



2019 Feedback Report

Dear Fair Family,

In all of the years I have been compiling your feedback, the volume submitted this year more than doubles the amount submitted in any prior year.

Every year it is a challenge to place items into their most relevant topic. I often find myself moving pieces from one section to another. It reinforces my perspective that Fair is a rich and many-layered tapestry with many interwoven threads. One item may relate to path planning, construction, and budget. Another may relate to Food, Signs & Banners, and the Peach Pit.

This compilation is alphabetic except for Kudos, the section that expresses appreciation which I usually place at the end. This year, however, I placed Commemorative Sales after Kudos for the sheer volume. And, I decided to conclude the report with comments about the 50th Anniversary including specific feedback about this year's celebration as well as a couple of deep reflections about our origins, the journey to the present, and a vision for our future.

Thank you all for your feedback.

Jen-Lin

AAAA

ADA & Elders: unify crews with a formal ADA access/accommodation plan

Summary: Providing access for people with disabilities is the law in this State.

As a disabled person, I believe that I was not granted such accessibility at the Fair this year and feel discriminated against by the organization.

Detail: I currently am disabled with mobility issues. I get around with a cane or walking sticks, though sometimes I try to walk on my own. I haven't missed a Fair since 1980, regardless of my disabilities. This year, I had an unsatisfactory experience with both 4A and Elder Crews as I attempted to access the Fair and its parking.

I have a State-issued handicap parking permit, which I use to drive to the Fair site on days when I'm not able to make the walk from my campground. I drove in on Friday morning of the Fair, paid the public parking fee, and was prepared to park somewhere on Miss Piggy's to be close to the Dragon entrance. I arrived before noon, and by then handicap parking was WAAAAY out in Kermit's, almost to the sticker booth. A long way for me to walk just to get TO the Fair. I approached 4A when I finally limped my way to the Dragon, where they informed me that had pedicabs to get people from ADA parking to the gate. Gee, it would have been nice to know that when I parked my car. There was no signage, no note given to ADA parkers, no helpful personal guides at the ADA parking lot, nada.

Plus, when I made it to 4A, they were out of adjustable canes. If 4A offers canes or other assistive devices, they should stock ONLY adjustable ones so all who request one can get one that fits.

Elders: I ended up in Elders Camp later that day, eager for a ride in the Geezer Pleaser to my car parked in WTF out in Kermit. It was hot, I was tired and limping (remember, no cane!), and I needed to get back to my camp to rest and recoup. I was told to wait because the Pleaser 'had just left'. Well, I waited for 45 minutes, and ended up limping my way down Chickadee Lane and out to the lots to reclaim my car.

However, the wait at Elders is not my main feedback. The feedback is that no one at Elders had access to a radio, and there was no radio in the Pleaser. That's crazy! You have disabled people needing services and nobody knows where the help is?! Waiting is understandable, but not knowing how long you have to wait is intolerable.


My suggestion is that the Fair unite the Elders and 4A crews under a formal ADA access plan that would be extensively communicated to the Fair community. We as an organization must do better at this to comply with State law. I see it as a diversity issue (is the Fair only for the able-bodied?) and feel that I've been discriminated against due to my disability.

I am a Ritz crew member, age 69 (but many see me as younger, without health issues.) I walked across the fair (from the Ritz to registration) on a hot Friday afternoon after completing my 10-hour drive from Bellingham and unloading setting up my camping equipment. I have two knee replacements and some heart problems too and was exhausted by the long hot walk, grateful to get my bracelet without much delay. I was late getting back for my first shift at the sauna and was hoping beyond hope to find a shuttle bus. Instead, a young woman (Lisa?) drove up beside me in her golf cart and asked me if I needed a ride. I was INCREDIBLY surprised and grateful, she was so kind, and I was delivered close to my booth near the time I was expected. Lisa was the most welcome and appreciated encounter I had during the entire fair (and I encounter many happy people, especially when my job involved saying goodbye to people who had just taken a shower!) Thank you for the Alternatively Abled AA service, it will allow me to continue attending the fair for years, I hope! It's just so reassuring to know that help is available.

No chairs allowed for Lesh Show was discriminatory to people who cannot stand. Tell me, how on Earth do you think this fair is accessible for alter-abled people?

The ADA access is terrible. It used to be manageable. Now other than the ADA at the entrance and a few Handicap toilets there is nothing to make the fair accessible. I can luckily use a cane however I saw folks in Wheelchairs who struggled to get around. Sitting in the ADA booth at the entrance is not helpful. Too many people in each day, not enough places to sit unless you smoke and not enough shaded areas. No carts or transportation from the highway or campgrounds to fair. We stayed at shady rest in the alleged ADA area which was NOT ADA in anyway. No ADA seating at any of the shows. The walking path was covered in poison oak. Not enough water misters, food booths or potable water stations. The toilets were disgusting from day 1. Not enough seating at any of the shows. It's become a fair for the insiders now. Many of the volunteers were lazy and didn't know directions, nothing was clearly marked. No treehouses to sit in and people watch. We have been coming since 1976. Sadly, we probably won't be back.

Hello, I just wanted to check in about a sign language interpreter. She was assisting during Sunday's sets on Main. It didn't look like she was actually doing ASL. I know sometimes people can get signing gigs without the right qualifications. I am not Deaf, but I have taken ASL classes and she clearly wasn't signing many of the words. Thank you, Sierra

Hello all! I just wanted to bring a little suggestion. I am alter-abled. It is really difficult for me to walk unassisted. I use a cane or a wheelchair. The paths could use some improvement on being more wheelchair friendly, also maybe some ground lights for nighttime. Also, it was frustrating to be on a path and need a handicap accessible bathroom and one not be near. Thank you for reading this. Be Blessed 

I had a VERY upset woman come to my gate complaining that she had talked to A4(located in dragon plaza) about driving her car up to the entrance to pick up her parents who had bone disease. She was obviously given false info by whoever told her that was possible. But it was clearly very distressing to her to walk out to her car and then be stopped and have to walk back again. She then said that the problem was that the fire show had expanded and taken up most of the alter abled parking. Making it incredibly hard for her to transport her parents. She went back to A4 to get help and I didn't see her again, but I promised I would share her complaint with the proper people.

Briefly, since my major accident in 2012, I have been going to OCF each Friday for the last 7 years. I am a quad in a power chair with profound access issues. I keep on thinking that next year things will improve during my arrival. But each year, including this year, I need to use my decades of OCF experience to navigate around many well-meaning staff folks who direct me the wrong way. Can someone OCF and 4A please contact me? There are some significant access barriers for folks like me, especially the approach. Thanks!

The only improvement is a small bit of training for the parking staff concerning other-abled visitors. Many parking staffers didn't appear to understand the differently abled BLUE WHEELCHAIR car sticker/sign. By the time we struggled to get to Dragon entry, Jim was wringing wet and exhausted. I hope thing improve next year.

ADMISSIONS

It is crazy that for one person to even park and go is \$45, you make this very unattainable for working families.

I've been to the Fair 5 or 6 years in a row and except for 1 year that I was a guest, only come on Friday's due to the expense and crowding. This year, we arrived earlier than usual at 11:30 and when we got to the entrance after passing through the ticket verification booth mid-lot, we're struck by the confusion and disorganization of getting in through a narrower entry way than last year, with no discernible lines and the only person directing telling people where will-call and wrist bands were off to the side. It appears that this year's crew was understaffed or ill-prepared for the 50th Celebration.

Why were people kept waiting from entering the waiting plaza at 10a.m. (like we have in past years) instead of waiting in line in the full sun?

Entrance to the fair the worst I stood close to the front of the first line and didn't move for an hour and a half while the other line in was continuously moving the said it was crowd control. You know how many tickets were sold this disrespect to ticket holders was inexcusable. Then to find things sold out on Friday. Who's running this? Limit tickets if you can't accommodate larger crowds!

Overall - Great-Amazing-wonderful! My suggestion was from when I saw the lines of people waiting at Will-Call in the sun. At least it was not too hot this year. Shade structures are not expensive, some could even be moved from the sticker-booth since they are only needed on Wednesday/Thursday. The paying public sometimes wait a long time at Will Call and it is their first experience on site. We don't want them to be dehydrated and frustrated before they enter the fair!

The only suggestion I have, is regarding pre-sale bracelet pick up. It would be wonderful if that could include the free item (if one given) being picked up at the same time.

If I had one complaint, it would be that I have no ticket stub to go in my collection of stubs. I don't get the reasoning behind tearing up, what for me anyway, is a great reminder of what I saw, where and when. I've been places where they tear off a corner, but I get the stub back. I've been collecting for many, Many years. I was SO hoping to add my OCF stub to the pile. And I was so disappointed when it was ripped in pieces before my eyes! Big bummer.

I had a day pass to volunteer for my 3rd year in the ice cream sandwich/pierogi (328) booth. Because I was in line after 10 am, I was told to get in back of the line because "after 10, you are treated like everybody else." I was very late to my booth.

Entry to the fair on Saturday was disorganized and infuriating. My fair companion of 12 years was so frustrated they said they won't be back. I got my will call tickets and walked half a mile to the end on the line. Was then directed by staff to leave the line bc a new faster line was forming. That was bs. Many of us were ushered to a standstill line in the blaring sun. No signs, nobody telling anyone where to go, kids were roasting. People were cutting. The half mile line I should have been in proceeded while we all waited. P.S. it would be nice if you had the fair toilets cleaned more often. That was a nightmare

We heard from several general public customers that they had to wait out in the hot sun (no shade) for over an hour upon admission Saturday. (Bag check issues? Too many tickets sold?). My friend who drove down from Portland on Saturday morning, also waited an hour and a half in the sun (with her children) at the downtown LTD station in order to ride the bus out to fair, which we encourage everyone to do. I saw many elderly people in long lines to get in and also catch the bus home. Not sure the solution... More shade for public in lines? Water out there? Less general public ticket sales if it impacts their experience and ability to enjoy fair? It felt disrespectful to the general public who purchased tickets, sometimes months ahead of time. Thank you.

The 3-day pass/stand in will call line/gotta get in second line to get in- is ridiculous

Thank you for a great Fair! We got caught in the crazy Saturday line and was very impressed by the professionalism, enthusiasm and calmness of the staff that helped sort that out.

Great event as usual! My 6th year and for the last 3 I've brought my minor son with me. I would love to see you make it easier for day workers like us to get into the fair. (parking and entry) We are town runners for our booth and have 'odd' hours. We often are made to line up with general public to get in or are told we are 'late' when actually we are just trying to do our job AND get our booth to give support to our colleagues. It would be great if we were treated as equal to the others who are able to camp on site and walk in early. Thanks for all you do to make it a great experience for everyone. <3

Please separate the real Will Call lines from the "trade your 3-day ticket for a wristband" lines. It's a drag to wait an hour to just do the latter when that hour is being spent looking up Will-Call-ers.

Is there a cost-effective way to make the 3-day public wristbands look very different from staff? Maybe just make them very different color schemes? Lots of confusion around that was seen this year.

I don't understand why I can't be able to purchase an evening pass for fair. It's unfair!

Generally good feedback, even the lines were OK because having performers come and chat or entertain maintained the integrity of the vision of the fair. I would go to further lengths to inform them though, most of the people in costume helping had NO idea how to answer the most basic questions I heard many newer patrons ask ("How long?" "Is this the line for..." "What's taking so long?" (Obviously bag check is necessary, but I wish there was a secondary set up for the early day rush, I waited nearly 45 minutes...)

Also, I watched people blithely walk ahead and keep the line, ignoring the fair workers who were bold enough to say "Excuse me the end of the line is back here" I saw one guy wave off the young woman who stood in the heat, in a hot costume, full make up. I was more annoyed that he was so disrespectful and that there wasn't a more official person telling him to go to the back of the line. I watched a 7 or 8-year-old girl ask, "Why is he able to cut the line mom?"

I wanted a better answer than ""Because that's how he is".

ADVERTISING

The promotional effort for the entertainment lineup needs major improvement. There is practically no attention paid to the talented performers booked at the many stages of the Fair. The only thing I see on social media are frequent plugs to buy tickets. There is a lot more at the Fair than a few headliners at the main stage who get promoted, and I hope the promotional team can do better in the future.

AFTER HOURS

Particularly for Fair Family: Some sort of publication with the lineup of nighttime acts. So many good things but even having connections to many performers, it's difficult to know what all is going on when & where.

It would be helpful to have a rough schedule of events that occur during the evening hours. You would issue it internally to Info & White Bird. This would allow for White Bird to know what areas to be on higher alert for the evenings. For example: Friday = fire show. Saturday = Mainstage 12am, Sunday = Chela Mela Sing-along. But are there other 'Fair culture' after hours events that occur? As a first-year camper, I was unaware of Saturday & Sunday and feel there probably are more traditions that occur in their manner that would help White Bird's efficiency.

Please, please, please post nighttime Fair shows at the registration booth so volunteers know where the volunteer appreciation shows are at night. I find it extremely ironic to offer a few nighttime activities but not tell anybody about them. As a director of a nonprofit I would never keep my nonprofit appreciation a secret. Or rely on word-of-mouth.

A way to figure out what is happening where after hours on the stages would be greatly appreciated by many.

I didn't love main stage playing after midnight. I want to sleep so I can be well rested for the fair during the day.

The disco cart parked in front of our booth at 3:30 am on Saturday for 20 minutes waking up every booth worker and child in the entire area. Booth workers work hard and need rest for the next workday. Little kids obviously need their sleep. I understand that dancing till the wee hours is important and should be done. Do they really have to wonder around the entire fair at that late hour? Can't they have a location in an open area? I think this topic raises a lot of anger for anyone camping in their booth. Thanks for listening. We love you.

ALTARED SPACE

Too much smoke! (at altared space?) We have elders & infants. Maybe have just sage or certain times. Suggestions: Sage & incense only, limit burns to specific times of the day; move altared space to a more open area.

Shady Grove Info booth has had many complaints about smoke from the general public as well.

AMBIANCE

My daughter, who is 9, has been taking piano lessons and was very excited to come and busk on the path at the Country Fair. Since we don't have the resources to pull a Jonny Hahn for her and bring an actual piano on casters, she bought a small battery powered piano and practiced with it before we came out in order to get used to the smaller keys. Unfortunately, a very short way into her first set, a security team informed her that she was in violation of the guideline against amplified busking. She was given a printout of the guideline and asked to stop (which broke her heart). Although I understand that she was violating the letter of the guideline, I firmly do not believe that children with toy pianos in any way violate that guideline's spirit. Therefore, I would like to suggest a guideline change to exempt young performers using minimally invasive amplification from this guideline.

My wife and I were standing at one of the intersections (Sunday afternoon) and 3 parades went by within 5 minutes of each other. One of the performers was carrying what looked like a white feather duster (the kind used for dusting furniture, a fluffy array of feathers at the end of a stick) He was waving it around like a baton. When he came marching by, he pushed it into my face (I was on the sidelines), while spinning it and rotating it against my face. It was unexpected and my natural recoil of stepping backwards had me bump into the poor lady behind me (it was already crowded before the parade pushed us all off to the sides). The performer (?) then pulled it away and pushed his face directly against mine and yelled /screamed loudly ("loo loo loo loo loo"). Literally eye to eye, nose to nose etc. Then he danced away waving the duster-baton as he went. Unfortunately, the antics left me holding my eyes with scratched corneas from the feathers /baton. As my wife was looking at my face afterwards, she had to wipe off some of the white makeup, which was rubbed off onto my face from the performers face. It felt like an assault.

I left the fair right after that, as I couldn't really see anymore. It was a long drive home with bloodshot, teary eyes (3 hours). The good news is that it's been a week since and my eyes no longer ache. You might pass a note along to the performers about respecting the patrons' personal space.

Potential cooperation regarding performance / event management at Festival...

Dear Sirs,

Please, let us introduce ourselves, since we are Spanish company highly specialized in Street theater and performances, with over twenty years of experience in the business, and more specifically in the domain of gigantic animated puppets (<https://carrosfoc.com/>) – and the projects we work on, truly don't go unnoticed... incidentally we have previous experience in having our art and our gigantic sculptures being requested by art festivals like the Burning Man, as well as for music vids by heavy metal bands :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hamFOjhQybg> was our latest cooperation Mago de Oz & Ada Malikian... .. since the Star Buick which is part of our Apocalypse City show, is ours:

<https://carrosfoc.com/espectaculos/desfiles/apocalypse-city/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/carrosfoc/albums/72157664076809592>

Therefore, if you may have any interest in any of our artifacts, we would truly be willing to make ourselves available to explore any possibilities of cooperation.

ARK PARK

I loved the primitive skills workshops offered in Archaeology Park; the hands-on learning helped me feel grounded in the midst of so many vendors. I have some experience in primitive and ancestral skills and would love to help facilitate these workshops in the future! Who can I get in contact with to learn more?

BUDGET

I have one issue for this year. The added \$60 for having a trailer. This year, I was able to bring a small trailer, shorter than my car, so I was able to bring all my stock safely to fair. I can understand an extra \$20, because I do take up to spaces, but \$60 is too much. You may not think this is a lot, but it is expensive for me to get to fair. Every little bit counts. Yes, I had a great fair this year, but there have been times where I barely paid for getting there. Please consider the fact that many of us with bulky products don't have a choice. Thanks

BUS

I attended the Fair on Saturday. I had a great time. On Sunday, I was listening to the Fair broadcast on KLCC. A representative from the Country Fair was being interviewed about why more people are not using the bus to go to the Fair. I was doing things around the house and was not by the radio when he was introduced. The last time I went to the Fair was about 20 years ago and I drove my car. I thought taking the bus this time would've been a lot easier, cause less traffic and be greener, etc. It was. Next year though, I plan on driving my car. I was informed when taking the bus, the last bus back to Eugene was around 7:30pm. I left with my daughter and her friend around 6:45pm so not to miss the bus and be stuck at the Fair. As we were in the queue for the bus, more people were coming into the Fair. We would have liked to have stayed longer and later to enjoy the evening and relax after spending the day there. It was a wonderful day. Because of the bus schedule, we needed to leave. Is it possible for the buses to run later into the evening? Possibly leaving every 30 minutes or so until 10 or 11pm? If so, I would use the bus again. If not, I will drive next year. Is it possible for the buses to run later into the evening? Possibly leaving every 30 minutes or so until 10 or 11pm? If so, I would use the bus again. If not, I will drive next year.

TERRIBLE shuttle service!!! 2-hour wait in hot sun!!

I was with you at the very first country fair, and helped you get your first shirts printed. You have grown so much; issues are getting bigger than your management. We bought tickets early so that we could attend a certain concert advertised to begin at 11:00 a.m. on Friday. We were in line at the Valley River Center at 9:30 a.m. waiting for the 10:00 bus.

ONE bus showed up at 10. By the time the fourth bus arrived for us to get on it was 11:10 with the line of people winding all the way around the parking lot. We walked as quickly as we could from the bus to the first concert area and arrived at 11:50. VERY DISAPPOINTING. If you are going to have entertainment scheduled for 11:00 your shuttle busses need to get the audience to the fair ON TIME. You can do better than that. Doesn't matter if it's an LTD issue. OCF needs to manage that better.

The bus situation was awful. We arrived at VRC at 11:5. We stood on the blacktop for 1 hour and 44 minutes. It was hot and miserable. In the 1st hour, only 4 buses came which barely made a dent in the 200-yard-long double line that wound itself around the parking lot. After the first hour, more buses came and some were the double buses so that made the line finally move. Then on the way back we stood in line for another hour and 15 minutes. 3 hours of our fair experience was spent standing in the bus line. We were so annoyed when we finally got home that I don't know that I want to go to fair again. We spent a lot of time chatting with folks while waiting in line and most people had the same experience we did. Ridiculous. Here's a solution: use the school buses that are sitting on lots during the summer. Hire the school bus drivers for \$15 an hour and add many more buses to your system. Each bus we rode was packed with no more standing room. People should get a seat. People are tired after walking around the fair all day. No one wants to stand for a 45-minute ride back to Eugene. More buses please!!!!

It was a wonderful fair. Thanks for all the work that went in to making this happen. I'm writing to let you know I spoke with 2 people (one is my brother, and another is a friend) who said their bus drivers got lost. One took almost two hours to get to the fair- the other an hour to get home. The wait on Friday was almost 2 hours to get to Fair. LTD should be told of this.

I've heard many accounts about people waiting in line for 2 hours to ride the LTD bus to the Fair. If we're telling the paying public as well as our volunteers and entertainers to not drive to the Fair due to traffic and parking issues, but then do not offer a reliable alternative, we do everyone a disservice.

CAMPING

We have a door at the back of our tents where we all camp and the open walkway has been filled with tents and other personnel stuff from other booth crew. We have tried to address this often over the last few years with positive verbal responses but once again our fire exit was closed off. We have had an increase of babies and small children and with a working kitchen in front of us and no back way out this is a true concern. Thanks for looking into this.

My group (4 people next year) needs to find a permanent camp spot, who would we contact if our crew leads are out of space for us to camp with them?

Deeply concerned about the level of camping and the impact to the land - as a landscaper walking the paths I can see / feel that the land has been impacted by our footprint- needs some restoration. I have some good ideas how we can repair care for land - learning and growing.

Piggy 'craft camping'- Every year it's the same story- Vendors can't get in until Tuesday, although it's already 1/2 full, from volunteer's & etc. We are paying for our booths, wristbands, vehicle stickers. As it is now, we come on Monday and have to set up outside the Piggy gate, tear down on Tuesday morning to move into Piggy's, then set up again. This takes too much time away from working on our booths getting them safe & beautiful. If we come on Monday, we should be able to get into Piggy's on Monday. We pay our money so PLEASE let us in on Monday!

Piggy camping also: Every year I am required to purchase an oversize vehicle sticker for an extra \$60.00 since my trailer is over a certain size- yet when I walk through the lot I see VERY FEW oversize units that have paid for the extra sticker- why is that? EVERYBODY oversized needs the extra sticker or NOBODY.

Thank you so much for listening!!

See you in 2020!!

I camped in tiger woods for the first time and the numbered camp signs being taken down Monday morning made it very hard for me to find my way out and back in again. A simple fix would be leaving them up until Tuesday or Wednesday for the goers like myself who are easily lost in the woods and just trying to make it in and out without feeling trapped in a maze.

CARTOGRAPHY

One of the maps was placed on the wrong side of the path and I got super-lost because the map was sending me in the opposite direction of where I needed to be

CARTS

Being at carts central early this year to work and move carts we had a significant number of people wishing to check out a cart to help them load. Additionally, when I came in to set up camp walking onto carts central there was a constant stream of people going up only to find it closed and carts locked up. I can only see that extending the days open to much earlier could be so helpful. Additionally, I noticed the guidelines said carts central is open the 3 weeks prior to fair, which I've never known to be true. But would be absolutely fantastic.

