



**Producer:** Andrea Arnot aka Andi Candi

**Associate Producers:** Scott Lawson-King and Hazel Stevenson

**Date:** November 17, 2018

**Hours:** 8:00pm – 2:00am

**Venue:** Harbour Convention Centre

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

**Region:** Vancouver, British Columbia

**Organization:** Greater Vancouver Interactive Arts Society

**Report Prepared by:** Andrea Arnot

## History:

Dustcovery 2018 is the eighth decompression event in Vancouver.  
The previous years have been:

Date	Event Name	Venue
October 9th, 2010	Micropolis	W2 Storyum
October 1st, 2011	Dustoff!	Cam Am Importique
November 17, 2012	Afterglow	West Coast Railway Association - CN Roundhouse
November 16, 2013	Afterglow	West Coast Railway Association - CN Roundhouse
October 17, 2015	Dustcovery	Cloverdale Rodeo
October 22, 2016	Dustcovery	Cloverdale Rodeo
November 11, 2017	Dustcovery	Cloverdale Rodeo
November 17, 2018	Dustcovery	Harbour Convention Centre

## 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".

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 in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.



## Overview:

### Dustcovery 2018 - Robots and Rainbows

The production team brainstormed themes and landed on Robots and Rainbows as a somewhat lighter take on the 2018 Burning Man theme. Plus, there are endless costume and decor ideas that go along with this theme.

With a new, multi-leveled venue, the decor team rose to the challenge of creating a cohesive, playful ambiance. There was a “stairway to heaven” leading up to the top floor that was “up in the clouds” and a giant rainbow flowing back down to main level with a “pot of gold” area at the bottom. Then, there were shiny, silver robot themed areas.





There were 2 choices for attendees for music and dancing. Puck's Palace on the main floor and the Ravebots stage on the second level.



The outdoor included an amphitheatre which was perfect for the show. In addition to the outdoor space which housed several fire art and large scale art pieces, there was a covered and somewhat enclosed space with heaters for other art pieces and conversation areas.



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. For the third year in a row, the production team hosted a “newbie reception” near the beginning of the evening. There was also a “newbie station” with volunteers there to answer questions and a “human bingo” game that created opportunities for people to interact with one another.

The Production team worked with the GVIAS Grants Committee to issue art grants for participants to refurbish existing projects or create new art installations. The total amount of art grant funding distributed was \$5,468.25.

In amongst the many art installations, both indoors and out, participants had multiple areas to congregate, dance and eat snacks gifted from production from 2 food trucks.



### **Organization and Volunteers:**

Andi Candi led the production team with assistance from two associate producers. and relied on guidance from the GVIAS board as well as experienced team leads from Dustcovery 2015, 2016 and 2017,, as well as,other GVIAS events. We were pleased to have some new community members step into lead roles again this year.

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

Hazel Stevenson & Scott Lawson-King	Associate Producers
Kristen Huskins & Kyle Almond	Art Liaison
Eve West & Chelsea Bowers	Décor
Kate Ferguson	Door
Adeline Thuillez & Lauren Ham	Volunteer Coordination
Ty Elmore	Fire Performance
Mitch Brown	Fire Safety
Ash Hoffman	Signage
Peter Blitz	Puck's Palace Stage
Adrian Moore & Dayna Scodras	Ravebots Stage
Rangers	Matt Siegle
Squishelle	Burning Man RC/Communications
Joss Klinck	Newbie Reception/Acculturation
Jennifer Hardie	Parking
Madison Holding & Kaschelle Thiessen	Special Activities
Jay Smith	Jay Smith

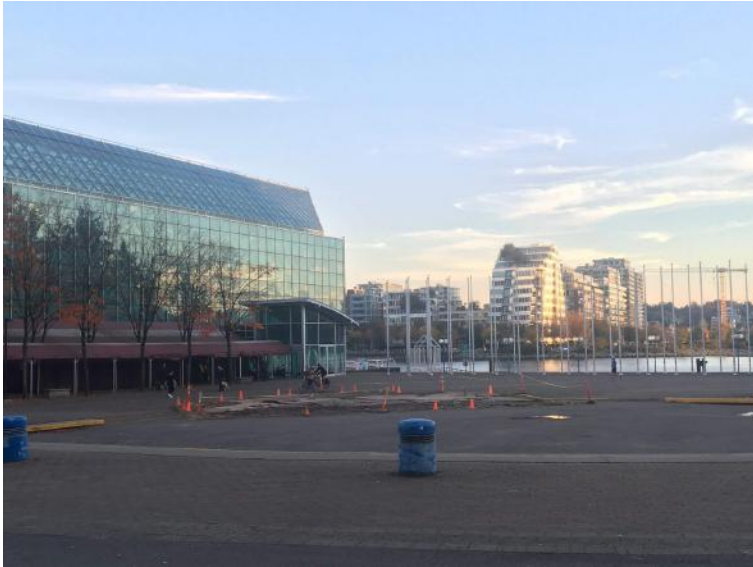
Andi Candi would like to thank each and every one of these dedicated volunteer team leads who played such a large role in making this the most successful decompression event yet!





