



FEEDBACK REPORT - 2018



## 2018 FEEDBACK

### **50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Another great Fair for me. Lots and lots of happy faces. Maybe some of the angst in the early part of set up week was warranted, maybe not, I guess time will tell here (I'm being vague on purpose), as the angst producing events come to their conclusion. Other than that I'm already excited for 2019. Milestone years tend to be Oregon Country Fair on... Steroids? Do hippies... never mind.

I believe adding to new stage for the 50th anniversary would be amazing. A new stage for a new generation that plays EDM, Hip Hop rap, reggae, Etc.

Thanks for all. Happy 50th comin' up to all!

Next year, (50th) Fair should be unplugged for people who've never experienced such could get a glimpse of the old days.

### **AAAA**

Wow oh wow - I just want to sing the praises of the Alter Abled crew!!!! Unfortunately, one month prior to the fair I did a nasty break and dislocation of my ankle. I was determined to come to the fair though I knew it was going to be significantly modified. I packed up my crutches, a rented motorized scooter and my gear and we headed to the fair with plans that I would leave the fair each evening with the support of a friend to sleep safely at the home of another friend. I was thrilled beyond thrilled to find that my disabled parking pass + my parking pass got me an easy spot to park and that EACH AND EVERY DAY there was someone at the ready - in the Love bus, a golf cart or a fabulous bike with a side car to drive me to or from the fair to my car. I never had to wait more than 5 minutes. Folks were friendly, kept me feeling safe and happy all along the way. WAY TO GO ALTER ABLED CREW! For folks like me who approach the fair with excitement and more than a bit of trepidation and outright fear that I might not be able to navigate safely, that crew set my mind at ease instantly. THANK YOU OCF!!!!

I travelled with an alter-abled woman from the top of Moz Rd down Snivel/Smile looking for an ADA toilet on the way to the Bus Stop - none at Entertainment, Marshalls or the Bus Stop. Had to travel down to Cabal Crossing and double back to Cart Central to find one as Auntie Em was blocked for the Bus Stop.

I am very concerned about using my wheelchair during the event. This year as I was coming in on my chair across from the Traffic Camp, I hit some loose gravel on the side of the road and my right tire stuck and the left tire powered my chair into the parking stake and I side swiped a car.

I have dreaded the past several years, knowing I was getting closer to needing to use a wheel chair on site. The first year I had a chair that was a self-powered chair and tipped over by the Blue Moon Stage.

The last couple three years I have been in a power chair which is better. But still precarious.

Getting back and forth to the rest rooms is very difficult to maneuver around the paths in a wheelchair, and at times I very much worry about tipping over, the nearest bathrooms are at Shady Grove.

I need to ask the Fair to accommodate a safer way to get to the rest rooms. Or put a wheelchair accessible port a pot in Energy Park that can be used only for the booths around that area, or strictly for wheelchair use only.

We have complied with your request to have a wheelchair accessible counter, and I have a ramp in our booth that will allow a wheelchair to go up on the deck to eat in a flat area if available.

With all that said. This year after I left the booth on Saturday night I was able to get around as heading out of the fair. I got to stop in at the cultural stage and saw the end of the show with the group March 4th? Anyway it was awesome, I miss those days of going around the fair, but so glad I got to be an active part of the Fair Family every year since 1980. Thank you for all you do and I hope we can address my concerns.

I had an incident with Monday morning traffic crew making assumptions about my physical health and ability. After watching cars pass my camp at Zen I chose bring my vehicle in that direction and was told I didn't look disabled enough. They were only allowing disabled people in that direction. I have a placard in my window. I have Ehlers Danlos syndrome and have always, for the last nine years been allowed access on Chickadee without having some traffic peon tell me I'm not "disabled enough ". My suggestion is that everyone who was working at the corner of Aero and Chickadee on Monday morning be required to attend sensitivity training and be warned of the potential law suits that their behavior could possibly cause for the fair.

Two items came to my attention in a big way this year. One is handicap parking. One of our booth mates is sick and while still able to participate in fair to some extent had to stay in town and come and go this year. The fact that not only is handicap parking further out than media but that it is segregated by vendor and public is not ok. She would have had to wait 20 mins in the extremely hot sun for a ride from the parking and that is not a solution at all either. Something different must be designed. She was not the only vendor/booth that was hurt by this design.

Where the public disable parking is there are no bathrooms nearby.

## **ADMISSIONS**

I was not able to buy a ticket via TicketsWest because I could not log in myself. Of course, I was in contact with them. It should not be that people cannot attend the fair because of this. Did anyone else from abroad have this problem?

Making the three day bracelets a distinct contrast to staff and teen bracelet. One orange and one green.

It was not a good decision to make those that had paper 3day passes in hand wait in line for wristbands at will call. The lines were terribly long, moved at a snail's pace and made way too many folks stand in that line in the midday sun for over an hour.

I bought a 3-day pass to not go thru the 'will call' -- long lines total bummer to start the Fair with standing in a long line in hot sun when I've already got my ticket & just need wristband. If I'd had a one-day pass I could have just walked in, so I was penalized for buying a 3-day pass. Finally a person walked the line asking for 3-day ticket holders, exchanging tickets for bands. Many folks with 3-day tickets & I were bummed to start the Fair. This is not good, to say the least.

I have been asking for a 3-day senior pass for years. I have been attending all 3 days since 1984, my first year. I am right at poverty level income. The only way to get tickets is to by 3 individual senior tickets but there is a service charge on those tickets that eat up the savings. I am part of the Fair. The Shook

Twins had me up dancing on Main Stage and at various other music events. -- Ask around what it means to people when I dance. Bands love me; ask Shook Twins.

## **AFTER HOURS**

There seemed to be a lot of staff events that happen after hours for Fair Family that we didn't find out about until after they were over and we would have loved to attend. If a schedule of events for Fair Family could be given out when you register that would help with the Fair experience

The fair has become Almost Boring at night. Please find some sort of way to let us volunteers know when and where the nighttime appreciation concerts are. Thank you thank you thank you!

Loved the late night stages going everywhere, especially in Xavanadu.

I loved that Main Stage toned down the volume after hours. This was the first fair in a long, long time where we could play music at our booth and enjoy the evening time in our home camp. Thank you for restoring the opportunity for acoustic music at the top of the eight.

I just want to say thank you for extending the hours of amplified music this year. I started coming to OCF in college as an SO while my husband worked security midnight to 6am. It was always a party late into the night, and it just felt magical. Then after I moved back to Eugene and started to volunteer for White Bird as a physician I felt like something was missing. We ended up back at camp by 1 am on Saturday night as everything seemed to shut down. Then this year I realized what had been missing while I was dancing at Tooth & Nail at 2:30 am. I know that there will be negative feedback from folks who felt that amplified music disturbed their rest, but please, please, please don't let these folks take away the magic that returned to the paths at night this year.

For the last few years, starting after the midnight show, there has been an organized rave with loud amplified music and a disco flashing ball that stop on the path to create maximum intrusion into whatever fitful sleep that I get. No one calls Security to stop it. This continues until dawn starting at 2a.m. This is not the first time. We had an older couple who played amplified music that were shut down during the day for being too loud. This represents a double-standard where a group gets away with something and a performer gets shut down?

I camp directly behind Main Stage and enjoy being able to hear the performances from the comfort of my bed. However, on Saturday night after the Midnight Show, amplified canned music blasted classic rock until about 5am, and did not stop until after the birds had begun to chirp. I did not enjoy this.

I'm camped by Xavanadu field. On Friday night, a music performance in Xavanadu field featured heavy, loud, yodeling vocals. This kept a majority of our camp up until the music ended at 3a.m. We talked with Security and nobody was available to help. This is unacceptable.

Performers need to sleep so we can deliver quality entertainment to Fairgoers. Music near campsites needs to end earlier since it's obvious stages are unable to keep sounds to reasonable levels. No, earplugs don't help against these volumes.

Implement and enforce at midnight sound curfew, no exceptions. If partiers need late-night music, I suggest you build an out-of-sight parking lot stage. Thanks and happy Fair!

Pre Fair nighttime music was very, very loud. I could hear many of the lyrics in my Camp at Alice's. Poor neighbors

On Sunday morning they started playing canned classic rock over the PA from the Main Stage - Yuck!

Hi! I would like to make a humble request that the Hoarse Chorale not host such loud harsh music in the morning and late at night. Over the last 5 years, much of the music on that stage comprises testosterone-poisoned shouting and very hard rock, with a liberal dose of cursing thrown in. I apologize if that offends folks who like that kind of music, but to me it 1) seems out of place at the edge of a meadow filled with kids, 2) is pretty rough on the birds and other wildlife in the adjacent forest, and 3) is a bummer if you're camping nearby. I think it would be wonderful if the music on that stage was not quite so loud or harsh, and if there were (radical thought) more periods of no amplified music so humans could make impromptu acoustic music. When Hoarse Chorale is really blasting, it's tough to even have a conversation nearby, much less make music.

Had a great fair as usual and our crew set a new record for the amount of \$ raised for White Bird! Sadly those are not the reasons I write. We had a very frustrating year with the noise of amplified music, in the evenings, specifically from the love lounge.

Last year I don't remember what night it was but it was pretty shocking to hear electronic dance music, especially so loud, in the 8. It was only one night so I figured whatever I'll go enjoy the rest of the fair, no problem. This year it was multiple nights and it sounded like a great sound system which would be awesome in a different location (not one of the few places you can sit quietly and listen to the Long Tom) so I feel I have to write and express my frustrations.