I really appreciated having carts available at 7:00 Monday morning.

Need carts to load/unload camping gear at FAR SIDE.

It's a long path with a lot of campers/gear and none were available there.

Far side carts, please

CHILDCARE

Just wanted to let you know that the Child Care (Near "The Ritz") was Amazing! My children 3 & 5 had a blast! It took soooooo much stress off me and I felt totally comfortable leaving them with all the security policies that they had in place. Every single person I encountered working there was helpful and friendly. My children will always remember the memories they made while making friends and using their imaginations free playing and couldn't have been happier! Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!! You made our Fair <3

CIGARETTES & SMOKING

I was also disappointed about the amount of open cannabis smoking happening as well - don't get me wrong, I imbibe when appropriate, and have respected OCF guidelines to keep the space available to all in the future. BUT, when I see and smell cannabis everywhere *including a staff member (black shirt that said "Staff" and OCF) openly smoking a vape pen down the path by Knish Bliss, well, that's a slap in the face. My 6yr old was with me, and it's supposed to be alcohol and "drug free" "including Marijuana" (in your own words). In past years I saw people being asked to take it elsewhere, stop, or leave. I saw none of that this year. Had hoped for more consistency for the 50th birthday bash!

Smoking Areas are disappearing! Every year, for the past 22 that I've been attending, another smoking area is removed! I know it's a dirty habit that many do not like! But cigarette smoking IS part of our community! And as a community we should find ways for all people to safely enjoy the fair!

I certainly understand the difficulties in doing so but, safe approved areas MUST be provided! We WANT to do the right thing! But, when we aren't given any space, the wrong thing often happens.... All smoking areas on E. 13th have been removed. The only Smoking area on the south side of Fair is in Xavanadu. Main stage smoking is perfect seating for main stage so non-smokers crowd in. Tiny Smoking area by the Ritz is overflowing. Please be kind to all people and help us help you.

I wish that smoking was not allowed inside the fair. It is hazardous to our health as well as a huge fire danger. People were smoking in Peace Parker park which is supposed to be smoke free. Please make the 51st Oregon Country Fair smoke free.

Please consider moving the main stage smoking area. No reason people should have to wait in the atm or bathroom line and breathe that (and those of us with children breathing it). In addition, that area is prime shaded area for the music where seniors and families with kids could have the opportunity to also enjoy the show without fainting in the sun. The smoke lingers which then causes the rest of the shaded area to not be available to those that need it.

I don't see why smoking is treated any different then drinking and drugs at the fair.

Thanks for all you guys do though. I know it's a lot and we enjoy the fair, but I still wanted to submit this comment, so you were aware

OCF powers that be: Please consider moving the Main Stage Smoking Area! The Smoking Area has a Deluxe, large footprint with shade trees and many benches (which could be used by nursing mothers or some of the elder folks). It has become quite difficult to maneuver around it. One has to go by the smokers to get to the toilets, or the Alter Abled area, to get to the ATMs, to the Water station, or the General Store, and to get to the Security door for Backstage. The blowback of smoke is bad for children and families sitting in the Main Stage Meadow. When the Meadow is full of people one has to climb over a very uneven, high mound of dirt to get around the Smoking Area. (That mound could be flattened.) Please consider moving the Smoking Area to the other side of the Meadow and away from this highly trafficked area.

Way too many people smoking/ vaping on the paths. Mostly nicotine, but still exposing people to burns, smoke, and toxics.

Please consider moving the main stage smoking area. This year's placement was a very poor choice. The placement caused traffic jams, was under tree canopy which held the smoke down, ground was very uneven which caused path hazards. this is a must before next year's fair.

I think I have the perfect solution to the smoking on the 8 and fair site...SMOKING TENTS or some kind of structure that will funnel the smoke up to the sky through a smoke hole that way the folks that can NOT stop smoking will have a place to go where they will be welcomed, and able to meet, and bond with other smokers so they won't feel so outcast and mamas can stroll with the babies smoke free...we can put them all over the 8 where no one can smell what's going on till they go inside....we can have fun with it and call it peachie's smoke lair or something fun like that please let me know what you think about this smoking has become a health issue at faire cuz there are so many of us here at the same time....with love and peaches

Thank you all so much!! The 50th was fun and every staff person I encountered was cheery and helpful and seemed to be having a blast!! The only difficult part, for me, was experiencing main stage. It was so hot and sunny, and the best part of shade was so crowded with the smoking zone, alter-abled space (which is critical and should be in shade) and bathrooms and atm. It was difficult to get to the bathrooms and atm or relax in the shade with kids with the smoke right there

In the spirit of OCF, making safe space for all, and as an attendee for the past 12 years, I would like to contribute agreement for the creation of a "smoking tent". A space that is both contained and designed to ventilate upwards towards the atmosphere rather than dissipate out among the crowds for smokers to imbibe in comfort and community with reduced risk of exposing children and the health impaired to secondhand smoke.

The tobacco smoke at fair is oppressive. The Main Stage smoking area was polluting much of the path to Politics Park, making it difficult to use the toilet without passing through clouds of smoke both coming and going. Then there is the ridiculously placed smoking area in Xavanadu, directly across the path from the kids tumbling and acrobatics pavilion. Time to get with modern times and protect fairgoers from these poisons, stop enabling this addiction. If we must have smoking areas, they should be quarantined from the general public areas. In addition, it would be WONDERFUL if we could ban smoking in the camping areas. It truly sucks to be a captive to smokers in nearby camps. Create smoking towers and restrict addicts to them or make enclosures with carbon air filtration to keep that junk out of fair. This is something that I received significant feedback on this year, especially the Main Stage area.

Please get rid of smoking areas. They all seem to be in prime spots, under trees. I really believe smoking should be banned. Bad example for kids. Bad for all us.

Also containing/monitoring/shifting smoking areas in a more appropriate way. As a mother of a small child we had to escape the smoke a lot this year, especially at night. Is that something we can keep in check when the public is gone? Possibly to lofty of a goal but I can't help but dream. Thank you to whoever reads these messages and records all these ideas, you rock!

Cigarette smoking enforcement: As someone particularly sensitive to cigarette smoke I really appreciate the fair guideline that bans smoking outside of designated areas at all times. During the day this works very well, but at night many, many smokers do not seem to realize (or care) that the rule is still in effect. Drug and alcohol use have little effect on others, but smoke goes everywhere, affecting everyone, and is a serious fire hazard. I put out burning cigarettes on the ground every single year. Over the past 10 years I have tried to inform smokers of the policy, but I am often argued with or ignored, or sometimes apologized to but then I see the same person smoking moments later. It can be emotionally exhausting to have these interactions and I often just don't go out at night because there are so many smokers (like at the midnight show every year). This year I joined a food booth and had the opportunity to inform my booth mates about smoking at a meeting. Later one person told me that he had never considered the issues around smoking and he had not once smoked on the paths this year. I would really like to see smoking information being shared by leaders to their booths or crews and better enforcement of the guideline by security.

Love it but the air quality needs refining. After hours there were soooo many people smoking cigarettes everywhere. A total ban on cigarettes inside Faire would be AWESOME!

please stop smoking at the fair. smoking is illegal in state parks, the state fair and everywhere else. It is impossible to keep the smoke in the smoking sections. please think of all the non-smokers which are a much greater percentage. MUCH!

The amount of cigarette smoking after the public leaves has gotten very bad, it is difficult to even walk down the path at night, the general belief is that you can smoke anywhere, anytime, after sweep. This is not only awful for those sensitive to it, but also a fire safety issue. I'd like the culture to change to respecting the smoking sections in the evenings, and for security and staff to tell people this. Preferably there would not be cigarette smoking at the fair at all, or at least not on the paths and camps could decide their own rules. If the University of Oregon can have a smoke free campus, and Downtown Eugene can be making strides towards this, I think we can too.

For kids and non-smokers, the smell of smoking areas is still overwhelming. There are smoke free shows! There would be a few years of disagreement but then there could come agreement...let's try it!

The smoking area by the drum tower is poorly placed. LOTS of smokers on the path. Make the fair tobacco free.

It's time to lose the smoking areas at Fair. The spaces can be put to better use and would make a safer environment for all fair goers if smoking areas were eliminated.

Is there any way that nicotine vaping company could provide some sort of sponsorship and provide vaping options so that combustion of tobacco products can be discouraged? The combustion of tobacco is my least favorite part of fair and makes me sick as well as it is horrible for my kids to get the secondhand smoke. Thank you for all that you do to make fair incredible!

Move the smoking section away from drum circle. Hard to breathe while dancing. Also, away from kids acrobatics. Smoke doesn't stay in its section.

I was so sorry that people were still smoking cigarettes in the Peace Parker sitting area while others were trying to use the water fountain or listening to the piano music. Wasn't that going to become a non-smoking area? I totally support moving cigarette smoking out of the Fair.

Same bitch... Different location... Smoking bench outside main camp kitchen.
Fuckin' FOUL. All that smoke pushes thru the fence and goes into the showers and out thru the cooking and prep-area of the kitchen... In a concentrated stream.

There has got to be a better place for those who are addicted to get their fix then directly in the air path to the kitchen. So many places you can smoke yet smokers are given the "prime" rest and shade locations across the property.

I call bullshit.

One last gripe... BUMS and refusal to enforce "the rules"... During pre-fair I observed 5 BUMS in a 10 min. period walk past the fire pit, pause, then "shake their heads" about a group of people smoking at the main campfire pit... Then continue to walk on by.

Headshake of shame does nothing. About as good as wagging a finger was you glare and walk by. When a smoker exclaimed out loud when I was cleaning up the line why all the glaring I stopped what I was doing and went over & informed them that they are not supposed to smoke inside main camp nor toss their stinky butts into the smoldering fire. Global comment was that they did not know and would have been "a lot better to just let us know instead of glaring every time they passed by us". Yeah. Could not agree more.

Those in leadership roles need to remember this and act accordingly. I would not even bother to mention this last aspect had the actions of our upper management staff not been so glaringly sophomoric. BUMS set an example... Or not.

With that being said... I know you can't please all the people all the time. Thank you for all that you do. Keep kick ass!

Thank you, Fair, for providing comfortable, shady places for tobacco users.

Tobacco smoke was the worst that it's been during all my decades at the event. Overcrowding is likely a big contributor. We talk a good line on accessibility but that doesn't seem to extend to people with asthma and other respiratory issues. And it's not just bad on the paths, it's bad when folks stand outside a camp smoking. I'd like us to move toward a tobacco smoke free Fair, or at least an only-in-designated-smoking-areas. We could help make this happen by informing people when they're coming in, for example at pack check. It might also be helpful to have some folks on the path there to talk to smokers and direct them to smoking areas

My Only bitch is Eliminate the smoking sections in fair! I thought it was a drug free event!? You know as well as I do cigarettes are a horrible drug and the people that use them are DRUG ADDICTS!!! Most are VERY IGNORANT of their effects on others. There is no two ways around those facts.

Cigarettes are the ONLY drug proven time and time again to SERIOUSLY harm the people around them! Secondhand smoke is just as bad if not worse than firsthand smoke. I get more secondhand smoke in my one week of fair than the whole rest of the year combined. I feel the effects for weeks after! Why should we all have to suffer from other people's addictions? If they want to smoke, go somewhere else!!! This is supposed to be a SAFE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT.... if I had a family and kids, I would seriously consider not bringing them purely for this health reason. I'm actually considering not attending myself anymore as I lay here still coughing from the smoke I unintentionally inhaled... #drugfree2020

The smoking area by the drum tower is poorly placed. LOTS of smokers on the path. Make the fair tobacco free.

COMMUNICATION

If the public is going to be let in an hour early on Saturday, there should be a better effort to let booths know. No one I know was informed of this decision, and all of a sudden there was a lot of traffic at our booth. I also heard there were still vehicles on the path that were 'put on probation' because of this-- this is wrong. If the timing has always been 11am, a 10am start shouldn't mean anyone is on probation.

Ask crew / booth admins to remind their folks that getting in & out will take patience. Our crew deal with a lot of people who are annoyed at being stopped before entering the camping area, & this can get dangerous. We had a few cars this year "escalate/accelerate."

As a volunteer sidecar rider, there were several occasions when, even after asking for clarification, I did not receive adequate pickup information on location and/or name/description of pickup. I was very frustrated.

I have worked in the dragon for, literally, decades - and this year I felt *very* frustrated by calls from Fair Central that seemed like passing the buck to 4A for a solution without a good sense of what our crew can do to assist (we have only limited transportation options - 3 sidecar bikes, a golf cart, a service vehicle, and check-out wheelchairs). I was also asked, several times, to do something about a situation without adequate information to be able to determine what would be helpful or how we could connect with the person needing assistance. "A woman up by Water Camp needs a ride to the front gate," with no known info about how we'd recognize her, where exactly we'd connect with her, which front gate, etc. When I'd ask for additional information, I got, "that's all we know." I feel certain that people did not get the assistance we could have provided because nobody had collected enough information for us to use in devising a solution.

Once inside the gate, everything was very professional & truly wonderful & amazing. Website was a real mess when it came to tickets but getting to parking was pretty easy. Unfortunately, when calling to inquire about how to arrive from the west, three phone calls produced no answer & some very rude customer non-service. Really bad, when all they had to have said was Suttle Rd. & we would have been set. Your directions need real help. Then, upon leaving, the parking security man was dancing in the road rather than paying attention to traffic & got upset with me when I tried to go around him; he seemed more like a festival goer than a worker. I suggested he do his job & got more rude replies. I will never attend this festival again due to the rudeness of the people working there that answered the phone & made a really lame attempt to control traffic. A real shame.....

I'd like to host a seminar on how to avoid "Us vs Them" confrontations. I see these stalemates on the fair's website and in the world at large. I think we should focus on overcoming adversities with virtues not more vice. Especially after Taliesin Myrddin Namki Meche was killed on a MAXX train while trying to de-escalate a neo-fascist. Mouseman told me he was "One of our (OCF's) own" and Mouseman is on board with my efforts to honor Taliesin's memory by trying to DO SOMETHING about all the dysfunction today.

After having a booth for 40 years I have experienced an array of things. I must say processes and interaction with crews has improved immensely. Thank you kindly

CONSTRUCTION

Construction Crew - A BIG shout out to Kirk, Brandt and Trevor, aka the booth oscillator. They are always great to work with making sure our structure is sound.

Unfortunately, I have a negative comment. I know the crew who deals with fences was overwhelmed this year, so I think our fence was forgotten or an oversight. Our fence between Rabbit Hole and our booth was completely down and floated around in our camp area. On June 8th when doing our maintenance, we moved all the pieces to the fence line and requested the fence be put back up in writing at the construction desk. When arriving on property the Tues before fair, nothing had been done. A young man did show up on Wednesday and put up a half fence (the bottom half about 3' tall). The folks at Rabbit Hole use the area next to the fence as their backstage. We really need a full height fence. This was the third year (maybe more) the fence did not survive the wavy cut and bottom half taken off. Is there a better solution so it survives the water flowing through and not so labor intensive for your crew?

After having a booth for 40 years I have experienced an array of things. I must say processes and interaction with crews has improved immensely.

Thank you kindly

Poorly written notes from crews hurt morale and damage relationships. Please have all notes from Fair Crews left on booths proofread and make sure they contain contact information. Otherwise it's just littering and vandalism.

When the old Main Stage was condemned, it was said that the Fair would build a beautiful new stage for the fiftieth. Obviously, that didn't happen. Was that only because of how much winter damage needed cleanup this year or has the idea fallen by the wayside? I bet the latter; I'm sure it's just easy to have someone come in and build the current Main Stage. But could we get someone to build some sort of pretty facade or proscenium? The old stage really said, "Country Fair"! At the very, very least, replace the falling apart frames that we have for two of the image decorations and make nice frames for the other two.

CRAFTS

I would love to see some kind of program that helps our kids be able to become crafters. My daughter was actually considered part of my booth until she turned 18. One year the Peach pit had her as booth rep. and I wasn't even mentioned. LOL. Anyway, now she has to screen in with everybody else. Maybe a program where these kids can sell and be an official seller. It could be some kind of internship type thing. They pay booth fee, get a few passes for help and learn the process. It seems like something like this would be a great program/learning experience. Any income they make assists in helping them be able to perfect their craft so the eventually they could screen in and be an official craftsperson. Thanks.

Each year I fill this out to let you know my concern for us artisans who take credit cards and can't, due to the huge amount of people and their phones. I could not get on the fair's vendor wifi, no matter what I did. I took 0 credit cards, and lost sales. The common response was "I will go to the ATM". and they disappear. I understand the problems with technology. So PLEASE. next year inform the public to bring CASH, because 2 ATMs for thousands of people, and sketchy wifi impacts my living. It interferes with my livelihood. I would like a response, altho I have never gotten one in the last 6 years of asking. Thank you.

I felt many of the booths that have been around a long time looked tired, stale, and antiquated in terms of their merchandise this year. I see handcrafted wears having a renaissance right now and I don't think it's as well represented by fair as it has been in the past. I would like to see an, even temporary, stricter jury system with a higher point value necessary to be an older vendor. I'd like to see newer, fresher talent at fair next year. I think it will help it look less antiquated.

I am still disappointed to find mass produced "crafts" even with "made-in" labels on them . This is so unFair to our hardworking makers

This booth had a bunch of art theft. The creator said that they had "repurposed the designs into thread", aka taken other people's designs and put them on her patches. There were several more things that surprised me in the booth along these lines.

I think this gets at a larger problem-- crafters are required to make handmade items, but is it okay if their handmade items feature other people's designs with no credit or acknowledgment? Designs that the original creator would like to be profiting off of? At OCF, we really don't have much of the TV show logo crafts variety (ex. see many crafts fairs where people just do prints of Game of Thrones logos and sell them), but I didn't see any emphasis in the guidelines about crafters needing to use their own designs instead of somebody else's. In the age of the internet where millions of other people's designs are online, many of which are not free to use commercially, perhaps the guidelines could be amended.

I ask that you consider telling this booth that using other people's work and selling it at fair is not acceptable, even if it is a small percentage of the items offered, and possibly amending the guidelines. Thanks.

CREW SERVICES

Did you know it takes 450 years for a plastic water bottle to decompose? Probably, you knew this because the fair is so ecologically aware. However, I noticed the volunteers being handed bottles of water. Yes, we can recycle these horrible items, but wouldn't it be better if we didn't purchase them at all. My suggestion is to take donations at the fair from visitors of reusable water bottles. (I'd be happy to bring several of mine that I no longer need.) There are so many in the thrift store that can be purchased inexpensively without creating more waste. (I am absolutely NOT suggesting the fair create their own or purchase new ones.) Ask volunteers to bring their own. I know there are washing facilities at the fair because of the glasses and silverware. Couldn't the donated bottles be washed and then given to volunteers and refilled from one of those large jugs that sports teams use? Thank you for considering my suggestion. I love the fair and I love the earth.

While working 7-12 shift on the road the refreshments for the crew was seriously lacking. No water for the crew at all on Saturday and on Thursday they brought coffee with no cups and hot chocolate but no hot water. This is a very busy crew with lots to handle and we should be at the very least provided with some refreshments. Thank you for taking time to read this and hopefully next year will be better! YES WE CAN!

The majority of our experiences were fantastic this year. The crews we coordinated with were great to work with and we really appreciate all everyone did to make our show a success.

There were some hang ups. We usually have our food delivered to our work site on Wed and Thurs due to the extreme work load of setting up an entire stage (we average 14 hours of work each day) (we also have 80 some people show up for our only rehearsal and need to be fed and organized) . This year, we needed to dedicate 2 crew members to securing our food and water for the majority of both days. Food was up to 4 hours later than expected. When it was delivered, the portions were disappointing (example: a small plate of cut bananas and apples and 15 cookies for 42 people for lunch, burnt chili and salad for about 15 people instead of 42, 3 fruit snacks and 2 granola bars for snacks for 42). Crew members were counting on food, and when it just didn't arrive, or dinner was one small piece of banana each, it was very hard on our crew. Water was also delivered super late- which is dangerous in such hot weather

Need more love from Crew Services to those working in the field (Registration) with cold beverages and food.

I have a teen who worked with crew services handling water/water containers. He was required not just to wash his hands but to bleach them. By that I mean he was told to put bleach directly on his hands. When he questioned it, his concern was not addressed. There is no hand washing protocol

that includes bleach directly on skin in any setting. It is harmful and unhelpful for maintaining hand hygiene. Please address this so it does not occur again.

There were some hang ups. We usually have our food delivered to our work site on Wed and Thurs due to the extreme work load of setting up an entire stage (we average 14 hours of work each day) (we also have 80 some people show up for our only rehearsal and need to be fed and organized) . This year, we needed to dedicate 2 crew members to securing our food and water for the majority of both days. Food was up to 4 hours later than expected. When it was delivered, the portions were disappointing (example: a small plate of cut bananas and apples and 15 cookies for 42 people for lunch, burnt chili and salad for about 15 people instead of 42, 3 fruit snacks and 2 granola bars for snacks for 42). Crew members were counting on food, and when it just didn't arrive, or dinner was one small piece of banana each, it was very hard on our crew. Water was also delivered super late- which is dangerous in such hot weather.

CULTURAL SENSITIITY AND DIVERSITY

Just some questions: why are most of my coordinators, rovers, and bums men/masc? Why do they get their staff positions based on who they know instead of coordinating skills and experience? Why is the majority of management white? Why do I feel uncomfortable speaking up when there are misogynistic or homophobic or racist statements made during meetings/speeches/trainings? Why do my friends of color volunteer once and then never come back? Why do I feel like I need to hide my name when I ask these questions?

I have a friend who is a Native American storyteller who had a camping pass etc. to attend and perform. He got there late afternoon on Thursday and was told there was nowhere to camp in Entertainment or Youth Stage camping... Everywhere he went -- Grump's, Alice's, Security-- he asked "You have camps for every possible group here, but where is your Native American camp? No camp for Natives?" My friend was astute; for years he has listened to empty thank you's to the 10,000-year-old ancestors from every stage as well as the block to the rising of the Sauna's Story pole--as supposed proof of the fair's cultural awareness and respect. Eventually, after being shuffled around with all his gear for hours, he was finally given a space to camp by Aleta (on security) in Alice's. On Saturday he was asked to move to his car by a parking lot person on a horse who directed him where to move it to. Come Sunday, when he went to find his car -- it was gone. He was finally directed to a BUM again to find the car as there was no record of it being towed. A golf cart came, and he went to the tow yard and still no car. He began aimlessly walking the grounds and hours later found it in the same lot he had parked it in, but 100 yards back. Is this how we honor the Native people we invite to our Family Fair? He left wondering about the white supremacy he felt he had experienced... And afraid to speak up lest he be banished from future fairs for his dissent. I am at a loss as to what to say to him... He's also a combat Army Veteran. Where is the camp for Native peoples? My friend volunteers to be the Native Camp host.