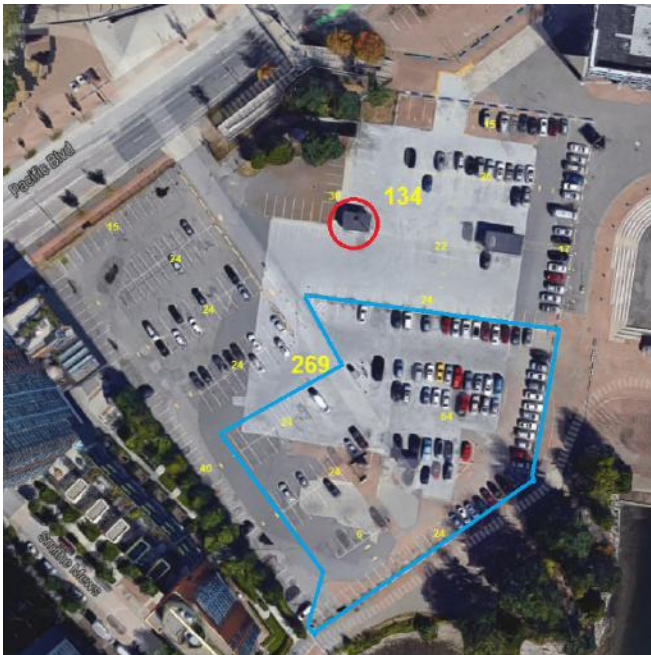
## Venue:

The Harbour Convention Centre is located right in the heart of downtown Vancouver and sits on the edge of the Burrard Inlet. It is close to all forms of transit and easily accessible. This building was part of Expo 86 and recently became an event venue after housing a casino for many years.

