

## OREGON COUNTRY FAIR FEEDBACK REPORT 2017

### AAAA

I am 81 The bike crew makes it able to keep coming back to fair.

I just wanted to thank you for offering the 4A altered abled booth it was a joy and necessity getting to and from my car and all of the workers were gracious and kind! I really appreciate it. Thank you

I was injured this year and my participation was very limited compared to past years. I had to walk with a cane and take many "sit down" breaks. We were offered and accepted transportation via the bikes from parking into the fair. That was so helpful! I found many places along the paths to sit and rest that I have not seen before or needed before. I was offered seats up front or near for performances too! At times the paths were a bit uneven and hard to walk through but I am not sure if anything could be done about that. The kindness of vendors and volunteer staff members was outstanding and their assistance along the way made for a better experience. I am happy to know that those who are permanently "disabled" will be well cared for while at the fair. My fair experience was much different than in the past but in some ways even more enjoyable, thank you for keeping in mind the little details for those in need.

### ADMISSIONS

On your website it says you can buy parking tickets online in advance for \$10 but TicketsWest says "This event is currently not available" for parking tickets on all days. So, the only option is to buy tickets onsite for \$15?

I looked at the website a long time when purchasing tickets - I couldn't find out how much children cost. I ended up buying 3 tickets for Friday and Saturday but one of my children is 8. I am on a low income so I was bummed to have spent \$70 extra dollars - I couldn't sell the tickets since we were already at the fair so I gave them to people up front who said they could give them to someone who forgot theirs - do you ever provide refunds in these situations?

We went to the OCF this year on Sunday. I had purchased two passes over a week before for myself and my wife and a parking pass all through TicketsWest. We arrived driving from the East at the normal entrance on the highway at about 4:30pm and were told by the Fair volunteers on the highway at that entrance that we could not get in. We drove West and then turned around in order to get in driving from the West. However, the same thing we were told we could not get in. Without being told that we could drive around the back. This was very frustrating for my wife and me because we had the tickets. We contacted LTD by phone to find out when their buses came through Veneta, but only a message phone. We drove to Ray's Market and asked but they didn't know where buses stopped at the Fair or when they came through Veneta. We finally decided to drive North from Veneta, and found an entrance and parking area from the back side of the Fair, and we got in around 5:45pm. This whole episode was very frustrating. We have been to the Fair many times and always entered from the highway at the main entrance. I think you need to make some changes to avoid this happening to people in the future.

I LOVE THE FAIR! This year was my second year, and had more fun than I did last year! That said, perhaps looking at the Fair through new eyes, some logistical things that stuck out to me were simply around signage and ticket/entry gate confusion. I had my tickets emailed this year, so I wouldn't have to wait in the Will Call line like last year, only to find that since I had purchased a 3 day pass, I had to wait in the Will Call line again. Of course I found this out after waiting in the entry line. Better instructions and/or signage could cure all of that and ease the logjam of people at the entry gate.

Great fair as always. It seemed to run extra smooth this year. The option to pick up 3 day wrist bands on Thursday appeared to have made it quicker at the site to get in! Would love to see that option available in Veneta.

## **AMBIANCE**

I have noticed more and more through the years that the music performances on the small stages, like Shady Grove and Blue Moon are constantly being drowned out by large parades. In years past, when I participated in parades, we were always quite aware of the large sound we made on the path, and made a conscious effort to lower our revelry when approaching these stages. I have noticed that this is not happening anymore! It's very disheartening to see these hard working musicians, who are there sharing their art and talent with us, have to put up with being dishonored this way. I wish the coordinators of the parades would remember that there are MANY OTHER things happening in the fair at the same time, and to show respect when passing the small stages. Thank you for allowing me to give my feedback.

Please bring back the dragon parade. It has always been a joy and full of magic, a part of fair that really tied it together for me. I was glad to see the dragon, but was disappointed by the lack of music. I will still gladly come to fair, but I just thought I would share as it was really was surprising. Thanks.

Biggest disappointment was when we had all our babies and children and mommies in their matching lime green outfits, rearranged shifts so mommies could fulfill their promise to kiddos to march in lime parade and stood waiting for 2 hours on Friday for a parade that never came! First time ever that the parade bypassed the top of the eight! I understand that with Xavanadu and Chela Mela the parade can't do it all. So...I ask that they make sure to come by the top of the eight every day, preferably that be the morning parade, and that the parade route and schedule be posted in the peach pit. Please pass this request on to Howard and Peach Pit staff.

Otherwise, a perfect and fabulous fair. Much gratitude to everyone who gives of themselves to create this manifestation of love.

Drumming in Dragon Plaza is a bit extreme. Very hard to do my job in the Little Dragon Info booth in the AM/PM when drummers are making a lot of noise. During the 10AM to 11AM period, patrons are trapped in the plaza as well and cannot leave the drumming din. More stilt walkers and fewer drummers would be appreciated. Thanks

Add back Tacky Patrol or Quality Control teams (like Rebecca and Sallie used to do, Sandra and others before that) looking for exposed nylon ropes, plastic crates, garbage-junk that should be out of sight.

## **BUSES**

So I wanted to do the right thing by taking the bus. Getting in was no problem. Buses did indeed run about every 15 minutes. Perfect. However, leaving was an absolute unmitigated nightmare. We had to STAND in line in the hot sun for well over an hour. Thinking we were going to be on the "last bus" at 7:30, we did not purchase food or drinks, so we were hungry and thirsty with no way to get anything. Then, after all that standing we had the pleasure of sitting for about another half hour. From the time we left the fair at 7, it was nearly 2 HOURS by the time we got back to the parking lot. HORRIBLE. We are driving today.

I took the shuttle the first day from Valley River Center and was surprised to be parking far away and in line for 45 minutes. (Same coming back from Fair) Suggestions to increase efficiency:

- \*Load multiple buses waiting at the same time

- \*Open all sets of doors on buses to load and unload

Thanks for all that you do!

I decided to shuttle bus to the fair this year unlike previous years when I drove directly there. What a mistake! I arrived at Valley River Center at 10:15 on Friday morning and waited TWO HOURS to board a bus. I didn't arrive at the fair until app. 12:45 and missed some of the performances I'd wanted to see. I go one day only. My wait on the return at day's end was only 45 minutes which isn't too bad considering the number of people returning. But the two hour wait going there is not acceptable. If you want less folks driving to the fair then please remediate this problem. I will be driving directly from now on unless the situation changes. Was the shuttle bus from downtown much faster? Is there on street parking downtown? Thanks for reading this and taking action.

I've been attending for 10 years and have one complaint: The man at the bus for Valley River Center the last couple years is offensive. He has silver curly hair and dresses in all tie die and talks through a plastic cone. Prior to him, volunteers at that station had the participants smiling, laughing and relaxing while waiting for the bus. He talks non-stop and gives way too much info... "maybe the next bus will hold the group up to the lady over there in purple, but then again maybe not", blah blah blah. It makes a tired mind just tune him out. TMI that is useless. More importantly, he attempts to use humor - no one laughs. He joked about "size matters - just ask my wife". Disgusting! He also made comments to young women that were rude and very inappropriate - one young lady in front row of benches was waiting and he said loudly as if it was funny, "Do you really have to go? Can't you stay and let this old man enjoy some eye candy a little longer?" He needs to go! If he's there next year, I'll cause a scene. As a woman, I won't tolerate him next time.