Other fairs/festivals have rightly banned non-Native individuals from wearing traditional sacred regalia items, such as headdresses, and it would be appreciated if OCF would do the same. It is unpleasant and unjust to be alienated by fair guests on my own homelands because the fair allows the propagation of stereotypes. On a happier note, it would be lovely if there were a way for the fair to indicate which vendors of apparently Indigenous items (such as traditionally beaded barrettes, earrings, etc.) are actually Indigenous, so that fairgoers can support Indigenous artisans and engage in true cultural appreciation rather than cultural appropriation (additionally, it is a violation of the Indian Arts and Crafts Act for vendors to misrepresent themselves as selling Native American items if their items are not actually Native American made, but this is difficult to determine during fair itself.) If there are not Indigenous vendors selling their beadwork at fair, efforts should be made to support the inclusion of such vendors, since there seems to be a demand for such artistry.

Really, a cross on the Main Stage lawn doing "church"? I will admit I am allergic to religion and it seems to me the cross certainly does not belong anywhere on the fair. As far as the Christians I wonder if they take such a central place in order to draw others in. If they are to have their morning get together seems like it belongs somewhere else in the fair.

Gay Pride Parade: A Gender person was upset that the paraders were rude, in-your-face, plus.

DOGS

If you are not going to allow pets to be left in a vehicle on your grounds / in your parking lot, it would be a good idea to post this information on your website. The potential implications are obvious (someone checks your website, sees no information to this effect, takes their dog to the fair, gets turned away at the parking lot entrance, etc.). I get that there are alternatives, but it does not take much to post this information on your website. And I get you care about my pet ... as do I ... which is why I would not leave him in dangerous situation (I'm responsible enough to look after my pet).

Beautiful Fair this year!

I also noticed so many dogs. A pit bull fighting with another dog in the middle of a crowded path. A dog pooping in the middle of the path. I am sure there must be a good reason for the dogs but I much, much prefer the long standing no dog policy. I don't know how challenging it is to get a service dog permit, but it seemed to me a bunch of strapping young people with their dogs. Thank you!

I have been attending/working fair on and off for the last 20 years. 15 times total. In all those years I have hardly ever seen a dog, until this year. I understand the laws about service animals and not being able to require paperwork, but this year was ridiculous. Out of the 12 or so dogs I witnessed only 3 appeared to be legitimate service animals. Many were on long leads being dragged around, some in obvious pain, by younger patrons and only a few, maybe 5, had the official fair laminated tag. The most appalling was a dog with a MUZZLE and prong choke collar. If a dog is muzzled it obviously CAN NOT be a service animal. This dog did not have an OCF tag. I know you're not able to ask for paperwork but there are questions that security can legally ask. Under the law staff can ask if the animal is a service animal and what tasks or work the animal helps someone complete. This certainly isn't fair for those who actually need service animals, whether for physical or emotional needs. Safety is a huge concern, what happens when a child is bitten or an elder knocked down? We know it's not fair to the animals that are not properly trained and are being dragged around a place that isn't even remotely accommodating for a dog.

Also concerned about the unsanitary conditions of dogs dedicating and urinating everywhere. I'm afraid if this isn't addressed before next year with stricter policies in place, we can all look forward to stepping in piles of poo in the years to come.

I think the allowance of dogs in the Fair is out of control. I understand allowing dogs which are legitimate and registered (not with just a piece of paper obtained online) help animals. But most of the dogs I saw this year were untrained and obviously not truly certified animals. Nor are their owners trained and responsible. At booth 33 a dog stopped and took a huge soft dump right up against our front porch. The owner was not paying attention until it was too late. He was unprepared to respond or clean up. We loaned him plastic bags, but he did an unsatisfactory job cleaning up and we had to finish the job. This is unsanitary and unsafe. I would urge the Fair to nip this in the bud before next Fair and only allow truly certified trained animals in the Fair.

Need to require (or provide) water for service dogs. Saw some in distress (long history of training dogs -60+years)

DURABLES/COMPOSTABLE/REUSABLE

Hello Fair Fam, I heard some chatter that a good number of teens are coming of age without many crew openings to fill. Best first job for a teenager? Washing Dishes!

I was very disappointed to see single use plastic around the Fair this year. I'm not sure which food booths we're distributing single use plastic straws, and lids, but I saw them all over the fair for five days. Single use plastic should not be allowed at the Fair.

The Pickathon's token system for reusable/durable dishware is truly a case to be studied. Of course, water use then becomes an issue to be considered, as well as its disposal. But this change would eliminate a significant amount of waste generation and create valuable new jobs that contribute to the sustainability ethos of the Fair. Thanks for all you do!

OCF guidelines, p. 17, say "...all participants are required to use compostable or reusable food service containers whether at gatherings before, during, or after our event..." Does this apply to the Teddy Bear Picnic?

At the serving tables, we cheerfully accept large single use plastic containers of delicious casseroles, pies, and other potluck offerings, because it's so darn convenient for so many picnic celebrants to buy something and drop it off, rather than cook something in their own reusable dishes. I noticed we stopped putting "Please no uncut watermelons" on the invitation this year, and just gamely provide knives and cutting boards for watermelon providers. Will we ever hand serving dishes to folks who've assumed this guideline is not followed during the picnic and suggest that they transfer what they've brought into them, and hand them their plastic back over the table to take home?

ELDERS

The fact that security took blankets at main stage and forced standing room only after recommending bringing a blanket on your website is horrible PR. Also, website says every possible step will be taken to care for seniors who have extra needs and yet security forced many older people to get out of their chairs and move after they committed to their spot at 11am. After 50 years, I'm done and terribly disappointed.

ENTERTAINMENT

The sound issues with The Dandy Warhols was another disappointment, since I had an item to pick up prior to Fair's end on Saturday and was not able to hang around while they resolved the issue.

I was disappointed in the musical acts. Having a grateful dead was good and very popular, but this was the 50th. there are a lot of acts from 50 years ago era touring now, including Dave Bromberg, hot tuna, Dave mason. Just to name a few. And these artists are responsible for a lot of music we hear today. They were the innovators.

I feel there needs to be more variety in the music offered. Especially at night. The next generation of young folks are desperate to hear music they like.

The show at Left Bank that depicted Asians in such a negative way was embarrassing - we know better comes to mind. That whole crew needs to adhere to some diversity training and find another way to present humor and fun, not at the expense of others.

I am writing to express my disappointment and disgust in this year's Stage Left Flotsam performance. While their vaudevillian talents were entertaining enough, the problem was with their overt racism towards Asians. It was like watching someone go down a checklist of stereotypes and make sure to hit each one. The issues began when two people (a man and woman) that didn't look Asian pretended to be so. They entered the show by coming in off a make-believe boat. My first thought was, 'oh okay, they're depicting Asians fresh off the boat', but because the show is set on a boat it seemed all right but not great considering that actors didn't appear to actually be Asian. Then I got a closer look; the woman actress was wearing a set of buckteeth in her mouth. That's when I began to feel nauseous. Next, I noticed the guy was carrying a small dog. Then the woman began to do a crappy Asian accent. I was so appalled and embarrassed that people were laughing and cheering. I had my wife with me (an immigrant from Thailand) and I could see by her hardened stare she too was uncomfortable. The racism, and stereotypes continued as the woman pulled out a camera and began to take pictures of everything. I couldn't believe what I was seeing, especially at the Country Fair. This marked my 29th year at the fair and I have never seen something so insensitive and horrific as Stage Left or any of the other stages. I don't understand how this was accepted and approved by the fair. The fair is a place where we should be celebrating inclusion and diversity, not making a racist mockery on the stage. Next year I will begin my boycott of Stage Left and ask that you please join me in doing so. This show was unacceptable and should not be tolerated.

Invite performers with disabilities.

Let's do less expensive, and less well-known musical acts on Main Stage who have less "demands" than a well-known "diva".

The ONLY show I did not appreciate was the Farce Family (or something like that), from Eugene. The show was fairly disturbing to those that I was sitting with as well. It seemed dark, not family friendly (granted, it was late at night) and not late-night-dream-state friendly either. One character was wearing a mouth gag the whole time (a fetish device that holds the lips and mouth open). It left us feeling rather icky. I'm ALL about celebrating diversity in a positive way--this just didn't feel so positive. I am in no way intending to bash this troupe or its talent--I just felt it didn't carry the energy of the fair, but this is just my personal experience.offering!

Thanks for booking Climbing Poe Tree! Best Act Ever. Please bring them back.
better sound system needed at main stage...

I've missed 4 fairs in my 22 years of life. This year was rather disappointing. The midnight show was lacking anything that encouraged me to want to attend it, which is a gathering I look forward to year-round. Phil was great, but if we're spending as much money on him as we did, couldn't we at least have him at the midnight show as well?

It has come to my attention that our tip dance has been interpreted as "begging" by a fair family spectator. I was dance coordinator for 35 years and for many years we were given 100 dollars for all our dancers, musicians and crew...that is for four or five days of set up and then three days of continuous dancing from 12 noon till 7 pm. We have always had a tip "opportunity" every four or five dancers to offset the expenses of everyone! These monies are divided among 25 or 30 people!! Yes, we get paid more now but any reimbursement through tips that we can get we deserve to try to get!!!

WOW! What a great Fair! Happy 50th.
I really enjoyed the entertainment. Thank you for bringing Ace of Cups to the Fair. I enjoyed their performances immensely.

Spectacular job by all parties on making the 50th memorable! Time capsules and gorgeous glass mural at the Ritz - WOW! Mildred March was fabulous. One of the best Midnight Shows ever! Thanks to Tom Noddy for 35 years of organizing that event and especially for his efforts in bringing the 4 original Flying Karamazov Brothers back, which was no easy feat. [disclaimer - okay, he's my husband, but I'd be saying this anyway.] THANK YOU for the extraordinary effort! This is a Fair that will not be forgotten.

Oh, and also, thanks to the Ritz for posting their after-hours music line up out on their board. Not sure if they always do that, can't remember ever seeing it but I was able to make sure to jam up there after my shift to catch the bands I wanted to see :). Rock on ya'all!

FAIR VALUES

The traffic people were all around rude. Not very fair like. Other than that, thank you for everything you guys do! Another great year.

Stewardship of the land

"Above all, reverence for the land." This is the stated goal of the Oregon Country Fair's land stewardship efforts. I appreciate that the Fair has policies and procedures in place to honor this statement, and that as an organization there are efforts underway to further this goal. But what about the Fair Family who participate in the event? Is this value upheld by us?

As a Coordinator in the Xavanadu area, I can tell you that one of the first jobs our volunteer crew attends to each morning during the essential event is picking up loads of trash left all over the ground by late-night partyers. I see it with the hard-working Recycling crew as they try to manage mountains of waste, and it appears that the general Fair Family who enjoy the event are not very concerned about the disproportionate workload their behavior causes others. What needs to happen to change the behavior of our Fair Family members to act in a more respectful way toward the land and our fellow Family?

On one hand it was really nice to have good cell service for the first time. Made it easy to keep in touch and to reach people who don't carry radios. But it changes the character of the event. I'm a be-here-now type, and I feel that energy is sucked away when people are sitting at a stage showing each other YouTube videos of something else. Not sure if there's a way to balance that.

Ask crew / booth admins to remind their folks that getting in & out will take patience. Our crew deal with a lot of people who are annoyed at being stopped before entering the camping area, & this can get dangerous. We had a few cars this year "escalate/accelerate."

My older sister was physically and verbally assaulted at WC fields while watching the mud bay jugglers by a staff member and his wife. They literally threw food at me and my 6-year-old, when the show was over, he shoved her from behind into an elderly lady and ran off, then his wife screamed about him being a 'good man' it was appalling. The poor older woman was in total shock and I used my first aid kit to bandage her foot.

I saw a guy with a shirt with Bonnie rotten fingering herself and the date and time he met her, all her stats written on his hat and back with a sharpie.

I also saw a guy with a sock on his cock and a bra on making lewd tongue gestures while juggling in the flow area next to a group of kids.

Both these men were lewd as hell, and this kind of thing should be limited.

There was also a kid with a sign that said "dismantle white supremacy" running around. That's maybe brave, if you're in Klamath falls. We're here talking to hippies, we aren't supreme. Aggressive political stances that demonize anyone based on skin color shouldn't be allowed and make the fair feel unwelcoming

The amount of trash and disrespectful behavior from people with wristbands has reached new levels. My crew and our contracted entertainers work extremely hard to produce high quality entertainment stages in Xavanadu and were struggling to operate on sleep deprivation due to the extraordinarily loud people yelling at all hours of the night and multiple rogue amplified sound systems competing with each other at all hours. I have been attending the Fair for over 20 years and am very aware of the nighttime culture, which is normally something that is desirable and lovely. The past few years, however, I've witnessed a new level of bad behavior, drug use, vandalism, and just plain disrespect for people and the land that (to me) goes against the values and mission statement of the Fair. I'll be talking to our BUM about this issue and will be making an effort at future Board meetings to address it as well. If the important thing here is to operate as a philanthropy and to provide a world-class event for the public, then the behavior of "Fair Family" at night that is causing our crews incredible extra stress needs to change.

I had a really unique experience in that I experienced Shady Rest campground as well as having a SO wristband to enjoy the night fair. I gotta say that Shady Rest is an alcohol-fueled crowd that is not benefiting from the same culture as Fair folks. This probably is not a good thing, because it creates a division that is quite palpable.

At Burningman, the 10 Principles are plastered EVERYWHERE. You almost can't escape them. They are there when you get your ticket, they are there at the gates. There are activities planned around them. You hear people repeating them to each other. Burningman has several neologisms that have sprung out of these principles, and they help to keep everyone on the same page. If the Fair had a similar document of principles, these principles could be used to unite populations that camp at the nearby campgrounds. This would create more cohesion, more community, and would work to keep everyone moving in the direction of greater consciousness, respect, lightness, and love.

I would also love to see the neighboring campgrounds work together to create opportunities for new artists to perform in the evenings. "The real party is the night party at the Fair" was something that I heard many, many, many people say. There is a feeling of being left out. I think that bringing nighttime

art to neighbor campgrounds would help to soothe this feeling. It would also provide an opportunity to make Fair culture more continuous. It would inspire new artists to put acts together at these campgrounds. It would give more people to participate overall, and this would be a really good thing.

Or maybe there could be some sort of ambassador program? The diverging cultures are disconcerting. As the Fair grows, this is something to keep an eye on.

I'm a sociologist and market researcher by profession. I would love to volunteer to interview/survey long time Fair family about the creation/potential content of a 10 Principles document. Please be in touch if you would like to discuss. I am very interested in other volunteer roles as well.

FAR SIDE

Far Side needs to open on Sunday for pre-fair folks. Even if the hours were limited on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday for pre-fair folks to come in and set up. This whole you've got to know somebody and get the secret gate code process is frustrating and ridiculous. There are like 300 people out there Tuesday, did they all call Bill to get the secret code? This would benefit the volunteers greatly along with alleviating the heavy traffic entrance on Wednesday which is quite frankly dangerous.

The live music in Far Side was great. Our camp is right behind the Dome and we placed ourselves there originally because we enjoyed all the activity and live music in the dome. It was great to have it back this year and I really hope you approve permits for next year.

- Music on FarSide this year was most excellent!
- Need site crew involvement much earlier in the year. The state of the FarSide a week before the event was very dangerous.
- We need a dedicated Bee crew for FarSide. We are averaging ~15 reported nests a year. Many are never taken care of.

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.

They're definitely needs to be cart checkout available for Far Side walk-in campers.

Music on FarSide this year was most excellent!

I camp in Elders' Meadow in the Far Side. The Sunday of fair TWO tents were hit by cars that were trying to pack up and leave. Both tents had people in them, one had 4 children playing inside. Thankfully no one was injured. There are many children that camp and play in that part of the meadow. The paths where the cars drive is very narrow. Sunday is still very much still fair time, many of us still have shifts to do and are not packing up and leaving and would like our children to be able to run and play safely. I don't think it is necessary for cars to drive back to that part of the meadow on Sunday. Perhaps some carts could be available for people to haul their belongings the short distance to the main meadow. All the cars that came in on Sunday that I saw only had a small amount of camping gear. Many people have to walk their belongings in and out of the 8 on Sunday, and I believe this part of far side should be no different on Sunday. It is especially unsafe to have cars in that area after dark.

Also, it would be helpful to have some people from traffic in Far Side on Sunday and Monday. Cars were driving very fast, and not obeying the traffic rules. I would hate to see a tragedy happen. Thank you for considering.

I camp in the area of Far Side where the young couple's tent was run over Sunday night, and this year happened to be camped right next to the man that drove the car over the tent. It was super scary, and we were so glad that everyone was ok. For many years I have wondered about widening that area during mowing. If the blackberry brambles on the right side looking toward the trees were cut back about 3 feet in a long crescent shape all of us on that side could pitch camp further back from the central path, making a safer load in/out. Thanks!

I camp in Elder's Meadow on the Far Side, and due to two incidents of tents being run over this year, would really like to see cars banned from entering Elder's Meadow any time before Monday morning. The nearest access in the ballfield is not very far away, and our camp has many small children who could be cajoled or coerced into helping people carry their baggage on Sunday if needed.

Had a wonderful fair thank you all so much for your efforts. The only big concern I had was out at Far Side where I camped with friends, there were two incidents of cars running into tents while trying to leave early on Sunday. I would suggest closing the gate to the far side during the fair and only let emergency vehicles in or out of far side during fair days.

FarSide traffic and security: The fair needs to do more to protect the staff and others that camp in the FarSide. This year the number of vehicles driving in on Sunday night, while most camps are still set up was unacceptable. Security is understaffed to enforce speed conventions and there is no presence from Traffic. I know of at least two instances where tents were hit by vehicular traffic. Both tents were occupied by humans. In one case there were children inside and in another there were sleeping individuals. We are all very lucky that these incidents were not more tragic. While many of us enjoy the 'free' atmosphere of fair, it is also clear that in a crowd that size there will be individuals that do not know how to behave in groups. OCF needs to ensure that its staff and volunteers are safe in their camps by banning traffic in the 'Elders Meadow' before Monday morning and regulating the volume and speed of traffic in the main FarSide Meadow throughout the fair.

I don't know if there was private security at Far Side this year but if so was so great, everyone working during load in was so wonderful, in the past the private security staff have been very agro toward fair family, also revamped Far Side shower set up ROCKS.

FEEDBACK

I notice that of the many categories of folks who'd like to give feedback on the feedback form (pdf version on .net site) Elders are not included. So that's my first feedback

I think your feedback form is a tad invasive on the info collection side; I think you'd get better feedback if it was a little more anonymous.

Thank you for your hard work and patience with all of this feedback.

I'm always one for feedback and improving things, but I wanted to let you know... I have a deep, deep fondness for OCF, and this all comes from a place of love <3

Yet another wonderful Fair. Like usual, there is room for improvement.

FIRE

I have fought fire since 1978. The fire crew has an open fire going in their FarSide camp. There are thousands of people camping out at the faire and there is zero possibility that the fire crew can get at all of the campsites, should a fire start in all of the dried grass that is the condition of the vast majority of the sites. If a fire started it would make the fire in Paradise California look tame in comparison. We could lose thousands of people in one hour. I have seen how fast fire starts and moves in dry grass and summer heat. So if the fire crew can honestly tell you that there is ZERO POSSIBILITY that some of their embers can ever land just right and ignite, then of course the faire has zero chance of being part liable for a potential horrific accident.

If it is true that there is ZERO POSSIBILITY, then let's let others petition to have open fires, to be built in the same zero chance method that the fire crew uses. Otherwise, what we have is the acceptance of a privileged class of maybe 100 users that significantly endangers the many thousands of the unprivileged class.

FIRE SHOW

Jjust wanted to make sure that the negative customer experiences from having the fire show in miss piggy's were passed on. Many had to be parked in Trotter and from my position by the line in the sand I heard so many angry people due to no help (or love they perceived) to get them in from trotters. Same angry vibe on Saturday when they closed the line in the sand for over an hour without any explanation. customers were furious to be held there and many were heard to say they wanted a refund as they were missing the shows they came to see.

Please move the fire show to the labyrinth. I heard that was not done due to a crew softball game. hard to believe that could be the reason, if so, shame on someone.

I miss the old fire shows that featured more skill than theatrics.

FOOD

The lack of food booths open late was a big bummer this year. My friends and I repeatedly found ourselves in the 8 searching for our late-night favorites that were closed nearly every night. Even at a festival that is closed off to the public, you need a decent variety of food available late at night when people have been partying and may not be able to make their own food
Last but not least, BRING SWEET LEAF BACK!

Food Committee / mandatory food booth meeting specific: A printed agenda would help GREATLY. It doesn't have to be in-depth, but here's what I would love to see: a lineup of topics covered, and who will be speaking, and contact information for the speaker/crew represented (i.e. "Traffic information will be covered by a crew member TBD. If you have follow-up questions, you can reach Traffic Crew at _____@gmail.com or 541-555-5555"). The meeting currently feels a bit interminable AND almost everyone who spoke had to repeat their contact information at least 2x so that everyone could write it down. If this agenda was double-spaced so that folks had space to write their own notes, all the better!! I think this could help A LOT

I think it would be handy to have a hand sanitizer bottle at all of the food booths to limit the spread of illnesses and diseases among the Fair goers.

Thank you for a wonderful 50th celebration at the OCF.

I loved the fair. It was my first time and I thought it was amazing. The only thing that was not good was the "salmon Mac and cheese." It was dry and tasted terrible. Besides that, we had the most amazing experience.

Concerning Dana's Cheesecake replacement for the year. I was very dissatisfied with them. Nothing was ready, sugar was being served in pizza cheese jars, so consequently I had to open the top to pour the sugar, not very safe. I did visit other booths and found them to be out of a lot of product.

The food at OCF is way overpriced. Small portions, large prices. Consistent across vendors. Perhaps your fees to have a food booth contribute to this problem?

