



Dustcovery 2016 – Creator's Guild



Producers: Lorraine Anderson aka Sparkle and Andrea Arnot aka Andi Candi

Venue: Cloverdale Rodeo and Exhibition Grounds, The Show Barn

Date: October 22, 2015

Hours: 8:30pm – 4am

Website: <http://dustcovery.gvias.org/>

Region: Vancouver, British Columbia

Organization: Greater Vancouver Interactive Arts Society

Report Prepared by: Andrea Arnot



History:

Dustcovery 2016 is the 6th Official Decompression event in Vancouver.

The previous years have been:

October 9th, 2010 - Micropolis Venue: W2 Storyum.

October 1st, 2011 - Dustoff! Venue: Cam Am Importique

November 17, 2012 – Afterglow Venue- West Coast Railway Association - CN Roundhouse

November 16, 2013 - Afterglow Venue- West Coast Railway Association - CN Roundhouse

October 17, 2015 - Dustcovery Venue - Cloverdale Rodeo

Dustcovery Background:

In 2014, there wasn't a decompression event which prompted Andrea Arnot (aka Andi Candi) to approach the GVIAS board about taking on the production of a decompression event. Dustcovery 2015 sold out and was a huge success because of the amazing group of team leads and volunteers who created the space for community members, artists and performers to collaborate, connect and re-energize.

In 2015, before the first Dustcovery, the community was polled on public forums for input on choosing a name for the event. "Dustcovery" was chosen and anecdotally, people have reported that they think of it as a "recovery from the dusty playa" and when said aloud, it sounds like "Discovery" which conveyed a "sense of inquiry" or "uncovering surprises".

Andi and Sparkle decided to co-produce Dustcovery 2016 and were approved by the GVIAS board to do so.

As a member of the burner community Sparkle has enjoyed giving back in a variety of ways since 2004. From art installations, fundraisers, and lead positions for large events. The role of co-producer seemed like a natural next step as she enjoys organizing and facilitating. Watching the organic growth of Dustcovery has been a joy these past 2 years.

In her work life, Andi designs and implements large and small community engagement events, often using arts-based methods, around diversity and inclusion. The 10 Principles of Burning Man align with her personal ethics and work philosophies. This made it an easy choice for her to volunteer her skill set to produce Dustcovery both in 2015 and 2016.

Overview:

Dustcovery 2016 – Creator's Guild – was designed to mirror the theme of Burning Man 2016. The production team created an event that encouraged a wide range of "Renaissance" performers and artists to contribute their craft to the event. The first portion of the event, from 8:30pm-11pm featured live performers and bands, both on the main stage and roving. Activities like a live model sketch area and a shadow play station were available for attendees to engage with before the DJ's began.

From 11:00pm - 4:00am, Puck Palace Main Stage had a full dance floor. The Shadow Puppet Pavilion, an outdoor sound stage was in operation from 9pm - 1:00am.

The goals of Dustcovery are to bring together existing community members and to provide an

opportunity for new people who have never attended a Burning Man event to experience it locally. This year, the GVIAS board of directors and Dustcovery Production team hosted a “newbie reception” near the beginning of the evening. This reception took place at an art installation called the “Pillars of Principles” which highlights the 10 Principles of Burning Man in art form. “Newbies” were introduced to the GVIAS board, BC Rangers, the Consent Crew and given a brief orientation about the event. Given the rapid growth of the local Vancouver “burner” community, the hope was to increase levels of acculturation.



The Production team worked with the GVIAS Grants Committee to issue 2 rounds of art grants for participants to refurbish existing projects or create new art installations. Micro-grants were also offered. The total amount of art grant funding distributed was \$2500.

From the planning process to the final execution, the production team strove to embody and create an environment that supported the 10 Principles of Burning Man. The production team also strove to be responsive to the feedback provided by the community via an online survey after Dustcovery 2015. These improvements were:

- a) Created significantly more areas and opportunities for seating
- b) Provided even more opportunities for live performers and artists
- c) Improved bar efficiency
- d) Increased the length of the event
- e) Included a “newbie” reception to ensure better acculturation
- f) Worked on placement of stages to ensure there were areas of the event that were quiet enough for conversations

Organization and Volunteers:

Sparkle and Andi Candi led the production team and relied on guidance from the GVIAS board as well as experienced team leads from Dustcovery 2015 and other GVIAS events.

