

AfterBurn Report

Element 11 2024: Oasis of Dreams



Photo by Bidy Latimer of Drone Flyover of Event

The Mission of Element 11 is to ignite a community of creativity and self-expression.

Board of Directors

Jordan Lenaburg _____	Chairman
Janis Mayfield _____	Safety Director
Cameron Glegg _____	Finance Director
Jared Yates Decker _____	Operations Director
Jack Davis _____	Volunteer Director
Mitchell Nielsen _____	Production Director
Thomas George _____	Arts Director
Samir Suthar _____	Community Director

Cabinet

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Justin Hogue _____	E11 Public Works (EPW)
Callie Hogue _____	Swag Quartermaster
Shandi Lenaburg _____	Box Office
David Giardinelli _____	Center Camp
Bradley Kessler _____	Theme Camps
Bobby Gittins _____	Flame Arts
Jenny Lynn Giberson _____	Medical
Jaidy Carlson _____	Sanctuary
Robby Stjernholm (Princess Stephanie) _____	Engine 11
Drew Latta _____	Radio Wrangler
Ric George _____	WebMaster
Adrielle Vance _____	Social Media
Ryan Parks _____	Graphic Design



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Introduction

Element 11 marked another amazing year in 2024. We crossed milestones and broke records this year. 2024 marked another record of art grants, totaling over \$100,000 for the first time in the history of the event. We introduced new departments to help navigate logistical challenges that have been growing for a number of years. The digital transition of the organization was almost fully completed in 2024, with the final process not digitized being paper checks for art grants. We continued to foster our outstanding relationship with Box Elder County and the owners of Stargazer Ranch. The community demonstrated real dedication to the 10 Principles this year, and from an organizational perspective, the event was executed flawlessly.



Photo by Jess Lyman of the Board of Directors

A Word from the Chair

Jordan Lenaburg – Chairman

2024 will be my final year on the Board of Directors, having served 6 years. Throughout these years, it has been my honor to watch the Element 11 organization grow from a small arts event to a powerhouse of enablement for the local art community. From a population of only 1300 attendees to a population of 2200 over 6 short years. It's difficult to really overstate how successful 2024 was for our organization, and I am beyond pleased with the current state of Element 11 and the position of the organization moving forward.



In previous years, filling BOD positions has been a struggle. At the beginning of this year, we were fortunate to fill all vacancies on the Board of Directors with truly outstanding individuals. Heading into the event with a full team led to immense success. Additionally, to help combat future recruitment challenges, we introduced an internship program in 2024. This has allowed us to find and onboard amazing new people who are intended to replace the existing BOD members as they roll off. So far, this program has been very successful, with our current interns handling our Finance and Operations department. This program has allowed us to give our new people exposure to the daily challenges of being a board member well before they transition. Our hope is this will further our cause of reducing organizational burnout. In addition to the new internship positions, we introduced a completely new department to help with the logistical challenges of directing 2200 people where to go for the event. Our Placement team worked very well, and there are definitely some process improvements that we are expecting to handle next year.

We introduced a few new policies for the 2024 event, notably our new Sound policy. Compliance by theme camps and sound camps was awesome. Through the entirety of the event we did not have a single escalated sound complaint. Another large change to how the event played out was the introduction of the parking lot. While there was definitely some confusion regarding which was the appropriate vehicle pass to purchase (for which I take personal responsibility), the experiment was amazingly successful. The community did a wonderful job of self-policing their vehicles, and the *feel* of the event was not one of “walking through a parking lot”. We owe a debt of gratitude to our theme camps for their assistance in pulling off something completely new. By the numbers, we offered .45 vehicle passes per ticket sold to allow parking at your campsite. However with the addition of 300 parking lot spaces available, this increased the total number of vehicle passes sold to .62 per ticket sold.

Our interactions with Box Elder County were awesome this year. No major incidents happened, and the policy of allowing Sheriff Deputies to be escorted through the event on a specific schedule went off without a hitch. The only major hiccup with this was the unexpected increase in costs for the amount we pay Box Elder County for various services. This year we paid over \$60,000 to Box Elder County, and there is an expected 25% increase to that number coming next year.