The pierogi booth by main stage sold French toast this fair and the gluten free version was just the normal version both times I had it, Saturday and Sunday morning at Fair. I know this for certain because they had a pile of free stuff on Monday which included normal gluten free bread and the bread that I had eaten for in the supposedly gluten free French toast. Since this bread was not gluten free, I had severe stomach symptoms that really ruined my energy and up until today, Wednesday, I am still feeling ill. Please talk to this booth. They charged me more for the gluten free version versus the normal one which was not gluten free and left me and probably several other people who purchased this quite ill. I would like to talk to them if possible and convey to them just how much they impacted my fair experience this year. For some people this could have meant a hospital trip.

Cafe Lafayette. They finally busted us into two lines, one for the beignets, which was what Elliott wanted (he was in line over at Horn of Africa) that got served, and one for the rest of the menu, which did not, while I was there.

My son has worn the same flouncy skirt for his Admissions shift for several years, which has no pockets, so I often walk him out to Xavanadu before he meets the crummy that takes him to the John Wayne Bridge and buy him a meal. It's nice.)

I went into the Xanadu loop for dinner one night and stopped at NW Empanadas. I am hoping that was a one-year booth. From the quality of the food, I would bet that you never got a taste test. I can eat just about anything with equal delight, but I couldn't finish the 2 I got. I would give it about a 2 on the 10-point scale. The primary taste was the cooking oil, which totally masked the flavors of the ingredients and spices. There were a couple of tablespoons of oil on my plate when I was done. I am also part of the Beaver Open family. I know you don't like 'referrals' for booths, at least not on applications for the craft booths. I will have catering done by Dominican Delights, for the second year, the Friday night Beaver Open 'Cocktail Hour' which is in the Dragon. Michael was mentored by David, who used to do Cousin Jack's Pastys. He helped out in the Kitchen for the culture jam. If you want a taste test, I would invite a person or two down for the cocktail hour. I know there are a couple of fair people who are invited this year, besides Jeff and Claire Johnson. You can ask them if the food is worth having. Michael, of course would love to do the show. If there is an application process, I will pass it on to him, but nothing beats a taste test....

Sweet Leaf is a DEFINITELY needed to be invited back, everyone misses them and it's not the same without them. besides that, what a wonderful fair!!

Keep BBQ/smoky food away from performance areas. At times the Dance Pavilion was inundated with meat smoke from nearby food booth (s) which made it very uncomfortable to have a good time dancing.

Saturday morning at 11:30, I joined what seemed a very short line at a food booth. 15 minutes later, when I noticed the line hadn't moved, my line-mates clued me in to the news that the line wasn't moving because they weren't serving yet. The booth folks came out after a while and told us they hadn't quite switched over from breakfast yet and that's why they weren't making the menu items we were waiting for. I felt bad. I love eating breakfast at the food booths, but if I'd paid to come in for the day and arrived at 11:00 hoping to eat Fair food at a food booth I wouldn't like hearing that Youth Power kids to come over and jump on them to make more room twice. Much appreciated.

Next issue: to the food vendors. small plates please.

Great event as usual! My 6th year and for the last 3 I've brought my minor son with me. I would love to see you make it easier for day workers like us to get into the fair. (parking and entry) We are town runners for our booth and have 'odd' hours. We often are made to line up with general public to get in or are told we are 'late' when actually we are just trying to do our job AND get our booth to give support to our colleagues. It would be great if we were treated as equal to the others who are able to camp on site and walk in early. Thanks for all you do to make it a great experience for everyone. <3

I love the Fair and cherish it deeply. Thank you for making this amazing experience possible every year for our whole community. This is a general comment about the food at the Fair. Of course, we all LOVE the food and look forward to enjoying it all year. Our food vendors also look forward to the Fair because some of them make a huge amount of profit during those special days of each year. While keeping in mind that food is a personal and powerful subject that brings up issues for all of us, I want to kindly suggest that we raise the bar for the ethical standards we expect from our food vendors. Since our central aim is to "nourish the spirit...and transform culture in... joyous and healthy ways", could we please consider banning the sale of anything acquired through the torture or murder of our fellow beings? To me this would include banning the sale of any animals who were killed for the purpose of consumption, as well as the sale of animal products (e.g. eggs) that were obtained from animals who were tortured (e.g. forced to live standing in their own excrement) or whose production caused other animals to be killed (e.g. male chicks). The chefs at our beloved food booths are brilliant; they can rise to the challenge of evolving their menus to include new ingredients and let go of harmful ones. If they can't, then I'm sure you have a long list of potential new food vendors who are eager to be a part of the Fair and would be more flexible in their offerings.

BANNING THE SALE OF ANYTHING ACQUIRED THROUGH VIOLENCE WOULD BE A POWERFUL STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF NONVIOLENCE AND LOVE. We are a creative community who aspires to kindness and peace. Please consider moving the Fair further in this direction. Thank you!
xoxoxoxo

HOSPITALITY

RE Hospitality and Crew Services during Fair for Yurt Village (Main Camp). There was a lack of beverages and food for those working in the Yurts. We can't always leave to go get something in the Fair.

More free food/drink. Thanks for extending Hospitality hours; please do more of that as Food Booth prices have risen while the number of Food Vouchers given out has not.

ICE

The southern reefer trucks stopped serving ice nearly an hour before they were supposed to be closed on Sunday night. We serve a meat that requires consistent cooling and access to ice is not only CRUCIAL to us but is supposed to be a service available during the times listed on the official sign. We even pre-pay for ice with the chit cards which become unusable when the ice truck decides they want to leave fair early. Please make sure the ice is available completely 'til the cut-off time as LISTED and ADVERTISED.

INFO

Info booths with an AED need a sign! In the moment/situation an AED is needed, things are hectic & scary. AED signs need to be clear & visible. It should not be a search.

INVENTORY

Coordinators are subject to an over-the-top horrible process when making corrections/adds to their lists. Backing up a step...the VSB seems to, with what warning? close earlier and earlier. So, we are left making changes through the wristband booth. If we have late corrections/adds, even if we have not assigned all of our budgeted inventory, we are required to go to trouble shooters, who then contacts the yurt for approval. This is a meaningless, insulting, time consuming bit of bureaucratic nonsense. How did someone insert themselves as the gatekeeper over a coordinator who is trying to help a crew/performer waiting in the hot sun to get in? Coordinators need to be empowered to make changes/adds to their lists in the field without a phone call, visit, plea to the yurt. Stop the crazy.

Suggestion: A faire family altered abled pre order parking pass.

The poor traffic and security volunteers work in black shirts in the sun. Black shirts?? How idiotic! Of all years to be creative with the shirts, celebrating 50 years and the 60's I would have imagined tie dyes or at least something more creative and practical than black. OMG!

With all this year's talk about diversity and with all the color options of the rainbow, why were the 50th anniversary staff T-Shirts ... black?!

Only complaint - Our (White Bird) t-shirts were too similar to security's.

IT

Nice job on the phone system this year. In the past it's been super frustrating to not even be able to send texts. Makes coordinating very difficult because I can't communicate with my crew. This year, AT&T phones worked perfectly all the time. I absolutely appreciate all the work done to make this happen!!

The ATT cell tower was amazing. Only one sale didn't go through early Friday due to service. Throughout the whole weekend I didn't have a problem. With credit card sales now being 40% of all transactions, internet connectivity is needed.

Internet that works even during the Fair. Currently, everything's overloaded to the point that I can't communicate with my friends and family on site to meet up with them. It's a security issue plus it feels like OCF doesn't care about me. Proof to the contrary would be welcome.

My concern and the concern of many EMF sensitive people seriously need to know if this rumor is true: has anyone vested in the fair agreed to have mobile cell towers on the Oregon Country Fair property? Have you accepted any money from these large telecommunication companies? (Especially Verizon!) Electromagnetic Fields and Microwave Radiation could be extremely harmful or deadly for sensitive people who:

1. This radiation has proven to be dangerous to people with pacemakers or weak hearts.
2. It has reprogrammed Brain implants
3. Radiation seriously damages red blood cells making them weak and clump together.
4. Close exposure could split DNA
5. And so many other damages to the body.

Physicians, psychologists, scientists, from around the world, collectively have proof of the internal and psychological dangers of the radiation around us today. There are thousands of peer reviewed papers written by this collective of professionals. Many of these professionals took to the United Nations to declare a serious emergency.

**YOU MIGHT WANT TO INFORM YOUR FAIR ATTENDEES
AND NEARBY NEIGHBORS WHERE THESE TOWERS ARE OR
WHERE THIS POWERFUL RADIATION IS COMING FROM.**

If the phone companies don't tell you the OCF might have something dangerous on your festival property, the property you've fought so hard to get. The telecommunication companies have been making cell towers look like trees! The super 5G cell on top of a poles every 4 or five house spaces apart. I have a very strong HF 35c detector. Jerry could use to find them. I won't be able to attend the fair the radiation effects my MS where I cannot move.

This cell tower decision is the antithesis the Oregon Country Fair environment. There were hardly any cell phones in 2000. Now radiation is pouring down on us from satellites. I will send you links in my next post if you feel you need to understand more. Blessings,

Please have the wi-fi password ready to be given out at wristband registration. Please have it typed out. I was directed to 3 different places to get the password- I finally received it at Odyssey, it was handwritten, it was hard to read if capitals or spaces were needed. I was talking to another vendor; we didn't have the same password- the one they were given was wrong.

LATE NIGHT TRIPS

Late night & Thursday shuttle: more trip options needed: I have a vehicle parking pass and a disability hangtag. About 6 or more years ago, when we could no longer find a quiet place to sleep, we began going home at night and returning in the morning. Due to the disability parking problem, we decided to take the late-night shuttle home Saturday night, as we had gotten in early enough Saturday morning to get a spot in the disability lot and didn't need to be back till about noon on Sunday. (Husband plays music in Mighty Tiny Puppet Theater). Our options were 10 and 1. Ten was way earlier than we wanted, and 1 was way too late. Three options would have been better. We would have preferred one at 10:30 or 11. On Saturday night, maybe 10, 11:30 and 1.

Considering relinquishing my vehicle sticker, I realized Thursday would be impossible without it. Thursday is a fine night to enjoy strolling the paths, sampling food booths, hanging out with friends, glorying in a fresh new year of the colorful, magical loving spirit of the Fair. We hang out behind the broom booth where we set up a tent for my daughter and her husband. She grew up at the fair and is now in her mid-50s. Lives in Vancouver, WA, and works in admissions. On Thursday evening, we string lights in our camping area behind the booth and set up the gathering spaced there with chairs, pillows and bench covers.

People are encouraged to come without cars. A call I got once in the office was from a person on a crew, coming into town Thursday by train. He wondered what we had set up to get him to the fair. This is a missing link. All I could suggest was seeing if a fellow crew member could help him out.

THE LIBRARY

At my first Fair, I came across the Library and it was one of the things that told me I was in the right place.

The Library continues to be a magical place. The books invite you to pick up something you may not have come across in the outside world.

There is a peaceful quietness in the space.

Books are so important to our development as people. Thank you for providing options for us to grow with.

LIGHT POLLUTION

I feel like there are too many harsh lights on the path at night coming from booths. You don't even need a lantern to walk the path anymore. I feel like for night ambiance lights need to be softer.

Please tell security to make a stronger statement about handheld lasers. Many of them were on the paths at night. One bad aim and someone could be blinded forever.

LOST & FOUND

Great job Info booth/Lost and Found volunteers! I mislaid my purse very early Sunday morning and by late afternoon I was able to pick it up at Odyssey. Such a huge relief to know there are volunteers helping us all look out for each other!

MAIN CAMP KITCHEN

Please, we have to do something about mealtime taking up 2-3 hours in the middle of the day. We need: better facilities, smarter scheduling, a priority on efficiency. I loved the band that played from the line...but I would have been fine without hearing their whole repertoire each weekend. Meals were lovely and nutritious, and often late, and the service was inefficient, and the lines were ridiculous.

MOON LODGE

I do wish that the Moon Lodge/Red Tent area was not so close to the bathrooms because it stinks! It is so helpful for a bleeding and potentially extra-sensitive woman to have that oasis to rest in. However, it is difficult to fully enjoy when one has to be holding one's nose because of the overpowering smell of the nearby bathrooms. I'm not sure if anything can be done about this, but if so, it would be appreciated.

PARKING

The alter abled parking really didn't provide much benefit from regular parking. Just being at the North end of regular parking and then having to walk past acres of closer parking really didn't seem to make much sense. I have a three-day pass and won't be able to attend the second two days as the walk is too difficult.

Inadequate parking for disabled

After about 10 am, the disability parking slots are filled and newly incoming cars, including the general public, have no option but parking way far away. Yes, there are shuttles most of the time, but this could add as much as an hour to the time it takes someone to get into the fair. I believe it's also illegal, and very misleading to say disability parking is available when it's not. I answer phones in the office during the month of June. When I get calls about accommodations for disabled people, I am forced to tell them all of this. We have the very kind and helpful AAAA Crew, but without parking close to the entrances, we are erecting an often-impossible barrier for disabled people.

I purchased an ADA parking pass but was guided to park in the outskirts of the regular parking. I displayed my placard before I came onto the OCF grounds and showed my ADA parking pass to every OCF employee who asked to see it. At the time that I parked I did not know that there was parking closer to the entrance. (This is my first time at OCF.) I understand that much of the ADA parking was replaced with a stage for fire dancers. WTF? If I have to buy a ticket for specific parking, I should use that parking.

I was dropping off the Extra ♥ Bus with my partner and was parking my van in 4A. Well the nice parking gal by the big chair said I could not park across the parking booth. She checked with another staffer who checked the quartermaster as to where is 4A parking. They sent me to miss piggy north lot. I circled miss piggy 🐷 lot 4 times and there is NO 4A parking. I had to park WAY OUT in no man's land. I went to the parking booth and spoke with a Traffic coordinator and she said things are kinda screwed up. It's not me I'm worried about, it's other fair family that needs 4A parking..... there is none?!!

PATH PLANNING

My family and I had an amazing fair. My only suggestion is creating a "quiet" area with less stimulating things going on for those people who are sensory challenged. My 5-year-old has a sensory process disorder and a quiet place would have been nice.

Main Stage: The traffic along the path across main stage is impassable to the point of dangerous. There really should be some sort of a barricade between the stage crowd and the main path. Workers are constantly traversing the area with carts, tools and or supplies and this section of the path is the worst with people traveling trying to pass music spectators, vendors and ambiance performers.

Smoking segregation area vs. suitable shaded areas for disabled, weary, old & ill.

Seems like whenever I come across a prime shaded area to sit it is a smoking area. I want to sit my phatt ass down in the shade, too. I would like to see dark, dank, cool & covered seating areas that fit the bodies of real people (With real benches that hold real bodies vs. fantasy logs that are curved and uneven and hurt the hips and backs of those who seek their comfort). Smoking addiction is real. So are cigarette allergies, cancer from secondhand smoke as well as the notion that it is a human right to breathe "clean" air.

I would like to see equal care, concern and comfort given to non-smokers along the path.

Would like to see more benches for general public. In between booths, along the paths, etc. Heard many complaints of no place to sit and rest from paying public.

The Dragon plaza is set up so weird; there's a bag check and exit side by side at one point, then at the southern end there's a staff entrance from the parking lot and a staff entrance coming out of dragon plaza. This could have been easily made an exit out of dragon plaza by moving the wristband check back towards the fence and then stationing a teen or one member to direct anyone attempting to enter from the lot to the bag check area. An alternative would be to remove the fence between dragon plaza and Xanadu and refactor how the entrance is setup.

<p>It was very colorful and lively, but it was very overcrowded. There was no place to relax and enjoy it.</p>
<p>I might suggest, as others have, that you move main stage to Xavandu and continue to use the main stage for smaller performances, booth space, and the Sat. night show.</p>
<p>At least twice during this year's fair a group of folks from the general public came up to me saw my wrist band and asked where they could sit down or find some shade, one of these groups consisted of folks who could easily be described as elderly people. We need more places with chairs, like the theater seats outside of the Ritz at the top of the fair, and more shade throughout. While we're talking about it please bring back the geezer bench at main stage.</p>
<p>I am a design professional. Most of the path/spatial/organizational design at fair is good or excellent, except the one glaring botched spot: dragon plaza. Anyone wanting to take the obvious path from main camp to Xavanadu has the absurd multiple obstacles and dogleg required to pass. The newer 'dragon' sculpture is marginal in quality and does not justify the absurdity of the travel. Dragon plaza should be a magical meadow in the evening, instead it is an absolute dead zone with zero activity. The (weak) lighted tail on the dragon sculpture is presumably the reason that the solar cell phone charging station shown on the fair map was rudely ejected from dragon plaza. What a debacle, and for no apparent reason. Everyone involved, the Construction coordinator, and all the BUMs, should be ashamed of themselves for the shoddy rude treatment of the cell phone charging volunteers.</p>
<p>I wish there were more dark & shady places to sit that were not around smokers AND had comfortable/level seating. You guys do a great job. Thank you</p>
<p>I would love to see more natural landscape areas for rest open in the 8..</p>
<p>am I crazy or were a bunch of seating/tables removed this year? maybe due to crazy site cleanup needs?</p>
<p>I've been coming since 1990. I loved the new seating areas this year!</p>
<p>The sound booth at Mainstage was moved away from the security fence for the 2018 Fair. When it was moved, it was moved away from the gate access to the backstage area. In the past it only took one person to secure the sound booth and oversee access to the backstage area. It now takes two security persons to secure both the sound booth and the backstage gate. I have heard that there is a plan to move it again for the 50th Fair next year (2019). As one of the Security crew leaders for Mainstage I am requesting that wherever the sound booth winds up being placed that it will be done in such a way that it will take only one security person to secure both the sound booth and the access to main stage. I think that this would be preferable to boosting the number of security personnel for each shift at mainstage. Respectfully,</p>

PEACH PIT

<p>I wish big acts wouldn't "disguise" themselves in the schedule for us regular visitors. We miraculously caught the Shook Twins playing as "Cyber Craigie Twins" on Sunday--we would never have known but happened to be by the main stage when we heard them singing. We would have been so, so disappointed to learn we had missed them just because they decided to go incognito in the Peach Pit. It was a primarily Shook Twins show</p>
<p>I feel the paper schedule needs the index of entertainment. If not, then an easier way for the "mentally alter abled" to negotiate the web site. I liked the description of a specific entertainer in the paper edition in the past.</p>
<p>Re the Peach Pit: the color & font in the entertainment section difficult to read. Also, please have each day in a one piece, two-page for entertainment. The main reason people get the Peach Pit is the entertainment schedule. Have each day fold out on one page. We had to tape two pages together by day. Thank you.</p>
<p>Please put some kind of symbol in the Peach Pit food vendor listing to indicate when a vendor sells gluten-free, dairy free, and/or vegan food. It was very hard to find this information except by wandering. Even the info booths didn't have a list. People with dietary restrictions/allergies would REALLY appreciate it!</p>

Peach Pit: Thank you for finally removing my old booth partner from the directory. She has been gone for 3 years.

Finally, I'd love to see a food booth symbol system in the Peach Pit, or through signage on booths. V=vegan, OG=organic, GF=safe for celiac...just food for thought. I'd be interested in working on that committee to get this underway.

The peach pit shows solar cell phone charging at dragon plaza. This is a volunteer effort, fundraiser for energy park, and a valuable service for the public. The outstanding volunteer crew offers secure check-in service with a smile and have never lost or damaged a phone in five years with about a thousand served. This year, Fair staff harassed the friendly operators, demanding a last-minute move away from the location shown in the Peach Pit. Mediators and BUMs somehow could not realize that the perfect location was the traditional location, shown in the peach pit, the area is otherwise an empty dead zone.

RE the stage schedules: Small font is challenging enough for my older eyes, but light font on a pastel background although pleasing to the eye, is nearly impossible to read..

PEACH POWER

Consider using some of the extra money made at the gate toward the goal of making the OCF carbon neutral. It's a goal that is important for the OCF to reach and will need many experts advise as well as purchasing nonpolluting equipment as well as other things I can't even fathom that will cost money.

So much love for all of you and your hard work. Since many Fair Family are embracing electric vehicles, it sure would be awesome if we could charge up at Fair. Perhaps a partnership with the local green utility? Until then, there is a charge station near Daily Bread Bakery on Territorial Highway, and it might be cool to post that info for other EV peeps. 🍷❤️

Despot on the Long Tom kills needed public service. One of the BUMs wielded her goofy whim to destroy public cell phone charging. felt the attractive tidy 'tiny solar house' in dragon plaza was worthy of destroying for some reason. She claimed there was some other feature to be displayed at that spot, which never materialized. She forced the relocation, twice, of the solar phone charging operation which both provided a needed public service and also provided a small nonprofit funding stream for energy park. The forced relocation to cure the BUM's whim involved hours of work for our volunteer crew. Even though the operator smiled and cooperated with the BUM's goofy whim, 'the tiny solar charging house' is discouraged and disgusted and will not ever be coming back thanks to the heavy handed unkind and downright despotic whim of a BUM. The fair does NOT have adequate charging facilities for medical devices, and many people were unable to charge their phones because of the BUM's despotic whim. Nice going!

PHILANTHROPY

I just had my greatest fair ever, so I donated \$500 to the Jill H fund and I'd like y'all to have my back as I launch my summer street theater project: Advertising the 10 signs of neo-fascism

I'd like to start a foundation for Taliesin Myrddin Namki Meche. Could all or part of my recent \$500 contribution to the Jill H fund be used to get something like that going?

(OVER)-POPULATION/GROWTH

First year camping in Elder camp so had to walk Chickadee a lot. I was astonished & horrified by the seemingly exponential growth of motorized & mechanized vehicles. Bicycles, golf carts, 4-wheelers, trucks, cars and more nearly constantly coming along. Dial it way back, please. if it's too far for you to walk, do go, sad as that may be.

Love the fair, but as the crowds seem to continue to grow, perhaps you might consider additional seating areas/areas to get off the paths? Or maybe the fair could go on for more days so that there isn't such a crush of people? More art, fewer sales booths.

Why is the number of people with wristbands such a secret thing? This has been a topic of discussion for years on the Crew News Facebook group, with wildly varying guesses, and nobody apparently knows the real answer. Can the Fair please clarify how many people get a wristband each year? It would also be very illuminating to see the trend of this number — has it been increasing, or staying steady? The secrecy around this number is bizarre.

I attended the Fair on Friday this year. I have a story to tell. We got in line for the bus at VRC AT 10:15 am. We waited in line for a very long time, finally walking through the entrance gate at 1:00 pm. The line for the bus was very long. I also heard there was an accident on The Beltline. We headed for food at Xanadu immediately, (being completely caught off guard by the lengthy bus experience) because the lines were shorter at the food booths. We then proceeded around the loop. The number of people was so large that we were packed into a herd like moving mass of people. Many people around me were mooing like cows, I think, because they felt they were packed into a herd. It was difficult to step out and look at the booths.