I've been camping at fair for quite a few years and love to play music with my crew at the booth after we close to relax, build comradery, and just have a good time. We've done this acoustically for years and we've never had a problem with overlapping sound even when someone plays amplified it's always been at a respectful level. Heck, even on Saturday with the big show at Tooth and Nail which is pretty close (less than 75 yards) there's always been at least one acoustic musician or musicians able to play on the path between us.

But, there's usually a lot of bass in dance music and the volume is fun to dance to can overpower a very large area. I've seen this done very respectfully at the fair with the quiet dance parties and the juxtaposition of a bunch of people dancing to upbeat music while a pianist plays a soft melodic tune is some of what makes the fair amazing.

Maybe I'm turning into a geezer, I guess I'll be ready for elder status here in a while, I love dancing and love seeing people come together with music and dancing no matter the form in which it's made, but what drove me to the fair and keeps me coming back is the amazing musicians especially the ones in hidden in the crazy nooks and crannies of the path not the ability to play someone else's recorded music really loud and I guess I'm just a little sad and feel disrespected that a neat chunk of the fair ( that has already been solved in an amazing way in other parts of the fair ) was taken away in such large amounts from me and my crew. Thanks for listening,

Why was amplified music allowed on the river loop, lower 8, every night? It was so fun to come upon the drag show Friday but to have a LOUD EDM dance party there each night, where experienced fair goers expected a quiet, reflective river moment (a necessary escape) was jolting. I like some change but keep the amplified music to the meadows and venues. There are plenty of EDM festivals and they bring a different vibe overall to Fair, one that is not necessarily within the values of many longtime Fair goers. Careless.

There seems to be a lot of electric lights behind booths that is causing a lot of glaring light pollution inside the eight. Can there be a time when they should be extinguished?

### **AMBIANCE**

The piano lounge was a wonderful sweet chill zone for the public and was a lovely asset to our neighborhood. I love the idea of the upper part of the eight being the ""Old Town"" of the fair - a zone where folks can experience the intimacy and woodsy nature of how the entire fair was in the early days. A place where you can still hear the birds singing at sunset.

My gratitude and compliments to whoever creates and maintains the beautiful labyrinth. Excellent improvement to move the fire show away from the labyrinth, thus preserving its intended use as a meditative space to center oneself and experience the land.

I have been attending Oregon Country Fair for 45 years. I & my group (20+) have enjoyed the ""Drum Tower"" through 2017. 2018 the ""Drum Tower"" no longer exists on the map, etc. We have always loved the ""Drum Tower"" & in many cases we used the ""Drum Tower"" as an area for lost tribal members, where we would regroup. Newbies can get lost, but can always hear the ""Drum Tower"" & we find them at the ""Drum Tower"". We loved the ""Drum Tower"" & missed it terribly. Please don't let a few relatively new to the fair complainers change a historical mainstay of the Oregon Country Fair into something bland & generic. I am sure the majority of Oregon Country Fair Frequent Fair Forever Followers missed the ""Drum Tower""! I know I am not alone!

Please! Please! Please! Bring back the ""Drum Tower""! The ""Drum Tower"" must ride again!  
Ah Oregon Country Fair Frequent Fair Forever Followers since 1973.

### **ATMs**

(Notes from Fair Central) Ran out of cash midday on Sunday. At \$3.25 per withdrawal, we likely missed a significant opportunity for additional revenue and may have reduced sales at our vendors if their customers could not obtain cash and they were unable to accept credit cards (particularly if they relied on OCF's Wi-Fi network to process credit card transactions). Review the amount of cash the machines went through, and plan to increase it enough to last throughout the public hours of the Fair.

### **CAMPING**

We arrive Monday morning to start working on our craft booth. As you know, fair guests attend the fair for the crafts and the food, as well as the music and magic, yet crafters continue to be treated like second class family ". Are we a necessary evil? It is extremely inconvenient and in my mind unnecessary to have to wait until Tuesday or Wednesday to get into Piggy's, yet we and several other crafters have to go through the same hassle every year. We have to set up on one side of the fence one day, and then have to pack up and move to the other side on Tuesday. And there are ALWAYS plenty of people already there on Monday when we arrive, so it feels like we are being made to wait "just because". John K who organizes the lot does a great job with everything. Perhaps he needs another dedicated helper or two to get people in when they arrive? Anything that could be done to improve that situation would be hugely appreciated! Again, thanks for a great fair overall, and for soliciting our feedback. Blessings on all of you!

## **CARTOGRAPHY**

New map is great with ability to read booth #s and street names!

Why is the 2017 Peach Pit map the same as the 2018? And the errors persist.

This includes mis-identified booths, Micky's gumbo is not identified on either as a food booth; the change in smoking areas as identified in the 2018 Guidelines were not made. The only difference is 2017 is attributed to McKenzie Maps and 2018 is attributed to McKenzie Maps and Pitts-Webb for OCF cartography. Ground proofing is needed I am sure there are more errors.

A Peach Pit error listed the water station and former smoking area between booths 889 & 893 (sort of across from the Still Living Room) as a current smoking area, and my discussions with the smokers therein about whether the lack of butt cans and smoking signs meant it wasn't a smoking area any more were not productive. Big thanks to the security folks who stopped by to back me up, and to the same or other white shirted buddies I saw hanging out by the clean air there every time I passed by subsequently.

Moving the smoking area that shares the water station across from both 764 (near the Junction) into a little cul de sac closer to the river didn't really work out as well. Even when the smokers stayed in the back, which they usually didn't, the smoke still made it difficult to use the water spigot, and impossible to sit in the sitting area to eat food. More often they were out by the path, watching the public stroll by, smoking. I was reminded of the old joke that having a non-smoking area in a restaurant is like having a non peeing area in a swimming pool.

## **CHILDCARE**

I had several very upsetting experiences at child care this year. The staff was being very condescending, patronizing and mean to parents about being 10-15 minutes late for pick up. I listened to parents being "spoken to" for several minutes (therefore making them even later). These were staff and public parents picking up their children. I understand that people need to pick up on time, but kindness really matters! These experiences have changed my feelings about using child care and have ended our 12 years of loving attendance there. We will find other solutions to care. This kind of nastiness trickles down to the kids, even if it isn't directed AT them. Kids are perceptive and I saw it happen often enough that I know it wasn't just a lead having a bad day.

## **CIGARETTE SMOKE**

A Peach Pit error listed the water station and former smoking area between booths 889 & 893 (sort of across from the Still Living Room) as a current smoking area, and my discussions with the smokers therein about whether the lack of butt cans and smoking signs meant it wasn't a smoking area any more were not productive. Big thanks to the security folks who stopped by to back me up, and to the same or other white shirted buddies I saw hanging out by the clean air there every time I passed by subsequently.

Moving the smoking area that shares the water station across from both 764 (near the Junction) into a little cul de sac closer to the river didn't really work out as well. Even when the smokers stayed in the back, which they usually didn't, the smoke still made it difficult to use the water spigot, and impossible to sit in the sitting area to eat food. More often they were out by the path, watching the public stroll by, smoking. I was reminded of the old joke that having a non-smoking area in a restaurant is like having a non peeing area in a swimming pool.

Smoking areas are too close to the main walkways and there were a LOT of people vaping outside of the smoking areas, making it impossible to avoid the second-hand smoke. Not a safe place for people with chemical sensitivities.

Last year I gave feedback about the Smoking area near Main Stage, how it created gridlock and smoke blows back on the families who are gathered in the Meadow. This year it is far worse, the smokers have a lovely footprint in the shady trees now with white cloth shelter overhead, and new big benches that cut off the flow of people trying to get by to go to the Meadow or toilets.

The smoke is intense, and unwelcome for the families at that side of the Meadow. With a much bigger space for smokers it has become more difficult to navigate around or through that area. Please, consider removing some of the big benches and sharing that space and overhead sun shelters with others who need it. Thanks for hearing and responding to my/our concerns.

We have attended OCF for the last 15 years. It seems every year there are more smokers. Please OCF, come into the 21st century. The smoking area beside the Main Stage was out of control, unacceptable. Time to go Smoke Free! Thank you. We Love You!

No smoking. Even state parks do not allow smoking. Smoking sections?! I go by them. Do you?

By the end of the day at Main Stage, the whole area is so full of cigarette smoke you can smell it coming up the path by Matti's Peruvian. Discourages many for being here.

Take out some smoking areas. Too much seating & shade for only smokers and almost none for non-smokers. Otherwise, great Fair.

### **COMMEMORATIVE SALES**

Do you sell copies of previous years posters?

### **COMMUNICATION**

The traffic crew definitely needs to have better communication. When they change the direction of traffic they are not taking into account the direction they have recently directed. People have to turn around when they are almost to their booth. The turning around and the 2 way traffic causes significant delays. Coming in and going out you get different procedures. Another thing is that they make people wait in the am until 9 am to drive in, and there is a big line that goes all the way to the main road. People get there early on purpose to avoid the rush and to make that rush much easier for the later arrivals. If they would open even an hour earlier the people in line would be unloaded and out before the major crunch. People would be more likely to be able to park near their booth. It is about efficiency. Even if they don't change their ways why can't they inform the fair family what time these things are happening so we can go the right way and save everyone the time and great frustration? We can do better.