2024 represented everything that I personally have been working toward with the Element 11 Organization for the past 6 years. It has been an amazing experience, and I genuinely feel that I will be leaving the organization in a better position than when I joined. I know E11 will go on without me, and I am so excited to see what the future brings for the event and the organization with fresh new faces and new ideas. Next year was so much better.

Operations

Jared Yates Decker – Operations Director

I am also stepping down as Operations Director after serving on the Board for 3 years and as Webmaster for 3 years, with 2 years of overlap. I was fortunate to hand over the website management to a new set of capable and committed members of the Community Department this year. As our Chairman has already stated, we had a full house in the organization this year, and this made all the difference in fulfilling the necessary tasks to make the event happen. As attendance and participation grow, the group of individuals overseeing the multitude of responsibilities to create the canvas upon which the community paints their creativity and self-expression must also expand.



Photo by Biddy Latimer of the Drone Show & Spectators

The communication and collaboration structure we have in place continues to benefit the organization. Google Workspace remains our primary file management system, offering a wide range of information and the flexibility to access it through various methods. Our project management continues to be handled through ASANA, which has been improved by simplifying and reorganizing details, allowing for more creativity. Slack remains our main platform for written communications within the organization, providing us with an efficient way to interact with each other.

This year, we have utilized digital technology more extensively to engage with the community. We have hosted virtual Town Halls through social media, provided regular updates on our well-established website, and

continuously updated our Facebook page. We also made much wider use of DocuSign for the Art Grant process and implemented some new automation processes for mass communications to targeted recipients. Our organizational processes have proven to be very effective in reviewing and updating the substantial amount of information we provide to the community in the form of policy documentation, feedback forms, and website content. It has been my privilege to contribute to maintaining and refining our overall workflow.

Arts

Thomas George – Arts Director

Jarron Applegate – Elemental Mutant Vehicles

Bobby Gittins – Flame Arts Coordinator

Nina Peterson – Events Coordinator

Projects & Participation

The art for this year's Element 11 was a sight to behold. Our art grant budget grew to a whopping \$100,000, and increased awareness of our ability to fund projects led to a growth in the number and size of art grant requests. Of note were the number of first-time artists who requested and received funding. The esplanade and open playa area felt quite full, and there were many large-scale installations that helped fill out the space. The city was vibrant and full of interesting experiences, fun and exciting events, and great spaces to relax, learn, and celebrate.



Photo by Bidy Latimer of Channel 11

A few notable pieces included the Chairy Go Round, a merry-go-round featuring antique chairs suspended from cables; Celestial Spin, a spinning array of lasers that created a light tunnel shooting up into the sky; Oasis Cactus Cache, a gigantic saguaro cactus that dispensed goodies to participants; Channel 11, Element 11's first live broadcast television station, with numerous shows filmed live and broadcast to a living room on the open playa; The Greenhouse and Sculpture Garden, a stunning glass house full of mysterious specimens. Several theme camps also received art grants to improve their offerings, which included The Sophistapirates' stunning new facade, Lunar Outpost's APOLLO flame towers, and Cicadia's improved LED ceiling and gorgeous iridescent wings, among others. We also were able to fund the creation of signs explaining the 10 principles, similar to those seen at Burning Man. These helped first timers get their legs under them, and were also useful as markers indicating the correct road to the event.

Friday night's fire spectacular featured the Burningman-bound Utah Fire Tribe's excellent performance, followed by another spectacular drone show, and topped off by an absolutely massive fireworks display featuring a spark-outlined "effigy" and several huge fireballs. Mother Nature also got on board with our celebration, providing an epic full moon rise over the mountains as the majority of the participants were gathered for the show, a moment of collective awe for all who witnessed it. Feedback on the show was very positive, though there were some complaints about the volume of music not being adequate for the space. While we still miss having a Friday night Burn, the celebration felt like a very worthy substitute.

Saturday's burn of The Community Temple was stunning. The temple itself was quite large and provided a great space for grief and reflection in the preceding days. The burn went on longer than expected, and some participants objected to the use of music that was played by the artist during the burn.

