Only downside was trying to find the water source in the dark
- Ball pit/center camp mentioned 5 times in positive experiences/memories

Action Items for a better NEXTR

- New theme
 - Maybe use the hose again
-

CORE: FAST and Fire Safety

What went well for your core

- Good burns good perimeter

What Could be improved for your core

- Better signup/instructions

Feedback from Survey

- Volunteer feedback - It was fun and productive. FAST shifts are a great way to see the event and volunteer!
- Those who knew what FAST was were fun to interact with and made volunteering feel like community building.
- Some situation between ranger volunteers and fast volunteers about water bucket at ranger hq
- I WANTED TO DO FAST but couldn't sign up, I kept getting spit back out.
- More active community burn barrels or fire pits would be nice

Action Items for a better NEXTR

- Clarify process for signup/training
 - Clarify shift setup
-

CORE: GATE

What went well for your core

- Rae helped with gate duties, she is leading next year probably
- No problems from the outside world (including law/emt/covid)
- Gate shack looked awesome)

What Could be improved for your core

- Challenges include, volunteer staffing load (esp overnight)
- A lot of no shows this year
- Some confusion on shift timing
- Gate backfill/colead
- Gate open/closed verbiage and volunteer instruction

Feedback from Survey

- I really appreciated the COVID precautions. The only hiccup for me was that I was the only one who showed up for the Friday evening Gate shift that went until midnight.
- During the event we improved upon our signage at Gate so people would know where to turn, I think this could be improved upon by having Gate clearly marked at the start of the event
- I'm grateful there was a rapid test at gate standard for entry. It made me feel safe.
- So glad for burn barrel at gate late at night!
- More defined roles at spaceport would have been helpful, most people had an idea that they volunteered for gate or greeters, etc and seemed confused that they were combined. A printed script for checking people in could have helped some new people
- The back gate needed some lights and more things. It was pretty bare bones. The organization for who would be at front, back, or etc could have been better organized
- More consistent checking if supplies at back gate
- I did temple burn gate shift, my first time doing gate, it was very chill and the burn barrel kept us cozy. I might do that shift every year, it really was nice. I definitely plan to do more spaceport in the future.

Action Items for a better NEXTR

- Check with Scott on overnight back gate needs
- Get trickle charge controller for gate battery and new battery
- Group activities for gate, hot drinks, telescope, quiet things where people are there and have a working radio
- Greeters and parking at the gate?

How can we help you do your job better

- More volunteers :D
-

CORE: GREETERS

What went well for your core

- Greeters went well

What Could be improved for your core

- Volunteerism

Feedback from Survey

- Greeters was a bit of a shit show Thursday, I don't think there was any explanation of what needed to be done. Not all the handouts were ready and there was still food and stuff left on the table from work weekENds.
- When I went to my Greeter shift on Friday night, the Greeter area wasn't fully set up yet, I was happy to help set it up but that could be improved upon. Also, I believe we ran out of Maps at the Greeter station during the event.
- I had a lot of fun as a greeter! We did run out of maps and event guides for folks somehow.
- gate/greeters is very straightforward, it was fun to volunteer for gate/greeters
- I love being a greeter!
- better instructions on what greeters should say for new folks
- clearer instructions at the gate. greeters had a lot of info there and both places had

plenty of shwag

Action Items for a better NEXTR

- Greeters to move supplies and such to gate
 - Pay attention to who showed up
 - Specific Volunteer greeting, volunteers go on ticket list special like
 - PDF for all things
-

CORE: PARKING

What went well for your core

- Everything went well, space for 300
- MInerva willing to help and was helpful
- Marked out muddy zones/rocks etc
 - Fewer stuck vehicles etc

Feedback from Survey

- For the most part it was pretty smooth. We did get nervous about parking, so maybe a note saying we don't need a pass

Action Items for a better NEXTR

- Put parking pass info on FAQ
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CORE: DPW

What went well for your core

- Good work weekend turn out
- Got things taken care of effectively on first work weekend with existing supplies