The largest issue we had was the communication breakdown in the parking lot Monday morning regarding when we could drive in. Some folks said 7am others thought it was 6. Cars couldn't get to the exit and I wasn't allowed to move my vehicle up close to cart out.

I noticed how many campers on Monday morning were dumping cans and bottles they brought from home onto the already overflowing camp recycle stations. Seems to be a better way is to pack out what you brought into the site. I wonder if there can be a campaign and signage that encourages that next year.

## **CONSTRUCTION**

Good job on red flag follow-ups.

Where is the bench that was near KLCC booth out by the pathway? A welcome rest for many and it was gone last year and this year also. Bring it back please.

The new yin-yang padded benches near the flow zone in Xavanadu are wonderful! Great Fair'

Many, many, many thanks for all everyone does to make this fair so special and wonderful. I loved the new benches and structures. Xavanadu is a great space that allows people to spread out a bit more and provides a way for people to celebrate at night. The musicians that play throughout the fair are exceptional and wonderful. I look forward to next year!

There is a group of us Elders that traditionally meet in the mornings to warm our wings in the rising sun and greet our family friends as Fair awakens. This year our bench at the back of Main Stage was not to be found. Please bring back our beloved Geezer Bench.

There are many of us who are missing the "Geezer Bench" next to the path near the main stage. This had been a gathering place for "geezers" over the years. We would gather in the morning with our coffee, share stories, and watch the morning faire preparations. This year and last, some of us brought our own folding chairs to the spot, but others would come by lamenting the loss of the bench and the "Geezer Bench" sign attached to the post behind it. Would love to see it come back! Thanks!!

My companion and I greatly missed not having the wooden benches to sit on and eat our breakfast/drink our morning coffee: the wooden benches used to be located between Main Stage area and Blazing Salads.

You need to provide better bathroom options for little people. I have several little people friends who will not attend as there is no bathrooms they can use. They will not and cannot climb up on a dirty porta potty. Need steps or something better.

The herinals in the Poothanon and Shady Grove are super hard to use because they are too high! You can't squat on them without touching the rim with your bum! (Eew!) Get functional squatter input on the designs, please!

The herinals are terrific for not having to wait in line to pee. Can they be re-designed so it's not such a severe workout on the thighs? Is it possible to sink the trough below floor level to allow for a full squat?

The port a potties were of a different design this year but they need just one adjustment. As a woman, by day two it was obvious that most of the handles on the inside of the stalls had been broken for the

simple reason that the women of the fair had been using them as hover handles and broken them off the doors. A simple fix would be to bolt the handles to the doors in the future.

Footrests in the six-packs!

### **CRAFT VENDORS**

Do you guys have a list you can add vendors to so that say a current vender can't do the show you can pick one off a list of back list? If so I am definitely interested in being a vendor!

I was just wondering how to become a vendor?

I'm trying to find information on applying for a craft vending slot for next year's fair but the links aren't working. I'm just looking for information such as cost, requirements, etc. and not necessarily to actually apply yet. Thanks in advance.

We need more massage booths! Especially foot massage!

### **CROSS-POLLINATION**

Greetings from Oregon's Coastal Playground--Florence!

How might the Florence Winter Music Festival cross-promote with you? Would you be willing to send information about our event to your constituencies in exchange for similar consideration? Maybe something like "It's still more than six months until the Oregon Country Fair...Here's a great music event to help you get through winter!" The 2019 event is scheduled for January 18-20. Check us out at [www.WinterMusicFestival.org](http://www.WinterMusicFestival.org).

### **CULTURE SENSITIVITY**

I saw quite a few fake Native American headdresses worn this year (wearing real ones isn't ok either), and as a fair goer for most of my life seeing these on the heads of those walking around is uncomfortable and unsettling and reminds me that my culture is something people are reckless and ignorant of. I have always called fair my "soul rejuvenation" it's quite hard to open my soul to take in all the positive energy when I see fake sacred items that are held very dearly to those who use them being flaunted by those that have no respect or understanding, the negative energy is very hurtful. If you were native and connected with your culture you would not wear those to fair anyway so being native is no valid argument. They are for ceremony, they are earned. Many other festivals have banned the use of headdresses within them, perhaps OCF may do the same. With all love and gratitude, thank you for reading and thinking on this issue.

I just had some concerns about cultural appropriation. I know there is some good conversation going on around shifting that and it is certainly needed. I saw someone wearing a fake costume headdress and the two large puppets with native symbols felt really weird to me. I wish I had the courage to have said something directly to the woman wearing the costume headdress, but this is as much courage as I mustered and I know it doesn't have any bearing directly on her education, but hopefully, as the Fair moves forward there can be acknowledgement of issues of cultural appropriation and some information on figuring out how that is not helpful.

The Ritz sauna art just seems to be the same issue. I know there is a bit controversy around their use of symbols/art and hopefully it will help to push things forward and away from appropriation. Rambling in the heat. Sorry.

### **DIVERSITY**

I would like to see outreach to Native American/indigenous people. I remember a large tipi near Ritz once. After story pole controversy I believe it would be good to have current indigenous representation. I appreciate Archaeology, however, it would be good to have a modern, living representation. Thanks. PS I am hosting Lyla June, Native American musician and activist and would like to see more inclusion. Thanks.

### **ELDERS**

As a first time elder last year, I was not able to get a Far Side parking pass. I had volunteered on a Security crew for over twenty years, and my crew and I were some of the first people camping in the Far Side. I had always had a Far Side parking pass until last year, when the Elders did not have enough for everyone. To be an elder and camp at the Far Side, you have to be in good shape, as there's a lot of walking. I hope that in the coming years the Elders are treated with the respect we deserve, which includes all Elders getting parking passes. Thanks for listening.

### **ENTERTAINMENT**

I love the young vibe being incorporated, lots of music and dancing. I get the sense that the next generation is alive and well.

Music at main stage was quite a bit better than last year, THANK YOU!

The band, Katelynn, Jimmie and the Goodness at Shady Grove -- very offensive language in a song as I was passing to go to the bathroom. Saying - 'motherfucker, motherfucker, motherfucker' - very offensive, not Fair family to me.

I'd love to see St Cinder on a BIGger stage. (X2)

I love Fooble the Dragon! His nighttime set is brilliant. Also, I'd love to see Hot Damn Scandal and St Cinder on stages next year. And more traditional world music on Main Stage. Like Huun Huur Tu. Maybe Toumani Diabate or Rokia Traore next year? My favorite show this year was Hotel Votruba at Stage Left.

Inner Limits played on Monkey Palace stage on Friday afternoon. I would love to see them on Main Stage.

THANK YOU for GBB as I am a firm believer that there needs to be at least 1 solid Grateful Dead option every year at Fair seeing as so many Deadheads are part of it. I know that is difficult to swallow for non-Deadheads but thank you. See you next year!

The Blue Moon stage sound was excellent. Loved the new backdrops at Shady Grove and Blue Moon.

How about more women of color and cultural diversity on the stages of the OCF? I know things have improved since 20 years ago when I was booking a local Latina performer (one of the first to perform at the OCF) but there could certainly be more.

I love the music at all the stages, but when you don't have time to get out to a stage and the Fighting Instruments of Karma marching band/orchestra brings the music everywhere it's just so great.

I liked the improvements in the fair this year. We have had many issues in the past with daytime and night time noise levels associated with the Spirit Tower stage. This year was much better! Kudos to the folks trying to manage the sound sheds day and night.

I've participated in the Oregon Country Fair for over ten years, first as security, sometimes as a performer, sometimes as an SO on a friend's pass. I've been hired by both Solar Stages and Ambience in the past, as well as the Youth Stage.

This year, we applied to the Youth Stage, Ambience and the Solar Stages. We were not accepted by any of these committees this year. We understand this is the way it goes. We received timely and considerate responses from Ambience and the Youth Stage committees, and appreciate their communication. Unfortunately our experience with the Solar Stages committee was a bit different.

I appreciate that the committees that book the stages at OCF receive many applications that the people who work on these committees have to make difficult decisions about which artists to feature, and that it involves a lot of time and consideration on their part to make these decisions.

I also would like to remind the booking committee that all the artists who apply to OCF work hard at preparing our applications, and in some cases put in hours of time preparing special applications just for the Oregon Country Fair. In our case, we recorded a special demo just for OCF and created a special playlist in Soundcloud, also just for OCF.

Two months before the Fair this year, I hadn't received any notice regarding my application. Friends of mine who had applied received notices that their application had been rejected, but I received nothing. So, I emailed the committee in May, a total of three times, inquiring about the status of my application. My first two inquiries received a reply that "we're still working on the schedule". My third inquiry didn't receive a reply at all. Just over a month to Fair, I still did not have an answer. So I wrote in a fourth time, inquiring once again, and received a fairly flippant response that "the schedule is finished - thanks for applying".

I have talked to many of my friends who apply to and regularly perform at Fair. It is widely agreed that the committee to book the solar stages does not show adequate respect for artists' time, and that this has been an ongoing problem for many years. One month before Fair is really not sufficient notice for artists with busy schedules, and we feel that every application deserves at least a form letter to let us know of the decision regarding our application. Especially when a person has emailed more than once to indicate that they are awaiting the final decision, I would like to think that folks understand their decisions affects artists' lives and that therefore, we would really appreciate timely and considerate responses.