Art Grants and Funding

The grant application process ran smoothly, and we were able to fund 55 projects of various sizes. The grant selection committee consisted of artists, cabinet members, former board members, and one of our regional contacts. The selection process took quite an effort as we had so many grants to get through! Artists from California, Nevada, Idaho, Colorado, and of course, Utah received funding. Most grants ranged from \$500 to \$3000, with several larger projects and camps receiving upwards of \$5000.

This year, we tried a new approach to get funds that went unclaimed or unused back into the hands of the participants. Artists who brought their projects to our stART event or Burner Day in the Park received a small stipend for their participation, and Element 11 was able to match money donated in order to further grow their fundraising efforts. Overall this was very successful and appreciated, and we will continue to try this approach in future years. However, it was necessitated by the return of a large number of grants, funds which otherwise could have funded additional projects. In the future, we would like to encourage artists to apply only for grants they are sure they can use.

Elemental Mutant Vehicles (EMV)

We had 16 registered mutant vehicles, including the always excellent Octopussy from Colorado, and Chatterbox, and The Great Sammich ride. Several vehicles experienced issues early in the event and were unfortunately parked for the duration. The EMV check-in process was seamless this year.



Photo by Jess Lyman of Lucy the Ladybug

Flame Arts Coordinator

Bobby Gittins once again ran flame arts. There were no notable issues; however, one gas bomb failed to ignite during the temple burn and had to be dealt with before the perimeter could be dropped. This was handled by the artist and fire department personnel.

Center Camp

Center camp underwent a fairly major upgrade, with the main structure being re-powder coated and a new stage setup that will provide more versatility and shade. This is a multi year project, but is off to a great start. The decor the team assembled was a big step up, and many participants noted that the space was more interesting and inviting than in previous years. Events were well attended, especially Saturday's Center Camp Cabaret. However, there was, as always, a lack of volunteers to help with setup, run, and tear down of the

space. This left the burden on the Center Camp organizers. We are exploring ways to encourage more participation in this manner and hope to boost their number next year.

Feedback

Actionable feedback included that funds were distributed too late in the year. In the future, we will send grant money to artists within the few weeks following grant award letters. We are exploring alternative ways to distribute funds, as we currently handwrite every check and envelope, which is burdensome and could be prone to mistakes.

On playa, we also had difficulty locating a few artists to deal with issues that arose during the event. We will begin collecting artists' playa addresses as part of the art check-in process. We also had requests from numerous artists to explore the idea of providing more art support at the event: tool and hardware availability, access to heavy equipment, etc. While I like this idea, I'm not sure an event our size necessitates this kind of service, and it may become more trouble than it is worth.



Photo by Bidy Latimer of Spectators During the Temple Burn

Overall, we received very positive feedback about the art for this year's event. I'm excited to implement a few changes that should make the process easier, and I'm also excited to continue to grow and support the artists who make our event what it is.



Community

- Samir Suthar – Community Director*
- Rick George – WebMaster*
- Adrielle Vance – Social Media*
- Bradley Kessler – Theme Camp Coordinator*
- Ryan Parks - Graphic Design*

Social Media

We are continuing our focus on increasing community engagement through available avenues. This year, we added the ability to participate in our Town Halls via live streaming on YouTube. This allowed our community to join and watch, ask questions, and gain information wherever they are located. We are also continuing to cultivate engagement via Instagram and Facebook by directly engaging with the community via posts, community reposts, comments, and announcements. Adrielle Vance has been overseeing these avenues and has been a huge part of the feedback process to improve it. All of this used in conjunction with our email newsletter and website, we were able to have all information available across many avenues for the community.

Website

This year, Ric George has been our webmaster and helped immensely in making sure the website is updated and consistent with information as it's made available. One page that has seen an update is the BOD page. It now represents the current board and has an organization chart to see all the positions and who's in them. Since the last Element11, we've had over 100,000 views and roughly 40,000 visitors. That means 100,000+ users went to the website, and ~40,000 users navigated around. The top hitters were the ticket page, Faqs & Policies, and Stargazer map. The use of the blog has been helpful in making detailed long-form information available, yet it is one of the least visited pages on the website. Raising awareness on this is something we are working on.