Transportation-support Jerry's late night busses & other ideas to relieve transpo needs

## **CARTOGRAPHY**

Large YOU ARE HERE MAPS throughout the Fair that help people orient themselves.

## **CIGARETTE SMOKE**

Fair for me is a yearly highlight as it is for most people, thus the reason I am compelled to share my experience this year... Upon taking in the 0400P show at Stage Left (Stage Left Show) on Saturday, July 08, 2017 people were sitting in the nook outside the theater smoking. I realize there is a smoking section on the other-side and that sometimes the smell may waft into the theater, yet as someone who actually gets physically sick from smelling cigarette smoke it was challenging to watch the show as people smoked directly behind where we were sitting. Maybe a no smoking sign there would help?

I've been coming to the fair for almost 20 years now and love almost every minute of it. It seems though that tobacco products & smoking are increasingly prevalent to the point of overwhelming in many areas and bothering more than just me. I believe they should be sequestered in little enclaves where others won't be affected by second hand smoke. Thank you and I look forward to OCF 2018.

The new Smoking Area near Main Stage has caused a bottleneck with the fence that is one end of it, especially during the music. People now have to go around the fence and the big tree, into the seated audience to get to the toilets, the ATM's or to get to another part of the Meadow. It is also something of a safety hazard, if anything happens and people need to leave quickly, the fence prevents this. There are also many families with young children seated near that part of the Meadow who get the blowback of smoke from the expanded Smoking Area. Not a good thing for kids. Also, folks who walk near there have to deal with lots of smoke.

Why is there no enforcement of the no smoking on the path/at stages rule? Air pollution AND fire danger.

It's awesome that ciggs/smoking is separated; however MCS is a protected/crippling chemical disability so it is a problem to have to use the bathrooms and be forced to breathe in cigarettes or e-cigarettes (with chemicals). Just FYI since most people don't know about it. Thank you for reading. : )

I think we need to have NO SMOKING. You can't smoke in any state park, in Portland parks, in public buildings, even 15 feet from the door. This is for the health of the public. Yet we have Smoking?!!

I'm an elder (last 2 years) and love the fair. I would like to sign up to vote as I hear that some issues that I'm interested in are up for a vote. It boggles my mind that it's virtually impossible to not breathe tobacco smoke where ever you go. You can't smoke in city parks or festivals or public spaces, but I can't escape tobacco smell/smoke where ever I go at the OCF.

My recommendation to help keep the Fair healthy is to make it a smoking free zone; get rid of the smoking areas in the Fair; you could easily turn them into resting/eating areas.

Thank you, lots of love to fair & all your hard work. Last year and this year there was a lot of smoking in Xavanadu. And some areas around there. If there is any way to increase roving security or awareness that the open meadow areas are smoke-free it would be wonderful.

The smoking spot across from the sauna by the toilets is horrendous! Waiting in line to use the john being gagged by cigarette smoke. Little kids getting hit by it with no place to go. Smoking has to go. Please.

The fair does not need so many smoking areas. I understand that people smoke, and it is their right to do so. But it is not necessary to have one smoking section next to Shady Grove info, and another one at the Drum Tower. If there was one smoking section next to each stage that would be more than enough.

My family and friends and I were very frustrated again this year with the smoking sections. The locations are right along the path in some areas and you just can't avoid them. My babies were constantly being crop dusted by smoke and in some sections there is literally no way to avoid it. Specific areas that I would highly suggest re-homing are across from the daredevil stage and across from the game area in Horse Chorale (or maybe the game area needs to be re-homed? I get that there should be smoking area near that stage somewhere, but you can't play games without breathing in cigarette smoke).

I don't know, but I wonder if it might make sense to even have the smoking areas be out of public view? And do there really need to be so many? Maybe a few larger ones that folks have to go that aren't in plain sight of children and people trying not to smoke. It just seems to be counterproductive to have smoking be such a prominent part of fair. It almost seems like it is being promoted as a positive activity. I'm a former smoker myself and it just makes me kinda sick to see so much smoking everywhere I go and have my kids be exposed to it at every turn. I would hope that in the spirit of creating a family friendly, health-positive environment we could move in this direction. Much love!

### **COMMEMORATIVE SALES**

Another fair has come and gone. I would like to help you provide myself and others with a long sleeve shirt option for people who are intolerant to direct sunlight. What can I do to provide assistance with this matter? I'm willing to do whatever I can. I am disappointed annually by the fact that the fair cannot seem to understand that short sleeve shirts don't work for me. I'm not alone.

I can provide links to help educate about vitiligo or retailers that sell organic cotton. American Apparel is gone, but others exist.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Foster more inter-crew, vendor, entertainer communication, collaboration. It's important to keep all up to date on one another's changes and progress.

### **CONSTRUCTION**

It would be great to either have a large stage for fire show or removable bleachers to aid in everyone actually being able to see sitting on the ground still makes it near impossible to see.

Outhouses near River Loop info booth were the least stinky ever. Whatever you are doing, keep it up. They were also very clean. Thank you!

What happened to the bench (Main Stage area) next to White Bird?

I love the herinals. Currently, when I step on either side, it's hard to keep my tush in the air -- and it sometimes hits the metal. Eeeww. So... I was thinking if you ever rebuild them, could you build a level step on either side with the top of the herinal... My feet would be higher and my butt less likely to hit the icky pieces. I hope this makes sense!

Geezer Bench is missing. It's an essential for us geezers.

Where's the Geezer Bench? Our annual traditional spot to gather for morning coffee: Gone!! Please reorganize and get that bench back in place. We would be very pleased. Thanx

Please remake the Geezer Bench.

## **CULTURAL SENSITIVITY**

I am exceptionally disappointed with the decision of the OCF Board to deny the installation of the Ritz Sauna Story Pole this year. After two previous decisions by the board to permit the Ritz to install the pole, the last minute decision to reverse their position demonstrates how easily the current board is swayed. In fact, the entire approach adopted by the OCF management over the past several years, which in part predates the existing board, has been fraught with poor decisions and is more an example of mismanagement than of leadership.

If the board was truly concerned about cultural appropriation, the principal argument put forth by opponents to the Story Pole, then the Board should have also denied, this year, the sale of ukuleles, ethnic foods, any leather goods that mimic first nation clothing, and of course shut down the Caravan Stage; rebranding that stage by removing "Gypsy" does not change that fact that there are virtually no middle eastern performers present. And let us not forget the fact that Archeology has demonstrations of the >art< of arrow head fabrication, led by white males. That too should have been denied, in all fairness. But since when has "the fair" been fair?

The hypocrisy oozing through the arguments and decisions have been unbelievable.

One of the suggestions on the social media was for the Ritz to donate the pole to a NW tribe, as a token of good will and reparation. If the board is truly interested in reparation to native people, then it should transfer ownership of the entire Oregon Country Fair grounds to the Kalapuya.

What really has emerged in this fiasco are two things:

1. The OCF Board and management have failed. They have succumbed to social media pressure and not considered what is best for the OCF as an event. Instead, they have yielded to the vitriol from opponents to the Story Pole. For example, I read a post on Facebook by the former coordinator of the Archeology Crew to burn the pole down! Furthermore, I have heard that the board argues "personal liability" via Oregon Revised Statutes. It's a ridiculous argument to hide behind and such board members should step down.