I would say that a "yes" or "no" answer at least 2 months before Fair is a reasonable time frame. (Three months would be even better.)

We did not expect to be booked - we just expected the respect of a timely response.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

**FAIR CENTRAL NOTES** Some notes from this year's Fair through the lens of Fair Central.

*Radios* Radio communications were—in most regards—worse than ever. The one exception is that after three years without repeater priority, Fair Central was once again able to override other traffic, thanks to an investment in reprogramming the hardware that makes that possible. However, the base stations are worn out and so unreliable at transmitting that we found we needed to listen via a handheld radio to determine if anyone could actually hear us talking. Particularly challenging were repeated failures due to keyed transmitters, which rendered channel 1 useless for long periods throughout the weekend and resulted in fallback to channel 2 on numerous occasions.

#### Recommended Action

Replace the analog base stations and radio system with a digital one which will allow us to uniquely identify each radio and disable a unit that is blocking the channel. Charlie Z. and Ichabod appear to have researched some solutions for this. A replacement solution should include base stations that support over the ear headphones that allow us to hear in the cacophony that is present at the Fair.

Perhaps a committee could explore options, develop a budget and present options in the next few months. I would be willing to participate in that effort, but it should be started right away to be in place for the 2019 Fair.

Also consider making the Front Porch and Rabbit Hole once again areas free of amplified music. It makes a difficult job harder when you can't hear each other across the table.

*Computers in Fair Central* As you know, we've had a computer in Fair Central now for a number of years. The impact it has made on our ability to quickly recall needed information is huge, and would be amplified by having a laptop at each of the table stations AND one in the new equipment checkout booth downstairs. I would recommend that the pager, radio and telephone checkout all be on the computer, so we could know at a glance which of those have been checked out and who current has them. This will help the table staff know what resources are available at any given moment for problem solving.

As I discussed with Charlie, these machines should be laptops with batteries adequate to withstand at least a few hours without power. Similarly, the network infrastructure that links them must be backed up with an uninterruptable power supply (UPS), to ensure they can communicate with each other, even in the event of a utility power failure...as occurred twice at the 2018 Fair.

These machines must share a local server in Fair Central rather than rely on access to the internet, because the Fair remains unable to provide a reliable internet connection for either staff or vendors. A solution that made these documents available to management team via Google Apps would be preferable, but that is IMPOSSIBLE without a reliable network connection. At least for the launch year, we should plan on sharing via a local server.

In order for this to work, at least one FTE of additional staff should be budgeted for Fair Central to do the data entry necessary. We can minimize that by reaching out to other crew coordinators of Traffic, Lots, and Internal and External Security and other crews to provide us their information in a machine readable, rather than paper documents. Finally, we should probably purchase an inexpensive flatbed scanner or use a cell phone-based scanning app to convert paper documents to PDF. I would also recommend a copy of Adobe Acrobat Professional, which will make PDF documents editable.

Fair Central should also participate actively in editing Sally's Who, What, When document, which is an invaluable resource that concisely lists information we are routinely asked about, including shuttle information and the starting or closing times for various services. This document should be available both on the computer and on paper for quick reference. I would further recommend providing copies of it to all of the information booths.

*Cellular Network* We are well past the point where we can operate the Fair without reliable network infrastructure. Though cell carriers added two additional cell on wheels (COW) sites, my own perception was that the cellular network was nearly unusable, and possibly even worse than last year, perhaps due to increased attendance. Please consult with carriers to determine why that was the case and to determine if additional capacity can be added.

You might also find the wireless carriers are willing to finance necessary upgrades to the OCF wireless network, because moving that data traffic to Wi-Fi frees their network towers to make and receive calls. At Husky Stadium, the cell carriers paid for the buildout of the Wi-Fi network for just that reason.

*Wired network* The wireline network at OCF provides service for administrative staff users of OCF at locations including main camp yurts and Fair Central, and crews providing registration services at the sticker booth, among others. The network was extremely slow, when it worked at all. You'll be hearing extensive (and I suspect blistering) feedback from the Booth Registration that they were unable to do their work due to unreliability of the network. Fair Central was similarly impacted, but because we know that we won't be able to use it, we plan not to.

## **FAR SIDE**

It would be way cool if cars were not driving around Far Side Sunday before 3 or so...parenting is hard enough Sunday morning without cars rushing around, even into Elders Meadow. Thanks!

FarSide entry & exit: There has been really long wait lines to exit the FarSide on Monday. Dozens of vehicles idling, going nowhere, waiting for permission to exit the FarSide a lot of time waiting 1/2 hour-1 hour, heard the people doing this are not Fair people, City of Veneta people? As adults, why should we need anyone to OK just driving onto a country road? We all passed drivers tests!! This creates pollution & very frustrated people!! It makes absolutely no sense!!!

The dome was a place where a kid could go to hang out and not get in the way of grownups. (reported to Info by child who was sad that the dome was not in FarSide this year)

## **FAIR AREA RAPID TRANSIT (FARTS)**

I think that the Winery, as a parking area for Staff folk, is fine, but that there needs to be much better transport provided for people in those far West lots. The Farts did good service, but the Winery buses, running only once every 3 hours, left our Staff people vulnerable to heat stroke and mental "burn out". They paid for the privilege of an hour's hike to their car so as to make room for the Public. That ain't fair. If that continues to be the situation next year, you are going to have a mutiny. Although it was not our assignment, my crew of 2 plus me ferried in and/or out well over 100 people, Staff and Public, every day, on the Noon to 6PM shift, and still others caught lifts from Traffic vehicles going back and forth. Not our assignment, but probably the best thing we could have done for the Fair, and for the people.

Would like to see better transportation to and from the far away parking lots. The FARTS bus did not run nearly enough, it's dangerous having to make the trek from the far parking lot in the heat of the day because the bus was not running.

## **FIRE SAFETY**

As a Lot crew member, I attended several pre-Fair meetings dealing with safety issues, primarily focused on guns and explosives, and with almost no mention of the danger of fire somewhere on the grounds. I think that we are far more likely to have a fire somewhere in the woods or parking areas than a shooter or bomber, and our fire suppression system is entirely inadequate. The tiny extinguisher strapped to the gator I piloted on the new Winery property are a joke, and an estimated 6-8 minutes time for a Fire Crew gator or truck to make it out to the periphery should tell you that we are in for it, big time. I am talking about death and destruction here. I have no idea what the plans are for a fire in the Fair area, during and after public hours, but there is no reasonable fire suppression in any of the parking lots and adjacent woods. One careless cigarette or over-heated catalytic converter, and we are in conflagration. I think that, at the minimum, Fire Crew needs to station a vehicle with a 500 gallon water tank and projection system, plus 2 trained Fire Crew people and a radio out at the Winery during the daylight hours of the Fair. That would cut the response time for Fire Crew in half, and demonstrate that the Fair takes the safety of its crew volunteers seriously, not to mention that of our Fair-going patrons.

## **FOOD**

The price of eating and bathing at the Fair continues to rise, but our voucher levels do not. I had a lovely breakfast Friday morning, and it cost me nearly a day's pay. Add in a sauna at the Ritz, and Sunday dinner is wish sandwiches. The days of Fair Family discounts have gone away apparently, as I did not see a single silver star anywhere.

It is an atrocity to all that you would even consider revoking Sweet Leaf food booth. This booth has always brought the best locally grown, organic and gmo free food and drinks to the fair. It is one of a few booths that we enjoy at the fair. We need sustenance while working the long hours that our crew requires. We do it happily because we know that Sweet Leaf is there to provide us quality nutrition, excellent smoothies and friendly faces. The fair DOES NOT need more pizza or crappy fried food. Please think about the disappointment so many folks will feel when you abolish Sweet Leaf. When it comes to healthy food you should set your politics and personal feelings aside. Please keep Sweet Leaf, it truly is the most nutritious food at the fair. Thank you

Please keep Sweet Leaf in their location & help them help us thrive! They are one of the few booths that my family can eat from. They do a lot of great work, & they have for many years. Thank you.

Would love the return of Sweet Leaf. Would love to be able to find fresher, organic, locally harvested SALAD items. Wonderful Fair; Thank <3 You <3

I'd also love to see Fair actively engage and recruit more organic produce into the food offerings. Plant based people have few options out there, without having to eat at a mixed diet booth. That can be real scary for those of us with food challenges. Having no Sweet Leaf has a huge impact on us who actually relied on them for our nutrients.

Loved the Fair as always but was upset that Sweet Leaf, Tofu Palace and New Day (?) not there this year as those are some of the only places I can eat.

## **ICE**

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE sell block ice to campers and fair family. This year was especially hot and the crushed ice barely lasted a DAY. I'd even be happy to pre-order and pre-pay for a couple of blocks to have for pick up. For all the talk of sustainability and eco, the ice people sure AREN'T. Blocks are more efficient!!!

## **INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR**

On Thursday the 12th in the morning, one of my daughter's was taking a shower at the Hub. She knows the drill about elders and altered-abled getting preference. No one was waiting, she got in. Within 2 minutes a man opened the curtain, looked her up and down and said he was an elder and she needed to hurry. She was so shook by this experience that she couldn't find her words. She was in there less than 5 minutes and he did not do that to the other side! He could have been a rude ass through the curtain but chose to violate her privacy and give her a once over! She is 19 and has never missed a fair and loves it with all her heart. This has really disappointed her and made her beyond a little frightened to shower with only a curtain between her and who knows who. Once Friday rolled around, it was shower central and flowing notes for her, as usual. But she was not being rude or out of line by using the Hub on Thursday morning unlike this creepy, rude, out of line elder was! No excuse for this behavior. None. Nada.