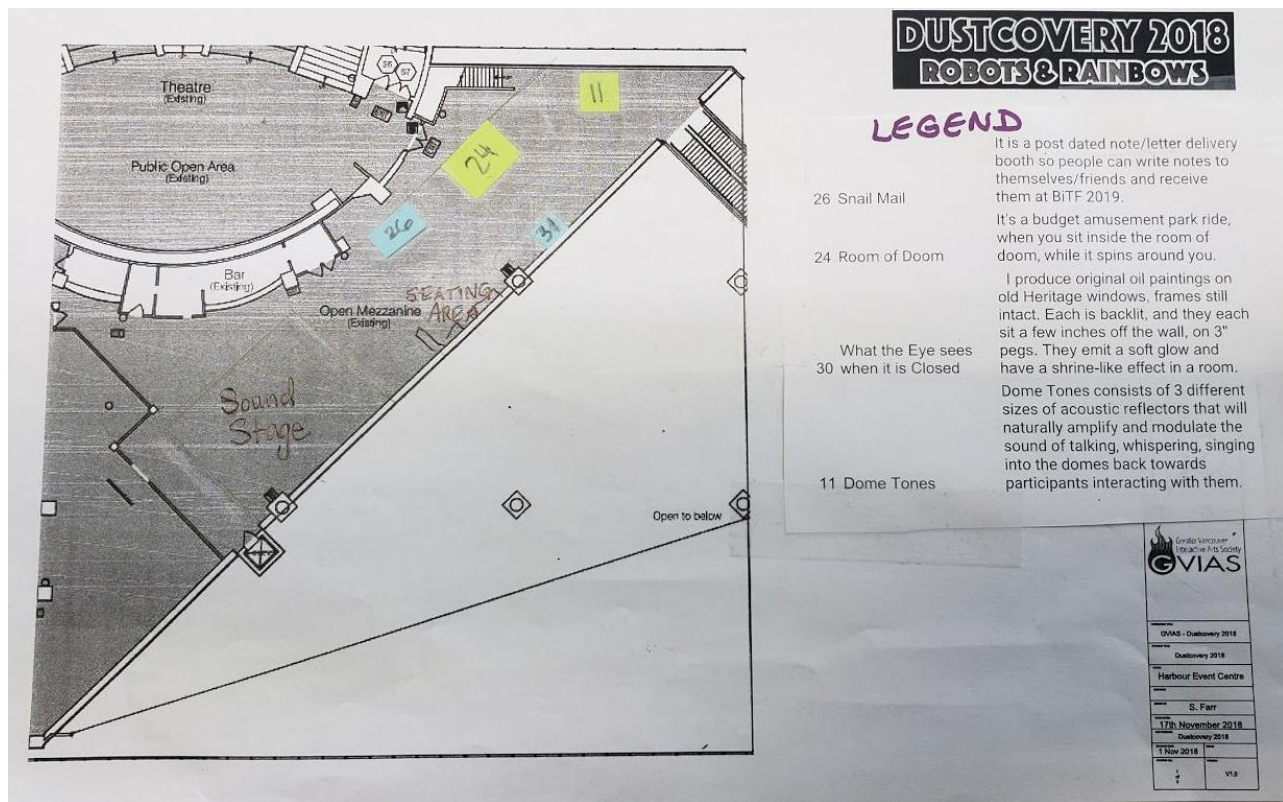
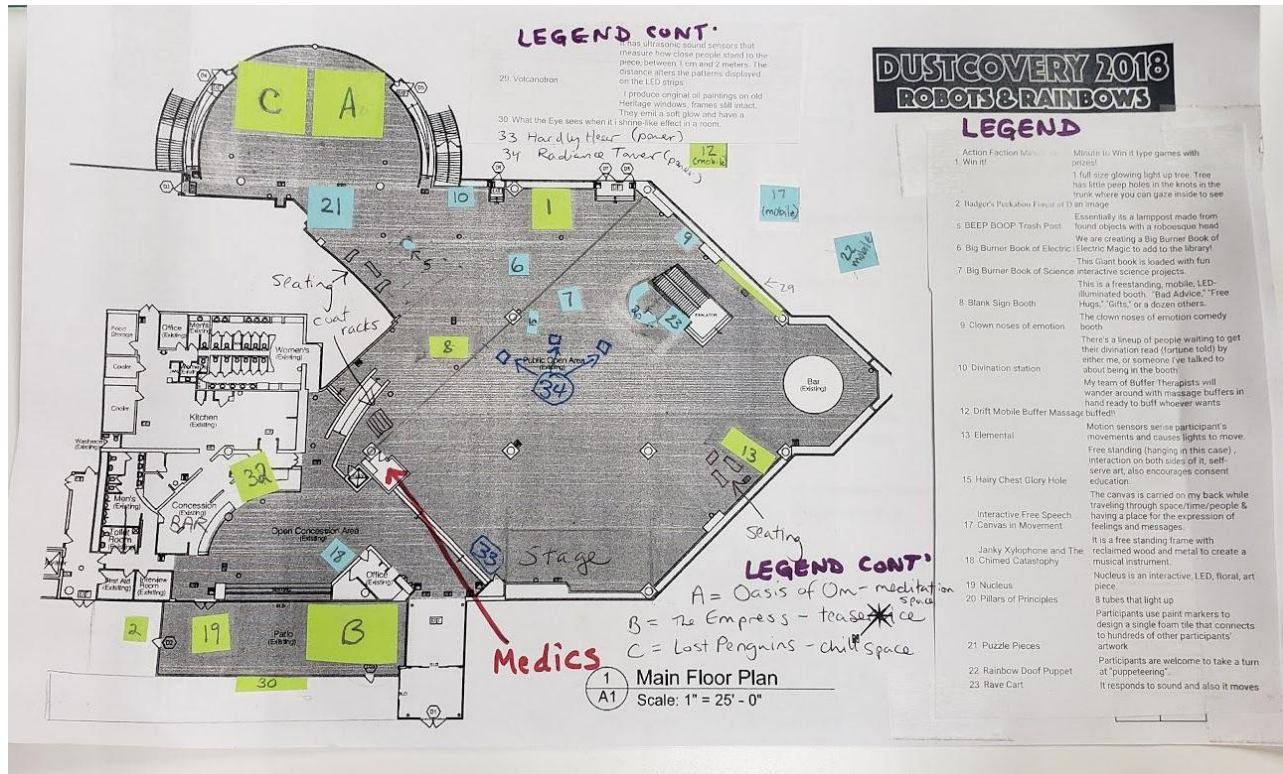


Pictured here is the outside of the building to the left and the amphitheatre area which was used for the fire show.