Call outs and personal invitations for team leads were conducted. The production team included the following committed and dedicated individuals:

Kristen Huskins	Art Liaison
Kate Ferguson	Décor
Kristen Hunt	Performer Lead
Kaschelle Thiessen	Door
James McKenny	Bar
Arthur Goldsmith	Technology/Ticketing
Chris Sturges	Power and Light
Trina Barclay	Transportation/Shuttle
Krystal Murley & Charlene Francis	Volunteer Coordination
Belva Stone-Cole	Fire Performance
Geoff Budinski	Fire Safety

Kim Gallagher
Peter Blitz
Beatrix White
Rangers
Mitch Mateychuk
Squishelle

Signage
Sound Stages Direction
Coordination of Shadow Puppet Pavilion Stage
Claire Roberts
RV Park
Burning Man RC

The producers would like to thank each of the above individuals for taking on a leadership role that involved many hours as well as patience and communication skills.

There were nearly 200 directed tickets sold to volunteer team leads, performers, DJs, artists and their crews, GVIAS board members, set-up and tear down crews and event volunteers. The production team is grateful to all of these community members who gave of their time, energy and enthusiasm to create Dustcovery 2016.

Venue:

The Show Barn at Cloverdale Rodeo and Exhibition Grounds is a large rectangle, rustic barn that is currently used for trade shows and events. Cloverdale Rodeo and Exhibition Grounds are located just off of 176th Street in Surrey BC, about 40 minutes drive from downtown Vancouver and 20 minutes from the King George skytrain station. The Show Barn is in the middle of the large rodeo grounds and is fairly isolated from residential areas making it a good location to have an event with both indoor and outdoor activities.



The outdoor space for Dustcovery was a fenced parking lot right next to the Show Barn.



There was free parking for all attendees as well as the ability to have an “RV Park”. RV’s, trailers and vans were welcome to park overnight for a fee of \$15.

The indoor space was 18,000 square feet with ample power outlets (set up for trade shows), a kitchen with sink, refrigerator and stove, an office available for First Aid and Rangers if they needed privacy and adequate washrooms. The ceiling was 11 feet high on the perimeter and 17 feet high in the center with steel trusses that were useful for hanging lights, fabrics and art installations from.

The Show Barn Before:





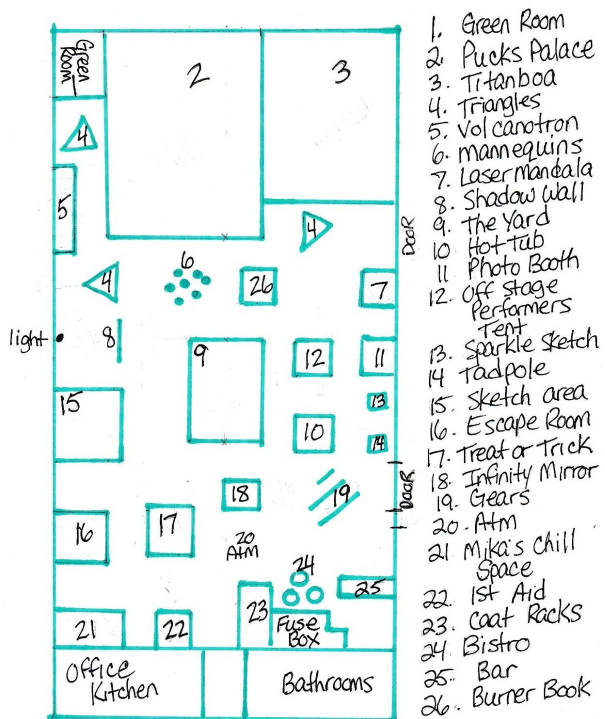
The Show Barn during Dustcovery 2016:





Following are the placement maps for the indoor and outdoor spaces:

Indoor Placement Map



#12 - moved after live performances to photo booth area.

Outdoor Placement Map



Ticket Sales:

Tickets were sold through Quicket. This is the ticketing system that GVIAS used for Burn in the Forest 2016. There were only minor ticketing issues which were all able to be solved easily.

931 tickets were sold at \$32.50 each. In order to purchase tickets, people were required to agree to and sign a waiver of liability.

There were no tickets available at the door.