Thank you for reading. Needed to vent!

## **IT**

Vendor Wi-Fi password doesn't work

SO disappointed in the internet this year. Compared to last year, I missed out on well over \$1000 in CC sales due to spotty internet. Not able to do any sales on Friday and Saturday-Sunday was very in and out.

Last year we were able to use "square" conveniently, but this year we posted sales off-line and then at the end of the day moved out to the dragon to run the charges. On Thursday, we ran around the Fair trying to obtain a working password and no one knew it. Finally, on Friday a note was passed to booths giving wifi password.

Posting the vendor Wi-Fi password on the exterior of Odyssey in full public view is not a good idea. It just makes an already bad situation much worse. This happened this year at fair and I took the Wi-Fi note down and handed it to the Odyssey worker and ask her to stop it.

Wi-Fi Network: A White Bird coordinator noted, "It is worse than ever. Phone and text were very, very bad. My role at Fair requires access to internet which was HORRIBLE. Also, the DOCTORS on my crew require internet to access medical databases and could not. Regardless of improving general public access (a separate discussion) Staff and EMS SERVICES must be supplied with reliable Wi-Fi access 24/7. [Nota bene—could we extend wired ethernet access to Big Bird and Little Wing?]

If we can't do better than we did, we should not attempt to have a publicly accessible Wi-Fi network at OCF. However, as noted above, you might find cell providers surprisingly willing to bear the capital cost of a Wi-Fi network buildout if it relieved pressure on their own call networks.

Whatever we do, work on that solution needs to begin RIGHT NOW to be ready for OCF@50.

## **JUNK YARD DOGS (JYD) & GATOR CREW**

The gator crew to get us in was great. Fair was great.

JYD. Thank you for another year of helping me get my whole camp into fair in one big gator load! And thanks to the drivers.

Gators. So many gators on property that seem to not have to follow the rules that everyone else does. Way to set an example.

## **LASERS**

We, the Fair, we're not doing a very good job of asking participants to put away the hand held lasers at night. I believe there is a BOD approved ban on these. There could and should be some advisory language in the 2019 Guidelines, please? I saw dozens of these in the hands of children, and seriously, it's only a matter of time before we have an eye injury. Many hand held lasers are powerful enough to cause permanent blindness even in brief exposure. Low level ambient type non portable lasers around the Fair pointed at the ground or up in the trees do pose the same kind of risk as a handheld being waved around by a youngster. I don't think we should "Tell people what to do" but we can encourage to think twice, right? I'd like to see Path Rove be some more interactive with those participants.

Sunday night of the fair, I observed several kids with green lasers flashing folks. Lasers can cause eye injuries quickly. I asked the kids to stop, but they just ran off flashing the lasers. I would suggest that handheld lasers be banned next from the fair. Use of lasers responsibility is Ok with me, but not in the hands of young kids.

## **LIBRARY**

The Library/Book Arts area is really boring. -- Can't there be more of an effort to make that place inviting, special, & relevant? It's lame & looks like it was sloppily put together. Is anyone taking care of this space? If not it should be put to use for booths or more resting/lounging that is ambient.

## **LIGHTS, PLEASE!**

Light up the potties. I don't how to accomplish this, and I don't think there's need to light potties out in the lots. But in the Fair and in the campgrounds?? I know from years of festival experience that if the potties are lit they stay much cleaner/more... I don't know if "sanitary" is the right word, but less disgusting? If participants can see what they're doing. The tops of the potties are a translucent white plastic -I've seen them lit with just a strand of rope lights thrown over the top of the potties running the length of the toilet bank, I've seen them lit with led work lights on a taller pole pointed down toward the top of the pottie bank. I'm sure this would be a budgetary kind of thing, and it would probably need a small crew to put up, take down, maintain, and store said lighting. Can't really put anything IN the potties, because unless it's impossible to remove it would probably get re-homed /re-purposed by Friday morning, right?

Lights of some sort to illuminate the honey buckets at night would help to keep them clean.

Please oh please, is there a way to put some night time low lighting at the main stage/politics park hand wash station? Some many people leave without washing hands, I think the light would help.

Lights of some sort to illuminate the honey buckets at night would help to keep them clean.

Bench near Phoenix Rising causing people to fall over in the dark -- too dark to see. Perhaps path ambiance/lighting to resolve. Reported to info by nearby vendor. \*She said Phoenix Rising, but also said it was in Xavanadu near place that makes fresh warm cookies.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

Glad to see mix of old & young folks stepping up to keep things happening.

## **MAIN CAMP KITCHEN**

Can we look at ways to make meal times more time-efficient? The big meals during the last 10 days or so take up hours and hours of crew time, as crew members wait in line...and sometimes wait to get a ticket if they can't find a coordinator. It just seems we could use volunteer time better. I'm not sure if it is running more lines, or having staggered serving times, or having multiple places to serve/eat. I'd ask kitchen and QM what ideas they have on how to make this work better and have less volunteer time spent standing in line.

I thought the food in the kitchen this year was excellent almost always

## **MEMBERSHIP FORMS**

I am living in Guatemala and want to make sure I can vote for the Board remotely. I see the online form, but it is necessary to print it out and scan it and send it back. I am wondering if it would be possible to create an online form such as this one to register.

## **NEVER GOING BACK**

I felt like I was walking in a shopping mall. It seemed like the only reason to go was to buy things. Smelled like cabanas everywhere because of the "private parties behind the booths, but we can't smoke there. Same with drinking, we saw multiple people drinking behind booths, but no drinking for the public. It really feels like you use the general public to pay for your private party.

Disgusted on so many levels. Never Going Back. Oregon Country Fair (in Veneta, OR) knowingly has white supremacists working security and knowingly has a white supremacist family invited to camp overnight. The family of one of the individuals who went to prison for throwing a brick through the window of a synagogue.

Oregon Country Fair engages in cultural appropriation and other disrespectful practices towards Native people. Native people have been harassed and threatened with violence when they have objected to racist practices of OCF. OCF is on Kalapuya land. I've been told that there are some things on the land (I don't know specifics) that are sacred to the Kalapuya. Kalapuya elders have made requests on how to care for that land respectfully and have been ignored.

Oregon Country Fair is so expensive that poor people can't afford it. Many poor people work for free in

order to attend while many people make big profits from the event.

Oregon Country Fair is racist, anti-Jewish, xenophobic, Islamophobic, homophobic, transphobic, classist, misogynist, and ableist. Some people might wonder why I'm saying they are homophobic, transphobic, misogynist, and ableist. White supremacists don't just target people of color, Muslims, and Jewish people (although that is horrible all by itself) they also target LGBTQ folks, disabled folks, women, and poor people. Also racism against Native people means that Native women, Native LGBTQ/two spirit people, Native disabled folks, etc. are also impacted. Supporting racism means supporting all other kinds of oppression.

By welcoming white supremacists and engaging in blatant racist disrespect and hostility towards Native folks in other ways, it should be obvious that Oregon Country Fair is an event that supports white supremacist settler colonialism.

### **PATH PLANNING**

We live on Strawberry Lane at Booth 932. There was a booth down the road from us that remained empty all Fair. It was supposed to be a 1-year-only, but no one showed up. It was cleverly transformed into a sitting area. We and our neighbors all agreed that it would be lovely to keep it that way! I believe the booth# is 948.

### **PEACH PIT**

Our whole camp really missed to short bios/descriptions of all the musical acts. Made it very hard to plan the day and try new music, we tended to only go with acts we had already heard perform.

### **PRE-POST**

What the hell is post-traffic for? They don't seem to know what to do every year to efficiently get family out of parking and into the fair to pick-up. It is ridiculous. Most of the workers at the gates are not paying attention or don't know what the deal is with traffic flow. I get told one thing and then a complete other. People are driving around the 8 not knowing how to get out or in.

Pre-Post is soooo late relieving us on Sunday. At 0145, I got one of the 2 folks at snooze gate to come up to island gate so I could leave, as no one had arrived. I sign up for 7 to 12, not all night until Pre-Post can be troubled to come relieve me. This situation happens every year. I have discussed this many times, and as far as I can tell, no one cares. It leaves me feeling disrespected beyond belief, and always ends my fair on a sad note. I want to be having fun too on the last night, not trapped at a gate. I think this is reasonable, considering my shift is scheduled until 12.

### **RECYCLING**

I've been involved many years, different booths. Hope to see Fair keep heading toward zero waste.

I LOVE the new Recycling Kiosk inside Ho Gate. Made it easy to keep my campsite clean. It took a few days to get a fork bucket, but it finally appeared.

Extra garbage cans everywhere are great!

The amount of waste that accumulates within the eight after the fair closes to the public is concerning. Ideally the family would waste less, but perhaps extra compost barrels could be put at kiosks as it seemed these barrels were overflowing the most.

I saw a lot of trash left around and folks who didn't manage their responsibilities for cleaning up work sites and returning tools, which gets dumped on someone else. Same issues with the general Fair family, in leaving their waste for someone else to be responsible for.