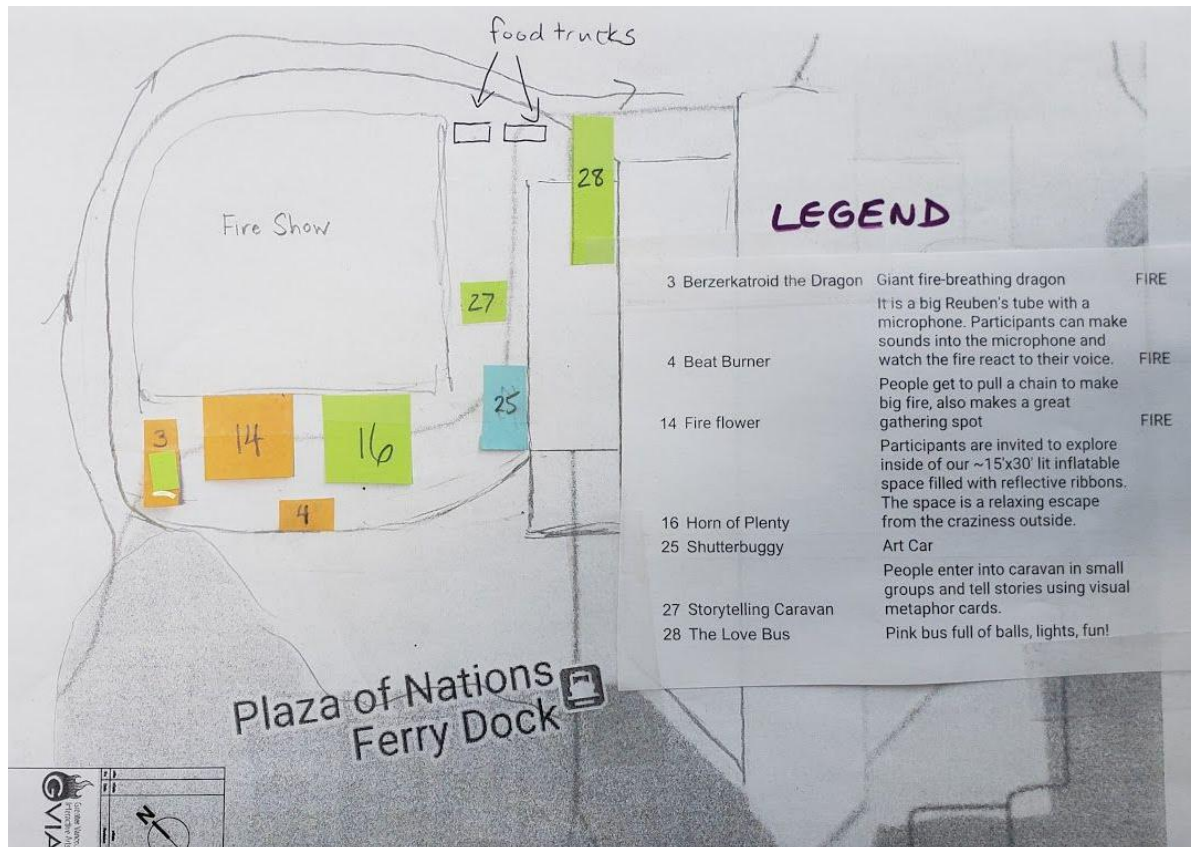
Part of the event budget was spent on securing a large number of parking stalls from Impark so that attendees, volunteers and artists had free parking.



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







## Ticket Sales:

Tickets were sold through Eventbrite as per the venue's ticketing contract.

1650 tickets were sold at \$33.50 each. In order to purchase tickets, people were required to agree to and sign a waiver of liability. Dustcovery 2018 sold out a week in advance of the event and 638 more tickets were sold than in 2017!

There were no tickets available at the door.

## Music:

Dustcovery 2018 had two sound stages available for participants to utilize: Puck's Palace and Ravebots.