I have been a long-time resident of Eugene and have attended the Fair regularly. (I had a booth at the Fair circa 1971.) I always ride the bus and have never had an experience like this year. This year was really, quite horrible. EVERY stage we passed was PACKED, no place to stop and enjoy the performers. Around every area was also packed. I usually buy something at the Fair. This year, I found it difficult to even look. I cannot imagine if I had spotted something I liked and had planned to come back later! I saw only three performing groups on the trail during my trudge.

It seemed the workers and performers were having a good time. I am not sure about the vendors. Food sales seemed brisk, with booths having long lines. I am not sure about the general public like myself. By the time I was finished, I was having the feeling that I was subsidizing the workers etc. What I mean by that is it seems my dollars and other attendees' dollars were paying for us to have a difficult time. I had believed that as the Fair grew, they began to put a cap on the number of attendees. What happened to that? If I had known there was no cap, I would not have attended. (Yeah, yeah, I know it was the 50th.)

I know this is somewhat disjointed, but my point is this: I felt my \$\$ we're being used, in a way, against me. What happened to everyone having a good time? I feel like the direction of the Fair is going in a bad way. Is the common opinion now that 'more is better'? Have there been discussions about the quality of the experience for attendees? I am extremely disappointed with my experience this year. My good-natured, rarely complaining boyfriend summed up the day with this comment - "Bummer".

Hi Folks, this isn't anything new, but over the years I've thought about this a lot and have heard many talking about it as well...putting a strict limit on fair attendees, maybe even reducing that number rather than continually growing. Even with additional spaces and areas opened up (which is wonderful) there are problematic bottlenecks with frustrating congestion, lots of dust and such. If numbers were reduced by say 5-10% and day ticket prices raised by 5-10% it's still a great deal for day trippers, and a few thousand less people would, in my opinion, make for a better fair experience for all. Several long time local fair folks have told over the past several years that they love the fair but don't come any more simply because of this. Just a thought to share. Thanks for listening!

I attended fair first when it was the Renaissance fair and periodically through the years, sometimes as a volunteer. I attended the fair this Friday and have to share with you my disappointment at the sheer number of attendees. It was difficult to walk on the paths and trying to get to a vendor's booth was darn near impossible. We typically go on Friday to avoid congestion, but this was beyond the pale and not the fair I was used to. In addition, it took us 2 1/2 hours to get there from VRC and I realize this part is not under your direct control it nevertheless contributed to a not great experience. I read that there were 20,000 attendees on Friday and would respectfully suggest the board work on limiting the number of people each day.

Thank you

Over the years, our community has grown significantly and so have ticket sales. Unfortunately, according to many of my visiting family members and my own observations, it's become too crowded to really enjoy the magic and spirit of the Fair during the day. I realize ticket sales help fuel the fire to keep this event going, but at what cost?

I propose we extend our three-day weekend to 4, Thursday-Sunday. By adding the 4th day, we can maintain and probably increase revenue, while capping ticket sales per day to a lower number. By reducing ticket sales by 25%/day and adding a fourth day, the congestion in Fair would improve and increase the satisfaction of our guests and participants. There could be different ticketing options besides a single day pass, like two-day passes (thurs/fri and sat/sun), the usual 3 and even 4-day pass.

I love to see the Fair grow and expand. And I love witnessing a first-time guest have their mind blown by the magic we all work so hard to create, while committing to come back year after year. The current congestion in the 8 is degrading that experience and magic. We can always do better!

Much love ♥

Sadness: The reported 20,047 throng at OCF overtaxed ALL facilities which had FOR YEARS been taxed to their max. I had to wait 30 minutes in line to buy food, and twice had to wait 15 minutes to get lemonade. My wife did the futile wait for a t-shirt while I hurried to Main Stage. I got there at 11:40 to find that EVERY square inch of shaded and un-shaded space had been covered with blankets.... BY 11:40. In short, the OCF was jammed to the hilt with sweaty people. We were sad.

This was my first fair. I loved it. However, it really felt like too many tickets were sold on Friday and Saturday. Toilets were Terrible, lines were long, walking from one place to another was so congested that it was Very uncomfortable. I am so happy that the Fair made a lot of money, but those revenues came at the cost of certain comforts.

Too many people for the width of the streets

Too many people for the music venues (couldn't see some bands)

As I age, I am not comfortable with large shoulder-to-shoulder crowds so this will be the last time I attend this event. Good luck and I hope you continue to thrive.

Please consider either raise the ticket prices or limit the ticket sales. It was really overcrowded this year, it felt almost dangerously so. After about 2:30 each day, there were so many people that we couldn't really get anywhere, and the crowds became overwhelming- Literally standing in a throng of people who were all gridlocked. I witnessed several events of people trying to forcibly push through (over)crowded areas, where there wasn't really room to do that. People around them complained loudly about having their food/drink/bags/purchases/etc. knocked out of their hands.

There were times that it felt like a powder keg waiting to go off. With all the forceful shoving, there was a seeming undercurrent of violence and impatience that was a little unnerving.

It seems like raising ticket prices a little might be a natural solution to this.

I don't want to be too negative, as I've loved your fair for years. We meet family members there yearly for a fun weekend, but this year we all ended up leaving by 4 each day due to the negative energy shift in the afternoons. I figured you would want to know. Best wishes

I've been attending fair periodically starting from its days as Renaissance to present. We went to fair on Friday and it was disappointing from waiting a long time for bus to the overwhelming number of people. The paths were way over-crowded, so much that it was hard to even get to a booth due to mass of humanity. I really think you need to have a serious discussion about strictly limiting ticket sales to address overcrowding.

Please lower the amount of people let in next year, it was too crowded.

It's getting a little crowded again, it would be good to cap admissions at about the years' level.

Way too many people. It was unsafe and uncomfortable. Was my worst year in ten years. And everything was sold out by 3 on the first day. Just so messed up

I loved the fair and as always really felt the magic. However, it was way too many people. The parade had to be rerouted on Saturday, it was tough to get around, and traffic was a mess. At capacity is too many people. I personally think public ticket sales should be capped at 15000 people.

Have a maximum amount that can come in at one time. This year it was waaaay too packed and was hard even moving around. Too many humans.

I had a wonderful time this year but there were a couple of things I want to bring up to make next year even better.

I attended fair first when it was the Renaissance fair and periodically through the years, sometimes as a volunteer. I attended the fair this Friday and have to share with you my disappointment at the sheer number of attendees. It was difficult to walk on the paths and trying to get to a vendor's booth was darn near impossible. We typically go on Friday to avoid congestion, but this was beyond the pale and not the fair I was used to. In addition, it took us 2 1/2 hours to get there from VRC and I realize this part is not under your direct control it nevertheless contributed to a not great experience. I read that there were 20,000 attendees on Friday and would respectfully suggest the board work on limiting the number of people each day.

Thank you

Been attending faire since I moved to Oregon in the mid '80s. My how it has grown and evolved. I have been with Zumwalt since year one. My grown children are also volunteering and have camped every year of their lives. We are veterans.

Our only complaint is the overcrowding. Fair is just not fun anymore. Too many people. We can't watch shows or music anymore due to crowding. Food lines are too long and cause path jams. Can't browse booths.

Honestly most of the weekend we spend at camp where the atmosphere is more like the fair of old. Please severely limit ticket sales.

Please, please, please limit the amount of attendees to 15,000 per day or less. This year was so crowded we gave up even trying to visit vendor booths. Sunday, at 16,000, was only slightly better. Each year we spend about \$400 at craft booths. This year we spent \$10. Please, for the sake of the atmosphere, which includes the ability to visit booths, talk with vendors, dance at the main stage, gather information at the community village and energy park, and revel in the beauty of the people and the surroundings, limit attendance. We would gladly pay more if that is an issue, say \$100 for a 3-day pass. If the higher costs limit who can attend, each person could pay a scholarship fee of \$10 per 3-day, making it more accessible for those in need. I understand that this could be cumbersome, but you are totally ruining the experience by allowing such high attendance.

Please consider either raise the ticket prices or limit the ticket sales. It was really overcrowded this year, it felt almost dangerously so. After about 2:30 each day, there were so many people that we couldn't really get anywhere, and the crowds became overwhelming- Literally standing in a throng of people who were all gridlocked. I witnessed several events of people trying to forcibly push through (over)crowded areas, where there wasn't really room to do that. People around them complained loudly about having their food/drink/bags/purchases/etc. knocked out of their hands.

There were times that it felt like a powder keg waiting to go off. With all the forceful shoving, there was a seeming undercurrent of violence and impatience that was a little unnerving.

It seems like raising ticket prices a little might be a natural solution to this.

Something I have learned in my 70 plus years, and 24 on staff plus 4 as an elder, is that many of the institutions we created thought human history that attempted to be an alternative to the status quo have returned to what they were attempting to escape from. It's a slippery slope that needs to be in our mindset as we make decisions. The only rationale I can imagine for allowing more ticket sales this year is more money. I can assure you the fair family, for the most part, was not at all happy with the gridlock crowd. I intentionally surveyed over a dozen vendors, some craft and some food. Every opinion from dismay to anger at the board for raising the cap. They all said that the crowding hurt their business. To be clear, these were all vendors near main stage. If the rationale was that we now have more space, it was a faulty one. All those extra bodies ended up packed in the main stage area. Haven't we learned that bigger is not always better. The fair is already too big and doesn't need to continue to grow in ticket sales or in land added. STOP!!!

It was very colorful and lively, but it was very overcrowded. There was no place to relax and enjoy it

I think it's time to extend it to a second weekend and give all the goodness some space to breathe.

Feels like there are as many people in the Fair after public hours as we had in the Fair during public hours not that long ago. While we talk a good line on sustainability and environmentalism, it's all undermined by uncontrolled growth.

Let me start with I LOVE the OCF! The issues for me were it seemed way too crowded the day Phil Lesh was there. We went out to get dinner around 6:30 and we couldn't move through the crowd. My husband got something, but I couldn't even catch my breath, I guess a panic attack, due to the crowd. I just went back to camp and ate chips and salsa. I started coming to fair in 1986 and never remember it being so crowded. I think it's a safety hazard. What would happen if a fire broke out or some sort of health emergency, etc....? I hope we will cap the attendance, even when a special guest is here.

Realizing that there are many roadblocks to the idea of having the fair cover two weekends with staff/family time between has always seemed to have merit. This had been tried in other festivals around the country with success.

RECYCLING

Need more garbage cans

Mighty Mighty Recyclers. This was the first year over-full barrels in the kiosk between Community Village and the potties by Shady Grove were replaced with empties within a few hours, all weekend long. We only had to get the Youth Power kids to come over and jump on them to make more room twice. Much appreciated.

Great fair, great crowds. We still have to figure out how to get people to pack stuff out (doesn't seem to be an issue packing things in), so our waste stream represents our values.

As You may know from my msgs at various Fair events on the distribution of cig butts and other bits of MOOP, it looks like I will be policing these grounds for some fairs hence till I no longer can bend over for the paper and toil in the bushes at paths edge. Having been Fair associated a good portion of my life, and surrounded by artifacts and auras of past, present and future of our "essential event", the Steward comes forth and I begin to see the installation as an overlay on Nature's matrix that I can cleanse. The morning gives me a new opportunity to do something meaningful to more than myself.

REGISTRATION

Registration was awesome in helping me with an issue. On Weds when getting my wristband, a registration fairy saw I was sitting on a little stool because of a bum foot, brought me through the line saving at least another hour of waiting. My broken toe thanks you immensely. Improvements that would be nice is getting our wristband on Tuesday if all is paid and registration business is complete. Having the OuttaSite shuttle start running earlier on Tuesday. Bring back mailing worker day passes. I can understand putting a cutoff date of 7 business days before the fair.

After having a booth for 40 years I have experienced an array of things. I must say processes and interaction with crews has improved immensely. Thank you kindly

Great fair, mellow, good vibes. Move in and reg are still patience testing. Need to split crew reg by alphabet into more like 6 lines vs 2. Took over an hour to get to the front of the line, then another hour to get out of the parking lot. 2.5 hour total process to get banded and go to FarSide.

SANITATION

Everyone Poops

Most things went very well. However, in Miss Piggy's lot both sets (in lot, closest to snooze gate inside lot, and edge of woods) of port-a-potties were horrible each day. They were extremely unsanitary and seemed to be cleaned less than years past. We know the times they may be bad, but this year was extremely bad most of the time. Otherwise, water folks were great, and security was on top of things.

Great Fair (of course), Portapotties seemed cleaner this year, whatever it was different, it worked. Thank you for making it happen. In light of the current socio-political climate I am amazed we are allowed to get together at all.

The water, toilet, and general infrastructure in the Entertainment South campsite needs improvement. We are bringing professional entertainers to Xavanadu and then providing them with very few resources while sending them half a mile away from the Fair. If the Fair values Entertainment, then please invest in the necessary infrastructure to support the entertainers!

<p>The porta toilets and hand washing were not properly serviced. All toilet paper should be filled every time the pots are serviced, there should be three rolls in each stall EVERY time. On Saturday morning one hour after servicing, several stalls had ZERO toilet paper. UNACCEPTABLE AND DISGUSTING</p>
<p>The Honey Buckets by Entertainment Camp and the Water Crew Desk were the worst I ever remember them being. They were cleaned, but not nearly often enough. Full, dirty, no toilet paper. GROSS!!! I truly hope these two issues will be addressed and resolved. Thank you and I still LOVE fair.</p>
<p>Please make sure one of each potty is open ALL DAY MONDAY. Pack out for us goes all day and we have elders that cannot walk all the way to the Ritz to pee. I am sure you do not want people using the forest for potties, but that is what is going to happen unless you keep some open ALL DAY MONDAY FOR PACK OUT.</p>
<p>The only thing that could improve is the cleanliness of the porta potties. They were epically disgusting in Piggy's lot most of the week, especially at night. A nighttime clean up would make a difference. Thanks for reading!</p>
<p>Better signage in the women's urinals. More education needs to happen...if only people could read and follow instructions. Shady grove bathrooms and Community Village are pretty gross by Sunday. Thank you to the bathroom crews for all they do; I know it must be tough!</p>
<p>Have all the porta-potties cleaned first thing Monday morning after fair weekend and have all the hand washing stations refilled along with the hand sanitizers. I heard reports from recycling crew that the bathrooms these folks used were so disgusting that it was impossible to use them and be sanitary. Plus, the washing water and sanitizer was out in according to them. I also heard that some volunteers aren't coming back because of details like this! With the Noro virus that went around the bathroom/sanitation should be top of list to make sure this potential contributor is ruled out in the future.</p>
<p>The toilet situation desperately needs improvement. More frequent servicing, both of the toilets themselves, and also of the hand wash stations. So many times, this weekend toilets across the site were in a filthy, unsanitary state. The Fair absolutely must prioritize addressing this.</p>
<p>The portable bathrooms in Miss Piggy's Lot are absolutely disgusting, unsanitary and need to be cleaned more often. Several times at multiple locations the solid waste was filled close to the seat and I even heard a story of someone pushing it down with a beer bottle before going. This has been an ongoing problem for several years and it needs to improve. Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Miss Piggy lot did not have enough porta potties nor enough cleaning. There were several times from Friday through Monday they were heaped to the near top. Please give us more porta potties in the future and thank you.</p>
<p>The restrooms were very well maintained. I camp near Shady Grove and in past years by Sunday morning those restrooms were absolutely trashed and not properly repaired/cleaned. This year they were kept in wonderful and amazing state. What-ever was done to make it so, keep doing it! Thanks so much!</p>
<p>It pains me that after 50 years of operations you are still unable to provide portapotties that are cleaned often and are sanitary! Talk about treating people with respect!! Please prioritize this! I am specifically referring to the portapotties at South Woods entrance from Piggy Lot and at the western entrance to South Piggy lot.</p>
<p>The condition of the Honey-Buckets that we use in Miss Piggy are despicable shortly after being cleaned which leads me to conclude that there isn't enough port a potties and they need to be cleaned and toilet paper needs to be replenished more often. Lots of times there's no toilet paper, bowel movement/waste almost overflowing and no water to clean one's hands. SO unsanitary!!! Thanks for listening and hopefully we'll see some more "shitters" in 2020.</p>
<p>It seems that porta potty infrastructure has not kept pace with the increase in staff - particularly as more and more people are coming early and staying later. With the fire show now in the lot as well it's overwhelming the units and It's really become a serious health issue. (This is my specific experience at the north end of Miss Piggy's lot.) Please provide more units!</p>

Portapotties- The lack of regular services on the PortaPotties this year astounded me. It has been quite a few years since they were this bad and the increased attendance this year is not a suitable reason for the unsanitary conditions the general public, Fair Family AND the children had to experience!!! I am confident this is a huge expenditure for the Fair, but whom ever had coordinating position for this service failed miserably!!! If this same person coordinated the cleaning of the pit toilets, good job on that aspect.

Monday Morning Bathroom Situation: I have noticed and appreciated an improvement in Honey Bucket cleaning frequency and TP stocking in the past few years. However, the toilets are always awful on Monday morning. I understand that the fair doesn't want to pay for cleaning at this point and it encourages people not to stick around, but in reality, we are still there on Monday morning and we still need bathrooms. As a food booth worker this year I was especially concerned that food booths are open and serving food for half the day and the food handlers do not have a clean place to go. Just one more cleaning (even only at select larger banks of toilets) would be fantastic.

The honey bucket schedule was vastly improved but could still use some help. With so many large parties approved in Miss Piggy & vicinity (think fire show), our toilets are overloaded beyond what is safe, particularly during the weekend.

Really, really missed the 7am portapot clean-outs this year @ the time sink. Over-flowing, dirty and no paper/hand cleaner. Ya throw extra night parties mainstage & cut out the regular cleanings at the high traffic Ritz area before the public arrives. 8(

The South Woods/Miss Piggy Lot has grown dramatically since the move from Craft Lot and the number of Port o potties has not grown with it. There was a line to the South Woods potties regularly throughout the weekend, there was often no toilet paper and they were full to a basically Unusable point. It was an exceptionally rough port o potty year throughout the fair, and I get that the record attendance contributed to that. However, that there was such an issue with potties in areas where public is not permitted speaks to a larger problem.

I see the same exact porties every year, especially in the area near entertainment camp/Where Barn. Some of them have seen better days and should be replaced. Aside from that, another round of cleaning during Fair would be great.

We camp in miss piggy's and the port a potties need to be cleaned more often. In the mornings, there was little, or no toilet paper and they were literally full. They also need to be cleaned on Monday morning as peopled are still needing to use them. These were unsanitary conditions.

Fair was, as always, amazing. It's THE thing I look forward to all year long. However, thing I've become increasingly concerned with the growing Honey bucket issue. This year it was so gross that I actually think it was a health hazard that demands action. This year, there were toilet paper shortages and empty hand sanitizer containers starting SUNDAY night up by the Ritz! By Monday the portapots were truly horrendous. Feces literally filled them up. I get that the fair ends on Sunday, so the public wouldn't see this, but MANY (likely thousands) people still work out at the fair on Monday. Many food booths stay open until noon. The amazing traffic people work to get booths out safely. All of these people need a sanitary place to go to the bathroom and a way to wash their hands. It is a basic hygiene and food safety issue and I'm honestly not sure how people who used those portapots were taking care of their bathroom needs. Please, please, please make sure this doesn't happen again. Everyone out there working deserves better. Thanks for listening.

I think that providing lime in the 6-packs for people to sprinkle over their pee and poop would significantly reduce the odor. I have used this technique in many other outhouses in the US and other countries, and it really makes a difference!

Better Porta Potty service in the South Woods. The porta potties near horse corral in a long South Woods contained me under serve. It has been an increase in the campers in that area and is putting an undue strain on the services that are provided. Please understand this is one of the core issues of volunteers complain about almost every year. Can we please stop skimping on bathroom service and spend an extra \$5,000 a year on that instead of other line items? Maybe spend less on fireworks and more on porta potties.

The porta-potty and handwashing situations were unacceptable and have been for a few years. They were not serviced often enough, and dirty paper was left strewn about even immediately after servicing. I am specifically referring to the area near Shower Central. I may be mistaken, but those porta-potties were serviced only once every 24 hours. It seems to me that OCF volunteers in years past did a much better job than the Honey Bucket contractors. AND functional hand washing stations are vital in preventing illness. This recent outbreak was a warning and must be heeded.

After some further discussion with fair family, I'd like to add a few things regarding sanitation and water in the South Woods/South Piggy area. We are "Craft Lot Refugees" who live at the junction near Reefer fence...those are our tipis (my crew leader, Chad Butler) and green school bus, and we occupy most of the space right inside the woods (Riff's camp). You know us, we throw a great Sunday night jam of "Craft lot Allstars", and years ago we hosted the Salmon Feed in Craft lot. We have been requesting more Honey Buckets, water barrels and handwashing facilities ever since we moved 7 (8?) years ago. While we realize this area has not been plumbed, we would still love to have a sink near us. Could be gravity-fed for the time being. The nearest potable water sink is at the opposite end of the lot at Piggy shower. For alter-abled folks (like myself, car accident injuries), mamas with babies and young children, our elders, along with everyone else, we have got to have increased access to clean water & handwashing!

In addition, it's been bothering us for some time now that Reefer gets to have their own Honey Buckets. They hold these as exclusive uses, do not allow us to even come near, and in fact, they keep them locked! Last year during their party/music event, the potties were locked, and partiers were literally peeing and pooping in the woods and in between cars/tents in their camp and near our camp! I woke up the next morning overhearing Reefer folks freaking out over a pile of poop in front of their locked potty. They ended up shoveling it into the woods. 🙄 I call that Karma. 😞 I noticed they did not get a permit for their annual party this year... and Otter hosted a great show!

But the point is, Piggy camps hosts fun late-night parties, and that factor, combined with the radical increase in population in our area in recent years, it's seriously time to expand infrastructure to support health & safety in that area. Please respond accordingly! Thanks very much,

There was a definite lapse with the porta potties this year. On Sunday, the toilets near our camp (at Watergate and down Chickadee) were serviced but were left with minimal toilet paper. When I used one just after cleaning in the morning and it had only 2 rolls of paper, I knew there was going to be an issue later and there was. There was no toilet paper at all early afternoon, and into evening. I had to wonder what everyone was doing using those toilets all day without toilet paper. So completely unsanitary. On Monday morning the toilets had been cleaned, had chemicals in them, but had not been filled with water. So, there was about 8 inches of chemicals but no water to bring the level up. I can only imagine what they were like even an hour later. And there was minimal toilet paper again. This is a complete lapse on the part of the company that services the toilets. There must be other companies out there who can do it better. I was recently at the Gorge for Dead and Company and granted, there weren't nearly the number of people there. But the porta potties were cleaned practically every couple of hours...they were the cleanest I've ever seen. My point is, that either the fair needs to be willing to pay more for the contract or they need to find a company that has the capability to service the units better. This is just so risky for the fair.

