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Luna Fete

12.15.17

I went to Luna Fete on Saturday, December 9 at 5:30 PM. At that time, Lafayette Park was already crowded. The first thing I did was go over to the food stalls since I had not eaten for the night yet. I didn’t expect much–just some fairground concessions. Unfortunately, the food wasn’t quite to my liking. The next order of action was to find the sculpture that I was supposed to hang out at.

I walked around the entire park and viewed most, if not all, the pieces of art, but only very briefly. For some reason, I could not find any other students or Dr. Snow around the art pieces. In hindsight, I should have downloaded the app for better descriptions of the art.

Then came the main presentation of the event, which was completely unexpected since I didn’t have the app nor the schedule for the event. It was a nice collage of art superimposed on one of the buildings. The production and demonstration were really surprising at first; those first few years must have allowed them to fix most of the kinks. The show had a wild combination of visual and audio components–probably indicative of a collaborative effort. However, I find that despite its production value, it had a few shortcomings. First of all was the placement of the speakers. While I understand that it was logistically easier to have both projector and speaker mounted in the same pillar, it detracted from the audio experience for those on the edges of the viewing area. The second is mostly my own opinion: I would have liked the show better if there was some story telling element to it. Some of the pieces introduced characters or settings, but was quickly replaced by the next elements. I believe the show would have been more captivating if each piece lead into each other either through prior planning or being sequenced together. With Luna Fete being a yearly event, I don’t see why not have multiple submissions from the various artists to be combined at the end.

There was also a bull sculpture made of semi-transparent material that was quite the light show when the sky turned dark. The sculpture was quite popular; I saw many people pose and take pictures around the bull testicles that were oh so conveniently lit up, too. That was a fun little detail. That exhibit was the centerpiece of the young adult crowd I suppose. Conversely, the standing bars were the main attraction for the young kids since they could wrap themselves in it. Incidentally, that was also the first place I saw Dr. Snow; he was with his daughter, and of course, his daughter was interested in the bars. But of course, the area was crowded with parents watching their kids, so I decided not to approach.

The arts market was fairly typical. There were lots of prints available for sale, but I didn’t see any that was worth their considerable prices (for a student not interested in having more paintings). There were a few crafted pieces and even a stall selling jewelry. I remember looking at one well crafted ring made out of some salvaged brass and aluminum. I considered getting it, but it needed some resizing; it was comically big–probably around double the radius of a normal finger.

If I were to display a piece of art at Luna Fete, I would probably try to improve on the light show. Luna Fete already has a laser display in a few presets: mist, waves, and lattice. The food stalls nearby added a nice smoke effect that accentuated the lasers. I would probably try to have the lights mimic the waveforms of the music being played. In essence, it would be similar to a hologram or a virtual concert. However, this would probably increase the cost of hosting Luna Fete a dramatic amount for little benefit in addition to the presence of the other art pieces. If anything, I could just try to make a physical sculpture representative of something, but I digress.