Shuttle Service:

Because the venue was in the suburbs with less transit accessibility, the producers built the cost of shuttle service into the infrastructure budget in order to provide free shuttle service. The shuttle team lead organized multiple shuttle times to pick attendees up from the nearest skytrain station as well as back to the skytrain station in time for the last ride into Vancouver. She also arranged for 2 shuttle runs back into Vancouver at 2:30am and 3:15am. There were also shuttle drop-offs and pick-ups from the 2 event hotels.

104 people signed up for the shuttle service to get to the event.

147 people signed up for the shuttle service to get back to the skytrain or into Vancouver. It is believed that more than this number actually used the shuttle.

There were about 30% more shuttle sign-ups than in 2015.



Music:



Dustcovery 2016 had two sound stages available for participants to utilize: Puck's Palace Main Stage and Shadow Puppet Pavilion Sound Stage.

Puck's Palace Main Stage was directed by Peter Blitz and DJ Smoothie. There was an open call out for DJ's as well as invitations to community favorites. This sound stage was inside the venue with space for 300+ people to dance in and was open for the duration of the event.



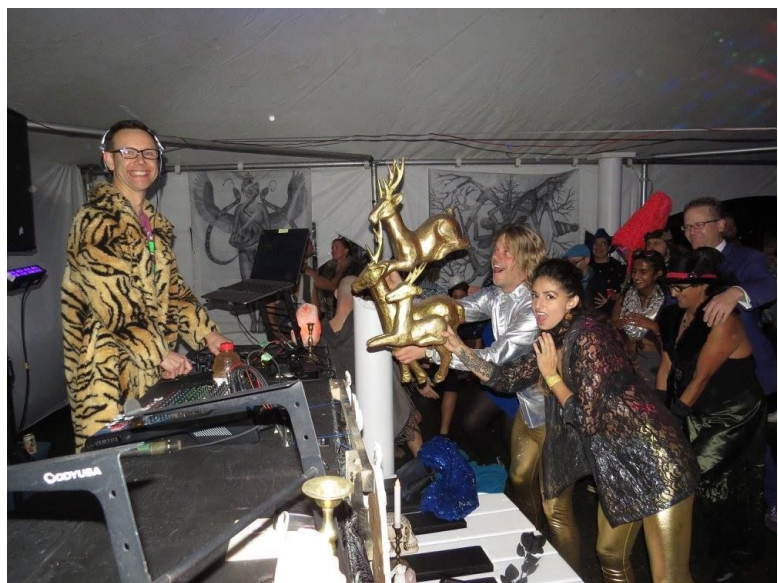
Puck's Palance Main Stage DJ Schedule

11:00pm	Aaron Delafunk
12:00am	Smoothie
1:00am	Skywalker
2:00am	Phenom Don
3:00am	Nehana

The Shadow Puppet Pavillon was directed by Beatrix White. This sound stage was located outside in a tent which could accommodate up to 120 people. This sound stage was open from 8:30pm --1:00am due to sound restrictions from both the venue and the City of Surrey. We utilized Chris Sturges' innovative sound ceiling to help keep the noise levels to 90 decibels outside the tent.

Shadow Puppet Sound Stage DJ Schedule

8:30 - 10:00pm	Just ian
10:00 - 10:30pm	~~Fire Show~~
10:30 - 11:20pm	Instant Love
11:20 - 12:10am	Beatrix the White
12:10 - 1:00am	DJ Tango

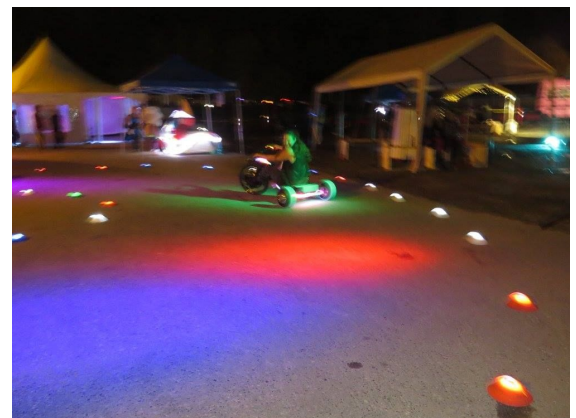


The two sound stages had two very distinct styles of music and there was a variety of DJ's, each with their distinct sound. This provided opportunities for event attendees to encounter music that they enjoyed in different spaces.

Art and Art Grants:

The following art installations and theme camps were part of Dustcovery 2016.

Hypnotrike
Miffy's Munchies
Ballsy Rocker 2



The Burner Book of "Is this Art?"