2. The Ritz has continued to take the high road and have been completely respectful and honorable. The "pavilion" they constructed this year was a shining example of how The Ritz faced head-on all the negativity. For those of you who may not have paid a visit, the pavilion was staffed by Ritz members to engage with persons and discuss feelings and stories about art, culture, and related topics.

In my wanderings around the OCF this year, I spoke to many of our fair family. Without exception, support was with the Ritz; reactions to the Board decision spanned the range of confusion to, more typically, outrage.

Many I talked to at fair this year are saddened by the outcome the board decided re the story pole: A respectful gesture to me would be to raise it to honor, acknowledge, and further the beautiful art and history from which it is inspired. The pole is not appropriating the local tribe's culture. The minority is just using this issue to get attention for their activism. I'm glad they are working to protect their culture. I just think they are confusing the issues to get "press" by harming others' efforts. I suggest putting up the story pole with a sign that says this is not intended to relate to or represent any local N. A. tribe... It is meant to honor...

The Story Pole is ART. The Fair Board should support the work of ARTISTS, not accede to the demands of bullies & censors. Put it up!!

The Ritz should remove all of their NW coast art visible to from the path. They should do it voluntarily before some tribal member identifies it. Much of this may be in books.

<http://eugeneantifa.weebly.com/home/oregon-country-fair-hosts-white-supremacists>

Refer to this article. It was bothersome for the love and peace we have tried to achieve.

## **DRUG EDUCATION**

Put out some \$\$, what it takes, to make a couple on Fair drug-testing sites to help young people and medical inform - what is hazardous, what are ingredients? what is safe practice? and help make the Fair safe. Thank you.

## **ENTERTAINMENT & WORKSHOPS**

I went to THE BEST workshop: Bach Flower Essences. So educational, with free books/individual essences, etc. Only 3 other people showed up : ( This was so valuable; I don't know if there is a way for classes to be in a better spot or advertised. So grateful for this class!

Excellent Fair this year. Enjoyed Midnight Show and appreciated how it showcased lots of performers for short sets.

All my group wanted on Saturday night was music and we couldn't find any, whether amplified or not. Some more variety in shows would be great too. Many of the acts at fair this year were either the same as last year, or only catered to the older generation. Let's get some more comedy and hip hop type shows. I'm not saying get rid of the folk and classic fair acts, I love those too but a little more variety would be great.

WTF - Main Stage music Sunday morn. Rushad Eggleston - Main Stage music needs to be really awesome performers all the time. This guy sucks and needs to be on a small stage where people can walk on by.

One of the entertainers proceeded to bring up "real" world politics in front of the children. A bias performance that included a song about globalization, as well as a "Not my president" protester with sign and all! This was a public event in front of OTHER PEOPLE'S KIDS!

It's not alright and harkens back to the fascist youth rallies of Nazi Germany. Portraying the president as an evil king is not ever okay no matter your beliefs. Keep it out of Fair!

PLEASE FIND ALL MY LATEST PROMO MATERIAL HERE. VIDEO LINKS, Biography, pictures, recordings, logo etc.....

I can perform solo, as a duo, trio, quartet or Quintet. I even have a full ten piece band and I have provided video examples of these. You can check out the website at [www.jonnytarr.com](http://www.jonnytarr.com)

I love the idea that's been floating around of having the 50th celebration be acoustic only at night, other than midnight show. Give the younger generation an opportunity to experience the intimate happenings along the path and how things felt when the fair was young. A rare opportunity for all.

## **FAR SIDE**

Is there anyone that acts as liaison for the private security at far side? Can we work with them so their staff understands that aggression as a primary mode of interaction isn't fantastic?

## **FIREWORKS**

I do not oppose "to allow one permitted fireworks show per year ".

On the condition that attendance by the entire Fair Family is welcome and encouraged to attend with adequate infrastructure in place to handle attendance including availability of overnight camping for those who elect to camp overnight. In so far as "with an emphases on quieter fireworks?" That would seem to be a somewhat oxymoronic goal When it comes to "the rockets' red glare and bombs bursting in air". If that is not one's cup of tea one would be better advised to stay at home and light sparkles in deference to participating in a state of the Art fireworks display. As I filled out my Ballot for the prior election I elected to leave the proposed ballot advisory measure blank for the reasons stated above.

## **FOOD**

While there is a huge diversity of food booths - most of them are similar. Where are the cutting edge foods? The fermentation booth? There is one raw booth which is wonderful...and so many simple carb centered booths. Please have the food committee bring in new and different.

Please consider evaluating food booths' ability to continue vending based on the value of the food. There are too many food vendors taking advantage of a captive audience. Some consideration should be given to the quantity/quality of food and the price charged. I understand there are a lot of costs associated with running a kitchen on site, but prices just keep going up and up and it has become unreasonable!

## **GROWTH & CHANGE**

I appreciate all the work that goes into the fair, all the volunteers and work that goes into making the fair great. I know how much there is, my kids do the pre fair kitchen crew and I am always amazed at the dedication there is from all involved. I also know things were rushed this year with an early date and rainy weather during prep time.

I observed many changes for our area this year. My booth is on the corner where Sally Ave, Pike Street and Abbey Road meet. Years ago the fair suggested we move due to constant grid lock on the path by us. We asked we try taking the stage off the path for one year to see if it helped and it did and we stayed, very happy to keep our shady home so to speak. Now the situation could not be more opposite. We had very little traffic this year; we thought the attendance must be way, way down. I sold just one of my pieces this year, on a bad year in the past I sold 6-8 quilts. On a good year I sell 20-25 quilts. It is my belief all the new things on the other side of the fair including ambiance and music have now moved the crowds away from the upper paths. We had no buskers as we have had in the past. Johnny the piano guy used to play by us but since it is now a smoking area he too has moved. Cafe Lafayette and pad tai are gone from the upper area also which makes dare devil the only draw. This was my 41st fair and sadly maybe my last. I have become disabled and unable to walk the fair in the dust. We will empty any water cans given to us to keep the dust down and we put fir boughs down to do the same also. This year we asked for an extra barrel but we did not get it and there was one morning our existing barrel was not filled. We had two afternoon parades existing of the band and risk of change, no puppets or stilt walkers. The ambiance was not there. We also found main stage acts not to be the draw they used to. This is a Lafayette; I never waited in line to go to the bathroom! (not complaining about that but it suggests a reduced population) I understand the need for change and growth, I would hope though it would not take away from the established areas.

Due to the distance to the fun stuff happening and the dust I was not able to take advantage of all that fair magic. I wanted my partner to see it but knew he would not leave me alone so I made excuses and went to bed right after sweep so he would go out and enjoy himself. I very much loved seeing fair family but all the work that goes into filling my booth and the strain of just being there the payoff is not there any longer. It was by far my hardest fair.

If there was some thought of how to increase traffic in the area again increasing the possibility of fun and sales it would be worth it. I work all year to prep for the fair, I am committed to having high quality fine art and I was very disappointed at the result this year. My kids even said the only reason they headed up to our place was to see us.

I do not know the answer, I may have just aged out of my space and it's time to be done, but possibly putting a small stage back on our corner would help again, and bringing in big draw food booths could help. Thanks for your time and consideration.

How can we better manage on site Fair population...