2023 - 2024	Views	Visitors
July	3,551	2,007
August	2,362	1,140
September	3,358	1,472
October	1,546	735
November	1,327	633
December	2,045	970
January	4,131	1,611
February	7,269	3,089
March	12,827	4,250
April	24,956	7,072
May	15,275	5,081
June	33,138	11,444
Totals	111,785	39,504

What Where When Guide & Dust App

There are always challenges to overcome when it comes to the What Where When Guide. This year, Ryan Parks led the design of the Guide and has worked immensely hard to get to the final result. Last year we printed 1500 copies of the Guide, and we ended up having a lot of excess. We wanted to find a solution that reduced the environmental impact of physical prints while still allowing the information to be accessible. We

partnered with the creator of the Dust App to have our What Where When Guide info available in app form and reduced the number of physical copies by 500. Using the app allowed for on-the-spot changes that reflected in the app almost immediately versus the as-is hard copy. There are many other benefits we gained by using the Dust App, and the overall feedback from users has been positive.



Photo by Jess Lyman of the Hive

Theme Camps

Bradley Kessler is our Theme Camp Coordinator and is in charge of the applications and placement this year and did a phenomenal job. Through the application process, we had a total of 38 theme camps apply which is up from the 34 last year! With the help of Nate, every camp was unique and contributed to E11 in its own way, and it was amazing to see the diverse creativity in the community.

Production

Mitchell Nielsen – Production Director & Ice Sales

Shandi Lenaburg – Box Office (Tickets)

Ben Argyle – Gate

David Giardinelli – Center Camp

Nate Bseiso – Placement

Justin Hogue – E11 Public Works (EPW)

Callie Hogue – E11 Public Works (EPW)

The department leads once again did a fantastic job of directing their respective departments. This year, we created an additional department (placement), and Nate went above and beyond in fulfilling his role and taking the initiative to make the process efficient. Overall, the production teams performed spectacularly again this year.

Box Office

Shandi Lenaburg headed up the Box Office again this year and did an excellent job with sales as well as customer support up to and even at the event. This year we created a new category of ticket sales called Park and Camp for those who were willing to leave their vehicles in a designated lot to avoid paying for a parking pass. This was a successful program, and we'll be doing it again next year. Ticket sales by category are as follows: Gen Pop - 1100, DGS - 400, Park and Camp - 200, Low Income - 151, Volunteer - 512. We also sold 1190 vehicle passes (general and volunteer).

We went with Humanitix again for 2024, and it went much more smoothly than it had our first year with them in 2023. Overall the amount of ticket issues was slightly lower than last year, which could be attributed to good work by the Communication department in educating participants about the different ticket types. Of the issues we did run into, a large portion of those were misunderstandings about vehicle passes and not knowing that they're required for entry with a vehicle (unless doing Park and Camp). Next year we will provide some clarifying information about vehicle passes in blog posts and on social media.

Ice Sales

Ice sales went well this year with no hang-ups besides the relative unpredictability of the delivery time due to the remoteness of the location. 1100 bags of ice were ordered, of which we had half a pallet (approx. 50 bags) left over. We were able to find homes for the leftover ice, so we improved considerably compared to the waste we had from last year's ice sale. The distribution of ice to participants took approximately 1 hour, and there were sufficient volunteers to handle the load without becoming overwhelmed.

Placement

This year we created a new department to coordinate the placement of camps/art at the event and to assist in placing participants in camping spots. We had a much more detailed map and measurements for theme camp and art placement this year, thanks to Nate and his digital mapping of the site. This allowed us to be precise in the square footage that was allotted to each camp, which resulted in fewer complaints. We also had volunteers assisting in finding spots in open camping for participants since wasted space has been an issue in the past. It went well, but we're planning on adding designated day leads and improving procedures/equipment to be more organized next year.



Photo by Bidy Latimer of the Temple

Gate

Gate ran well this year with no notable incidents. We purchased some more tablets to have on hand while the others were charging so that there would be less downtime for entry processing due to drained batteries. We also created a large sign with procedures to assist with training and ensure that all volunteers were following the same direction more or less.