We do already emphasize personal responsibility and accountability, as it relates to many interactions at Fair. I believe we need to increase our emphasis to fair family about personal responsibility to keep the land clear of debris and show the respect we have for the property and one's self.

Something like, "Love Fair? Don't trash it. Pack it in and pack it out. Only you should have to deal with your trash."

Otherwise, it was a fantastic fair with lots of good and positives to build off of and go forward with.

One big thing, to anyone who opts to leave all their trash behind on Monday, especially those who leave entire camps behind, please stop this behavior. Remember pack it in, pack it out.

## **REGISTRATION**

A great big peachy thanks to the registration line fairy, when it was pointed out I was wearing a knee brace, the fairy gave me a pass that allowed me to skip the line and go directly to the booth. Turns out he (a member of reg crew) had the idea, printed the passes, asked reg crew if they could make it work; they said yes. Because of this many older, injured, encumbered family members did not have to start fair waiting in line. Nice to know someone can come up with such a kind idea and everyone lets it bloom. Kudos.

I have been waiting for instructions on where to pay my booth fees, the email said they would contact me and I haven't heard from not one person? Why? Now I look on your website and now I have missed application deadline. This is kind of crazy and not right I have been preparing for the Country Fair since last year. I am so upset, what do I do now? Please help,

It would be awesome if you had a spot in Fair for booths to deal with registration issues during Fair, rather than going a distance away from their booth to the parking lot.

## **SAFETY**

As this year's Fair showed us, it can darned hot, and people can only take so much. There were many heat-related interventions this year, inside and out, and it will only get worse as our planet warms up. Please address these issues before it is too late, and someone dies.

It was very hot out in the parking lots this year post-Fair on Monday. There were people who had shifts until the evening. At about 1pm or so crews came and took down the 'pop-ups' that were providing a bit of shade to those of us out in the blaring midday sun. Thankfully I only had about 2 hours left but those who came later had many hours to be unprotected from the burning rays. I suggest leaving those canopies up until the sun has gone down when it is over 80 degrees outside.

## **SANITATION**

I have a problem. I have a long line of customers helping me make my living! I need to go to the bathroom several times during the day, but cannot take the time to stand in line for a porta potty, or make my way through Fair to find a bathroom free. I am the only one at my cart. Could there be a porta potty for Vendors Only in strategic areas, or at the least, down by the Dragon entrance area, where I spend some good time? Or could I be allowed at least to have a pre-approved camp/pee-bucket placed behind the scene? (We are talking only #1, here folks!) This has been a problem for years for me. I'd appreciate a solution!

The crews who cleaned the non port a potty bathrooms did a great job very fast and effective.

I love the herinals! Though there seemed to be some sink plumbing issues at Youth Stage.

If I went to the Fair as a visitor on Saturday, 7/14/18, and paid \$32 for my ticket, I would have been furious & disappointed at the condition of the 'Honey Buckets' by the Ritz. Not one had toilet paper in them but lots blowing around on the ground! Our visitors/paying customers must think we're slobs. Honey Bucket company cleans them but can't we at least keep them stocked with tp?

Everybody poops! Even on Monday!!! I understand that cleaning the honey buckets on Monday would be logistically hard and that you don't clean them so people do not hang out. BUT - can't we at least get sanitation crew to provide some toilet paper to the honey buckets on Monday? There was NO paper in any of the buckets near Chela Mela from very early morning Monday.

The toilets would run out of paper and be covered in shit early in the day. A toilet attendant could use rubber gloves and wipe ups, to keep them serviceable. I'm specifically thinking of the ones across from the Ritz, but the same is true for other clusters. One gentleman in a wheelchair was asking for help. The handicapped accessible toilet was completely taped off due to feces. Every stall was out of paper! Unacceptable!

Also the toilet situation is not really working. We have two bathroom areas close to us (Xavanadu and Hoarse Chorale) and they get so gross it is extremely unsanitary. We need another clean out and/or more of them. And we also need a clean out on Monday morning. It is unfair to have us have to deal with no tp and disgusting conditions when we are already tired and having to do a lot of work to pack up and leave. I feel like another clean out and or a few more potties would be a minimal expense!

Many of the Honey Buckets at camping site, all around the Fair, and inside the 8 were dangerously high by Sunday and too high on Saturday too. Needed to be emptied mid-Fair!

Many of the bathrooms were running out of toilet paper by Sunday afternoon.

The portapotties ran out of toilet paper frequently. They used to put lots of extra rolls in each.

Since so many come in on Wednesday it is wonderful some of the six packs open then. However, it would be more helpful to stock enough toilet paper and far healthier to have the hand wash stations open and stocked. My booth has learned to bring t.p. and soap but we can't bring enough for everyone.

The porta potties were a nightmare this year. There seemed to be fewer per person than in the past many years. Poop piled to the top regularly. There was more often than not no toilet paper and out in Miss Piggy's there were 5 min or longer lines even at 4 am, 7 am, 9 am...which was not only surprising but also really challenging considering I was 7 months pregnant. Sanitation seems like a poor choice of areas to pinch pennies in.

The honey buckets weren't pumped Monday morning even though many folks still on site all day.

I have one complaint. Potty services were deplorable. I left Sunday morning as all the bucks were full to the seat. It seems one service a day was their norm. Absolutely disgusting.

#### Honey Buckets and Six Packs (Notes from Fair Central)

Really, they define the term 'shitshow.' I realize no one probably wants this job. Yet in terms of guest experience, it is VERY IMPORTANT. Why must we EVERY YEAR deal with problems with overflowing urinals in the six packs and reports of no toilet paper? How hard can it actually be to figure this out? PLEASE make it someone's only job to make sure that the water is available at all handwashing stations, and that soap, paper and other supplies are provided. If we don't have enough Honey Buckets to prevent them from becoming unsanitary prior to their next scheduled servicing, then be sure that staff near those areas have zip ties and CLOSE the units that should not be used. Similarly for our own six packs, devise a method to close down units when they do not have supplies, and make that the responsibility of someone nearby to each of them. Finally, be sure you know who will be responsible for dealing with plumbing blockages and that they are on a radio, rather than a pager. We need much faster response on this. The on-call carpenters don't want this responsibility. If Sanitation is the right place, get them on radios and on a crew channel, so that can be dispatched immediately when there is a problem.

#### **SANITATION/WATER**

(Notes from Fair Central) New this year were repeated problems with the graywater system, primarily in Xavanadu, but also at the Flowing Notes showers. Again, it appears that we weren't getting around to those things quickly enough. In Xavanadu particularly, we need a plan for how those systems can be serviced during Fair hours, or to know that they will work. Some booths were without working drain systems for hours.

I would like to see more water stations for tooth brushing and hand washing 24/7 in Piggy's Lot. The showers end at 7 pm. There is NO station for self-care in that region. I saw a mom washing her child's face/hands near a blue barrel, there was no soap or grey water system. WE CAN DO BETTER. It's hot and dusty out there. Please keep people healthy and clean. Much Love. Whatever I can do to make the change, please let me know how to contribute.

I also love the shitter bank inside Ho Gate, but it had 2 extra shitters and no hand wash station. While I loved having more clean blue boxes, I would have liked to wash my hands.

Water for hand washing at the honey buckets late night. The hand washing stations are frequently out of water at night. That means fair family is not washing their hands after using the bathroom. They are then using the drinking water to wash hands. CONTAMINATION!

The bathrooms between Community Village and Shady Grove were opened Wednesday morning, but there was no water in the handwashing sink until Thursday evening, and, despite numerous assurances that CV info had let folks who should know about this know, no hand sanitizer as a temporary public

health solution at the sinks. I heard the water was down all over the Fair for some time Thursday afternoon, but we were concerned that people were using those toilets for two days without washing their hands. Some of us had time to walk over to Politics Park, where there was running water, and some of us had personal hand sanitizer in our booths, but not everybody.

## **SAUNA**

On Wednesday night, word was put out that the Ritz was free with a wristband. Went to take a shower after working all day and was told it cost \$5. When I protested I was met w unsympathetic remarks. Later found out that around the corner in the dark there was a table where you could check in for a number and wait a long time for free showers in an isolated part of the Ritz - not the Ritz group experience and we weren't informed even when we protested the fee at the Main Counter. It felt dishonest. Later we looked up the contract and saw that free showers were supposed to be available that night. It seems they used this smaller opportunity to avoid the spirit of that agreement, Yuck.

Very frustrated with having to wait in line to take a shower at the Ritz.

One suggestion I would give is to limit the musicians in the Ritz to mellow and acoustic. On Sunday evening there was a reggae jam band that got much too loud and so everyone in the sauna got incredibly loud. It was not the peaceful and thoughtful experience that I usually feel in the sauna (which I do each morning and evening).

## **SECURITY**

Security this year is AWESOME!

WOW never even noticed security before. But when a new friend lost their child, they appeared out of nowhere & went into fast action! I think Paul took notes & asked questions while calm. I think it was Riley and Emperor were also there as support & helpfulness. I was so impressed & thankful. I have two kids & I feel even better about bringing them to OCF. Thank you for this amazing & well organized experience!

On Saturday night, there were four security personnel stationed at the gate between the backstage area of Main Stage and the camping area behind Main Stage. My partner and I walked through twice and none of them checked my or my partner's pass. When my partner commented on this, one of the security staff replied in a rude manner, and said that we must have "slipped through", despite the fact that they had to step aside for us to pass, and I watched other people come through the gate without being checked. This does not help me to feel safe in my camping area.