It would be nice if you had the fair toilets cleaned more often. That was a nightmare

Great work on the handwashing between Community Village and Shady Grove: running water, with soap, within hours of the potties opening Wednesday, no puddle creating leakage, and soap without interruption all weekend.

Thank you! There was toilet paper and soap at Politics Park and at the six-packs by Shady Grove. There was even tp on Monday morning; I've been trained to bring my own then, just in case. What a pleasant surprise.

LOVE the herinals!

Some signs at the bathrooms encouraging people to close the lids on toilets :)

Noticed significantly less toilet paper in honey buckets, many times in different places - even when bucket was not full.

Please create a great sign (you do this so well!) to place in all toilets to shut the covers. The difference in smell would be amazing, especially for the public toilets between Community Village and Shady Grove. We camp near these toilets and the ventilation system doesn't function if the seats are left open. When they are closed, the smell is pulled out of the tall stacks, not dumped into the air around them. Thank You!

The sanitation situation absolutely must improve. It's unbelievable how bad it was this year, with filthy portapotties and neglected hand wash stations that had neither water nor paper towels more often than not. No wonder the issues with illness are so significant. Before any other dollar is spent, the Fair must devote significant resources to making the toilets less disgusting and more sanitary. There are admonishments against washing hands at the drinking fountains, but how can you blame people? They frequently have no place remotely nearby that provides an opportunity for handwashing. This is a simple necessity for a situation like this, and it's unbelievable that the Fair has allowed the situation to get this bad. Please start taking this issue seriously.

The bathrooms next to the library (next to the Daredevil stage) smell absolutely foul. Recommending more sanitation solutions budgeted to crews.

Please, please, do something about the 'stinky' outhouses by Maple Commons and the library. They are awful! The paying public deserves better. How about some 'Bucks'?

Bathroom stinks near library (wooden ones) - a little girl in line nearly vomited upon opening the door.

The poop/pee mix singes my nose hairs. Please help.

Six-packs across from library stink. Help them out.

The herinals are a wonderful feature of my Fair, but at least the ones in Politics Park were extremely late to be cleaned and not very well then. The troughs were coated with a year's worth of dirt & accumulated gunk and the screens remained unmoved or touched by any brush. Please don't overlook the herinals!

Wednesday: portapotties by kid's area (belly dance area) need to be cleaned more - so, so gross by Wednesday afternoon.

Monday: portapotties same location, same, after Sunday pm, by Monday a.m. they are a health hazard, not tp...etc.

The porta toilets and hand washing were not properly serviced. Lack of hand washing water is unacceptable at any time before, during and after fair. No hand washing on Monday morning is absurd considering the number of people still on site. This is vitally important to all people attending fair and the cost should not be a factor in keeping folks healthy and all hands clean. All toilet paper should be filled every time the pots are serviced, there should be three rolls in each stall EVERY time. On Saturday morning one hour after servicing, several stalls had ZERO toilet paper. UNACCEPTABLE AND DISGUSTING.

I feel that the bathrooms in many of the camping areas were not adequately stocked. The portapotties at the junction of Chickadee/smile snivel, ran out of toilet paper frequently, and we're not stocked with enough hand sanitizer, the handwashing sink also ran out of water many times which left no way to sanitize hands after using the restroom, this poses a serious health risk.

Please, please clean the potties more often. They were filled with excrement to the brim by the late evening (gaggingly gross) and the morning were not usable at all. I can't imagine trying to use them in the middle of the night. Tried all locations and they were absolutely disgusting.

One has to be holding one's nose because of the overpowering smell of the nearby bathrooms. I'm not sure if anything can be done about this, but if so, it would be appreciated.

SANITATION

Handwashing

Lack of hand washing water is unacceptable at any time before, during and after fair. No hand washing on Monday morning is absurd considering the number of people still on site. This is vitally important to all people attending fair and the cost should not be a factor in keeping folks healthy and all hands clean.

We need more sanitation protocols; especially more hand washing stations with soap & water. Our crew starts work at least by Saturday & the hand washing stations are frequently dry. We now bring our own, but most people do not bring a hand wash system.

We got word through White Bird there was a GI issue making its way through Fair. And without adequate hand washing, well, you can see where I'm going. Sadly, the handwashing stations weren't supplied with water until, I think, Tues. Our crew is on site and working starting Saturday. There is a lot we encounter between Piggy gate and Main Camp, where the only option to wash hands in that time is located.

There should never ever be a toilet without adequate handwashing facilities. That may mean just the pump non-potable water stations. It might mean only hand sanitizer. Ideally, it would be running water and actual soap. I've long been frustrated with the fact that bathrooms get opened before there is handwashing, and even then, there has often not been soap available. This is simply dangerous from a public health standpoint. This year, I never once saw a bathroom that wasn't adequately prepared for hand hygiene. Thanks to whoever got that done. We're all safer for that.

There were multiple times in Marshall's (I camp in Wren's Nest) when there was no water for hand washing. This is just a general health concern, especially as there was a GI bug going around. I did very much appreciate the extra hand-washing station at Politics Park and the consistent availability of soap at that location!! Thank you very much for this!!

Okay, I just received word Norovirus has once again reared its ugly head at the Fair. Perhaps, readily available hand washing stations next to all of the drinking fountains would be a more viable option than hand sanitizers at food booths to decrease the spread of disease and illness at the Fair. As you know, Norovirus is not eradicated with alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Hand washing before eating is the best option. Thank you for considering this to keep it a healthy, joyful Fair.

I have always wished for more hand washing stations. I kept finding myself at ports potties with washing stations that were out of water, and as handy as sanitizer is, you really need a good hand wash after wiping your own behind

The sink at the FarSide port-a-potties was never filled, or if it was filled, it never worked. It would have been nice to have had water to wash hands. Other than that, the Fair was perfect!

More hand washing stations are necessary.

SAUNA

The smaller sauna has a light (or skylight) that shines into the sauna above making it quite exposed in there. I feel uncomfortable walking in and looking straight into crotches and faces. I never go in there anymore because I feel exposed sitting there. It would be great if the lighting was adjusted (colored bulb? color on the skylight?)

SECURITY

Security was clearly exhausted by Saturday night as well as Traffic by Sunday. We had several people told to go into Xavanadu proper to get to Marshall's Landing.

I'm not sure if there is a wandering security team that focuses on reminding new family of some of the guidelines but if there is perhaps, they needed some motivation to do that. Saw a lot of kids doing some interesting things and some adults doing some shady stuff. It's kind of unavoidable that that happens, I did my best to help remind people to make better choices.

I have some very strong feelings regarding some security issues I've witnessed in years past and in this year in particular. In short, I am upset that we do not have strict wrist band checks Wednesday THROUGH Sunday night.

This year I was witness to two theft experiences. 1) Thursday morning, I had a friend tell me that the booth she was working for had \$2000 worth of merchandise stolen (possibly while people were camped behind it!). This theft occurred either Wednesday night or in the morning on Thursday. 2) Monday morning in Energy Park we had reports of things stolen that had been packed up and left in people's booths overnight.

My concern is that on load in (Wednesday) and load out (Sunday) nights we are not checking wrist bands and those are the times when people's possessions seem to walk away. I realize that with 10,000 of us there are probably thefts that happen within the "family" and maybe there are thefts occurring Friday and Saturday nights (though I've never heard of any). But the thefts I've witnessed suggest to me that when people are loading in and loading out is an extra vulnerable time for things to walk away, especially if no one is checking wrist bands and virtually anyone is allowed on site.

I also realize that this would likely "cost" more since keeping a tight ship has its costs, however, most security stations are "manned" Wednesday and Sunday evenings, it's just the security staffing them aren't asked to check wrist bands with the same gusto that they do on Friday and Saturday nights. I wonder if the increased expense of tightened security Wednesday through Sunday might be worth the peace of mind of our family members who have been victimized.

I recognize that it's very possible that thefts are an "internal" problem and the thefts are being conducted by "family" (i.e. wrist band wearers). If this is the case, then if we tightened up security Wednesday through Sunday and there were still thefts being reported then we would know that the problem was internal and something to be addressed from within.

As it is now, it's just as likely that the thefts are being conducted by non wristband wearing folks who know that there aren't wrist band checks on those nights and know that people are distracted and it's a good time to pick up a few extra belongings that aren't theirs.

The person in Energy Park who had the most value stolen on Sunday night from their booth requested that Energy Park take action to increase its security on Sunday night. And we will discuss this as a team and see what we can do. However, I have a hard time imagining what we can do since these thefts probably happen in the wee hours when most of us are sleeping and it's dark.

I think something that would make us all feel more secure is if wrist bands were still being checked Sunday night like they are on Friday and Saturday (and if they were checked with Friday and Saturday night gusto on Wednesday and Thursday evenings as well).

I look forward to seeing this concern of mine and other family members' addressed before next year. Thank you for hearing my feedback! Cheerios!

Security was a hair too rude and inflexible during the Phil show. I realize that Phil asked for a lot in his contract, but it still could have been handled better. My partner is recovering from ankle surgery, is in a brace, and walking with canes. She brought a chair to sit on so that she could see the show. She was told that she couldn't have it there even though there was a monster stroller twice the size of her chair in front of us. Seems like we could have been more accommodating.

If we leave to go freshen up at our camp site, I believe we should be able to go back in and watch the night show outside and the security did not let us back in, so we went around him

This year I needed to find White Bird while in Chela Mela. I headed towards Xanadu but needed directions. No staff person I could find to talk to could tell me the location or how to get to Little Wing.

Not a single staff shirt could answer my question or tell me how to find an answer. I think the crews who have any contact with fairgoers need to have some basic training in Fair locations, how to give directions, and to be aware of the resources anyone might need.

I noticed a lot of unauthorized amplified sound via Bluetooth speakers that seriously disrupted the soundscape, and the LED flashlights from phones were blinding and disruptive. Security had a lot on their plate regarding wristbands and general crowd control, but I couldn't help but think, "Who is supposed to remind folks of the guidelines?" Especially regarding the speakers.

We have been participants in the fair since the early 80s and have had a booth in energy park since the late 80s. We had a disturbing instance this year that I would like to report. Our booth is directly behind Springfield creamery and the Blintz booth. We have never previously had a problem with theft at our booth, however this year on Sunday night or early Monday morning our booth was robbed of approximately \$225 of food and booth supplies. Additionally, when we discussed this with other booth neighbors on Monday morning, we came to learn that during the same time period there was the theft of a new hammock from one booth, and four new custom T shirts from a third booth. We did not have the opportunity to ask other booths whether they had lost goods or not. We have notified energy park of the situation and asked them to poll other booths in our area to determine if the thefts were more widespread. We strongly believe these thefts was in part due to the much lower security that takes place on Sunday night. We would greatly appreciate your investigation into this situation and action taken to increase security and wristband monitoring on Sunday night. We did not report this to the sheriff in light of our deep respect for fair and wanting to keep the issue in house. Action is crucial for the continuance of a safe and fair. Thank you. Please advise of your actions on this matter.

SEVENTH GENERATION

Thanks to the rain the dust wasn't as bad as last year but still super bad in some places. We need a dust crew! And now I cannot stop thinking about all the micro plastics in the dust (glitter/sequins) that is washing into the Long Tom and wafting into children's lungs. How about promoting fewer micro plastics (biodegradable glitter/natural fiber clothing) at Faire?

SHOWERS

I'd also support extended shower hours in Miss Piggy. As in, starting earlier in the week. It's usually a juggle getting up to the Ritz when they are open, coupled with our crew work schedules. I understand water supply and adequate draining is an issue.

the new Shower Central facilities are the BEST! thanks *so* much

Really liked the new showers that replaced the trailers. Not sure why we went to so much trouble to build a non-ADA compliant ramp that had to be torn out. Still needs some shelves and hooks. And based on the lines it would be worth doubling the number of stalls.

SHUTTLE

Have the OuttaSite shuttle start running earlier on Tuesday.

Too many fair family having to park in the winery with limited shuttling. Maybe a special area and an appropriate shuttle that can meet the needs of our altered able families.

SIGNS & BANNERS

Street signs were hard to find

I think some kind of signage by the water sources would be helpful. Maybe just pretty blue flags or something that you can see from farther away because the water stations themselves were small and hard to find, and often in a corner or under a tree. There must have been plenty of them though because there was never a terrible line by the water.

Please post a No Teeth brushing sign where folks wash their hands outside of honeypots. I saw three people doing that this morning Folks don't know what 'potable' is or not their language.

Please redesign recycling signs to be more explicit concerning what, exactly, goes in barrels. I see so much misdirection of materials and feel badly for the crew that has to sort it all out. In particular, compostable cups & forks are going into plastic and landfill. People don't know what to do with Peach pits, either. I know a certain percentage of fair goers will not read, regardless; but it would greatly assist those of us who are trying to be more conscious.

I also saw a few elderly people who were quite lost, and though I appreciate that there's little signage, it really can get easy to get lost. they were concerned, I helped, but it seems overdue with the massive numbers of people clogging the smaller pathways these days to have a little better signage.

SITE

I would like see shade cloth suspended over a section of the meadow at Main Stage. It was brutal in the sun this year which limited some attendee's ability to enjoy the entertainment and ambience.

I have stopped going to any but the first and last performances on main stage because it is just too brutal out there. Please, please, please, it is high time for a large shade structure over the main field area. Something similar to what they have at Pickathon or Beloved would look nice and be functional. I'm sure the elders and alter abled would appreciate it. I'm also sure that it would cut down on the heat exhaustion and related trips to white bird. Thank you for your consideration. I'm on construction and would gladly help make this happen!

Great Fair this year! Thank you! Main Stage could really use some shade structures, it seems like the trees lost a lot of branches there this winter.

i think more shade is necessary at Main Stage. A LOT more shade, to be honest. i know site crew did a ton of work on the trees and keeping us safe, but the shade sails that covered much of the main stage audience last year (and provided good cover) were sorely missed. Many people do not do well in the heat, and it was especially hard this year- and often impossible for my friends with health conditions to enjoy the show. Thanks.

PLEASE please, please, bring back the big shade to main stage meadow. It wasn't even as hot as last year, but no shade really is not good. There weren't even any misters this year either! Please bring back the big shade!

Missed the shade sail at the Main Stage too! Wow it is hot out there!!

Also, perhaps a beautiful shade structure at main stage? The new sound booth takes up the main shade of the big tree - interesting choice of placement of that booth...
Thanks for a fabulous fair!!

shade structures/cloth/ etc. at Main Stage would have been great.

Path water was my major issue. The path waters not there. hoarse chorale and between Xavanadu to chela mela. it was bad. day??? In the older days the kids did the job. I only saw one kid do it at Hoarse Chorale. (Sat or Sun eve after hours). I have not been to the fair in 8 years and was surprised this year of the lack of kids/tweens helping out.

Need site crew involvement much earlier in the year. The state of the FarSide a week before the event was very dangerous.

- We need a dedicated Bee crew for FarSide. We are averaging ~15 reported nests a year. Many are never taken care of.

- Music on FarSide this year was most excellent!

After a beautiful evening drizzle that settled the dust the muddy saturated ground finally dried out Wednesday morning, we were treated to have the water trucks drive by creating a yet another muddy mess, especially around main stage.

Requests: *P*L*E*A*S*E bring back shade structures for Main Stage field. There should be at least 2 good-sized ones. All those people sitting or dancing for hours under the sun creates a health risk.

Water crew who started watering the paths was fantastic. Some a little grumpy but worth putting up with. Our dust level was considerably less.

SITE VEHICLES

There is a lack of vehicle maintenance that affected Operations for Water Crew AGAIN in 2019. This is a repeated problem which has occurred over several years. This lack of maintenance protocol for Phil-Up, the OCF Water Truck that Water Crew uses to deliver potable water within the boundaries of the Fair caused numerous breakdowns this year. These miscellaneous breakdowns started from us beginning to deliver potable water by Phil-Up to the last time being Monday after Fair when our drivers attempted to drive Phil-Up to Recycling to deliver potable water to them Post-Fair as well as Decon who was in need of water as well. Numerous calls on this Monday did not result in any mechanic check in with Water staff. The entire time we were waiting for service, Phil-Up was stopped in the middle of Chickadee in front of the Hub blocking traffic and not delivering water to the very needed destinations. Water Crew was able to figure out another creative way to get potable water to our hard-working Recycling and Decon Crews using our existing resources. Water Crew has spoken to the Site Manager on numerous occasions over the past years about this ongoing problem with no positive result, even though we have been told a winter mechanic's work would be forwarded to us. No such information has been forwarded. The truck degrades more every year and there is only so much our incredible mechanics on staff can do. More often than not, we have a truck unable to deliver our potable water to the Crews and Guests who need it. Another breakdown happened Sunday of this year (7/14/19) which resulted in a Fire Road on South Park to be blocked for 2 hours. Water delivery to campers, horses and dogs in the lots was impeded as well as others in the area.

Please revisit this area of responsibility for yearly maintenance on our Water Truck. It has now become a safety issue and is important it be addressed very soon.

SOMETHING NEW

Please bring back the Bad Advice Booth as a permanent installation curated by Saskia Whitson. It was one of the highlights of this 50th anniversary. Saskia is incredibly talented and hilarious in her ability to maintain character and come up with content on a dime! More Bad Advice please.

Give Saskia passes for her Bad Advice Booth next year!

I liked the new addition of the Bad Advice Booth. That was cheap & easy interactive fun.

I absolutely loved the Bad Advice booth. Hilarious, fun, and friendly. I would love to see it come back next year.

There were some fun new wandering booths like Frick Frack, what a hoot. And my all-time favorite fair experience was the Bad Advice Booth (go Saskia).

I absolutely loved the demo area! What a fabulous addition! It was great to watch my friend blow glass, and to see how it's done while at the same time having my 9-year-old daughter make a tie dye and throw a pot on a wheel while also watching a sword get made. Seriously, too cool!!!

I just remembered one more thing I wanted to say. PLEASE make the Art/Craft Demo area a recurring installation! I was so bummed I didn't have time to visit it this year. Next year I would love to come see some artists demonstrations!

I loved the art demos, especially the glass blowing and metalsmithing! I'd love to see this event at future fairs. I know a lot of people were unaware so more promoting too.

kudos on the craft demonstration area. so fun and i learned a lot. please keep it, it's a great addition

The artist demos across from the Ritz were amazing! I'd love to see this become a regular fixture! Thanks for all the love and work family!

This was one of the COOLEST new additions!! I've never seen anything like it, and I know myself along with a lot of others were super intrigued by the demo and would LOVEEEEE to see it again!! SO COOL

The new site that had the steel forging, tie dye and ceramics workshop was just fantastic! LOVED the ceramics education! Very motivating: just joined a ceramics class here in the 'Couv! PLSE make sure these workshops are back next year! Thanks

Please consider inviting the glassblowers and the make your own tie-dye booths back for another year. Thank you.

I couldn't FIND the demos! I wanted to participate, but no one answered my email when I first heard about it, and I saw the banner, but no demos. Great idea though.

loved the glass blowing artist demo area near the Ritz, do this every year!

Please continue to give demonstrations of artists doing glass blowing and other art forms. This year we thoroughly enjoyed interacting with them on a deeper level than just seeing their finished product. It would be fun to have something like an embroidery piece, or fabric weaving piece that attendees could spend some time adding their own creativity. I would love to help on such a project.

I LOVE the craft demo booth! Please do this again! Added a great educational aspect to fair. Adults and children of all ages standing in rapt attention watching blacksmiths and glassblowers, and making communal art together, what's not to love and appreciate? Thank you, please continue!

Loved the pottery, metalworking and glass blowing demo area.

I saw it, it was great to see the Fair take ownership of that spot. I love the idea but didn't really see a lot of folks stopping by

I really enjoy watching the demonstration booths. It seemed brilliant to have artwork happening before your eyes, and placement worked well. Please bring them back!

Please keep the crafts area with glassblowing, up by the Ritz. Really nice addition!

If possible, please bring back the glass blowing/forge demo area every year! I completely missed it this year, but I'm sure it's something everyone will always love! I also absolutely love the Hall of Resonance, which is what I automatically called it before I saw the sign that said Odyssey of Sound or something like that. You know, where the 360-degree mirrors used to be. Although it's sad that the mirrors broke in the barn collapse, I actually like this installation better because it encourages interacting with both your friends and people you've never met, to experiment and create something beautiful together. So, in that way It's like a symbol of the Fair itself, and I hope it's here to stay.

SOUND

The county has a noise ordinance from 11pm to 7am. I am writing this correspondence at 12:26 inside my home and I can hear your music from over a mile away. As a resident I would greatly appreciate if you could follow county law and be respectful of those who need to wake early in the morning. I have read the philanthropy portion of your website and believe that respecting the individuals in the surrounding area is important to OCF organizers, so please after 11pm respect the noise ordinance.

On the downside, at my camp, Stage Left, we continued to experience incredibly loud late-night amplified sound from multiple stages, which all seem pointed directly at us. We can hear sound quite loudly from the Visionary Lounge, from Blue Moon, from areas in Chela Mela, and others. I couldn't tell which stages or events were permitted or not, or which ones had gone through the process of gaining 'community agreements' as are supposedly necessary, because no information about this was posted. Maybe because we are visually behind a fence no one thinks to talk with us, but the fence of course does nothing to block the sound.

There was no one to speak with about these things when the music was playing. It's hard to sleep even with good earplugs. It would be great to have even a 1:00 a.m. cut-off for that stuff.

Suggestion: Require the people putting on those events to post notice in advance of amplified events, the hours the permit is for, the allowed decibel level, and contact info for people in charge. Often the artists playing have no idea about any of those details, and in any case, I wouldn't want to interrupt someone in the middle of a performance to ask. Such notice should be posted in public spaces. We have decibel meters and have recorded levels from 106 - 114 dB.

There's a serious lack of accountability on the sound issue. Further suggestion: No amplified late-night sound at the Fair. Really.

We camped at nearby Furtherside and enjoyed listening to the music from Main Stage even from our campsite; however, I felt sorry for the neighbors and would have appreciated, myself, an earlier noise cutoff — the party was going strong at 3 am! Overall everyone was lovely, helpful, friendly and we so appreciate everything you do!