## **ICE**

BLOCK ICE - for an org that claims to desire sustainability, sure have some weird ways of showing it. Like not offering blocks of ice at the reefer. Crushed ice lasts MAYBE a day. Blocks last longer and save resources.

## **INFO**

Make Info Staff more visible to the public-when it is busy they are not seen by people who may need information  
From Open Space

At Odyssey info, the phone to take outside phone calls should be moved to either Fair Central or a separate phone in the info booth. Info crew often does not know the answers to many of the outside questions, and the phone clogs up our Tinkerbell when fair staff needs to use it. Every time I was on shift at a different info booth, I could not reach them because the line was busy. If the outside calls were routed to a specific person in Fair Central who had that information, calls would be answered more correctly and efficiently.

## **IT**

Wi-Fi is not accessible -- no one knows the code and the one given did not work.

One bummer: could never get the vendors' (or any) Wi-Fi to work, or even my cell reception - so I had to do "offline" credit card sales, and I got a bad credit card, but didn't find out till after the fair. This wouldn't have happened if the Wi-Fi was working! My bad for not getting ID on the guy, but Square, (the credit card swipe company) while they wouldn't give me his contact, did call him several times asking him to call me, and he hasn't. So at this point I'm afraid I've been ripped off. Hope his conscience or his karma kicks in. Please get the Wi-Fi sorted out next year. Thanks!

Please direct this letter towards those working on establishing a Wi-Fi network throughout the site.

We are Crafters in Booth 191, opposite Community Village.

Firstly thank you so much for working on providing a Wi-Fi network for Crafters that is partitioned, and primary, to the public network. This is much appreciated, and essential for commerce to function today.

During the Fair I spoke with Cliff, the Network Administrator, as he was checking the system. He asked me to send in my comments as feedback. In fact the Wi-Fi aerial is mounted in the maple tree in front of our booth.

As asked, I spoke to several of our booth neighbors and encouraged them to also test transactions on the network, and send in feedback. We, nor our booth partner, did not experience any delay in processing transactions this year. Last year we did not either, but in prior years it was difficult with limited cell service.

My understanding of device network prioritization is that by default it will always pick an available Wi-Fi network, even if it's weaker, over a cell network, since Wi-Fi is typically free, and this saves a plan's minutes. I don't know if you can tell which network is being used if both are available. But presumably if we experienced no delay, our device would have been using the Wi-Fi network. So hooray! Thank you.

I love the idea of limiting internet access only to credit card processing sites. That is much more practical than trying to contain a password. Hope that's helpful. Thanks again for moving towards a Wi-Fi network reality for the whole site. Be well.

## **LAND USE**

The panel of Standing Rock (Winter) Water Protectors -- moving, powerful-- inspires me to ask OCF to allow native peoples to use Fair lands after Fair clean-up.

The organizers of this year's water protector presentation could be trusted with good use, good process, and accountability to the place.

I am concerned about Fair Family not understanding the issues with the County. Management staff shares to a limited extent, but a column in the Peach Pit would help. Especially in clarifying the NCU and the SUP application.

## **LASERS & LIGHT POLLUTION**

As always, it was a wonderful experience, but at night, several times I had (what I assumed were) kids shining lasers in my eyes. I was wondering if we could set some guidelines regarding these that emphasize safety. Thanks for all you do and for making a beautiful family friendly experience for everyone!

Need a policy requiring extremely bright white and yellow lights in booths to be turned down for ambiance, less glare x4.

## **LOST & FOUND**

With Craft Inventory and the Whitebird outpost moving out of Odyssey, the unused area should be left for lost and found. Instead of having the info booth have the responsibility for lost and found, the booth could be manned by either a separate lost and found crew, or by members of info crew. Especially on Sunday night, having a designated lost and found area would streamline the process.



## **MAIN CAMP KITCHEN**

When I came to the lunch meal at Main Kitchen, my kids and I were often quite hungry. We soon learned that it was fairly common practice to go up to the dessert table and ask for a muffin or cookie to nibble while waiting in line. I am wondering if you would put the fruit at the dessert table so that we could nibble on fruit while waiting in line, rather than a dessert item. The meals were fabulous. I was a first time Staff person this year and it was a wonderful experience.

## **MORE FAIR**

Though I live in Virginia, I come every year for the fair. I think that it's clear that there would be ample support for the fair to run an extra day -- Thursday through Sunday, and start an hour earlier too. Why settle for less?

Have a 4th day of the Fair/Thursday. Thursday open to staff, vendors, workers, family, etc.

Extend Fair to a 10 day event; 2 weekend Fair; 2 Fairs.

I think you should have a second fair in late September. It should be exactly the same but it should be called GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE.

## **PATH PLANNING**

I love the Fair! I don't love the crowds! I have been coming since 1970. I have written many times about the crowds. That said I love the new space and spent a lot of time there this year. BUT it hasn't helped the figure 8 much. I hang out in a booth on the 8 a lot and we have experienced thick crowds every day from about noon to 5:00 for years now. I also heard after Xavanadu was created (hopefully to disperse the crowds) that you then let more people in. NO! That doesn't help.

I have suggested adding another day or another weekend to give back the joy of meandering along the path, being able to see both sides and being able to actually get over to a booth on the other side with ease. There are many elder people now at the fair and the packed sardine conveyor belt that exists on the 8 is horrible. I know how free and easy walking the path can be from the old days, stopping at whatever booth I want and moving with ease. It isn't fair to the attendees OR the vendors. I have made the choice to not stop at a booth just because it was such a hassle to get through the crowd and that could have meant a missed sale for that vendor. Please do more to scale down the crowds. I know so many people who don't attend anymore just because of the crowds. Everyone I talk to, unsolicited and from strangers, hate the crowds! This is a fair of love and cooperation. Couldn't there be some cooperation with making the paths less crowded, for all?

Need to improve shade at Sticker Booth/wrist band booths, many people suffer enormously from the heat.

I enjoyed the mellow fair. I looked at the front of fair from the line in the sand and the gate. People do not care basically as they want to get in the gates. The dragon plaza is a meeting place, nothing else at 11:15 in the morning. I am concerned from hearing how the fences around main camp need to be more "friendly" (for lack of a term. People do not stop, they do not care. This should not be a focus on building and improvements.

There should be vast improvements in the parking lots: The public walks to and from Fair entrance to long, hot, dusty and frustrating especially for older people and families with children. There should be shade, benches and water provided at numerous stops along the way. It is time that shuttles are provided for staff and Fair goers to and from the parking lots, at specific times and specific locations with marked stops. The parking fees should pay for startup costs. A dedicated path to and from Fair entrance would avoid danger with people all over the driving lanes, which are confusing at best. Kids are running back and forth, bicycles all over. Dedicated path would be simple.

Consider having a space for young people where there is no curfew on music.

## **PEACH PIT**

It would be cool if the food booths were in the directory, or had their own page. I.e., food types and booth#.

Love the new "stage coach", but it would be even better if it had the full Fair map on it.

RE Peach Pit - recent tweaks: Why, oh why, did you delete the descriptive paragraphs (and times, dates & places to see) for each entertainer??? Put them back please!! The "Stagecoach" grid is helpful, BUT... it was better when the stages were listed in order of proximity. Now they're alphabetized, which while seemingly logical, is less useful! Also, they are numbered, for some/no reason, starting with 2 instead of 1.... Of course they don't really need to be numbered at all, unless it helps to put the grid together. Just sayin'....