The emergency path behind White Blvd that leads to the Back of Main Stage is staffed by security every year. This year the attention given was horrible. There were 3 security people there doing nothing. When I noticed to them that they were letting folks go by w/o checking their passes they shrugged and made disrespectful snarky remarks. On a different occasion the person wasn't even aware he was supposed to check folks coming from the direction of the camping. I camp back there and caught strangers in our camp sneaking back stage on a couple different occasions.

## **SERVICE ANIMALS**

"Service" dogs and the public. I saw three separate pit bulls with people who were not blind, and then another dog, also with a not-blind woman, who was tugging her down the path. She had no control over her animal, it was lunging at the leash and dragging her about. That is not a service animal. I realize 'service' animal means too many things these days, but buying a \$10 sign on the internet does not qualify your animal as service. Please find a way to allow legitimate service animals, and not people's pets. This article may interest you: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/10/20/pets-allowed>

## **SHUTTLE**

Would like worker bus to stop downtown, too (or instead of VRC).

## **SIGNS & BANNERS**

Many times daily at fair I give directions to people. I think it would be great at my intersection of Left Lane & Moon Path to have a street style sign with many directions: Stage Left -->, Chela Mela -->, <-- Blue Moon, <--Exit, <--Main Stage, Xavanadu. I also hear people lost and confused at night not sure where they are. I think it would be a fun project and be a fun sign. I don't think people are familiar (public especially) with names of street they are on.

I like the new sign for Moon Path/Sun Path nearby at Xavanadu Meadow.

Where the heck is the sign for the Chez Ray's stage? Too hard to find. Get them a good sign. (X3)

Signs to remind folks to close the Honey Bucket lids - improve air quality.

## **SITE**

When Jerry Garcia passed, we planted a tree at the Teddy Bear Picnic. That original tree was lost by winter storms and another tree was planted but looked sick and upon arrival on 7/13, a flower area has replaced the Garcia tree with petunias, etc. We really need a Garcia tree replaced. It's my mission. Please help.

I loved the return of Grass to the paths on the Eight.

Please put wood chips on busy paths/high traffic areas

And that hot weather.....

I'm an Alter-Able participant. The fair was very enjoyable this year even though the weather was hot. I really have no complaints other than the weather, which is beyond your control. It might be helpful to place misters near the dance areas... Monkey Palace and Dance Pavilion.

1st time at Fair -- wait lines for tickets way too long and needs shade!

What are your ideas for dust control?

Thank you for a great fair! Considering the heat, the dust was lower than expected.

This year was understandably the dustiest fair of my 40 years as a crafter; however the person taking over from the veteran path water spent most of his time watering moss on trees and foliage and not the dusty path. On Sunday, our path was not watered at all except by us.

I like the new shade cloth at Shady Grove. There are more places where that would be good on the hot days.

Many thanks to everyone who watered the path in front of their booths.

We really could use water in our barrels on Wednesday. That's the most dusty day and not having ability to wet the path we end up with everything smothered in dust before the fair even begins. The dust on Wednesday and Thursday is really awful.

Bring back the main stage shade (think families!) (X2)

What happened to the "In Tents" at Main Stage Meadow? There used to be several large shelters and some overhead covering from the intense sun at the side of the Meadow but none this year. Need this please.

Who decided to forego the shade tarps at Main Stage on the hottest Fair in YEARS? BAD decision. I hope White Bird made it clear that was a bad idea too.

No shade at Main Stage on the hottest Fair weekend in recent memory.

I have been coming to the fair for over 40 years and am now older and disabled. This year it was very hot and the shade tents were missing from main stage. It was too hot for old people and babies. The tents have been there for many years. They need to come back. It made it harder on White Bird. While I was watching the Jerry Garcia birthday band I saw several people being brought in because they overheated.

### **SOUND/NOISE**

After a long day of packing, driving to the Fair and setting up our booth on Thursday, we looked forward to a peaceful night's sleep. But instead a booming band played until 2 am keeping all awake.

The Spirit Tower continues to be a problem with noise! It's too loud. When we have to shout at our potential customers and can't hear them - it's doubtful we'll be able to sell them anything. Too loud of volume comes from here day & night! How do you expect crafts people to make it through 3 days of working this fair with no sleep? There should not be such loud music here. Spirit Tower is not a good neighbor!

When this went in, Charlie Ruff assured us this stage was not going to be amplified! It should not only not be amplified, but it should not be lighted all night.

I was appalled at one of the shows - performers coming down on "crafter neighbors" for complaining about how loud it was! Really!

I pay to be there! Building animosity is no way to build community.

5am wakeup call by Recycling Crews blaring truck radio/stereo is so over the top in rude I can begin to explain! I believe a violation of the Guidelines. Please see pg 19, #49 Sound Amplification. "Amplified sound, whether live or recorded creates problems for other fair family. Please consider others before you turn it up. Please be respectful of your impact.....," ...with early morning shifts." Honestly, so blatantly rude and uncaring for crafts people!

A sound permit was given in the area of the ice cream booth on Strawberry Lane. This should not be granted again. This is a crafts neighborhood. We need our sleep so we can be sales people the next day. How do you expect us to do this with no sleep?

Bass from about 3pm on Saturday from Main Stage is so loud it is shaking all the structures and objects in my booth. I feel nauseous & ill from the extreme volume. I had to leave my booth to get away from it. I have no one covering for me. I suggest you create a 'decibel cap' policy based on how it impacts Fair family who are away from the Main Stage, but still slammed with the percussive booming.

Please enforce sound amplification rules - Camping Rules #49 in a way to support vendors/booth staff needing to sleep. There has been a travelling rave on a cart with speakers and an overhead disco ball, blasting 70s era disco quite loudly, and this cart has appeared for a few years, always after the midnight show on Saturday nights.

The cart moves along the path, making frequent stops. By staying on the path, the DJ makes certain to be as intrusive as possible to as many people as possible. There is such blatant disrespect for others that this flies in the face of OCF ethics.

The cart passes Info Booths with OCF staff and Security is not alerted. This lets the DJ know that OCF supports this disruption to others.

If the cart ended up in Chela Mela or in Xavanadu, it would be tolerable, but the cart often passes by 3 or 4 times, always after 3:30a.m.

Considering that an older couple on the path acting as wandering entertainment were shut down because they used amplification, even though the guitar and bass were kept at lot volume because their voices weren't amplified. This older couple, who everyone enjoyed and were careful to avoid being intrusive in any way, is apparently a greater threat to the Fair than someone who purposely seeks to be as disruptive as possible. As long as one is disruptive after Fair hours, it seems that disruption is entirely acceptable to Fair Security. Please consider enforcing the after-hours rules in a way that would minimize this sort of disruption on the path.

## **TOWING**

I followed directions from parking staff where to park with a parking sticker for the weekend. I showed the sticker and the parking attendant directed me to a lot & space to park. Next day I went out to my car & it was towed. In order to get my car out, it cost \$80. I almost missed my Monday appointment for treating cervical cancer due to the tow. Also, my bumper was dented by the tow company which I have photos to show. All I ask is for a refund of the \$80. I am not asking for reimbursement of damage, however, if not refunded I will consider asking for reimbursement for dented bumper.

## **TRAFFIC**

It was a wonderful Fair all in all. The only problem I ran into was arriving at Suttle Road Thursday morning about 9:30. Right after Hilltop Market traffic stopped. We inched our way for the next two

hours to the turnoff for Shady Lane Camp, (hope that's the correct name, but you likely will receive more comments about this situation). Cars camping there slowly entered their driveway. The rest of us coming in for bracelets and to try to make our work shift continued on Suttle. Whoa, what a bad start. I was WAY LATE to take care of my responsibilities with the shower crew. Has to be a change next year. Last year my Thursday arrival at about the same time was seamless. Far better experience.

Hi, I've tried various ways to get this info to you and particularly to Traffic. I think it would be awesome to have a circle around the Reg booth rather than have people turn right, park, and then have to cross through the middle of things again. There's definitely a wide road behind the Reg booth that many could take to get back into Miss Piggy, or back into the Fair, in general, without having to cross over the incoming traffic. I like the idea of calling it Albert's Circle, personally :) If you need more info or want me to share an image I've created to show this idea off, please get in touch. Thanks for another amazing Fair.

## **VOLUNTEER**

I would like to know how I could volunteer this year. Please contact me soon. Thank you

it seemed like many systems experienced stress this year in getting set up on time.

I have worked my butt off for the past 6 years with shower crew and never missed a shift and always worked extra and created the best possible experience for my fair family, and I'm being denied my job this year because I'm REQUIRED to do some household work and make dinner for my crew leader and can't go along with this. I have no problem doing things for my friends, but I earned my spot based on hard work and merit and lost it because I couldn't bring myself to abide by this bribery tactic. There must rules put in place to protect good honest fair workers against personal power agendas.

After reading the minutes for the board meeting 6/4/2018, I can only THANK YOU all for FIRING me a few years back after volunteering in many different capacities for almost 40ty years. I clearly see the OCF has very little integrity, no wisdom and huge egos....all conspiring to undermine the intent and magic that once was the fair that Bill Wooten championed. I'm very glad NOT to be a part of your dysfunctional circus way other than as an occasional visitor. I'll keep my memories of the past and once great fair to myself.