What Could be improved for your core

- Brush hog died
- Temple bridge died

Feedback from Survey

- Temple bridge needs to be improved. Would be ideal to not have holes on the bridge path and some good lighting too.
- The path leading from parking to the event is a nightmare if there's mud. If that could be improved that would make every participant's life better.
- We found a spot to camp, but the rain did block off some of the walking pathways - which we didn't realize at first. So we only had one pathway to get to our tent (without the rain, we would have had 2 pathways to get to our tent!). So this just meant going the long way around each time, it wasn't the end of the world honestly, but it may help to think about infrastructure for the wet/flooding or muddy grounds, and/or simply some communication/signage or options for trails in the event of weather blocking some of the trails.
- Need more carts for use, need more open camping spaces cleared, need to have more plywood put on paths over mud for easier packing and unpacking and safety
- It would be cool to have volunteer shifts dedicated to land improvements and trail work. We could bring clippers and build drainage areas or other infrastructure to keep trails from rutting.
- It's a little unclear what a "work weekend" is.
- I only got information about Work Weekends through my Camp, so more transparency/shared information about Work Weekends would be great. Also more information about applying for art placement would be great.

Action Items for a better NEXTR

- Nate to work with Matt to investigate scaffolding solutions 60', wide enough? \$3700-2k new, need 2?
- Drew S offered to build a thing. I think he was serious

- Crowd fund stone for paths?
- Another wheelbarrow
- Kudos to ww volunteers
- Big Dead trees
- Clearer firewood locations/source
- Check with Scott firepit wood

How can we help you do your job better

- Budget for bridge
-

CORE: RANGERS

What Could be improved for your core

- Lead no showed but things worked out

Feedback from Survey

- Missing a page from shift page?
- I had a challenge in volunteering because I wasn't sure about what training was required before shifts and when/how to do that training. (I've been a ranger and khaki at Firefly for a number of years but am new to NECTR.)
- more written/pre-made and accessible instructions at the ranger station for volunteers
- Good crew of rangers, a lot of folks I know or have Rangered with in the past. And the folks I didn't know were also great.
- Rangers went well. The oreos were a big plus. Fun, yes. Comfortable, yes.

Action Items for a better NEXTR

- More better volunteer shifts
 - Clarify training and communicate that
 - Kudos from Gate and Sound and everyone
 - Send out info on big burn ranger training/manual?
-

CORE: SANCTUARY

What went well for your core

- Everyone loves you!
- You are great and no one has complaints

Feedback from Survey

- Super impressive Sanctuary. Participants will drive the event to be better in ways that are important to them.
 - Sanctuary setup was awesome this year!
 - I love the concept of sanctuary. I was happy to hold space
 - Sanctuary was so beautiful! Loved it!
 - I love the sanctuary space.
-

CORE: SOUND

What went well for your core

- No complaints from neighbors
- Things went well
- Firefly donated decibel meters
- Did not hand out meters, this went better

What Could be improved for your core

- Instructions for non audiophile volunteers

Feedback from Survey

- Quiet zones tend to be helpful.
- The sound camps were great this year in regard to their placement and their volume

levels.

- All the sound camps were great this year
- I was chilling and playing an acoustic instrument and had a nice time jamming with some others. In the future I might want to seek out a space for acoustic jamming with folk that's more central, since my theme camp was way on the edge, but being away from the sound camps worked pretty well for sound balance. Part of what worked well was that the map showed really clearly where sound camps were going to be, and it also worked well that the speakers were at totally comfortable volumes, not too loud. Very good soundscape overall
- Sound was really good
- more art would be awesome, but I really love the current level of Not Too Many sound camps. I appreciate a burn that doesn't require earplugs for sanity, but still has music and a dance party nightly!
- Soundcamps were well placed and volume was good

Action Items for a better NEXTR

- Instructions for non-audiophiles
- Howl to followup with Nate re sounds or something, coordinate between goths, camp here, and howl
- Update website and volunteer guide with revised policy
- Radio to gate to check volume levels?
- Scott gets a radio

CORE: SIGNAGE

What went well for your core

- EVERYTHING
 - Especially working with Steve and Allie and Jason on sign lights
- Collaboration