It would be very helpful if there was a listing in the Fair paper of the acts and the times/locations they play. i.e., Nanda WC Fields Fri 2:00, Sat 11:30... Royal Famille Daredevil Fri..., Sat... The current schedule is helpful, but many times we are looking for specific acts, not times or days.

I worked our Energy Park Info booth mid-day Saturday. You asked us to keep track of how many Stage Coaches and Peach Pits. Obviously the Peach Pits are more expensive to print and use more resources. But, the better map is on the Peach Pit. So more people needed that for specific landmarks. It would work very well for direction giving to have a more detailed (and larger) map on the Stage Coach.

PS I think the Stage Coach (stage listings only) is great. But, I sure do miss the more detailed descriptions of bands and acts.

The map in the peach pit needs to be 2 pages that open in the center. The print on the one page map is too small to read and who carries their reading glasses around at the fair?

I've been attending for 10 years and have one request: can you please make the map easier to read? The booth numbers are nearly impossible to read. It makes it very difficult to find vendors.

I love the Stage Coach handout! Map & schedule in one convenient small package! Maybe next year the map could be bigger with booth #s? XOXO : )

Separate maps would be helpful.

The Stage Coach was a good idea, having a separate pamphlet with the schedule; however, many people just wanted a full size map of the fair, which meant they had to take a Peach Pit from the info booths. If there was a full size map on the front of the Stage Coach instead of photos of the entertainers, more people would take them.

In past years, having the stages listed by proximity to each other in the schedule was nice because we could see what was nearby to where we were. Having the stages in alphabetical order makes it harder to see what is nearby. Please change back to the old schedule; it is much more convenient for fair-goers.

## **RECYCLING & SUSTAINABILITY**

Re: Recycling on Monday. As they do every day, Recycling Crew runs their obnoxious?music? every morning at daybreak. As they do every day, they run their pick up routes. But unlike every other day, they dismantle their collection kiosk. Unlike every other day, the very helpful kiosk attendants become garbage grouchies proclaiming the 'pack it in pack it out' mantra. FLASH I didn't pack in that trash. Those that did left yesterday.

I still attempt to set the booth up with recycling bins & guidelines. Each year I read the guidelines and get the food booths' recycling info. But each year there is confusion, even conflict, between this information and what is happening on the ground. So my request would be for someone to review & update & create one info set that is consistent AND update the signage at the kiosks to reflect that.

I understand that what is/isn't recyclable changes as well as the Fair's ability to deal with all and so appreciate the recycling crew's gargantuan task.

Otherwise, another fine Fair! Thanks to you all.

Use more renewables

Educate on sustainability

I had a wonderful time at the 2017 Oregon Country Fair. It was my first time at the fair and I was amazed at all of the beautiful and healthy food options offered. I was slightly distressed when I saw the garbage containers overflowing with disposable plastic cups. When I ordered an iced coffee the staff told me they could not touch my reusable cup but did help me fill it with coffee. The Country Fair seems like the first organization that would work towards finding solutions to reduce this plastic waste. I wonder if the council would consider a solution such as issuing a reusable plastic cup as a souvenir that could be refilled throughout the event. Thank you for your time and I hope to be able to attend the 2018 festivities!

Finally, I am in awe of the recycling crew...I feel like they are all inspiring and dedicated...This complex and essential aspect of the fair seems to be more and more improved every year! (Not dissing any other work camps. I have a soft spot for these folk. Not sure why) Suggestion: Please make it clear to people (with signage) when the cans go away for the last time (Sunday night?!?)....then make it abundantly clear after cans are gone: "DON'T ASK FAIR FAMILY TO CARRY YOUR TRASH HOME. PACK IT OUT!!!!!! No exceptions.

I love the recycle tribe...After the recycle cans were taken away Monday AM, I stood vigil by that site for hours, even putting signs on the ground asking my fellow fairies to be responsible and not leave garbage. I watched person after person leaving trash where cans used to be. My take away was that if 1) family knew the last time to leave trash/recycling, they would and 2) Family etiquette would begin to take hold...I'm an optimist...

### **REGISTRATION & WRISTBANDS**

When inquiring at Info for the phone# for Maui, they did not have it, but I know from successfully calling Maui from Portland they have accessible phone #. The guidebook # for site is not active, so it makes it difficult to get info or make changes. I will admit with 100's of volunteers, the logistics of OCF is monumental.

Registration took place on Wed. in extremely hot weather. Elders waited in a long line in the hot sun. There was one registrar handling so many using one book. I suggest more registrars, more registration books, shade, hay bales. Maybe it should take place in a different location if there is not room at that counter. Or, who was sharing the counter with Elders, being so unbusy, could process elders, too.

When will the OCF embrace the digital age? Time to barcode the wristbands. A barcode of the number on the wristband can be scanned and would really cut down on the long lines of people, especially on Wednesday, that have to stand out in the heat and sun. Hundreds of paper folders, envelopes, and confusion may be eliminated by having barcodes or some other digital system. Thank you for the opportunity to offer feedback. Hoping to hear your thoughts on resolving these issues.

### **THE RITZ**

I love the Ritz and I am still so challenged by the folks sitting under showers for 15 minutes, 1/2 hour plus. It says limit water and Ritz says they have no policy. They feel like they use tons of water and this is the way it is. Also, the living room space at the Ritz has totally changed. More fast food like, not for hanging by the fire with built in lowered couch seating. Darn. Miss it.

The Ritz: I humbly ask the Ritz to NOT make itself just another loud venue that prevents conversation/sauna singing and it stifles crowd flow/turnover in and especially out of the Ritz. They've created a class of concert attendees who never leave and want their concert "experience" for the ticket price of a sauna coin. Please, please, please have some beautiful, low decibel, spontaneous acoustic opportunities to restore the beauty and the richness of the sauna/bathing/listening environment that has been completely replaced by something that doesn't serve the needs/values/or spirit of the hard working, sauna loving tribe...

## SANITATION

There should never be open toilets without soap and water or hand sanitizer available. It's a public health concern. If there are urinals or toilets available, there has to be soap. It doesn't have to be fancy soap, but it has to be soap. Every year it seems like the toilets are open for longer and longer before soap is put out. Imagine what it'll be like if there's a communicable disease spread around Fair just because we don't have access to hand washing...

Please, please, please keep the potties open until gate closure on Monday after fair. Many people need access to the potties during pack out and walking to main camp or the Ritz is too far!!! If you do not make potties available people will resort to going in the woods, which is BAD. Even one potty per bank would be great. Please, some people have medical conditions that require faster potty access.

When, oh when, will the 6-pack & port-a-potty folks put a sign on the inside of each & every door asking people to close the lid of the potty when finished? This is a major air quality issue. Friday afternoon, poor air quality ruined enjoyment of wonderful music at Shady Grove stage.

I suggest that the permanent wood bathrooms in the back loop by the Library and the ones by Main stage be replaced with actual portable legal bathrooms. Several young members of my family and another child of a close OCF elder got very ill at the fair this year with a virus that is transferable through unsanitary bathroom conditions. These bathrooms being made out of wood pose a health threat because they are made from a porous material wood, which cannot be properly cleaned of viruses and is not considered a legal material for public restrooms for that reason. There is also not a proper legal hand wash station in the area by the Library to help prevent the spread germs. But, even with a proper handwashing station, having a permanent wood bathroom for a public event is not sanitary and could be endangering the public who use them.