Puck's Palace Main Stage was directed by Peter Blitz and brought to the event as a BitF theme camp. This sound stage was on the main level.

### ***Puck's Palace Stage DJ Schedule***

8:00pm	I.M. Ian
9:00pm	Kevin Gamle
10:00pm	Phenomedon
11:00pm	Smoothie
12:00am	Sex Traffic Panda
1:00am	Skywalker



### ***Ravebots Sound Stage DJ Schedule***

8:00pm	Elixir
9:00pm	DJ Joe
10:00pm	Juicy Jams
11:00pm	Instant Love
12:00am	DJ Tango
1:00am	diem



The two sound stages had two very distinct styles of music and there was a variety of DJs, each with their distinct sound. This provided opportunities for event attendees to encounter music that they enjoyed in different spaces. Go-go dancers and LED performers were scheduled throughout the evening.

### **Art and Art Grants:**

The following art installations and theme camps were part of Dustcovery 2018.

Art	GVIAS Grant Recipients
Beat Burner	Yes
Beep Boop Trash Post	
Berserkatroid Dragon	
Big Burner Book of Science repair	Yes
Birdcage Pedicab	
Blink-E's Universe	
ConnectiviTEA	Yes
Divination Station addendum	Yes



DomeTones	Yes
Drift mobile buffer massage	
Electric Magic touch page	Yes
elemental	Yes
Fire Flower	
Gypsy Storytelling Caravan	Yes
Hair Chest Glory Hole	
Hardly Hear	
Horn of Plenty	
Interactive Free Speech Canvas in Movement	Yes
Janky Xylophone & Chimed Catastophy	Yes
Nehana (stickers)	Yes
Nucleus - Iris 1 Precursor	Yes
Pillars of Principles	
Puzzle Pieces pt. 2	Yes
Radiance Towers	
Rainbow Cakes	
Rainbow Doof Puppet	Yes
Rave Cart	Yes
Shutterbuggy	
Snail Mail	
The Blank Sign Booth - Radically Illuminated Edition	Yes
The Clown Noses of Emotion	Yes
The Love Bus	
The Room of Doom	Yes
Volcanotron	
What the Eye Sees When It Is Closed	Yes
<b>Theme Camps</b>	<b>GVIAS Grant Recipients</b>
The Really Lost Penguin Ice Cave	Yes
Badger's Peekaboo Forest	
The Empress	
Oasis of Om	





There was a total of 39 art installations and theme camps at Dustcovery 2018.





From 10:30pm - 10:55pm, there was a fire performance with over a dozen fire performers showcasing their skills in small groups one after another and then in one big “chaos” performance at the end.

Go-go performers and stilters were scheduled through the evening.



## **Health and Safety:**

The venue included security in the rental pricing. They used a combination of their own in-house security and Genesis Security. For their liquor and event venue licensing, they were required to have one security person per 100 attendees. No police were required to be at the event.

Ranger leads reported that there were no major incidents.

We had a First Aid station, as well as, roaming medics. They had no major incidents.

## **Permits, Insurance, Licenses and Inspections:**

### ***City of Vancouver Permits***

Because this venue is on privately owned property, the permit structure falls under the Development, Buildings and Licensing Department at City of Vancouver. A meeting with a representative of this license department, fire and rescue and police was required.

The Film and Special Events Office needed to sign off on the sea wall bike re-route plan after the property owner approved the plan.

### ***Liquor License***

The venue held the liquor license and ran the bar. This was one of the conditions required by both the venue owner and the City of Vancouver.

### ***Fire Permits***

The City of Vancouver fire inspector was away on holidays leading up to the event. The fire permits were obtained and stamped on the Friday right before the event. Because the producer has obtained multiple fire permits for other events with “burner” fire art and fire performance over the past two years, the fire inspector only did a quick inspection during the fire performance rehearsal on event day.

### ***Liability Insurance***

GVIAS Board President took on the role of obtaining insurance for the event. Beacon Underwriting Ltd finally issued insurance for the event.

### ***Electrical Inspection***

City of Vancouver required Galactic Entertainment, who ran power for the event, to submit a form indicating that their supervisor was certified.