What Could be improved for your core

- Less Sign rotations, or on purpose spinning signs

Feedback from Survey

- “this area may flood” signs could be useful in some areas that seem suitable for camping but become a lake when it rains a lot
- More street signs

Action Items for a better NEXTR

- Decide if we keep tree theme, seems ok to most people
- Think about more extra color coding for lights/trails?
- Replace wooden dowels, add fin for ground and dont
- Volunteers to set up signs during early arrival

How can we help you do your job better

- More collaboration!
-

CORE: ART GRANTS

What went well for your core

- More money for grants was good
- Good responsiveness and excitement from artists
- Good advice from firefly art grants on grant setup
- Nectrarts@gmail.com worked well for team building

What Could be improved for your core

- Volunteerism on the art grant committee
- Offer is not a purchase, clarify language
- Integrating new artists
- Favoritism, apply like everyone else, no backchannel arts

Feedback from Survey

- Most people want budget to go to Art grants for new art/artists
- Art grant committee communication was a little thin. Could have been clearer. In the end it worked but clarity or better system could help.
- Would be nice to get a copy of my application. I don't recall seeing any way to do that, but in case I made specific commitments when typing it, it would be good to have a record of that to make sure I'm doing everything I proposed.
- I wasn't given clear instructions regarding saving receipts to receive grant funds after the event. I still have not received my funds and I have done everything that was requested.
- The grant submission form really helped guide me in creating my art grant submission. The art grant committee was really great with support, enthusiasm, encouragement and communication. It would be really helpful if the art grant process all happened earlier. My project almost didn't happen due to the grants happening fairly close to the event. The more time between art grants being granted, and the start of nectr, the better to allow for the art to happen :)

Action Items for a better NEXTR

- Send Survey Feedback to artists -seth to cc sarah
- MOAR Money?!
- Setup art grants in google
- Better communication to artists about tickets
- Ticketing can help with communicating to granted artists if needed
- Art support crew?
- Art tour?

How can we help you do your job better

- Help with encouraging volunteerism
 - Help defining deadlines for grants/applications
 - Determine if we need to place things or not
 - Codify propane funding
 - Text for art grant committee
-

CORE: TICKETING

What went well for your core

- Sold out

What Could be improved for your core

- Could have over-sold more?
- A lot of last min refund
- Waitlist was long
- No button for returning to waitlist
- Ticket communication wasn't as clear as it could have been

Feedback from Survey

- Granted artists need clearer instructions re ticketing
- They believed they had tickets because they got an email that said "You are registered for a ticket to NECTR" as a subject header and believed they had tickets.
- earlier notification of when tickets will open
- Ticketing was somewhat confusing this year. First you had to register and than apply for ticket, I know a few people who were confused.
- thank you for having pay-what-you-can tickets

Action Items for a better NEXTR

- Seth to send complete ticketing feedback from survey to Jesse
 - Someone else with fresh eyes read the ticket/clarity to make sure things are clear
 - Clarify address, do not give address of neighbor
 - Help with communicating with art grant recipients
-

CORE: WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATIONS

What Could be improved for your core

- Consider email overload

Feedback from Survey

- Tickets were a bit of a snafu, updating the website to reflect the current year would be a huge help, otherwise I just really want to say how much I appreciate all of your hard work <3
- Easier to sign up email list. Make it prominent on the website. On the ticketing page, before the lottery opens, have something saying "Click here to sign up for the email list and be notified when tickets go on sale."
- Maybe some sort of online meeting or zoom where people could attend and ask questions?
- Maybe encouraging work weekend more? A more periodic newsletter type communication (even if there's not really*new* info).
- loved the clear steps and instructions!
- remove outdated info from the web site. make sure that things communicated by email or in the google group are also posted on the web site.
- Clear subject lines in emails. A generic NECTR email address to send emails from.
- Please update the website! It was frustrating to keep trying to find info for this year and finding only last year's version of things

Action Items for a better NEXTR

- Get rid of google group or facebook? Where do event communications get sent?
 - Matt to work with Jill on the website
 - Fix ticketing emails/communication
 - Emails from same address and subject clear
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CORE: LNT