While one cannot be certain that the sickness came from those unsanitary bathrooms, I can say for certain that every person who got sick, had used those restrooms at some point during fair, because they are the closest ones to our booth and camp area. This fact does at least show there is a possibility of a link between the two. The health risk posed to the public that there is a chance that these unsanitary bathrooms could transfer a virus through fair, is reason enough for them to be removed. But there is also another reason for the removal of these bathrooms.

They pose an environmental risk to the surrounding area and the very close by Long Tom River. With these permanent bathrooms staying in place over the winter, they pose a risk of when the fair site floods, of having sewage and unsafe fecal matter and who knows what else flow into the river and surrounding area. Even if they are pumped after fair, there is still enough harmful toxic substances left in these bathrooms that could leak and pose a threat to the area. If this happens it could be harmful to the wildlife in the river and the environment around the bathrooms. This type of negligence could result in large fines and other sanctions from the authorities. Posing a threat to the environment and wildlife of the area should be avoided at all cost in general I believe that OCF was built upon those guidelines. I grew up at OCF and have over 30 years of fair experience, so I think that my knowledge on the subject of OCF fundamentals is pretty decent.

I bring up these concerns as a longtime contributing fair family, we would never want to risk anything that poses a threat to public health and the environment. With the 50th anniversary coming up we should be championing things that protect the environment and human safety, with the removal of those permanent bathrooms, OCF will be able to show to the world we are conscious in the effort to protect the planet and the humans that inhabit it. There is not a better time than now to show that all steps are being taken to make fair a safe place for all.

From my perspective, the only Fair negative is the need for more toilets and a workable system to assist the public in using them. The 6-packs by Shady Grove every year are a chaotic crowd of anxious patrons unsure where to line up, how to determine which toilets are free, etc. Sanitation crew does excellent work and my comment shouldn't be taken as criticism of them! But perhaps we could create a system with Fair staff helping organize/inform patrons. And have easily visible IN USE vs OPEN signs on the toilet door latches? Oh, and also a parent & child/expectant mother-dedicated toilet? Thanks for considering my Feedback and Peaches to all!

We need more bathrooms near Chela Mela and Hoarse Chorale. First of all half of them were broke upon deliver with locks that didn't work or were unmarked. The one handicap loo was at an angle that was hard for a disabled person to navigate, the seat was broken and the door didn't close. This was on Thursday and only got worse. They fill up quickly and became unusable Saturday night. The line was so long it surpassed the coffee booth. For those of us that camp behind monkey palace and work around the meadow these are our closest bathrooms. We lost a whole bunch of them when the new area got put in. We need those replaced.

Add some more public restrooms; make doors quiet by adding small stick on rubber tabs; shield restrooms from the 8 loop to make pumping less disruptive.

More hand washing stations please!!! Many of the bathrooms are missing soap in the permanent sinks. Of note - main stage, near main camp, near dance pavilion, Shady Grove. Frequently lacking in soap. This is essential!!! The "hand sanitizers" are questionable - nothing beats soap and water.

Congratulations for great Fayre organization! One glaring exception to the visionary communitarian eco-vibe is the absence of compost toilets. OCF is an opportunity to create new ways of living, and going into the 21st century. It's time to learn not to shit into clean H2O. I recognize that the Honey Bucket crews do exceptional work and the Port-a-Potties are cleaner, consistently cleaner than any other large public event. They still stink and are uncomfortable to use. By the Sunday of Fayre, the smell of refuse and portapotty sewage is pretty strong.

This is an opportunity to do things differently and present 40,000 visitors with a different way of looking at the bathroom. Instead of "waste-management" we could have "resource recycling".

The basic modes are to replace port-a-potty with a container of sawdust. (See diagram)

Advantages of Compost Toilet:

- \*No water involved or contamination of water
- \*Not smelly
- \*Attractive toilet invites people to keep it clean instead of "disposal of"
- \*Opportunity to turn eyesore port-a-potties into inviting signature flocks of art
- \*Change the cultural practice of making a mess and having others clean it up

Challenges to Implementation:

\*Requires the transport of humanure to a suitable compost spot that is above the flood-plain for 3-year-compost cycle. This would not be any harder than transporting liquid effluent from port-a-potties.

\*Cultural and legal hurdles

I suggest trying out several compost toilets in the staff area and expanding the program over ten years as opportunity and means allow. I reference Joseph Jenkins, The Humanure Handbook.

## **SERVICE ANIMALS**

I would like to reject the rule of allowing dogs at the Oregon Country Fair, as it was a risk for both the animal and people. I saw at least two pit-bulls, which is a stretch in terms of service animals.

At night time, I saw one German shepherd running around the eight without a leash with the owner irresponsibly running after the dog.

For example: last year, I brought my Maltese poodle July 3rd 2016 and got yelled at for having my tiny dog, pre-fair, but now there's dogs running around. Why?!

I have many more incidents to report, but I would like for this dog policy to change and would like to request information on becoming a volunteer for board meetings to continue to make changes to keep our family safe from decisions that create danger instead of safety.

Is anyone making sure the service dogs have water?

## **SIGNS & BANNERS**

Need signage that is clearer coming out of library. Perhaps added to the Abbey Road sign, something that would indicate main stage is to right and Shady Grove to left?

I didn't get a chance to go back and double check this and was tending my 2 toddler children at the time, so I apologize if this is incorrect. But, I believe there were re-purposed water fountains near The Ritz for hand washing (or something) that were at child level with a sign (in English) stating the water was not potable. If what I saw was accurate, that is a very bad practice. These are water fountains, universally recognized as a source of drinking water. If one cannot read, cannot read English, or simply doesn't take the time to read, they will be consuming non-potable water. This is especially of concern to those such as myself with children who are tall enough to reach these, recognize them as water fountains, but cannot yet read and understand the word "potable." Thank you!

Another suggestion would be to have painted signs pointing to some of the major stages (as singled out in the center pages of the Peach Pit). The info booths are awesome, but one of those directional signs - particularly at busy junctures, would be helpful. Thanks again to you all, and everything you do to make the Fair happen! <3

## SITE

The Jerry Tree is dying, or is dead, again. This is the fourth tree (maybe fifth?) that has been planted there. This recent one was supposed to be native, but it is definitely not healthy, and is nearly dead (again). It is the only tree out there that is having serious health issues. Perhaps we should just plant some cheerful flowers, or a succulent garden, or nothing. Sadly, the tree needs to go.

That dust was so toxic and the wood chips a pitiful attempt to control it. When I saw the condition of the 8 at Easter I knew it would be horrible. It is time for management to get serious about a remedy. I was barely able to even get food. Had to stay at the pump house the whole time. I would have liked to have shopped a bit. I know that Wiz was ridiculed by some for his attempts to keep the grass alive. A few short years after his departure and now we have the next great dustbowl event in our woods. The trees are very unhappy.

The wood chips were horrible and contributed to the dust problem. It made breathing harder and exasperated allergies. I also couldn't make sense out of the large truck driving around the eight delivering the stuff. It was causing more dust than not doing anything.

This year, someone was putting cedar flakes on the path. I can see why they might have thought that was a good idea, and had they been wet down before people walked by, this may have been beneficial, but they were thrown down dry while people were on the path, and the result was cedar sawdust in the lungs of passersby. This was not a healthy way to combat dust, because it only added more, and it was particularly drying to the lungs. Thanks for all you do.

