



A Taste of “That Thing in the Desert” Effigy Burn (photo: Lisa ‘Sunrise’)

Sharing our Principles & Giving Back (C10)

As the LEA starts gearing up for 2017 and our biggest initiative, Freezer Burn, we’d like to share what we’ve been up to for the past few months. Freezer Burn 2016: Myths and Legends was a great success! We’ve donated a percentage of our proceeds to the Ponoka Elementary School and after a community vote, Burners without Borders. And our first post-event MOOP Map was mostly green! The LEA reached out to the default world and shared our principles along with A Taste of “That Thing in the Desert” with more than 500 participants at our Beakerhead event. This event was made more Burner-tastic by the special AToTTITD grants that highlighted the Gifting, Participation and Immediacy principles. We also gave back to the default world by volunteering at civic engagement events including sorting donations at the Drop-In and Rehab Centre Society, helping a local senior paint his house, and sorting clothes at the Mustard Seed in both Edmonton and Calgary. And don’t forget that LEA members can borrow our community button maker. Oh and there’s a little Freezer Burn 2017 teaser to get you excited about volunteering!

Freezer Burn 2016: Myths and Legends Donations

We donated 10% of Freezer Burn’s net surplus. We like to give back to the local community near where Freezer Burn is held so we donated \$1400 to the Ponoka Elementary School. In addition, we hold a survey each year after Freezer Burn for our community to vote on which Burning Man organization to send the other 5%. This year, Burners without Borders was selected to receive the \$1400 donation.



Fraya 2016 at night (photo: Lisa ‘Sunrise’)

Freezer Burn 2016: Myths and Legends MOOP Map

The Fraya Restoration team is crucial in ensuring our activities leave minimal impact on the Ranch's ecosystem. They worked tirelessly after the event to ensure there's no Matter Out of Place (MOOP). As a community, our goal is to not just leave no trace of ourselves, but to leave it better than it was found. In general, we did a good job. Most of our first post-event MOOP Map is green, but there's room for improvement. There's a few yellow camps, orange art and some large items were left behind (black red rimmed dots). Next year, let's strive to leave the Fraya in better condition. Suggestions to help make the whole map green include helping MOOP sweep the communal burns/fireworks areas, make sure no large items are left behind at your camp and pay special attention to carpet fibres. Together, we can make the Fraya green again!



A Taste of "That Thing in the Desert" 2016 (all photos: Chris Tait)

Initiative: Beakerhead: A Taste of "That Thing in the Desert"

2016 was our third year hosting a Beakerhead event in Calgary. Each year, we strive to showcase our community and its principles with A Taste of "That Thing in the Desert" on the Friday night of Beakerhead. This is an event for non-burners to experience and learn about our culture. And did we ever share our culture this year! With the help of special AToTTITD grants from our Organization Opportunity Grant from Calgary Arts Development, our community built and burned an effigy, encouraged participation through an effigy decoration workshop, created a communal piece of art and gifted a ton of dim sum, lemonade and hot chocolate! We had more than 500 participants perusing 10 principles art, running a mail race, checking out camp domes and yurts, viewing performances including a fire spinning spectacular, dancing to DJs and watching our effigy burn. In fact, Beakerhead was so proud of our event that they gave the LEA a Pair of Robot Socks Award to signify that this year we "pulled up our socks" and threw a spectacular event! The LEA would like to congratulate our producer, Remi Sauvé, for organizing such a well-received event this year!



Our Team Leads for AToTTITD 2016; Producer Remi in red hat (Photo: Chris Tait)

LEA Grants

The LEA loves to share the wealth and help get Extraordinary art projects off the ground. Our current grant deadline is March 31, 2017, our last grant quarter prior to Freezer Burn 2017. So it's a great time for aspiring artists to apply for a grant: <http://www.extraordinaryalbertans.ca/grant-application/>.

The LEA supported these projects that were displayed at Beakerhead: A Taste of "That Thing in the Desert":

The Nomad's Apothecary

Welcomed all with open arms to A Taste of "That Thing in the Desert". Gifted 60 glasses of lemonade and 160 cups of hot chocolate; all with a smile and meaningful human connection.