Lazer Mandala

Jellyfish Ocean

Jar of Sand

The Orca Project

The Empress Theme Camp

Directionless

Furry Hot Tub

Treat or Trick

Da Vincic's House Escape Room

Rainbow Raceway

Registroid v.3.1 "Ruby"

Volcanotron

Nomadic Nest

Topple

Sparklesketch

Shattering Self

Tiltation of Light

Titanboa Snake

Sketching Vignette

Shadow Play

Love Bus

Jellyfish Plounge

The Yard



GVIAS offered arts grants for artists to refurbish or create new art installations. They also offered micro-grants. These projects were present at the event:

Art Project
BallsyRocker 2
Miffy's Munchies
Lucifer the Flaming Lamp-post
The Orca Project
The Big Book of Burner Art
Treat or Trick
Tiltation of Light: Glowing Teeter Totter
Directionless
Jar of Sand
Kaunana Adventure Turtle
Da Vinci's Escape Room



There was a total of 26 art installations and 2 theme camps at Dustcovery 2016.

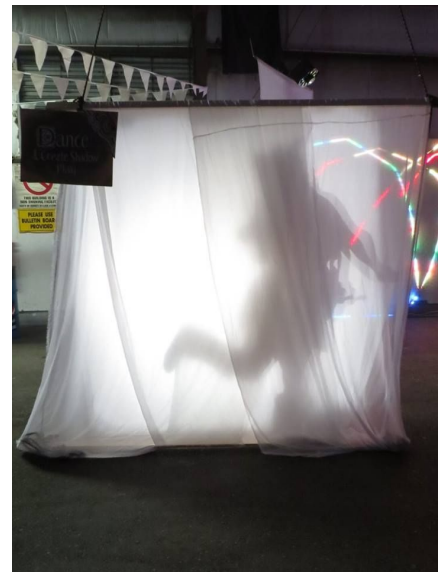


Performances:

From the start of the party at 8:30pm until 11:00pm, the Main Stage featured live individual performers and bands. There was also a performance by a live performance artist.



There were go-go dancers, poi spinners, stilt walkers and hula hoopers throughout the venue, at the shadow play station and near the dance floor. Attendees were also encouraged to model for the live sketch station too as performance art.



From 10:00-10:30pm, there was a fire performance with a dozen fire performers showcasing their skills in small groups one after another and then in one big "chaos" performance at the end.

Health and Safety:

The venue and City of Surrey required 1 security person per 100 people and insisted that GVIAS choose one of their preferred security companies. Since Genesis Security were contracted for Dustcovery 2015 and familiar with the event, they were hired again. The security staff were generally unobtrusive and responsive to suggestions. The producers briefed the head of security at the beginning of the evening and gave several instructions throughout the evening.

Ranger leads reported that there were no major incidents.

We had a First Aid station as well as roaming medics. They had no incidents to report other than a few band-aids given out.

The City of Surrey also required Surrey police to be present at the event. Two officers were present for a pre-event inspection as well as on site for the duration of the event. They checked in with both producers frequently, roamed the event site and checked behind the bar regularly. Verbal feedback at the end of the evening indicated that they had no concerns with the event and found the attendees to be friendly, cooperative, “interesting and engaging”. This did incur a significant cost to the event.



Permits, Insurance, Licenses and Inspections:

City of Surrey FEST Application

In order to hold an event in Surrey, a FEST application has to be completed and reviewed by the FEST Committee at City Hall. The application asked for logistical details, a description of the event and its purpose, a brief security plan, a medical assistance plan, parking plans and how our event would be sustainable.

The application was submitted in June 2016 and approved with conditions on July 21, 2016. The conditions were to meet with police in advance of the event at the venue site to go over security and safety plans and to send the Fire Department a more detailed description of any fire implements being utilized at the event.

All conditions were met and the application was approved including the extension of hours and increase in ticket sale numbers.

Liquor License

The Show Barn has an existing, on-going liquor license and Cloverdale Rodeo allowed us to use their license again and to allow GVIAS to run the bar and keep the proceeds.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The police noted that we did not have a copy of the liquor license posted. For future events we will need to obtain a copy of the license from Cloverdale Rodeo to post in the Show Barn.

Temporary Food Premises Application

A Temporary Food Premises Application was submitted to Fraser Health Authority in order to run the sno-cone machine and for Miffy's Munchies. While the application is cumbersome, for these two food activities the specifications were relatively simple. Anyone running the machine or handling the food needed to have access to a proper handwashing station as well as wear gloves. The set-up had to be close to the handwashing station. A separate hand-washing station was ordered from Super Save for Miffy's Munchies outside.