In the Stage Left camping area, we still had issues with late night amplified sound from surrounding stages. I was able to work with Patty Ro, and the situation was better than in years past, but it still was not great for the 130 people in our camp.

Regarding sound permits for evening events -- here are some suggestions:

Revisit what constitutes a community for the purpose of getting buy-in on a late-night event. For example, the Visionary Lounge in Xavanadu has a greater impact on the Stage Left camping area than most other stages, yet their "community" this year included Xavanadu but not Stage Left. Also, Blue Moon should contact Stage Left, as their sound can be heard in our camping area if they have it cranked up, as they did one night this year. This is in addition to MorningWood, Chez Ray, Monkey Palace, and pop-up events that don't use a stage.

Encourage all amplified events to only run at sufficient volume to entertain the intended audience, and to use as little bass as possible.

It is the bass that travels, and shakes the adjacent areas. In all cases where sound was a problem for us, the major reasons were having the system cranked way up (measuring 106 to 114 dB A at the speakers, potentially damaging the hearing of anyone too close -- sounds above 85 dB are considered harmful) and having the bass cranked up as well.

When a sound permit is approved, the event should post a copy of the full sound application/permit in a specific place at the event so that anyone experiencing a problem can go there and find out whom to contact, and when the event is/was scheduled to end.

I suggest posting it on the speaker stand of the speaker closest to the mixing board, since the mixing board itself is sometimes on stage and impossible to access whereas the speakers are usually accessible.

Granting fewer sound permits in the first place. According to Chewie, who brought the first sound permit guidelines to the board while he was a board member, the intent was that there would only be one event in each area on any given night, and that each venue would only be granted a permit to have one amplified event over the course of the Fair week. Now some venues are getting permits for multiple nights, and we can sometimes hear sound from 3 different events simultaneously.

To simplify everything, I suggest not allowing ANY amplified sound at the Fair when the Fair is not open to the public ;)

It would be wonderful to be able to play acoustic music in our camp in the evenings. As things are now, that is impossible on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights due to the amplified sound from adjacent areas.

Late night, LOUD music that won't allow sleeping in camp even with earplugs, is detrimental to many who actually need to sleep during the Fair, and is rather disrespectful at 2 am in the morning, its stressful and anger producing! The music in Miss Piggy lot was high pitched and super loud til after 2 am, bummer:)

I have one simple request - that the section of the "eight" that goes along the river be managed to retain its peaceful, quiet, and natural state. There was an extremely loud rave happening on (I think it was) Friday night that completely obstructed passage and had me trapped in a mob, inhaling cigarette smoke and having my ears assaulted by a volume and quality of sound that was so not what I wanted to experience on my evening walkabout. Please, please let's not lose this last vestige of "Old Town" - there are already way too many places where the electronic vibe rules.

I remember when the stage at Chela Mela was built - wasn't it supposed to be acoustic only? It is so stressful to have amplified music all day loudly blasting into the field, so close to the Horse Choral that it conflicts with every other activity. Unplug that stage please!

Removing the massive recycling station from the back of Main Stage meadow was a big improvement. But now that more folks can fit back there some delay speakers are really needed because it's way too hard to hear the music over the sound of people talking in the path. Making it sound good in the back might also help with overcrowding in the front.

Mixed reviews on moving the Main Stage soundboard. It does block the sight lines. And, for whatever reason, it didn't seem to work very well. The sound was terrible for many acts with microphones not working or bad mixes.

Our guidelines ask that we be respectful of the effect that sound has on others. Is there some reason why Recycling is exempt from this? This comes up every year and nothing ever happens. The Recycling trucks are constantly blaring amplified recorded music when coming through camp in the early hours when people are sleeping. They're especially rude when asked to turn it down. While we didn't get a name, one person made sexually inappropriate remarks to my daughter when she asked them to turn the music down. It's time for these folks to comply with the guidelines. Maybe they can use headphones like the silent disco folks.

On a similar note, there is a lot of amplified recorded being blasted from battery powered speaker and boomboxes both on the path and in camping areas. Really destroys the ambiance when someone with one of these passes by acoustic music. Suggest that pack check inform the public about this when they come across boomboxes and their ilk. We should also do a better job getting the message out to the staff. I'm OK with people listening to recorded music quietly in their camps although it seems like they're really missing something. I'm not OK with people wandering around blasting this into other people's camps.

TRAFFIC

Landing On Site

I hope Maple Gate open on Thursday can happen again next year! Because of the location of our production facility, it only makes sense for us to come from the Clear Lake side, but it was very quick for us to get in this year, and I think this was because so much traffic was coming in from the opposite side. Well done!

To begin, I had an awesome fair this year. Perfect weather, family, and abundance of hugs. However, there were some glaring mismanagement issues this year that I would like to point out. Entering the fair on Tuesday afternoon, and coming to the junction, instead of turning left and going directly to my campsite in Alice's, I was direct to turn left, and travel a quarter mile or so, then make a u-turn and come all the way back to the junction again. Where did this decision come from?? Negative impact on the land, wasted fuel, wasted time, pollution, plus more traffic and security folks to direct .

FARTS had some difficulty getting around the site on different days. Wednesday there was an issue maybe because of the 1-way traffic routing, there was often a "cluster-f" around Trotters/West Parking Rd (I saw 3 lanes of traffic all going same direction, but everyone was at a dead stop). Maybe there's an opportunity for a FARTS/Emergency vehicle lane to avoid traffic snarls? Maybe there already is one and we don't know about it? Happy to discuss more. Monday - because of the 1-way routing/Chickadee issue I watched a huge heavy school bus routed over Auntie Em bridge. Last year I was told that the bridge couldn't handle heavy loads. (Our FARTS Extra Love van isn't allowed to go over it. Then I watched the bus try to drive into Marshalls :) Really appreciated having Maple gate open pre-post. Would love to explore the possibility of Chickadee 1-way traffic reduced to ending at 3p... Snivel was absolute craziness with traffic going 2 directions to Hub, cars parked along edge of Snivel loading gear. Snivel doesn't seem wide enough for 2-way traffic and parked loading vehicles. Hub was wild with heavy machinery moving through dropping loads maybe safer to reduce the traffic thru there a tad. ... great having a way to give feedback. Thank you for all you do! We love you! Annie -FARTS Crew Lead

TRAFFIC

Exodus

The Traffic coordination has been a nightmare for many Monday's now, but the last couple have been memorably trying. It seems that the process of everyone leaving back when cars could drive in and pack up on the 8, and when people would linger in the barter fair, used to help stagger the process so it wasn't quite such a chaotic, stressful mess and it seems that there has been no evaluation of new plans since the traffic flow changed? I don't know, but it's been so crazy, and traffic/security people get so cranky, and no one knows what to expect/what the plan is this year, and pulling carts back and forth to trotters lot when there is a fully empty miss piggies lot that people could be packing in and out of seems arbitrary and increases the general stress. I feel like there could be an 'exit map' so people know what to expect year to year especially when things change, and having a way to easily pull up to piggies lot for a short duration to load up seems like it would alleviate a ton of stress. Or more traffic people on Monday would be nice, especially if they were accurately informed, nice, helpful, not in cop mode, and were seeking to create solutions instead of bark rigid orders could be very helpful, too. It's just a real bumner cherry on the fair weekend cake the way it's been.

Why oh why were cars allowed into the 8 on Monday. Tiny little cars, cars that could only fit what would be easily carried out in a cart? The congestion was absurd, and vans and trucks for dismantling booths had to wait ages. The pollution from the idling alone should be something we care about preventing. People should be able to cart their belongings out. Maybe even make more than one trip. Gators with carts are also available. But cars, sedans, hatchbacks, etc. should not be allowed in. Work a little harder people for the good of all. Save the driving in the 8 for vehicles that really need to be there.

Morning parking was great, well managed. Evening departure from the parking area was a nightmare. It took 90 minutes to get to Suttle Road. There has got to be a better way. This is a source of much frustration and seems very unsafe.

On Friday, my friend and I left the Fair right after Phil's set and headed out to parking and got into my car at 8:15, planning on going to dinner, etc. At 10:30, WE WERE STILL SITTING THERE, WAITING IN A LINE OF CARS TO LEAVE. OVER TWO HOURS!!! It was horrible and pretty much ruined our evening. I won't go into what we had to go through while waiting. The entrance off the main highway was closed. WTF? I'm sure hundreds of others, sitting in their cars for over two hours, were having a similar time. (Last year, a similar thing happened with the Zumwalt busses. We finally told the parking crew to please let the busses through ON THE BUS PATH, which they finally did.) I think Parking Crew needs some direction and education, so people don't have to sit in their cars, even if there is some problem at the exit. Open up another exit!!

The fair was wonderful as usual but leaving on Friday was not. We left right after Phil ended got into our car and attempted to leave. There was a long line of cars attempting to get to the exit at highway 126. The line moved very slowly and finally stopped. After quite a while a traffic crew person walked to each car and told people that the gate would be closing and that we had to leave by the exit on the other side. They also mentioned that they were short staffed. The line to the other exit was long and slow and there was a lot of confusion. All in all, it took us an extra hour and a half to get home. Given how many traffic people there usually are and that getting people out after fair is why they are there is really no excuse for this.

Why oh why were cars allowed into the 8 on Monday. Tiny little cars, cars that could only fit what would be easily carried out in a cart? The congestion was absurd, and vans and trucks for dismantling booths had to wait ages. The pollution from the idling alone should be something we care about preventing. People should be able to cart their belongings out. Maybe even make more than one trip. Gators with carts are also available. But cars, sedans, hatchbacks, etc. should not be allowed in. Work a little harder people for the good of all. Save the driving in the 8 for vehicles that really need to be there.

Monday is always so chaotic trying to load up and leave. So many people drive their cars in and then just leave them parked as they take their time packing up. Our booth is always blocked for hours. Why can't we be asked to keep our "full teddy" pass and present it upon entering on Monday morning?

Traffic did a better job of helping people learn to merge on the way out, but flow would be much improved by having 6 lines for crew reg and a dedicated person from traffic at the end of each row to direct merging cars out of the rows. We'd go 20 minutes sometimes without moving an inch. Better than last year though when I was stuck in an exit row for over an hour before I jumped out to direct traffic myself. Overall, great job!

There are a number of times when Albert's Circle could be better used. I jokingly call it Albert's Circle, but you can call it whatever you like. Basically, you treat the road behind the Reg booth as a circle - rather than have everyone constantly have to go to the right of the Reg booth, register and then pass in front of the Reg booth again - you have people circle around the Reg booth (If they're headed into Fair).

This could also be useful during the leaving process - instead of having everyone have to use the same pathway in front of the reg booth - many would be better served to go behind it. I've sent in imagery of how this would look - the road is definitely useable - it just needs a person or two from Traffic to manage it during heavy use (by vendors in Miss Piggy lot, for instance - or other people who are driving into the Fair.). If this is not clear, I could do an outline for you.

I think using Albert's Circle (Albert Hoffman, Albert Einstein, Albert Kaufman) could save people 10-20 minutes per car would be my guess. Please consider it for 2021. Thank you! Albert

On Monday after the Fair I had a difficult time trying to bring my car back into Stage Left to load up. I do know there was a medical emergency which made things more congested than usual. But even so, it was one of those clusterfucks that probably should not have happened. The parking crew people seemed particularly young, green, inexperienced, and no one I saw had a radio or any way to be in touch with others. What happened was this:

I exited Outta Site lot and went straight ahead, hoping to be able to drive along (I think it's called South Park Road) to get to Ho Road to get into Xavanadu / Stage left. At that gate I was told no, no entry, you have to drive around, at which point I turned left (north, along West Parking Road?), into an un-moving line of traffic. More cars exited OuttaSite trying to do the same thing, were told the same thing, and it all piled up. At one point, all cars leaving Outta Site were so backed up that we made a solid line pointed east, then north, just sitting.

Additional cars trying to leave Outta Site saw this and said No Way, and turned left leaving Outta Site, driving diagonally across Trotters. And then more cars raced across the diagonal driving down lanes of parked cars closer to the main road, and tried to cut in. Some cars pulled out of our line and raced ahead to cut in.

Nobody on Traffic or Parking crew directed anybody, except that we were told to just stay put. We sat there and moved about 50 feet in 1.5 hours.

Eventually the bottle neck started breaking up, but we weren't moving because all the other cars had driven around us and flowed in ahead. So again, we waited until that entire crowd of cars that raced around us were able to enter the one traffic lane.

This kind of stuff is crazy and should be avoidable.

There has to be a better way to engineer the Monday departure.

The Fair needs multiple exits for vehicles that are ready to leave. There needs to be a better access road to exit from around the registration area so that departing cars don't have to wait in the line trying to enter the 8 before being allowed to exit.

There needs to be a way for vehicles going to Xavanadu or Stage Left or Chela Mela to enter their camps without waiting in the line for cars to enter the 8. I'd be happy to work with someone to help figure it out. I do know there are various restrictions from Highway Patrol and so on, but still. Even within the Fair property there has to be a better way.

Even when I arrive to unload, I continually have to explain numerous times "I'm not going in the 8, I need to go through Wind Gate" and am met with confusion or disagreement. One parking crew person argued with me that "Stage Left is IN the eight".

Traffic management on Monday was a mess. In years past, it has taken only a few minutes to drive to Miss Piggy's to load out, because the traffic going here was distinct from the traffic going into the eight. This year it all got merged together, creating a ridiculous and unnecessary traffic jam. Please restore quick and easy access into Miss Piggy's on Monday!

The road leading to Piggy's was closed Monday "for service vehicles" until 3:00pm. This was a giant waste of space and a major cause of extra traffic. There's plenty of room on that road for traffic both ways. I mean, using it just for "service vehicles" it sat empty for most hours that morning. People sat for hours (personally 1.75 hours) in their car trying to get to their spot to load up when they could have easily taken that road, loaded and left easing congestion for EVERYONE in fair. It made no sense to ANYONE we talked to in Piggy's... except the traffic folks who really seemed to like the power of telling people no and having a useless, empty road. I heard many folks remarking, "After 50 years, you'd think Fair would have figured out this traffic thing a bit better." Also, the traffic folks were letting people who weren't going to the end of the line cut in. If they are going to make folks sit in that long line, they should direct EVERYONE to the END so people who actually are considerate don't continually get screwed by people who feel they are too "smart and special" to wait like the rest of us. It is a terrible way to end a magical week.

Thanks for reading.

TRAFFIC

Towing

Traffic crew concern: We entered the fair w/ our truck via 126 as was suggested. When we drove in, we were directed to park in the far reaches of where parking is generally done to pick up passes. We told the woman directing traffic that we were now staying at the fair, indicating our parking pass. She indicated we should stay where she put us. I think she was just absorbed in placing vehicles and was not listening. Today we found our truck towed and had to pay \$80 plus lots of time to get the truck back. This should not be happening. I'm not ready to create a big uproar but I believe the fair unjustly has an extra \$80 from us. If you'd care to do the right thing, my address is included.

TREES

We had many fallen trees in our camping area, as well as some broken branches hanging above parts of the camping area that were a potential hazard.

These issues were written into the Tree book at QM the week before the Fair, and again on Tuesday (with my name, cell phone, and a note that once the camp started to fill with tents and vehicles it would be difficult to access some of the issues.) I never saw anyone from Tree crew and was not contacted via phone/text by anyone. I heard second-hand that someone stopped by on Wednesday, did not find me, was shown only one of several issues, and said that they would be back on Thursday -- but never, to the best of my knowledge, came back. Fortunately, there was not much wind, and none of the hanging broken branches fell during the Fair. People could have been seriously injured or killed had one of the larger broken oak branches fallen . . .

I realize that there was a LOT of tree damage on the Fair site, and that our camping area of 130 people might not have been a high priority -- but it would have been helpful if someone responded within a day or two, at least with a phone call, and if the person who eventually came out five days later spoke with someone who knew about the issues (whose name and phone number were in the Tree book) rather than just asking a random person to point out the problems -- and therefore not finding out about some of the issues.

I'm glad we survived the Fair without injuries, but communication could be much better.

A memorial tree at Jill's Landing (just west of Jill's Crossing on Spirit Tower side) was cut down for Fair. The tree was thrown in the river. Guideline violation? Path Planning approved? Vegemanec approval? This tree was along the banks of Indian Creek where the tree probably helped provide stream bank stability. How thoughtless and disrespectful to a loved one's memory. Construction Crew any ideas on responsibility? Given global climate warming and the identified need to plant more trees to help mitigate climate change, this seems hypocritical. This is not stewardship.

Thanks Tree crew and Site crew for all your work.

I can't believe someone cut down the John Doscher memorial yew by Jill's Crossing. heartless? or ignorant? please correct me if there was some other circumstance 'cuz the thought that this was purposeful makes me cry.

VEGEMANECS

Saturday night, 10:15pm, as the parade was arriving, I tripped on a root about .75"-1" with a space underneath that caught my foot. I hurt my ribs and my hip. This root should be removed so no one else gets hurt. Location: approximately in the area in the Main Stage direction from the sound booth about 1/8th of the way toward the stage and a bit toward the center (leftward if you face the stage.) Call me with any questions.

VOLUNTEERS

I'd like to give a big, heartfelt thanks to Ben Farrell for his many years of service as a Coordinator for the Vaudeville entertainment crew. Ben has dedicated tens-of-thousands of hours as a premier volunteer and this was his final year as a Coordinator in this role. Thank you, Ben, for all your amazing service!

Great event as usual! My 6th year and for the last 3 I've brought my minor son with me. I would love to see you make it easier for day workers like us to get into the fair. (parking and entry) We are town runners for our booth and have 'odd' hours. We often are made to line up with general public to get in or are told we are 'late' when actually we are just trying to do our job AND get our booth to give support to our colleagues. It would be great if we were treated as equal to the others who are able to camp on site and walk in early.

In general, the volunteers who are dealing with public seem overwhelmed, burned out, and disgusted by the sheep-pigs, also known as tourists. On Friday at the Will Call I joined an impromptu huddle of people after a young man said, "come to me if you have a three-day pass!" And although the huddle was supportive, he became overwhelmed when someone said simply hey this guy is next - and he replied some people are just rude. He gave preferential treatment to a group of young women who had arrived later and were in the "outer ring" of the huddle, who joined him in calling the man rude after he had left. When I pointed out that the older gentleman had arrived first, and hadn't been out of line in pointing that out, and by the way I arrived at the same time he did, the guy aggressively grabbed my ticket, tore it sloppily, and repeated his comments that some people are just rude. Echoed by the group of young women. He also told me "patience is a virtue" and that really hurt because I was being patient, and I used neutral language and neutral voice, not rude, not impatient. speaking up for someone who is being treated unfairly is also a virtue. I felt he had skipped over me - and the other gentleman- because I wasn't young enough, wasn't showing enough bare skin, wasn't loud enough, wasn't cool enough. I entered the Fair on Friday with tears in my eyes and feeling like I didn't belong and wasn't welcome. That dissipated quickly but the tension between crew and tourists is tangible throughout the event. On Sunday I was yelled at by a senior traffic staff because I was walking in the wrong place. His initial reaction to us was yelling, and it was the first time we had been addressed - it wasn't like we were ignoring him or anything. I was happy to take his instruction, but he kept yelling at me like I wasn't walking fast enough- I have limited mobility issues and my group (myself and 3 children, with wagon) were not able to TELEPORT ourselves quickly enough to satisfy him. Again, I had the sense of not being welcome at the Fair by the time I arrived at the entrance.

So please... sensitivity and diversity training for new volunteers? Some sort of hangover/burnout test before starting a shift? Finding creative ways to communicate the same thing over and over without getting that angry fed-up edge to your voice? (signs?)

I used to work and camp at Fair and it is really hard to return as a tourist.

Thank you for listening.

All staff members should have CPR certifications and AED training. Contact Kylee Halama for certification cards & training. oregonheartcpr@gmail.com

I spent three weekends volunteering prior to fair on recycling crew, never got on crew. Volunteered my two days at fair for day passes, on Saturday got off shift about 7:45 and went and got food. Sat down to eat and the sweep was starting just wanted to eat my food. BUT sweeper yelled and was checking wrists which I did not have and was honest in about it. They said time to go and thanks to their actions I got my plate spilled on the ground and a rude reply. Very disappointed I have written emails and offered to help. I enjoy fair BUT super sad that bracelets are so limited that you can't offer to workers to volunteer so many days. Very upset I never got to eat my food from Bangkok grill.

Love OCF to pieces & have missed only 2 years of volunteering since 1997. Here's what I'd love, please (several suggestions distributed to relevant topics) Again, I put my life on hold to help make this magic happen and would appreciate some consideration. Thanks for asking, y'all!

Inventory Yurt needs a designated bicycle with basket to run items back and forth to the field.

WANNA JOIN FAIR

I would like to volunteer for next year and all succeeding years until I die.
Previous volunteer work in my profession (software quality) in and around Portland.
BTW I would have volunteered years ago but the name change threw me off the scent. I missed years 1972 through 2016. :-(- But please count me in. Thanks, and regards, Ian

Hello! For the last six Fairs I have bicycled around the grounds picking up trash with a grabber stick*. Besides the constant, "You're awesome!", "Thank you!", and other heartwarming delightful words getting leveled against me, I frequently get asked, "What crew are you on?" The answer to which I am always delighted to reply, "None. Just enjoying Fair." However, I would like to change this. I feel my contribution has merit, but I can't decide which crew is the best fit. Can you help me out?

* Especially from Dead Lot to the Main Entrance, so when guests arrive Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings they are greeted with a rubbish-less Kermit's, Piggy's and Trotter's fields.

P.S. I'm careful of my surroundings and others around me. I am adherent to traffic rules, and I am quick to follow the direction of any OCF staff. Of course, I walk where/when I am supposed to walk, and I steer clear of heavy traffic areas during heavy traffic times. When my basket is full I go to a recycle station, and sort it appropriately. I return valuables to lost and found, and I let the closest OCF staff know where I discover broken glass. I'm currently not equipped or have the training for clearing a broken glass site. Thanks

WATER

I love it here. But it would be awesome to have a misting platform like the main stage area has.

Particularly for Fair Family: Some sort of illumination at the water stations - could be a blue light in the shape of a water droplet, or some blue L-wire curved into the shape of a water droplet. When Fair family is inside Fair at night, it's difficult to find them.

Timely maintenance on drinking fountains during Fair is needed. There were multiple inoperative fountains sprinkled throughout. That's rough when walking on our sun-beaten paths. Everybody has a right to drinking water. I overheard several complaints from fair goers who felt trapped into buying beverages because water access was scarce. Water access should be expected and included with the price of admission.

