NOT SUBMITTED

Reviewers cannot see your material until you submit your application. Once you have finished the last step, you will receive a confirmation message and ID number.

Burning Man Arts

Black Rock City Honoraria - 2015 - Letter of Intent

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Forms   Edit

Burning Man Arts Black Rock City Artist Info 2015   (* = required)

1. Lead Artist

The name and contact info that was entered on the registration page will be the primary contact that we use regarding this application. If the lead artist is different from the primary contact, please enter the lead artist's name here.

2. Artist Group, Collective or Organization

If applicable

  NYC Resistor

3. Project Website

If you already have a website for this project, please share the link here.

  http://www.templeoftheunticketed.net/

Burning Man Arts Black Rock City Art Info 2015   (* = required)

1. Art Installation Title*

Please provide us with the working title of your art installation.

Temple of the Unticketed

2. Project Summary*

In 300 characters or fewer, describe the project for which you are requesting funding. Please briefly describe the physical presence and the interactivity of the project or program.

The Temple of the Unticketed brings people together, even if they can't make it to Burning Man. The installation encourages participants both on and off playa to contribute four frame photo vignettes which are displayed on 512 backlit LCD screens attached to eight freestanding structures.

3. What is the philosophy of your piece?*

What are you hoping to express with the manifestation of your installation? What does the art mean to you and what do you hope to communicate to participants?

For every participant who makes it out to Black Rock City there are many who do not. Participants who don't make it Home can listen to BMIR, watch Ustream, and send postcards to their friends, but don't have any way to express themselves in a way that feels connected. The goal of the Temple of the Unticketed is to connect participants on and off playa in a way that is playful and respectful of the Ten Principles.

The Temple of the Unticketed encourages participants to record four frame vignettes through a virtual photo booth app. The app can be accessed off playa via the web, and on playa via a kiosk or a WLAN network near the piece. Theme suggestions are included to encourage participant creativity.

Vignettes will be displayed on the physical piece as well as a virtual one. The two pieces will stay in sync so participants feel a connection to each other. The installation will utilize redundant methods of low bandwidth connectivity to transfer submissions.

The project features a couple of other subtle aspects. As new submissions are added, old ones are deleted permanently, a digital equivalent of leave no trace. Vignette images are tinted and started in patterns such that from a distance the temple displays themes of time, space and connectivity.

Interacting with the Temple of the Unticketed should leave participants feeling connected to a larger community and a sense that the Ten Principles can extend beyond the borders of Black Rock City.

4.

Please share a brief physical description of the piece – what will it look like? How will it be interactive? Paint us a picture of its physical manifestation and its interactivity.
*

From a distance a participant sees something that looks vaguely like an LED installation, but there's something strange about it. The lights look larger, square, and they're flashing a sort of earthy colored wave pattern.

Curious she approaches and sees eight upright panel structures, each about 7'x8', arranged in a 32' octagon. Each panel houses a number of LCD screens arranged in a grid, four across and sixteen down. The screens are displaying what appear to be sepia toned animated gifs of people, some clearly dusty and on playa, others in various living rooms. There seems to be some sort of steampunk theme happening. One screen is showing a cat wearing a top hat and brass goggles.

Off to one side there's a photo booth. She steps inside and sees a secured tablet running a photo booth app. The app is pink and sparkly and reads "Show us your best sparklepony!" Pressing the button a countdown begins, "3, 2, 1, click, click, click, click". Unprepared she presses the button again. After a few attempts she gets it just right: four sparkly pink frames featuring a thirsty traveller, an empty flask and some animated pleas. Satisfied she hits submit and the app thanks her and assures she will appear at some point.

Sometime around sunrise the screens begin to turn pink. Somewhere in Brooklyn another participant is looking at the synchronized virtual installation. After zooming in on a few he decides to contribute his own.

Burning Man Arts Black Rock City LOI 2015
(* = required)

1. How does this art installation fit our mission?*

The mission of Burning Man Arts is to change the paradigm of art from a commodified object to an interactive, participatory, shared experience of creative expression.

The Temple of the Unticketed fits this mission because it encourages participants in Black Rock City to collaborate with participants all over the world to create a shared virtual and physical experience.

The interactivity of submitting vignettes that are shown on the installation is obvious, but will hopefully lead to collaboration in ways we don't expect. One clever contribution could inspire many variations on the theme, similar to the way memes spread on social networks. We hope to drive this behavior by suggesting themes at specific times.

Temple of the Unticketed creates community in the sense that people who experience the sculpture will have the opportunity to form a bond with people who can only attend the event virtually. Vignettes may show people waving, dancing, or otherwise sending messages of love to other participants.

Blog posts and discussions about technology and immediacy gave us pause about the merits of this project. How can adding another 512 screens to an event trying pull people away from

their screens be a good thing? Our hope is that the design of the photo booth app is restrictive enough to prevent becoming playa-instagram. The intent of ephemeral nature of the interaction is to keep people in the moment; maybe you will see your friends, but more probably you wont.

2.
Where do you see your art project being experienced? At the annual Burning Man event, in other locations, or both?
*

Burning Man/Black Rock City

3. Is this an existing artwork, or a proposed concept?*

In Progress

4. What is your expected cost range for this art installation?*

This is not necessarily the potential grant amount. We understand this is an anticipated cost and the amount may somewhat change at the stage of submitting a full proposal.

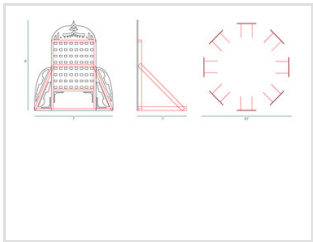Please enter whole numbers only in US dollars.

Minimum Cost	Maximum Cost
8000	10000

5. Cost Range Explanation
Optional

Primarily electronics. 512 screens, 32 beaglebones, power supplies, batteries, networking, tablet, wood

MEDIA Edit

TotU Design Sketch

TotU Concept Image

Screen capture from Processing sketch to emulate TotU

Early Testing

Early proof of concept driving one of the screens