## **Venue Concerns and Challenges:**

1. The venue manager switched dates late in the planning process probably due to booking a big name DJ show on the original date.
2. Due to venue liquor licensing, the venue had to run the bar. Production asked for several low cost options, including cider, but there was only Budlight offered and higher priced drinks.
3. Venue manager originally agreed to let GVIAS run a self serve coat check. This decision was changed one week before the event. Coat check was ridiculously expensive until production



intervened.

4. If we are using both floors, there has to be accessible access to the second floor.
5. There were not enough bathrooms. Production asked the venue manager what their capacity inside was and if they had enough bathrooms. We were assured that there were. At peak time, there were 30 minute bathroom waits. Porta-potties outside would have alleviated this.
6. Production had asked the venue manager to have free water available at the bars. This was an issue the entire evening.
7. It wasn't clear that attendees were allowed to go out the side of the front entrance to go to outside space. This created a bottleneck at the other single door exit.

## Feedback Survey Results Summary:

The producer administered an online survey. 105 people filled out the survey.

### Participant Survey Feedback:

29% of respondents had NOT been to Dustcovery before.

#### ***What did you like about the venue? (especially in comparison to previous venues)***

Awesome space and downtown. Hope we don't have to go back to Surrey next year.

Location!!! 🥰 size, carpet/soft floor, multiple bars, multiple places to explore

The lighting was better - multiple djs - downtown location was sooo easy to get to!!!decor was amazing!!!

Close to home/transit, great indoor and outdoor spaces, big capacity

Good separation between spaces- upstairs, main party zone, back quieter zone, outside zone.

Great venue! Spacious, close & easily accessible by transit! Great amphitheatre seating style for fire show (everyone could see!), Free food trucks (absolutely amazing)

Proximity to transit was great. Lots of indoor warm space resulted in awesome sexy costumes. Open staircases to second floor made for good people-watching and friend-finding. Sound travelled well without being bleedy or losing clarity between stages.

This one seemed more intimate. Less spacey. Easier to exist in and be comfortable. Even though I live near cloverdale this Vancouver venue is way way better

Easier to get to. The "out of town" version was harder to get to, but also created for some very rewarding adventures.

Loved the location - close to so many people meant public transit and bikes were in play!

Loved the indoor & outdoor sections, and the tent (tea room, etc.)!

Loved the two separate sound stages (upstairs was a bit claustrophobic... but still better to have a choice!)

Loved the size of the space (last year felt a bit 'empty' because the space was so big?)

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

The music was phenomenal! I loved the gay presence represented here!

Everything except the bathrooms lol. Seriously, it was amazing and you guys did an incredible job. Loved the theme (really easy to go all in or pull together last minute and made for a great visual feel), the newbie event was a great idea, your communication was great, the acculturation effort were brilliant, love the vast amount of participation.

Decorations, the positive buzzing vibe, great music, and the gift of tea and food. Thank you GVIAS for the latter.

The decor. Very beautifully done. Having the food trucks, that was very exciting <3

The small art projects! I loved the Adopt a Stuffed Animal project, the Chest Hair Glory Hole, the pots & pans noise-making platform and Oasis of Om's body buffing!

Feeling playa vibes in Vancouver was really special and made for a magical night. The communal effort was very obvious, and I really appreciated how much work everyone put into it.

Honestly? Volunteering! It was really satisfying to be a part of putting together such a beautiful event. (Gotta say, I really, really, REALLY loved seeing people enjoying the pillow puddle that I helped to build.)

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

++++ more taps/ water fountains so that people could more easily fill up their water bottles and of course more bathroom stalls...

Better and cheaper drink choices... Posted schedule? Later Newbie tour times? Maybe I missed both, but yeah, felt like I didn't know what was going on lots of the time and totally missed out on tasty food.

Porta potties outside. LOTS OF THEM.

The biggest issue I noticed was a lack of general signage in the venue - bar menus, water stations (visible from a distance), directional signage to the fire show, etc. The entrance into the event felt a bit disorganized - security should have been before ticketing, and the line felt uncontrolled. I think the upstairs stage should have been where the penguins cuddle puddle was way in the back, to create better acoustic separation.

A centrally placed large map, or maybe more than one. More in the covered heated area outside. Use of the upstairs bathrooms.

***What was the most unexpected surprise at Dustcovery?***

1500 people for only 6 hours actually meant too much time for me personally saying hi to people i knew. super overwhelming. at bitf you have 4 days to get to everyone. 6 hours was stressful. did not expect this

How efficient the door was handled. I was worried I would need to line up for an hour, but it was very quick!