Fire Permits

The City of Surrey has quite strict fire by-laws and restrictions. The fire captain was amenable to working with the producer and fire performance team to get the necessary approval needed. There is not a formal application form available for this type of event.

The producer worked with Belva (fire performance team lead) and GEoff Budinski (fire safety lead) to create a fire safety plan to submit to the Surrey Fire Department.

The plan included a description of the planned activities, what type of implements would be utilized, quantity and type of fuel to be used, qualifications and experience of both performers and fire techs and a safety plan for the perimeter.

Obtaining permission was contingent on an inspection prior to the event start time. The inspector came at 7pm and spoke with Belva and GEoff as well as toured the facility with the producer.

This inspection had a cost attached to it.

Liability Insurance

GVIAS Board President, Jamie Anderson took on the role of obtaining insurance for the event. It proved to be a difficult process again, but Beacon Underwriting Ltd finally issued insurance for the event.

Electrical Inspection

The venue required an electrical inspection prior to the event start time. This inspection had a cost attached to it.

Surveys and Recommendations:

The producers administered an online survey. 149 people filled out the survey. This is almost twice as many as the previous year!

Participant Survey Feedback:

43% of the participants indicated this was their first time at Dustcovery.

9.5% of the participants indicated this was their very first “burner” event.

58% of the participants indicated that they signed up for a volunteer shift, brought their art or performed at the event.

97% of the participants indicated that the venue worked well for this event

When asked “What was your favorite part of Dustcovery?” here are some of the answers:

The music, dancing the night away, cuddle puddles, the DJ cash register, jellyfish plounge and Rainbow Raceway trikes were favorites stated by multiple respondents.

“It was great having more people at the event this year. I also really appreciated that it went until 4am. Lots of people seemed to enjoy sitting/lying down, so it was great to have a lot of space for that. The dance floor was super. Awesome work!”

“The range of art and activites available, the Love Bus, Puck's Palace, and how respectful and responsible people were!”

“Meeting such wonderful people and seeing the beautiful art and interactions filling the space! I loved coming together with a common purpose of making the time as good as possible for everyone we encountered.”

“Getting free grilled cheese in the late evening”

“The visual element. The hall was decorated so amazingly and you could a lot of effort went into making it look as awesome as it did.”

“Multiple moments of (sometimes) unexpected delight. I was sober, because responsibilities, and on many occasions, I looked around and recognized what a great event it was. So much wonderful stuff happening, and so many smiling faces!”

“taking time to explore the multitude of art/installations, so much!! Multiple spaces/vibes created. Feeling safe throughout the night, having a shuttle to & from hotel”

“Dancing. Loved all the DJs at both stages!”

What could the production team do to improve next year’s Dustcovery?

Make sure the ATM is functional in advance.

Change up the DJs

Better coordinate arrival of equipment trucks and volunteers

More covered areas outside as it rained
More food options, get food trucks to come
Art placement map posted for attendees to help them discover art installations
More concrete volunteer tasks with better onboarding training
Heaters

What was the most unexpected surprise at Dustcovery?

“How much it felt like being back on the playa (amazing work!!)”

“The awesome re-claiming of gendered bathrooms into non-gendered bathrooms :-)”

“The extra touches in the bathrooms”

“Speed of the bar line. Well done!”

“Seeing the magical transformation from set up to the start of the event!”

“How much effort was put into the details like the hand painted signs, that there were awesome chill spots set up all around, and the ball pit love bus!”

“The cool set up in the space. The chill out areas were welcome. I felt the lay-out was better than last year. “

“Seeing the event improve over last year. There were more people and more works of art and more interactive projects. It was really great. I loved seeing people comment on and check out my art piece.”

“My conversation with the police. They were very nice, and polite. They were also somewhat knowledgeable on burning man, and were receptive to a dusty story I shared with them.”

“There was actually performance art this year. Cool to see new types of creativity on display, it was awesome”

“How organized it seemed (especially for a burner event) and realizing the projections of dancing people on the indoor stage were actually live. Well done with the tech stuff!”

Other comments, questions or concerns:

Fantastic coordination job Andrea and Sparkle. One of the most well run burner events (or any event for that matter) I've seen in a while!