In Shady Lane where we are located, no one watered our path or spread wood shavings on it, so it was very dusty; although we did water the path ourselves; however, for the first time in my 39 years, the early AM water truck did not come through.

The dust was extreme this year. It causes many respiratory issues for people. The cedar seemed nice to walk on, so not sure if this was partly responsible for the additional dust, but there was excessive dust and many people had problems with it. Perhaps the cedar shavings contributed to this, or the lack of wetting down the pathways, or added dried up silt from the river? Thank you for the opportunity to offer feedback. Hoping to hear your thoughts on resolving these issues.

The use of wood shavings on Abbey Rode worked well to keep down dust. Thanks to dust abatement folks, good move. Hope to see it again next year.

Also, Wednesday move in is the worst dust of the fair for us. We're unloading in a spew of dust & unable to get to watering the path until we get all our stuff unloaded & our truck out of the eight. Hence we start the fair filthy. It'd be awesome if water crew could keep the path damp on Wednesday. Pretty please?

Liked the wood chips in path. Helped with dust, but dust mitigation should really begin on Wednesday morning with water sprayed throughout the eight. This is when most people are driving in.

Liked the sawdust on the path but wish it had been on my part up on Shady Lane.

Please get better at dust control-maybe even more wood chips

I also got hit with horrible respiratory issues this year and couldn't help but notice how much more dust was flying than normal. ( I have attended and worked at the OCF for almost 30 years) Booths were doing their best to wet it down, but Saturday between Main Stage and the Ritz particularly had such a cloud that our group was choking and had to buy scarves so we could make it out of there. I have talked to many attendees and booths scattered around the fair, and so many had respiratory issues this year when they haven't in years past. I have heard two theories - 1) too much dust with not enough water on the paths (my personal favorite), and 2) A respiratory infection that was passed around due to people in close contact, insufficient hand washing, or sharing cups, straws, smokes, etc. -

One can't help the close contact, but can control the other issues. I did none of the sharing of things, and am diligent about hand washing. Had I not brought my own soap, this might have been a task! Soap was out in many of the restroom areas when I used them, from Oval Office to the portos by Hoarse Chorale (usually the worst area for not enough rooms and a lot of use). Just a thought for next year if it is this dry - more frequent path waterings in the bottleneck areas, and make sure bathrooms are checked more often for soap. I have had near asthmatic coughing fits since the Sunday of fair, and my doctor is sure it was the dust. I love you all, thank you for everything you do!

## SOUND

My parents are Elders and long-standing craft booth reps; as a family effort, we work hard and look forward to this annual event. However each year becomes more and more of a struggle to stay at the booth especially Saturday night due to the noise. It's imperative that someone stay in order to provide some level of security for the merchandise and respond to any rain. Saturday night's noise is at an unacceptable level. I love the music and love a reasonable amount of amplified music, but Tooth and Nail played amplified music until 5am in 2017 and 6am in 2016. This also competed with 2 other stages and their amplified music. I appreciated reading the updated Guidelines regarding this issue. But what I wouldn't give to have it stop at 2am! My husband and I got zero hours of sleep, but luckily the 5 year old did sleep. She won't be able to drown this sound out for too many more years. I interviewed other vendors serving coffee Sunday morning, and they are fed up. It is disrespectful to vendors. Lastly, the next morning in the meadow, I was embarrassed to hear amplified rap music with non-stop profanity in front of my little girl; this was coming from a garbage/recycle truck painted black and white. Thank you for discussing strategies and enforcement options at your Board Meeting.

Friday PM, Main Stage music was over 11:30ish. Yes! 12:30pm?? More?? Really?? (Volume level from Main Stage there to our booth was "moderate."

We have had meetings and decisions about noise at night, to no avail. At 11pm Friday night the music on Main Stage stopped and I was easing toward sleep. At 12:30AM I heard amplified sound beginning and it became a VERY LOUD rock & roll show til 2AM. I am told it was a Led Zeppelin tribute band. It was impossible to block it out with ear plugs, pillows, meditation, anything I could come up with.

There are many booths near Main Stage where people sleep that are expected to get up in the morning to feed people. I am cranky and exhausted from losing sleep at such a critical time.

WE NEED TO FIX THIS! It should not be allowed to happen.

Additionally, while taking in the 0400P show at Stage Left on Saturday, the music coming from Monkey Palace was so loud that it made it extremely difficult to hear the show. We did see a show there on Friday and sat closer than we did on Saturday, so I do not know if it is a recurring issue.

Why is the sound at Main Stage always so bad???

Excessively loud amplified music from Main Stage Friday night until 2AM.

Sound: Making the whole fair conducive to "listening" by promoting an acoustic sensibility that has been overwhelmed by amplification in all corners of the event... night and day. (Can we prohibit backpack boom boxes, many were worn throughout the fair this year....selfishly robbing of magical sonic space?)

I have been working at the Touch the Earth booth for five Fairs starting as a teen and now as a college student. While I have fun it always makes me sad to see over the years the drum tower faltering. To me the Tower is the heart beat of the Fair.

As the Tower is the heart beat, music is part of the soul. I find that canned music destroys the spirit of the Fair and it's against the bylaws. Article two states, "The purpose of the corporation shall be to sponsor the Oregon Country Fair, hereinafter "the Fair", which shall be an annual event intended to educate and inform the public about choices in personal and community lifestyle through the promotion and preservation of the performers work of individual crafts, artists, artisans, musicians, displays in a traditional fair setting, psycho-spiritual rejuvenation,...." Over the years I've been at Fair, I have heard many clashes between living, breathing artists that are THERE, and canned music. This year the most jarring instance of canned music that I experienced came from a work crew truck. While throwing out wood shavings they were blaring music from the truck. It destroyed the morning walk, before that it was rejuvenating. You can have fun with coming up with solutions that follow the spirit of Fair. One way is to create a song book with each crew having its own theme song. I did like having the wood shavings over the straw for keeping the dust down. Have a good year; I hope to be at the next Fair.

I have a concern/squawk to express about the really loud and Kinda harsh music at the Hoarse Chorale stage in the late afternoon and night. Chela Mela Meadow is great kids' and family area, right? Monkey Palace is wonderful, and draws in lots of families. So it makes no sense to me that 4-5 years ago, there started to be incredibly loud and kinda harsh music at Hoarse Chorale. It clashes with the Monkey Palace music and the overall nice environment, and it draws in a lot of people smoking, drinking, and doing drugs to a nice family area. Why? I miss the times when Hoarse Chorale was more chill and family friendly. Less Loud! Thanks.

Xavanadu! I have to say how much I enjoy the beautiful respite of the Piano Parlor. It is soft, welcoming, acoustic, and well managed. I'd love to see a bit of sonic remediation pertaining to the Dance Pavilion such as absolutely lowering the bass levels on the P.A. system-an easy thing to accomplish... Pointing the speakers away from the meadow (Flow Zone, Piano Parlor, etc..) would do worlds of good to mitigate the sonic bleeding that ruins the experience of everyone, especially the general public, many of which are finding solace in Xavanadu away from the larger, crushing crowds. Many fair folk I spoke to about this said they'd appreciate a lower overall decibel level from the bands/dj's etc. while dancing, which is completely compatible with all the chill neighbors including the Piano Parlor and Flow Zone.