(photo: Chris Tait)



(photo: Chris Tait)

Live Interactive Painting with Heyso

Kids of all ages (but a lot of kids) took part in creating a communal piece of art using spray paint. Education on tools such as can control, caps and colours. Encouraged Participation and Radical Expression principles at AToTTITD.

The Ramen Shamans present Renegade Bunny Dim Sum

The Ramen Shamans shack offered an interactive taste of authentic Asian cuisine. Participants spun the bunny wheel and performed the interactive task to be rewarded with a freshly steamed bunny dim sum (not made from bunnies) at AToTTITD.



(photo: Chris Tait)



(photo: Chris Tait)

Effigy Participation/Decoration Workshop

Participants created a piece of art to add to the effigy before it was burned. They used sharpies to write their message or draw on provided sticks and then attached them to the effigy prior to the AToTTITD burn.

A Taste of "That Thing in the Desert" Effigy

Built a 7-ft tall effigy with a wide base and narrow top (as per fire permit) out of deadwood from a local park on a brick/corrugated steel base. Burned it down.



(photo: Chris Tait)

Civic Engagement

Throughout the year, the LEA organizes civic engagement events to give back to the default world. Many of our members gift their time to come together and lend a helping hand to those in need. We are such an active community in regards to civic engagement that the LEA has a page on Burners without Borders: <http://www.burnerswithoutborders.org/projects/league-of-extraordinary-albertans-lea>

But we can always give back more. Should you have any civic engagement event ideas, please share them with us at extraordinaryalbertans@gmail.com. Here's what we've been up to recently:

Preventing Freezer Burn in the Less Fortunate

On November 19, a group of Extraordinary Albertans volunteered their time at the Calgary Drop-In and Rehab Centre Society where they helped sort items that will be used to help keep the less fortunate warm during the cold winter months in Calgary. Volunteers were kept busy unloading containers of donations and sorting them. Our Extraordinary elves worked so efficiently that it was tough to keep them busy for the full 3 hours. Way to go, team!



Painting a Local Senior's House

On December 11, three Extraordinary Albertans showed up to give back by painting a local senior's house. Ray had a bad fall a few weeks prior and was in need of surgery so he was unable to finish his painting job. Remi, Randy and Jason donated their time that Sunday to give Ray a hand finishing his interior painting. Bravo boys!



Santa's Little Extraordinary Helpers (Edmonton Edition)

On December 17, Edmonton Burners volunteered with The Mustard Seed to help organize Mugs of Joy and Christmas Backpacks. They filled the Backpacks and Mugs with socks, gloves, hand warmers, coffee gift cards, hats and other items that help individuals living in poverty. These joyful items will be given out on Christmas Day so that everyone experiences some holiday magic. Our Extraordinary little helpers had a great time connecting as a community while helping those in need!



Santa's Little Extraordinary Helpers (Calgary's third Edition)

On December 22, a Burner crew volunteered at the Mustard Seed Donation Centre. While this was our third edition, it was supposed to be the first time organizing Christmas backpacks. But the need for warm clothes superseded the need for backpacks, so our task was changed to sort as many donation bags as possible. So we pulled up our glittery socks and went to work and managed to get through much of the giant pile of donations. Our merry group of Extraordinary helpers certainly spread some holiday warmth this year!



Community Resources: Button Maker

The LEA purchased a Button Maker for community use in 2016. Any LEA member may borrow the Button Maker (and we have button supplies you can purchase at cost). So if you are a member and you'd like to make some buttons, send an email to extraordinaryalbertans@gmail.com outlining your button intent and we'll help you imPRESS your friends.

Initiative: Freezer Burn 2017

The application is approved and the producers and team leads are stepping up to make Freezer Burn 2017, our 10th regional burn, the best one yet! The Man burns on Saturday June 24th. Watch our Facebook page or sign-up to become a member (<http://www.extraordinaryalbertans.ca/become-a-member/>) to get important emails. And think on how you can participate by volunteering at Freezer Burn. Your experience at our festival will only improve when you step up to contribute to the magic. Get involved at the Town Halls: Calgary January 29; Edmonton February 12.