I loved how 'full' the venue was! The soft spaces were wonderful, the art was compelling, and the music (especially the live stuff earlier on) made me very happy.

I didn't participate in this event, cause i don't have alot of time for Burner activities these days, so i'm not really one to criticize. But.....

In the lead up to the event, the call out for help and volunteers was kind of sad. From personal experience, I find it better to inspire your community to want to participate, and volunteer, then just to ask for help. I don't really know how to convey the difference... I hope you figure it out though.

Maybe have multiple installation directories to know what and where things were, but overall it was awesome and truly felt like what a regional event should be, a slice of Burning Man. Bravo
The feedback after the event on social media was overwhelmingly positive. Actually, there were no complaints online!

This was an awesome event 😊 :) my second burner event, it was such an accepting and friendly atmosphere... cannot wait until my next event... thank you for all your efforts in making this event fantastic ❤️💜❤️💜❤️💜❤️💜

I didn't make it to the burn this year, now I need a decompression decompression to decompress from decomp. Lol. Feeling happy and fulfilled to make art and share it. Thank you to the community for providing the inspiration, drive and support to make it happen!

Wow thank you for the life-changing experience! Was my first burner event and now I cannot wait for the next one. That was the most interactive event I've ever attended, and the communal vibe was so beautiful. So much love.

WOW thank you VanBC for the amazing event. Another fine example of fantastic work and great vibes and the beautiful community you have. Best wishes from Seattle!!

I had some wonderful conversations with new people that had just been to their first burn on Sat night. It was refreshing and I quite enjoyed it! Thank you both for your hard work and dedication to this. Andi, your soft spoken and thoughtful nature is always a delight to work with. Sparkle, your git-er-done attitude is one I admire and enjoy interacting with. Thank you to both of you for wrangling all of us to make this happen.

My first burner event! You guys are all absolutely incredible. Words can't capture my gratitude and joy for everyone's hard work and the amazing humans I got to know last night

Hi Sparkle and Andi, Was great coming here and see how you guys doing it in B.C.....It was a fun and very burner like party, I had a blast, you are all invited to Midburn next yeaR!

Dustcovery 2 was epic in every sense. My only regret is that I didn't volunteer and get to spend more time with the amazing people who make this event possible. I will know better for next year. Thank you

That was amazing. Haven't danced that hard in a while. Relatively new to the community but cannot wait to be surrounded by so many rad people again. I also look forward to contributing more. Thanks for the hard work.♥

Financial Report:

REVENUES

Tickets Sold	931
Ticket Cost	\$32.50
Ticket Revenue	\$30,257.50
Donations	
Bar Sales	\$9,955.29
Total Revenues	\$40,212.79

Expenses	Actual Amount Spent
Producer honorarium 2 x \$300	\$600.00
Venue (Cloverdale Fairgrounds In-Kind Sponsorship = \$500)	\$3,154.00
Tables and chairs	\$0.00
Stage Rental	\$0.00
Forklift	\$0.00
Alcohol	\$3,327.58
Bar Supplies - ice, supplies, no alcohol drinks A&B rentals	\$645.27
Police	\$1,890.00
Insurance	\$1,375.00
Random supplies -art supplies, bathroom supplies, printing	\$180.65
First Aid	\$1,360.00
Security	\$1,586.25
Fencing	\$1,605.86
Electrical Box for outside sound stage	\$0.00
Electrical Inspection	\$530.00
Porta-potties + handwashing station	\$988.36
Chris Sturges sound stage	\$909.50
Shadow Puppet Stage - equipment/decor	\$440.87
Truck rental	\$122.84
Wrist Bands	\$87.00
Shuttle + 100.00 + 40 (2 cash tips)	\$1,524.88
Signage/printing	\$94.88
Ice	
Sno-cone coat racks/hangers	\$234.93
Photo Booth	\$555.00
Tent Rental	\$1,090.00
Travel bursaries and fuel for fire	\$269.79
Radios/headsets	\$399.50
Volunteer Appreciation Food	\$459.88
Rangers food/tea/coffee/cutlery and cups for breakfast	\$96.04
Décor	\$583.09
Extra Seating (supplies or rentals)	\$230.14
gaffe tape, fabric, batteries	\$99.72
Contingency	

Stripe Fees	\$1,564.08
Total Expenses	\$26,005.11
Net Profit	\$14,207.69
	\$1,425.00
Grants	\$1,012.50
Returned to GVIAS	\$11,770.19