EPW

We ordered the same amount of portos as last year, which was sufficient to handle the number of participants. We did have an issue with some units not getting cleaned every day, so we'll coordinate next year with Honey

Bucket to ensure that their technicians have a map of the event with the locations of all of the units. We increased the number of electrical infrastructure components that we rented this year so that budget item did increase by a few hundred dollars over last year. More land was cleared this year to create a parking lot in order to reduce the amount of cars taking up potential camping space at the event and it was a success. The roads were widened and graded and were in great shape leading up to the event. All in all, EPW once again performed spectacularly.

Safety

Janis Mayfield – Safety Director, Event IC

John Mendenhall – Ranger, Lead

Jenny Lynn Giberson – Medical, Cabinet Head

Jaidy Carlson – Sanctuary, Cabinet Head

Princess Stephanie – Engine 11, Fire Chief

Drew Latta - Radio Wrangler

County & Law Enforcement

Relationships with Box Elder County Sheriff and Fire/EMS are continuing to grow. Participation from local law enforcement has been positive, and visits have been on the rise.

Law Enforcement

Two public access roads run through the event, and as in the past, LE can travel on these roads at any time. At least one logged event a day during the event involved LE walking around the event with a liaison. New escort hours were implemented with LE to avoid burnout of escorts during the event.

Rangers

Training

The safety director and E11 trainers conducted pre-event training for Element 11 Regional Rangers. Black Rock trainers conducted tandem training for the local Black Rock Rangers. The training was held in Taylorsville at the Valley Regional Park Pavilion. Element 11 provided lunch for both groups. In all, 48 participants attended the two training sessions, 11 of them prospective Rangers.

The Safety Department and Ranger Council launched a new online training for all current and prospective Rangers. This training focuses on the policy and procedural aspects of Ranging while the in-person training hones the radio skills along with scenario training and knowledge checks.



Photo by Jess Lyman of the Rangers

Personnel

We had a much more difficult time getting shifts filled this year. We had 59 Rangers volunteer this year (6 more than last), 11 Alphas passing their Mentor walk (one more than last), and 8 out-of-state Rangers volunteers this year (4 less than last). The ranger department had a total of 227 shifts.

Ranger Outpost (Somewhere) was a hit this year. There were 37 people camped in the Outpost. Steps were taken to make the outpost more inviting, such as having a movie night for participants and an art project placed right in front for participants to interact with. The annual Ranger breakfast served to the community was a hit and served about 200 people.

Burn Events

We had one Burn at Element 11 this year.

Friday Night—Drone Show/Fireworks—We had 13 perimeter rangers, Fire IC, Event IC, 2 Art Car Wranglers, 4 security personnel, and 4 Engine 11 firefighters. Box Elder again had onsite wildland crews and brush trucks. Box Elder EMS/Ambulance was also in place for the burn and fireworks show.

Saturday Night—Temple Burn—We had Event IC, Fire IC, Perimeter Lead, 13 perimeter rangers, 2 quad leads, 30 perimeter volunteers, 2 Logans, 7 sandmen, 1 Art Car Wrangler, 4 security personnel, and 6 Engine 11 firefighters. Box Elder was again onsite with wildland crews and brush trucks. Box Elder EMS/Ambulance was also in place for both burns.

Overall, both events were highly successful.

Headquarters

Ranger HQ was well-suited for the event this year. However, the internet connection had some issues, which caused issues with Rosterfy and checking in and out. Improvements are being discussed.

Radios

Ranger HQ is the central communication hub at the event. Issues with the repeater this year caused some concerns. Calibration will be done before the next event.

Security & Safety

The security team continues to do a great job.

Evictions

No evictions were processed for 2024

Event Safety

Continued use of the Handwashing stations located throughout the city, at Center Camp and the Volunteer Lounge. Sanitizer was available in all port-o-potties.

Fire Safety

This year the fire risk at Stargazer was normal.

All types of ember-causing campfires are prohibited, thus allowing only propane fire pits that adhere to event policy.

Daily meetings were held with all principal players for that night's burn, including Box Elder, Event IC, Fire IC, E11 Fire Chief, Artist, Logan, Flame Arts, and Khaki.

Engine 11

The Engine 11 department continues to keep our city from burning down. This year's fireworks display was hot and heavy, causing many small fires that were immediately extinguished.