Feedback from Survey

- I don't think there was an LNT Lead, but we managed okay as a group
- LNT field sweep managed to meet together early Monday as a team which was great because it was scheduled for the afternoon when rain was expected.
- There was no LNT head, but we had all done LNT before so we managed
- Well on our own

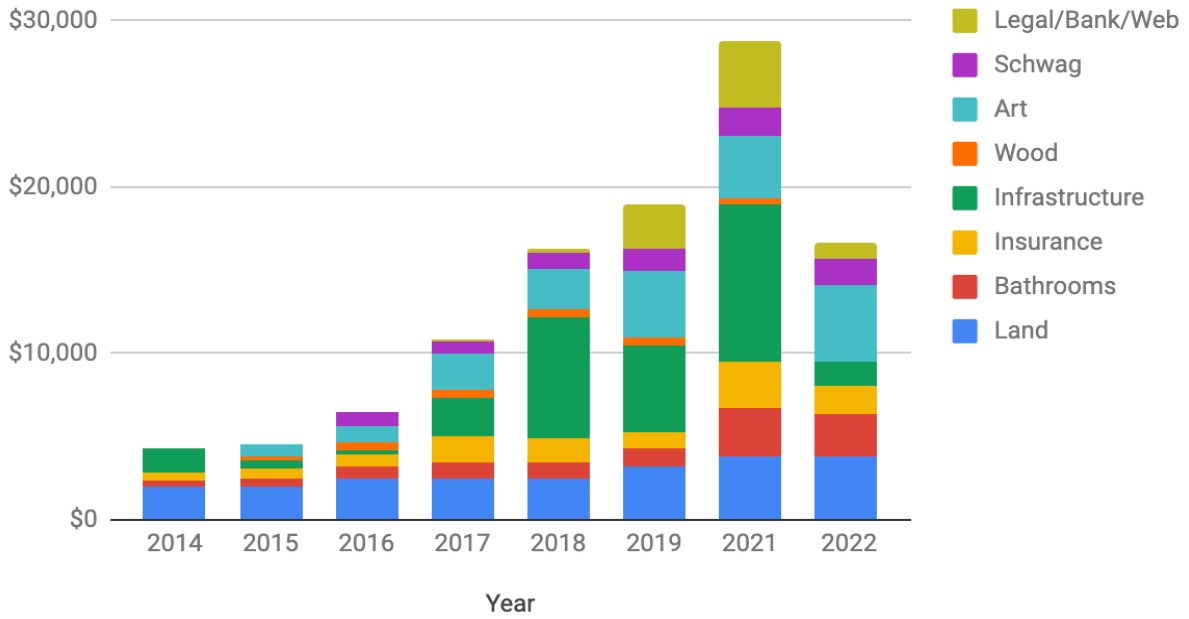
Action Items for a better NEXTR

- Better at event wrangling of volunteers
 - Better communication to volunteers
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Financials

NECTR's primary expenditures include the land reservation, art grants, and event insurance which is consistent across most regional event budgets. This year we introduced micro-art grants. This was a very popular opportunity and we were able to award a lot of micro-art grants with only a modest increase in the total spent on art grants. Even with the increase in art grants, we were able to reduce our expenditures in other areas, resulting in a modest increase in financial reserves. With the increase in art grants awarded and security, NECTR's bank balance continues to be steady since 2017, with about \$22K, which will allow for an increased art budget, including effigy and temple for the 2023 event. The majority of surplus remains in the bank as recommended for unforeseen emergencies, including those relating to last minute venue changes. The summaries below include spending trends from 2014 onwards, including a detailed breakdown of costs for the 2022 event.

Expenditures by Year



Expenses	Amount
Toilets	\$ 2,448.84
Art Grants (2022)	\$ 4,541.00
Insurance	\$ 1,741.00
Land	\$ 3,850.00
Wrist bands	\$ 340.38
Ranger T-Shirts	\$ 831.38
Beanies	\$ 333.66
Web fees	\$ 71.58
Lawyer/Tax	\$ 943.00
Printing	\$ 672.57
DPW	\$ 620.23
Center Camp	\$ 175.22
CT Meetup	\$ 100.00
TOTAL	\$ 16,668.86
2022 Balance	\$ 22,366.37