Sleeping Zone Parameters: Pulling back on the insanely loud, seemingly un-vetted bands playing deep into the night (2/3/4 am) where most working family/children escape to catch/expect some rest... (Please create a Loud area where one goes for loudness. Pre-fair amplified partying is cool but not in the deepest nooks of sleeping areas...please work out a compromise! ..Take a survey. You might want to know if I'm not alone in this feeling...

## **TRAFFIC**

Trotters' lot was a mess on Wednesday. Took over 30 minutes to exit after getting wristbands. Need traffic crew to manage merging traffic from each row of Trotters entering main road on east end of lot. It was a nightmare and there was no traffic crew presence managing it.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Increase the value of food vouchers. Staff work hard throughout the fair, and \$3 doesn't go very far. I understand that they are simply an incentive and by no means the only reason people volunteer. But many low income volunteers rely on food vouchers as their only way of buying food throughout the fair.

The liability and bureaucracy stuff is getting a bit claustrophobic. Let's get back to our YES YES YES roots and reprioritize volunteer appreciation.

Love the fair, thought this year was awesome, stayed in Furtherside. If you ever need a photographer to volunteer, I'm your person. In real life, I'm a sales executive, but love photography and writer and freelance at both. Thank you.



## **WATER**

What would prevent the OCF from installing drinking fountains right off the hand wash station infrastructure?  
Thanks, you guys are awesome.

This year was amazing, I feel really blessed to be a part of water crew and all the hard work, I love the organization and everyone I was able to meet, although I knew a few people on the crew, I really enjoyed the new friends, I loved learning all the hard work water puts into the fair and the appreciation we got from all the vendors. It's amazing to feel really a part of something at OCF for once, growing up in the fair family and many different faces, I enjoyed being a part of an actual crew this year. I hope I can continue next year and years to come! I love working hard, and putting in more work to make everything happen so smoothly. You are all amazing,

Was very disappointed with the water crew. The path wasn't watered daily; our path/fire water barrel wasn't refilled Sat and was nearly empty at the end of Friday so no dust control for a very dusty Saturday and we have sod that is usually cheerfully watered every morning before fair. They watered one day and when I asked for watering again a gentleman on the crew told me no because it was too hard.

Everything was epic as ever. If I could change anything it would be more water fairies and more water trucks.

Management also really dropped the ball on the truck maintenance and the poor folks out in the lots are probably leaving a lot of feedback about the lack of water out there. Just want you to be aware that we had lots of water, just a truck that was supposed to have had maintenance back in November and the first time the mechanic showed up was Wednesday, July 5. Shame on whoever dropped that ball.

## **WHAT'S FAIR**

Having the inspiring experience of knowing and working with Bill Wooten and as one who has focused on alternatives in energy, forestry and housing for over 45 years I can no longer even attend the fair. It has totally lost sight of Bill's vision which I was very committed to. Those values have been undermined by the same greedy forces that undermine our country. It gives lip service to the values and alternatives that once was central to the mission, purpose and manifestation of the fair. I hope someone can appreciate my criticism and return to the wisdom and vision of the past. Until then, I won't return.

Too much ego, ignorance with little vision of the alternatives that once were the center of the fair. Donald Chump would be proud....

I saw a lot of sad frowning faces at the OCF this year. It truly felt like the last fair ever. I believe it's time we try and keep the spirit of freedom and truth before the fair becomes too painful for people to want to attend.

More conservative people buying in to push out the Hippies? I have worked for over 30 years at Water Crew as a Driver and am very unhappy about the dishonesty being created by someone in Management! Yes there is a real distinct difference the last 10 years and it is real negative in regards to crew volunteers, we are treated like crap and vendors are given whatever they want unless it's a booth like McKenzie Maps that do not sell much but are a historical booth. Very disappointed and you will hear more from me!

This year was known as the year of no. During pre-fair, when you got to site you were given a piece of paper with 15 separate no's on it. That's not exactly what I want to see when I come home for the first time. There were no fireworks this year and honestly, the volunteer appreciation party was pretty lackluster. I'm glad we got some amplified sound in the night time but more would be great.

I love the OCF! It's one of the essential cultural experiences I look forward to participating/experiencing every year and have since the 1990's. I'd like to make a few comments in hopes of improving /maintaining the spirit of what I feel the Fair is all about.... I love reading back through past year's feedback to get a picture of what a lot of people find is working or not.... such as doing all we can to make administrative choices that balance the line between expanding/growing/changing/updating with holding the line on maintaining a beautiful, yet not overly crowded, not overly amplified environment...., i.e. keeping the day crowd size as small as is financially/socially reasonable while still keeping all the toilets clean etc.,

Make sure S.O. folk are contributing/learning/participating in the fair ecology and not simply just "attending". It's seems participating in a meaningful way for a pass IS the heart of creating the caring ecology I personally feel I have witnessed disappear over the last decade or so....,

Disappointed with the overly commercial aspect of the fair. Not too many things to do. It was hot, dusty and crowded. I was so happy to leave. Paying \$30 to buy expensive stuff isn't my idea of a fun festival.

You should like make the fair more like I want it because like the way I would do it would be so much better and it would be like totally amazing and peaceful and sacred and there would be this amazing music that like everyone would love like sacred electronic chanting and then the fair would be amazing because right now it's not how I want it so it sucks. Peace and love and global unity and I'm also concerned about the water making mud and people getting really sick from the mud because it's really toxic you need to be careful that you don't die from it.

### **NOT FAIR'S CAMPGROUND**

Zumwalt campground opening too late. Lots of cars lined up on my street blocking access. You need to put up signs and enforce it.

How do I go about getting a refund for my camping passes? I'm unable to camp this year but I've already purchased the camping passes online.

### **INTERESTING TIDBITS**

Parents have been talking about having a kid's costume swap meet. Like on Thursday we had a blanket out at the dragon where kids can bring their old costumes and get new costumes. This will save parents of the Fair lots of money and help them upgrade their costumes.

Things I heard working 11pm-6am:

- Just wanted to say thank you for walking into my booth.
- I broke my moral compass.
- Thanks for staying up all night to deal with inebriated hippies.
- Where's Captain Barbosa?
- Don't mock me. You haven't seen what I've seen.

### **KUDOS**

Thanks everyone! Had a fantastic Fair! Finally got camping situation sorted out, (thanks to John K & the Camping Crew!)

I wish the peace of the Country Fair could be at every gathering all over the world. Fantastic job, such a positive, healing environment.

OCF will never be perfect, but it will always bring perfect harmony and happiness to my being and I will continue into the "real world" throughout the year, and the next years to come! So much love and light to ALL fair family.

FAIR IS GREAT!!!! Awesome as always!!!!

This was my best Fair yet. A truly life changing experience. Thank you.

We love the OCF!

Opening ceremony this year was best ever. Thank you!

Thanks to everyone for a great Fair!

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a candidates statement for 2012

I LOVED the fair this year - thought the entertainment was great and the vibe was wonderful.

Our family really enjoyed the fair this year. We came Friday and Sunday and everything from buses to roaming the paths went smoothly. The large meadow is a nice addition from the classic paths and the new activities and resting places (like grand piano) were welcome. Thanks for creating such a stimulating and creative community!