Hello! Will there be a need for volunteers/can me sign up to volunteer? :)

This was my first year visiting the fair and I can't believe it's taken me this long to come home. I didn't realize how long I would be waiting in line to get on a shuttle in Eugene, so my day was shorter than I would have liked. In the half day that I did attend, I saw amazing performers, a village built by people who work hard to bring this all together, and a welcoming and inclusive community that is formed by everyone involved. Thank you so much for putting on this event. I hope to find ways to get involved in the coming years. I only wish that I had started participating when I was a teenager - this family would have meant so much to me!

## **WATER**

The water fountains in Xavanadu were turned off early Monday, and we had nowhere to get drinking water during load out. I understand that it's incentive to leave, but it is unhealthy and dangerous at 95°!

A hose similar to the one used at the upper eight junction for wetting down the path would be a great idea from the Soy World area or burrito booth. The dust was way down in front of Get Fried Rice and this would get it down near the recycling area in front of the Soy World enclave.

Perhaps we could also have path watering 50 gallon drums in high traffic/dusty areas with watering cans so path goers can just pick it up and do it themselves when it needs doing. Thanks!

I ask for 2-4 or 4-6 more barrels of path water. They are currently few and far between. I am a path waterer! My pleasure.

Wednesday/Thursday -- no water at booth.

## **WEBSITE**

I live and breathe by the countdown timer each year; it gives me something GREAT to look forward to. I just wanted to let you know that the timer is not accurate. It is off by about eight hours. THANK YOU!!

When I search for women or Moon Lodge on your website nothing shows up. That's ridiculous. Make it easier for women to find resources at the fair. Thank you.

Hi, getting so excited for the fair and I thought it would be cool if, on your website, if you included a photo on each of the food vendors pages. You do it for the artists. Just a thought, thanks.

Your website does not show the price for 3 day tickets. It mentions them, but repeats 1 day ticket info instead of 3 day ticket prices.

Bicycles! This should be the preferred method of transportation. But the website does not even recognize bicycles under 'Transportation.' Please provide a fenced 'cycle corral' by the entrance with security. (I know it's the Fair, but this is 'Eugene' and bikes will be stolen if unsecure.) Even Autzen Stadium provides this for football games!!

A constructive suggestion about the website - Did you all happen to know the fluttering butterflies on your screen cover over some of the verbiage on the page? It's a cute design but would be ideal if they could be shifted to the far left or right so as to not cover up the text. For myself, it's challenging enough to read due to my vision and the butterflies are an impediment. But I think normal vision folks likely have the same distraction. Hope the webmaster can strongly consider the minor design change.

## **WHITE BIRD**

I really appreciate White Bird and all they do. While I've never been treated by them, I've seen them in action, and they are amazing, awesome, caring people!

White Bird did a great job taking care of people in the heat.

More Medical staff in lot areas. We were camped in SCOF lot and had our own medical bag that we used on several fair family coming through the gates. Lucky for us we have medical training and were able to help weary travelers with things ranging from blistered and hurt feet, sun screen, bug bites, minor cuts and bruises, and a couple wayward travelers just needed a minutes rest out of the heat and some hydration. There were crew at each of the gates leading in to several parking areas or camp lots to ensure the correct people were entering but no one from medical. Judging by the number of people we helped alone at our camp it seems it could be useful to have a medical personnel at these spots as well. Someone with a medical bag, radio, and water/gatorade. If something serious happens they could always radio in for extra help. There is an amazing effort to help people inside the forest, but I think it would be beneficial to help our family outside of the forest as well.

I heard White Bird is moving the main facility down to where Little Wing is now. I don't think this is a good idea. Keeping the hospital by main stage makes for easier ambulance transportation down Chickadee to Moz. Getting a vehicle through the lots is going to be harder. Locating it the very south end of Fair also makes it far away from the main actions, so if people need medical attention they will have a harder time getting there.

I am a combat veteran (Iraq & post 9/11). During Fair I was showering in the Ritz when two pro-grade firecrackers were set off right above the Ritz. I immediately went into shock and began to fall/slip in the shower. I had to be taken to White Bird on a cart with a nurse because I was going into shock. I don't recall who helped me, but I would really like to thank them for helping me while I was in shock. PTSD from combat is scary enough -- but to experience 'mortar fire' going off during Fair while I was naked (in a public shower) was especially frightening. The nurse who helped me was very good and I am so grateful.

That being said, there needs to be a protocol for how to manage the shock/PTSD of combat veterans and vets in general. The docs assumed I was high on drugs or dehydrated but I was 100% sober when the firecrackers were launched.

I would recommend training White Bird staff to handle veteran PTSD and crisis management. *Dr Michael Leeps* of White Bird would have relevant information of this. Reducing stimulation, providing privacy, and reducing contact is essential. Thank you again White Bird for the help and I hope your Fair was happy.

## **THE WINERY**

I hear that the Fair bought the neighboring vineyard. That's a big step! What are the plans for it? Are you going to rent it out for events? It was already used for that. Are you going to tear up the vineyard or still use it?

The Fair could support other, smaller festivals without impacting our sites if you rent it out -- such as Fairieworlds if they want to come back to Eugene. They were there at that vineyard for several years. It's a similar, but smaller event, and many of the same people go. I'd love to see the Fair help them return to this area! Portland is too far for many of us to go.

Many other organizations that the Fair is involved with could benefit from such a separate event site, also. I hope there will be more information about this in the *Fair Family News*.

## **XAVANADU**

Loved Xavanadu and all it offers (that's big as I used to camp in Crafts Lot).

I love Xavanadu! What a great addition to the Fair- it's fantastic. I am glad to see the fair expand in such wonderful ways.

I also miss the piano in Xavanadu, although I LOVED having the chessboard there since my son plays all weekend long. Can you get a second piano?

My only suggestion is to pull the beeping out of the cat in Xavanadu. The voice was okay but the beeping was horrible. I had a massage at the mothership and it was so annoying to hear that mechanical noise constantly. Thank you for everything but the cat!

I really liked the fortune telling kitty in Xavanadu. At first, it seemed too digital and kind of creepy, but it really grew on me, especially as I watched so many people enjoy it. I hope to see the fortune telling kitty return next year!

Another magical year! My main complaint was the fortune telling cat thing in Xavanadu. It consistently made an alarm clock like ringing noise that could be heard anywhere within a hundred feet of it that was EXTREMELY annoying and would literally start to give me an anxiety attack if I was to near it. It was artificial feeling and really destroyed the vibe in that part of Xavanadu. PLEASE bring back the piano to that part too! I missed it dearly and it was infinitely groovier and more "Fair" than that cat thing. I used to juggle glow clubs near there and just hang out for hours at night. But this year I didn't at all. I cannot express enough how much the noises from that cat bummed me out. Seriously. That is all. Thanks.

RE moving the piano parlour: The new spot is lovely. However, it left a hold in Xavanadu. There still needs to be a resting spot under that big tree. A space with chairs with backs, cushions, & carpets. Xavanadu is a large, active space and now there is no chill space -- a place to lay down and sit in a back-chair. I personally loved the piano music there and think you could have it there as well as where it is now as the spaces are so far apart. Many people had no issue with the dance pavilion music.

The piano should be placed back in Xavanadu. It made/added a special ambiance last year and w& play when it's tucked away and it doesn't appear to be open to the public for playing.

Stewardship passport stations too hard to find!

## **KUDOS**

The Fair was awesome this year and, from my perspective, ran very smoothly. Just in case you are getting complaints and negative feedback, I'm here to say "Great Job"! You are amazing, beautiful and appreciated! Keep spreading the love!

Thank you for another awesome fair! Fair was beautiful this year. Loved the grassy road (while it lasted :)).

Outside of these "job-related" issues, I think the Fair went nicely, from what I could experience of it. Like I said, my Fair is out in the parking lots, has been for more than 25 years. I got to see a little of this and that, and it looked like a pretty good show. Let's do it again, shall we?

Thank you for all you do to make the fair as magical as it is!

Thank you... such an important community/family building and sustaining event

The library is nice. The bikes are nice.

This was one of the best fairs ever! Much gratitude to all the volunteers, staff, and all of us fair lovers who make it happen.

Thank you for being here. A 'bigger' bee crew be helpful.... To help sooner than later. Thank you still!

Thank you for all the joy!

Much Fair love.

Thanks to the entertainers, booth folks, crews and others who kept their cool during a very hot fair, it made a difference.

To all the crews, your hard work does not go unnoticed, thanks for all of your work, whimsy and wonderfulness.

## **LOVE FROM THE COMMITTEE FOR FRIVOLOUS COMPLAINTS**

Dearest Heathens,

I am old and grumpy and wish to register some non-specific complaints:

1. Specifically, there is a flamingo infestation here that has frankly gotten out of control. Let's see some invasive species management, hmmm?

2. There are far too many imaginary animals running around here. How many purple-striped zebras do we need?!?

3. Will somebody please answer that damn phone, already?!?

4. These goddamn kids! Running around, doing all our work, who the hell do they think they are?

Bringing energy and life to the Fair. It really grinds my oatmeal.

5. So much day-glo paint and bright color, how do you expect a person to see straight?

6. The helpful crews and staff are just encouraging customers! I have to work too hard.

7. I'm tired of all the changes! Everything should always stay the same! Except get bigger. And more interesting. And be different every time, like in the old days.

8. Will you please answer that damn phone?

9. Complaining is too hard, make it easier!