Photo by Jenny Lynn of the Temple Burn

Medical

*Jenny Lynn Giberson – Medical
Corey Barton – Event Coordinator*

The Medical Day Leads set up the med building the day before the event. Of the 64 shifts, 57 were filled, and 3 were no-shows. Volunteers worked a total of 271 hours, and Jenny and Corey covered many more. Box Elder County EMS covered the unfilled shifts.

Training

This year, one CPR training session was offered for our volunteers. Element 11's previous purchase of a CPR/AED training kit was used to train. It was a requirement for the individuals who signed up for medical shifts to either renew their certification or sign up for a new course independently.



Headquarters

Element 11 had a permanent structure built to provide a medical facility for the volunteers and paid staff who helped participants. This facility also stores medical items.

Radios, Supplies & Equipment

A quick inventory was performed on all medical supplies before the event, and pertinent items were placed in the med tent for use this year. Per last year's inventory, there were minimal items that needed to be replaced or restocked this year.

Statistics

The med tent saw almost 100 encounters, most of which were minor and treated using basic first aid. Encounters included cuts, eye issues, blisters, headaches, allergies, and assessments for minor dehydration, etc. Oral fluids were given for dehydration, and instructions to monitor participants by their campmates were thoroughly communicated.

Moderate risk encounter was treated by BECo for seizures and transported to the hospital after 2nd collapse.

All encounters were logged in the med tent. Any assistance from BECO was documented within their own paperwork if they assisted.

Department Improvements

Due to unforeseen circumstances we continue to need to streamline medical volunteer training in order for all critical information to be passed down **before** the event. A pre-recorded orientation is still on the table to be implemented, and all medical participants would be required to watch the video before assuming their responsibilities on shift.

Sanctuary

Jaidy Carlston – Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Department at Element 11 this year experienced significant challenges due to volunteer burnout, unfilled shifts, and increased utilization as the event progressed, particularly on Friday and Saturday. These issues, compounded by environmental stressors like heat, led to a heavier burden on the Sanctuary leads and impacted the department's overall effectiveness. Despite these difficulties, the collaboration with Rangers and medical teams remained strong, and volunteers expressed their commitment to supporting Sanctuary in the future.



Photo by Aaron Glassman of Sanctuary

Training

A new online training was implemented for Sanctuary volunteers, this reduces the time needed for the in-person portion of training.

Statistics

We almost had a full schedule for Sanctuary volunteers this year. The only day we lacked coverage was Saturday Evening. We had 101 shifts on the schedule, including Day Leads, Shift Leads, Ambassadors, and Burn Guardians. Out of 101 shifts, we had 77 filled. This is excellent for this department, even though we lacked coverage on a busy night (Saturday).

Volunteer Burnout and Unfilled Shifts

A significant number of volunteers did not show up for their shifts, leading to a period where Sanctuary had to shut down. This put additional pressure on the Sanctuary leads, who were often left to manage the space alone. Volunteers frequently had to find replacements within their camps, which, while helpful, highlighted the lack of adequate training for these impromptu roles.

Operational Challenges

The new check-in/out process on the computer was not well understood by volunteers, leading to confusion and delays. The swamp cooler was not set up until Friday and was discovered to be broken, limiting the ability to provide relief to overheated participants. Sanctuary also ran out of water, further reducing its capacity to serve guests. Communication issues were prevalent, with difficulty in contacting volunteers who missed their shifts. Additionally, there were incidents where leads did not return their radios, causing confusion during shift transitions.

Environmental and Logistical Issues

The heat and energy of the event increased the need for Sanctuary services, with many visitors seeking refuge from the harsh conditions. Sanctuary was being used as a cooling station at times, with a significant number of guests experiencing bad psychedelic experiences. Families also frequently utilized the space. There were repeated visits from participants, including individuals with mental health challenges who required ongoing support. This highlighted the need for a more structured approach to handling repeat visitors. Sanctuary had to shut down Saturday night due to a lack of volunteers and visitors were directed to Ranger station with medical and day leads being called for serious cases.

Inventory

Donated items for use are a great asset and continue to work out well. Donations were picked up by the item owners at the end of the event.

Sanctuary ran out of essential supplies like food and water in some instances. Volunteers had to leave Sanctuary to procure these items, which affected their ability to care for guests on-site.