Nooks and crannies full of new experiences!

The lighting of the main stage made it feel like a sound camp at Burning Man!

How big the crowd was - Dustcoveries have always felt smaller in the past. I do think the large venue was great, but it sacrificed some intimacy of past events.

I remember walking in and just thinking "wow" - the design, the decor, the stiltwalkers

There was no cider! and the only beer was awful Budweiser!! Also as someone with a bum knee I wished the escalator had worked.

***I had an issue with someone violating my consent or invading my personal space. (It would be helpful to let us know if you told a Ranger or security or not)***

Multiple times. I didn't need assistance and handled it myself but had multiple men hug or grab me without asking, one who tried to do it several times. I watched this happen to other women. For the most part, it appeared to be very intoxicated people who felt like they wanted to hug people. It contributed to my decision to leave early.

Nope, really good in this regard and far better than any nightclub

Actually was pleased at seeing people asking for consent before taking pictures and asking before touching my outfit.

Some leering on the dance floor from newbies early in the evening.

Yes, was groped at puck's, no i did not alert rangers as it was a fairly low grade violation

***Other comments, questions or concerns:***

Venue was great. Production seemed very smooth. Ticket line was very long. Prices at bar were very high. Wish bar could be run by gvias (lower prices and \$\$ to gvias)

There was no access to upstairs for ppl who are unable to manage stairs....due to ability, injury or costume. The escalator should have been turned on OR there should have been access to the elevator. Several ppl I spoke with felt very excluded. Especially as a friend of ours was DJing up there and we couldn't partake.

I love you and appreciate the work you put in to making a huge event in the city. It takes a huge amount of



work and that is recognized <3 Thank you for your service to the community.

Great job! I know it's hard working with a new venue but besides the sound, time & sales of things it really did come together wonderfully. I personally would prefer Cloverdale or another venue in the future as all the things I listed really weighed down an otherwise awesome experience! Xoxox

Thank you for your hard work! 1600 felt like a really big event. So many people! I felt like dancing felt squishy this year. But the event was fantastic. So many great camps and art installations.

THANKS ANDI & CREW!!! I'll continue to volunteer as long as my heart beats.

## Financials

<b>Dustcovery 2018</b>	
<b>Revenues</b>	
<b>1600 Tickets Available</b>	
	<b>Budget</b>
Tickets Sold	1650
Ticket Cost	\$33.50
Ticket Revenue	\$55,275.00
Donations	
Bar Sales	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$55,275.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Producer honorarium 1 x \$500 2 x assoc producers @ 250	\$1,000.00
Venue (includes security, cleaning, tech) 13,500 + 3800 for mezzanine level	\$17,300.00
Pipe and Drape	\$1,113.59
Security overnight	\$420.00
Alcohol	
Bar Supplies - supplies, no alcohol drinks	
Permit for outdoor space (city = 40 fire = 20)	\$60.00
Insurance	\$1,875.00
Random supplies -art supplies, bathroom supplies	\$500.00
First Aid	\$1,393.50
Parking lot buy out Impark	\$2,380.00
Fencing + handwash station	\$3,828.00
Fire Inspection	
Power drops + potential tech hours	\$882.00

Outside sound stage + fire show sound (for DJ equip, lights, decor)	\$2,043.35
Bike and pedestrian reroute signs, pylons Whites LES	\$80.36
Truck rental + gas Penske	\$374.78
Wrist Bands	\$101.85
Shuttle (+\$150 cash tip)	
Signage/printing (Give Ash \$450 as a budget so we can print maps)	\$294.06
Cotton candy maker rental + supp[lies	\$170.72
Cotton candy maker LED sticks	\$695.59
Vancouver Coastal Health	\$50.00
Portable Electric Generators for outdoor art installations	\$560.00
Tent Rental	\$1,252.58
Fuel for fire show	\$141.66
Travel bursaries	
Radios/headsets	\$464.00
Volunteer Appreciation Food	\$1,000.00
Sunday Volunteer Food	\$130.75
Rangers food/tea/coffee	
Décor Team	\$2,110.30
Extra Seating - Helium Tank	\$338.24
gaffe tape, fabric	\$60.26
Food trucks	\$2,550.00
Quicket Fees	
Stripe Fees	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$43,170.59</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>\$12,104.41</b>
<b>Returned to GVIAS</b>	<b>\$12,104.41</b>