Needed Improvements

Better training on check-in/out procedures and radio procedures. Communication reminders with the community about what Sanctuary is there for. Better outline the procedures and training for more serious cases of mental health issues. Ensure that critical supplies such as water, food, and cooling equipment are available from the start of the event and are regularly replenished. Consider adding prominent markers or lights to make Sanctuary easier to find, especially during nighttime. Explore the possibility of officially designating Zen Camp as a support area to assist with overflow and provide a more comprehensive care environment for participants in need.

Volunteer Feedback

Volunteers expressed a strong sense of community and dedication to Sanctuary, despite the operational challenges. Many reported positive interactions and a deep connection to their work.

Radio Communications

Drew Latta - Radio Wrangler

The Baofeng, coupled with the repeater, continues to be a workhorse and provides the basic communications needed for the event volunteers. We started the year with 52 radios.

We had issues with the repeater this year, but we have a solution to prevent this in 2025 and in the future.



Photo by Jess Lyman of Hug Deli (Info Booth)

Volunteering

Jack Davis – Volunteer Director
Callie Hogue – Swag Quartermaster, Cabinet
Diane Black – Volunteer Kitchen, Cabinet
Ryan Humes – Swag Dealer, Facilitator
Devon Havir – Kitchen, Facilitator
Sarah Dicou – Burning Angels, Facilitator

Communications and Engagement

This year, communication with our volunteers continued primarily through the Element 11 Volunteers Facebook group and Instagram posts, where we shared important updates, event information, and deadlines. However, we encountered a challenge as some volunteers who do not use social media missed out on time-sensitive information. To address this, we plan to enhance our communication strategy by sending more frequent email blasts, ensuring that critical information reaches all volunteers regardless of their social media presence.

Volunteer Scheduling and New Developments

To address the gap in the Gate schedule, we added additional shifts in 2-hour intervals, which improved coverage but presented some challenges in filling the later time slots. We also introduced a new department, the Placement team, responsible for directing attendees to their assigned plots for setup. While this last-minute addition brought logistical challenges, it ultimately added value to the event.

Expansion of the Volunteer Lounge and Swag Distribution

A significant objective for 2024 was expanding the Volunteer Lounge. We successfully increased its size by 75%, purchased a new grill for the Kitchen, and created a designated "Swag Grab" area adjacent to the Lounge. Although this setup improved the flow, we underestimated the volume of volunteers that would be collecting swag simultaneously, which led to our Swag Dealer recruiting additional help on the spot. Our new system, Rosterfy, was intended to streamline swag distribution by verifying volunteer eligibility, but due to internet instability and unfamiliarity with the system, the process was not as smooth as anticipated. Next year, we plan to assign dedicated shifts to assist the Swag Dealer and ensure these volunteers receive credit for their time.



Photo by Bidy Latimer of Glow Fish

Scheduling System

2024 marked our second year experimenting with a new online platform, Rosterfy.com, after the previous year's issues with Timecounts.com. Rosterfy offered some notable improvements, particularly in shift check-ins and check-outs. However, the platform's point value system, designed to track volunteer hours and determine swag eligibility, experienced technical issues, resulting in manual adjustments and delays. Moving forward, we plan to create a new Cabinet-level position to oversee the system, ensuring accurate point tracking and smoother operations.

Volunteer Recruitment and Attendance Challenges

This year presented unique challenges, as we did not sell out tickets, leading to gaps in the volunteer schedule that were difficult to fill. Some long-time volunteers were unable to attend, resulting in "no-shows" and a heavier workload for those who did participate. We are working on a system to identify and manage unreliable volunteers to prevent these issues in the future. Additionally, we increased our efforts to recruit volunteers during the event, but this led to some volunteers working long hours over multiple days. We will continue refining our recruitment and scheduling processes to prevent burnout and maintain a positive volunteer experience.

Volunteer Kitchen and Sustainability Efforts

Diane Black's Volunteer Kitchen faced unexpected challenges this year, running out of food during several mealtimes. We may need to revise how volunteers earn meals to ensure that those who qualify receive them. On a positive note, our volunteers fully adapted to last year's policy of eliminating single-use plastics, resulting in even less waste this year.

Lead Training and Volunteer Development

Although we were unable to create training modules in Rosterfy as planned, we conducted a successful Lead Training session via video conference. This training was beneficial, but we plan to offer two sessions next year to accommodate Leads who sign up closer to the event or are unable to attend the first session.

Appreciation and Community Building

This year, our Volunteer Appreciation Party was a resounding success. We organized a day at Mountain Point Lake and Hot Springs, complete with a nacho/taco bar, and distributed leftover swag to the attending volunteers. Given the positive feedback, we plan to repeat this event next year, with earlier promotion to increase attendance. We are also strongly considering hosting a pre-event Volunteer Recruitment party for next year to increase interest in various positions within the organization, and to hopefully build a stronger community base.

Final Words and Acknowledgments

In closing, we extend our deepest gratitude to all our incredible volunteers. Your dedication and patience during this period of change have been invaluable. This event could not operate without the ongoing commitment of our community, and we are profoundly thankful for each and every one of you!



Photo by Jack Davis of updated Volunteer Lounge

Finances

Cameron Clegg – Financial Director

2024 is on track to be a solid financial year for Element 11 despite some expected higher costs. By diligently managing our resources and taking advantage of high interest rates, we have been able to sustain growth in the organization, increasing Element 11's opportunity to serve and delight the Utah Burner community.

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to our incredible community of artists, volunteers, and participants. Without your dedication, creativity, and passion, Element 11 would not exist. Your contributions make this event truly special, and we are honored to have such a supportive and engaged community. Thank you for being the heart and soul of Element 11.

As of **August 23, 2024**, the financial activity statement for Element 11 highlights the following key details:

Revenue and Profit

- **Total Revenue:** \$539,314.85
- **Gross Profit:** \$ 539,314.85

Income Breakdown:

- **Donations (mainly ticket sales):** \$526,004.49
- **Investment Income:** \$13,310.36

Total Expenditures: \$271,746.06



Photo by Jess Lyman of Time is a Social Construct

Major Expenditure Categories:

- Art: \$65,553.87
- Venue, County, & Logistics: \$124,003.86
- Marketing & Photography/Videography: \$3,472.26
- Business Operations: \$6,827.31
- Ice, Sanitary, Power, & Software: \$48,007.66
- Ranger and Medical: \$5,203.46
- Volunteer Kitchen and Swag: \$18,363.65

Net Operating Revenue: \$267,568.79

Future Financial Commitments

It is important to note that there are pending transactions that will influence the financials throughout the remainder of the year. These include upcoming transactions such as art grant checks that have not been cashed and office rent payments, among other operational expenses. As a rough estimate, we expect to see a ~\$50,000 increase in our **Total Expenditures** by the end of 2024. This means our **Net Operating Revenue** would then be ~\$217,568.79, slightly down from \$222,693.83 in 2023. As always, all proceeds fund our home on the playa for 2025 and beyond.



Photo by Jess Lyman of the Temple

Conclusion

Element 11 has hit a critical point in its development. The balance between attendees and volunteers hangs in a delicate balance. One cannot occur without the other so it is vital that the community continue to contribute their time and skills to the continued success of the event and the organization. We have seen healthy growth in the number of attendees and participants at the event, and a proportional amount of growth in infrastructure must accompany this as well. The cost of running the event also increases with this expansion. The organization does everything it can to keep our expenditures as low as possible to ensure that the cost of ticket sales stays as low as possible.



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Why do we do this, anyway? Why do we go through all the effort? Why do we endure the stress and frustration that can arise? We are driven by a collective passion for the values embodied in the Ten Principles, and we are committed to realizing a more vibrant and interconnected existence in the world. Throughout the year, we labor tirelessly to cultivate a strong sense of community and nurture the distinctive culture that has blossomed from our shared experiences. Our ultimate aim is to facilitate the expansion of the culture born from our event, impacting the broader world. Element 11 endeavors to deliver awe-inspiring and joyous experiences that uplift the human spirit, confront social issues, and ignite a profound sense of culture, community, and civic engagement.

*With Love,
The Element 11 Board of Directors & Cabinet*