Continued water problems are frustrating. Water truck showed up (at FarSide) Tuesday but was only half full and we ran out of water early Thursday. Very poor communications trying to get ETA on water. It didn't show up 'til well after 5pm.

Water spigots need to be redesigned with a drain field. Mixing leaky faucets with drinking, bathing and dish washing turns the land into a toxic soup.

Hello OCF staff & board. I'm 20 years fair family, currently on External Security 126/ South Woods Rove. I guess this feedback is directed at Water Crew and Site Crew? And Honey Bucket crew. There are a couple issues at hand regarding water, sanitation, and health of our family. First off, several of us in South Woods/South Piggy noticed that the water from some barrels was overwhelmingly chlorinated. It tasted like bleach, and at times wasn't drinkable. I completely get that we're trying to prevent water-borne illness, especially barrels that are out in the sun, but the water was almost undrinkable from half the barrels. An extra rinse would be effective. Some of the barrels had bad leaks/wasted water, which is really not ok now that our population in those woods is nearly at maximum capacity. I'm speaking specifically about Middle Park Road, where I have also observed people going directly from the Honey Buckets to wash their hands at the barrels without soap, especially when the NP water at the pump sinks has run out. *Cringe*, great way to spread Norovirus, maybe bleachy water is better in that case?!

We need solutions in South Woods and have for years now. Many of us have raised these issues to no avail. An actual sink and plenty of soap would be an excellent start, like they have in Marshalls. At the very least, better signage for the barrels and a few extra sanitizer dispensers nearby, especially for children.

Our population was at an all-time high this year, with more folks than ever before in South Woods/South Piggy due to the 50th, but also relocation of some family due to storm damage. The Honey Buckets were in deplorable condition, and HB crew should have anticipated the need for more frequent service this year! When leaking drinking water becomes mud that merges right there in the very busy path with human waste tracked from the potties, and there are inadequate hand washing stations, we have a really nasty unsanitary situation and illness becomes inevitable.

I'd welcome a conversation with Water or Site crew about these health issues, as I know many of us are concerned about keeping our family safe & healthy. Please, please provide us with REAL solutions before next year!!

Many, many thanks for all of your hard work and love,

WEBSITE

Energy Park is missing from the main fair website. Seems like it should be a feature on the site but at the very least please find a place to put a link to our website EnergyPark.org to eliminate confusion.

The dates for the 2020 fair are incorrect on the website, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 2020 is July 10, 11, 12, the website states 11, 12, 13. *(this was submitted on 7/17 and is correct now.)*

The dates you have listed online for Fair 2020 have it running Saturday through Monday, 7/11 - 7/13 - Are you sure about that?

WHITEBIRD

Late, late Friday early early Saturday I became extremely ill.

I had to be physically removed from my tent by Little Wing (pilot White Bird) .

I did not eat at Blazing Salads (although that was on my list, because their food is so good).

I am very careful about washing my hands after porta potty use.

I had extreme vomiting; was so dizzy I couldn't open my eyes. I could barely sit up but not for more than a minute or so. Very dehydrated and very high blood sugars.

I stayed in Little Bird for a few hours, they kept good care of me. Thank you, Little Bird, from my heart. I felt better within 24 hrs.

We had a sick camper in our campsite Sunday morning and got to host a house-call (tent-call) from White Bird. They were so nice!

WRISTBANDS

The wristband line on Wednesday was 2 1/2-long wait in the morning. If there was an alter able and young children line to help those with babies in arms in the sun and those who can't stand for long get thru faster. Also, if there could be more lines to process people thru

I was approached by 3 different people who were hanging out at the sticker booth, and, apparently, listening to me as I worked with the volunteers behind the window on wristband/crew issues. They hovered, they listened, then they approached me for passes, calling me and my crew by name. I have never experienced this before. THEN on Saturday, I got a call from the wristband booth that an SO from my crew was there, to get her band, but her band had already been signed for (side note....sucks that someone scammed past the wristband booth then my crew member and his SO had to wait over an hour, even with me vouching for them). Working the wristband booth to find a way in is not a scam I've seen before. I hope we can deal with it.

The lines for wristbands for booths are insane. Why is this? we pay a lot of money to be at fair and to have to wait two hours is crazy. Get off paper and come into this century.

Teen wristbands were a nightmare this year. I prepaid for my teen (\$30) and child (\$10). I stood in the rain for 30 minutes Tuesday to get my wristband with my son, but they told me he didn't need one. On Wednesday my husband waited through the Sticker Booth line and was told he didn't need one for my daughter. Two hours later security wouldn't let my kids through the gate to my camp! My husband and son went back out to the Sticker Booth, but they said he had to pay for them. He paid another \$40...and then found out I already paid. They wouldn't give his money back because it already touched the cash box. He had to scalp the wristband to the next person in line! And because my daughter wasn't with him, they wouldn't give him her wristband, and he had to go back to Troubleshooting a fourth time. Beyond ridiculous.

VIBES

Monday morning, while packing up our camp, we heard a loud voice shouting, "Hospitality! Hospitality! Get the fuck out here and move your fucking truck!!!". The person— who we came to discover was on Recycling Crew— continued to shout this same type of thing for several minutes as they raged throughout several camps and was soon accompanied by other members of Recycling Crew. They were upset because a truck marked "Hospitality" was parked in a spot needed by Recycling (though the parking spot was not in any way marked or designated as being reserved for Recycling or any other crew). A person in our camp was able to locate the owner of the truck, who eventually came to move it. However, as the truck was being moved, the person from Recycling (the original shouter) swaggered through our camp, loudly swearing, and said something to the effect of, "We get up every fucking morning at 4:30 to clean up after you fucking people..."

This all occurred early enough that many people were still sleeping, and in a family camp with several children present.

To my knowledge, NO attempt was made by any member of the Recycling Crew to resolve the issue using non-confrontational means prior to their absolutely outrageous and offensive tirade.

The Recycling Crew member who had initially begun shouting the profanities, told one of my camp mates something to the effect of, "I knew it'd get some results if I did that [went yelling throughout several campsites]".

Their behavior was extraordinarily irresponsible and menacing. Furthermore, it was totally unnecessary— the issue was easily and quickly resolved once we were able to get past the shouting and figure out what was needed.

A member of my camp took some photos of the main perpetrator; we will gladly submit the photos in order to clarify their identity.

I hope this incident will be addressed with all seriousness. Bullying is NOT acceptable anywhere, anytime— and especially not in our camps (our HOMES) at the Country Fair.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or for further information.

Thank you.

Not all of us get to stay after 7. I was called a foreigner by a staff member on the way out because I was general public. Why be snooty?

On a positive note, I love the energy, creativity, friendliness and talent. I love that people can be themselves, no judgement. That's why I need to be there. I am already planning to go next year.

VIDEO

This year was definitely DIFFERENT :-)

I attended with my wife on both Saturday and Sunday. I was VERY disappointed to see that number of "tourists" that were not respectful. This year had a record number of attendance and a record number of people recording as they walked through fair.

My issue is that it is clearly marked NO VIDEO RECORDING, and this is a concern with regards to people be filmed possibly topless females and more concerning is the filming of topless / body painted minors.

It's a crime to have such recordings and I feel it needs to be enforced better inside fair.

Put the dang cell phone and go pro away and experience fair for what it is.

My suggestion would be having a reminder system, first a gentle reminder and say an X through their stamp or band. Then if they continue to simply be escorted off the property.

XAVANADU

Dance Pavilion hurts my feet to dance on its bare foot. Will bring socks next year.

I think Dance Pavilion is putting on some of the best production at Fair. The efforts there are clear... bravo!

I LOVED the lineup this year, as I have shared. The Bollywood dancing was FANTASTIC! I went to both shows and absolutely loved it, as I did the contra (as usual). Thank you for the dance pavilion! It is a wonderful part of the fair and I find myself spending a lot of time there, and in Xavanadu in general. I missed the piano in Xavanadu--where did it go?

Thank you, thank you, thank you for Xavanadu. It is a wonderful area to explore and I'm always excited to see what's new each year.

Xavanadu continues to be the absolute best place in the Fair now.

KUDOS

I just left feedback complaining about a really bad problem leaving the Fair on Friday evening (which was really bad) but I should also have said WOW, every other aspect of the Fair was PRETTY MUCH PERFECT this year. Yes, crowds going in, and the hot sun is difficult but EVERYTHING ELSE was simply fantastic. I didn't want to leave just a complaint but also, I want to leave my huge, great big thanks for just an amazing, beautiful Fair, and for all the hard work everyone puts in. THANK YOU!!

Everything went so smoothly! It was a fun, memorable fair with no problems. Many thanks to all involved. Our team was very involved with staff and public throughout the fair and we received a lot a very good feedback too

Epic fair! Everyone brought their A-game!! So much love, laughter, good music, delicious food and people!

security staff was very helpful at all the gates etc.

the trash organization was impressive!

potties were very clean for such a big event

Good Fair! Good experience! All the volunteers were great!

The fair was a beautiful experience and I loved it. I was not able to buy as much merchandise as I would have liked, if posters were reprinted, I would buy the two I was unable to get. Thank you.

Big shout out to recycling for the awesome psa's Going out before the weekend, much better. The best OCF fair I've attended in the last 30 years.

Thank you for a wonderful 50th celebration at the OCF.

Apart from that, it was totally magical like always! Thank you!! <3

Thanks for all you do to make it a great experience for everyone. <3

You all rock, especially the kind souls who were helping my daughter's boyfriend in the parking lot by the foot path Sunday evening.

Your kindness and sensitivity meant so much during a very anxious life event.

I'll remember you all when I'm faced with difficult souls.

Many thanks and blessings!

Thank you to whoever reads these messages and records all of these ideas, you rock!

Other than that, thank you for everything you guys do! Another great year.

Enjoyed the fair very much, everything was super magical. Yes, it was crowded but that's good right? I found Saturday to be a little dusty, but Sunday was much better. Love the fair and hope to get more involved next year. Thank you so much!

But honestly this was the best year ever! Thank you all so much for what you do! I love being a part of the fair family and can't wait to come back home!

First of all, Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! I am so amazed and appreciative of all the hard work, joyous energy, and ever-unfolding beauty that is the Oregon Country Fair. It is indeed one of the very best times of the year. Thank you all so much. I love the positivity that is in nearly every breath of the fair. I feel so grateful to be a part of this creative and wonderful offering!

This was my first year at the Oregon Country Fair. I was lucky enough to be able to help a friend at their craft booth. My weekend exceeded any possible expectation! The event was absolutely amazing, and incredibly well-organized and executed by everyone with whom I interacted. As expected, things happen, and the way they were handled by relevant fair staff was fabulous on all accounts. Thank you so much for an amazing time, and I plan to be back as often as possible!

It was a long pre-fair with a lot of situations to overcome and thru them all Shane, Crystalyn, Stephanie, and the BUM team were incredibly supportive. It is a huge undertaking and it takes a lot of compassion and grace to traverse the many paths we all have to walk in order to get to fair and I think everyone put their all into it. So, thank you.

When it comes to fair itself there were so many beautiful art pieces and lovely moments that were clearly carefully thought out and it was wonderful to see the love everyone put into celebrating the 50th. There were some fun new wandering booths like Frick Frack, what a hoot. And my all-time favorite fair experience was the Bad Advice Booth (go Saskia). I do miss some of the softer lighting and gentle spaces to chill out in. Does that mean I'm old yet? The music was awesome this year, so many fun shows.

Thank you to everyone who made this fair happen. I am only aware of a small amount of the work it takes. Thank you thank you.

Wow, the traffic crew did an amazing job.... everything flowed!

We have an elaborate garden in our booth and the water crew was wonderful! Filled our little pond and watered the plants every day!

Lots of good food, fabulous entertainment, a marvelous 50th anniversary!

Although I was at home for health issues, (first Fair in 32 years I've missed :(darn!) I received daily feedback from our booth family.....and watched YouTube moments as they posted and even had some terrific treats delivered by friends, such as an Avocado Boat from Blazing Salads! A virtual OCF.

I have to thank Mother Nature, too, for the lovely weather that was a blessing to all!
The majority of our experiences were fantastic this year. The crews we coordinated with were great to work with and we really appreciate all everyone did to make our show a success. Other than those issues (that seem fixable- reliable food, water, parking, and storage), we were thrilled with all things OCF. Our ambiance coordinator is the best, we love our camping, and we can't wait to dream up the next fire show!
Thanks for a fabulous fair!!
It was our first trip to the fair and it was awesome!!! We will be back!
Thank you, & Thanks to All.
awesome job everyone!
Thank you so much for all the work so many folks did to make the fair a wonderful experience for so many. I loved so many things about the fair this year. I particularly loved the phoenix at main stage and the little boats along the Long Tom River, as well as how much more political the fair seemed with rallies every day at 3 in community village, lots of great talks including one about asylum seekers and some on the climate crisis on the spoken word stages and a rally in support of asylum seekers at the dragon near the entrance on Friday evening. And thanks for the yummy food at hospitality and for extending the hours!!
What a beautiful fair!
The music at main stage was amazing- the last 2 years it had been not so good- Main Stage is a privilege so it should be the best of the best!
The recycling crew is awesome! The fair is always clean & beautiful for the public!
The tree crew also gets kudos especially this year since there was so much damage.
Thank you so much for listening!!
See you in 2020!!
I was on the dishwashing crew for two years in a row at the staff kitchen and it was an awesome experience. I moved to NYC in 2018 so I haven't been to Fair for a couple years. But I was home in Oregon visiting family recently and we got to go as part of the general public. I just wanted to say the energy was so positive. From someone who's been on staff at Fair and been coming as a guest since I was a baby, it feels like you all have been making it better and better every year. Especially after moving to New York City, it was such a breath of fresh air to come out into the woods with you all. I'm so happy OCF is going strong. All the work you do is incredible, and you should know you're making a difference in your community and the wider world as well. Thank you! Galen
Was a super fun fair this year
Hello! Thank you for helping make such a magical fair possible again this year. Every year (and I guess I'm lucky to say this) I have a better year than the year before and it just gets more and more magical.
Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers for yet another fabulous fair. Once again, much gratitude and appreciation for all the hard work and love that brings us together in this amazing community every year.
Great Fair! On the positive side, some logistics things worked better than before. The FART transport to Outta Site lot seemed to run more frequently than in previous years. I didn't have to wait very long on multiple trips out there after parking, maybe I was just lucky. Glad to have access to Fair Central Kitchen on the days that was possible, very helpful. Loved the installations in Xavanadu, specially the gardens. Loved the other planted areas around the Fair, just great. Also loved additional things like more / beautiful water fountains. I heard there were more free showers, I wasn't able to use any of them this year, but yay! for more showers. We get sweaty and dusty.
I thought the Fair ran great this year inspire of crowds! Great music all around.

You do an amazing job pulling this off year after year. My favorite thing about the whole shebang is that it/you/we/the Fair is/are a microcosm of the bigger world. Same issues, same challenges of disagreement & division, too many people. Thanks for not giving up!

Very much enjoyed the fair again this year. I have been coming for many years. As a matter of fact, we used to be one of your neighbors.

Thanks for all you do! Bet there are some things that are a challenge every year:

I'm at a loss to think of another way you could improve this amazing event. Want to express my appreciation for how well this fair takes care of the needs of its guests. You do such an amazing job from the many, many bathrooms, water and misting stations, chill spots and food/drink choices of every kind, to supporting artists who can share with and sell their work to us, to diverse entertainment, and even yoga and meditation spaces. There is no other place that sends me back out into the world with a mindset of peace, community, love and compassion like the Oregon Country Fair does. Not even a chant or dharma talk at the Zen center. OCF is not just a festival, it's magic.

There were some hang ups. We usually have our food delivered to our work site on Wed and Thurs due to the extreme work load of setting up an entire stage (we average 14 hours of work each day) (we also have 80 some people show up for our only rehearsal and need to be fed and organized) . This year, we needed to dedicate 2 crew members to securing our food and water for the majority of both days. Food was up to 4 hours later than expected. When it was delivered, the portions were disappointing (example: a small plate of cut bananas and apples and 15 cookies for 42 people for lunch, burnt chili and salad for about 15 people instead of 42, 3 fruit snacks and 2 granola bars for snacks for 42). Crew members were counting on food, and when it just didn't arrive, or dinner was one small piece of banana each, it was very hard on our crew. Water was also delivered super late- which is dangerous in such hot weather.

The lines Friday (merch) and Saturday (it didn't start moving until 12:15) were horrible, I'm hoping it's just because of the 50th.

Good fair! Great people, great food! Great energy! Happy 50th! Thank you for being US!!!!

The best OCF fair I've attended in the last 30 years.

I had a wonderful time this year but there were a couple of things I want to bring up to make next year even better.

COMMEMORATIVE SALES

Please, please, sell the cartography maps of the "8" at concessions, as a coloring book page. I've never stolen a map, but I'd really like to have one, as would many other people. It would generate income, inspire creativity, reduce theft, and help us keep the fair in our hearts all year. We could even have an art display of people's interpretations. Seriously, it seems like a no brainer.

More Fair Shirts for women with logo designs like the men's! and all shirts ran out way too fast. I really wanted the raven logo on a women's tank or women's cut T shirt...and the men's sold out before anyone in our booth was able to go get one.

First year it's was great! Next year planning on going all three days as one day was not enough. Wished I could have gotten fair T-shirt's as I went on Sunday and they were sold out. Maybe offer an option to purchase ahead of time. Also interested in working at the fair next time.

More commemorative sales merchandise would be awesome! Possibly reissuing some of the 50th anniversary stuff for us who missed out on purchasing it in the first hour from commemorative sales booths because we are on shift at the time.

I have been attending Fair since I was in Kid Pants. I have always prioritized going to the Merch booth first thing to get my commemorative items. SUPER disappointed that for the 50th anniversary, of an event that I plan for and prioritize year round, that there was nothing available except for 1 poster design (not the cool ones, btw) still was being offered on Saturday at 12:30pm. Very disappointed that OCF did not anticipate this extra need for Merch during your 50th anniversary party. OBVIOUSLY, you would need more Merch to satisfy the larger than ever crowd. Poor planning left A LOT of people sad - including me. I would request better planning in the future, and a Rerun of the shirt and poster production for 2019. I came, I saw, I Played...I loved it...BUT could not be more sad that I was left empty handed from the Merch booth. I hope I am contacted with an offer of a second run t shirt for the 2019 fair. I get it if people don't prioritize, but so many did and were still left empty. The art on the posters (2 of them) were amazing. How am I supposed to frame my Peach Pit...cause that's all I've got. OCF is not an underfunded organization, there is no reason for this - especially on your 50th Birthday. Please, please, please, do another run and extend the joy of Fair to those who were not able commemorate their time how they wanted. And more than anything, I wanted a shirt to remember the joy I have always found and enjoyed at Fair. Bottom line, I still love Fair, and will go in the future. I just hope it's not with a bitter taste in my mouth. For as many times as I have been to Fair....I KNOW y'all can do better. Blessings and Thank You's to everyone who continues to work to make this an amazing experience for all who attend. Blessed Be,

Very disappointed that no children's Commemorative T-shirts were made this year. And no women's style tank top. Also, that the hoodies were so limited that they sold out in 20 to 30 minutes. With such a special year for the 50th, I was looking forward to some great souvenirs. Fair is really missing out on some income. Almost everyone around me was grumbling.

My first day of the 50th Country Fair was not as pleasant as it could have been. Arrived early to get our wrist bands, got in line and through the gates quickly (before 11 actually), and went immediately to the Commemorative Sales closest to the Dragon entrance. There was already a line stretching onto DeSpain Lane at 10:45. After more than 30 minutes in line, someone came out to announce that sweatshirts and prayer flags were sold out and if you had a voucher for a t-shirt, you had to go to the booth near The Rabbit Hole. Where there was a HUGE line, wrapping from one entrance to the booth around to the booth exit. Despite the best efforts of the folks working the booth, including at least twice shifting how people entered the booth, the wait was close to two hours. By the time I got up to present my voucher, as well as buy additional shirts, the sizes I needed (M, L, XL) were sold out, leaving only S and 2XL. (The cash register was also not working.) I am so disappointed. Fortunately, we have 3-day wristbands and will be back, but I despair of getting the shirts I would like for my family.

I also missed the Main Stage Opening Ceremony with the Elders' Blessing and the performance by Ace of Cups. My husband had gone to Main Stage, but after my not showing up for more than two hours, he was quite worried AND pressured to give up his space. (The location near Rabbit Hole had not cell service, unlike the one near the entrance, so we could not communicate. I'm 66 years old, have 12 screws and a deep bone infection in one leg and am diabetic. The long wait was extremely difficult, as it was for the families with small children and the similarly elders. We all did our best to keep the good vibe, but by the time I got to my husband at Main Stage, sans shirts, I was trembling. Food and liquids helped, but it did make for a tremendously difficult rest of the day and our decision to leave earlier than planned.

I realize that today was a huge thing, with huge crowds. Tomorrow will be even more crowded, and I seriously doubt that supplies will be better. I really feel we are owed an apology at the least and perhaps some recompense.

1 1/2 hour to buy, limited sized & options of 50-year commemorative T-shirts at opening of fair. Also, could not process money, only took cash. Fair tickets expensive why not have professional service? Every year there are problems but this year worst!

I've been to the Fair 5 or 6 years in a row and except for 1 year that I was a guest, only come on Friday's due to the expense and crowding. This year, we arrived earlier than usual at 11:30 and when we got to the entrance after passing through the ticket verification booth mid-lot, we're struck by the confusion and disorganization of getting in through a narrower entry way than last year, with no discernible lines and the only person directing telling people where will-call and wrist bands were off to the side. It appears that this year's crew was understaffed or ill-prepared for the 50th Celebration.

Since I had a ticket for a free Commemorative poster and have had great difficulty in obtaining a t-shirt last year (helped by a couple of peeps from the sweep who took us to the main booth where I was able to get the right size - all the other booths we had stopped at were out of stock!!!), we got in line around noon at Odyssey Info. There was one line to the right when we arrived, but it somehow got out of control and a line formed to the left - our line didn't move for a half hour and there were only 2 people staffing the booth. This booth was understaffed!

When the line finally, started to move after somehow, they served the whole left line and shut it down, there was an announcement after we'd been in line for 70+ minutes that there were only 2 XL t-shirts left. Inexcusable! And staff at two different booths said you did not increase the budget for this year - how can you not increase the budget for something as monumental as this?

So what I feel is dis-respected and it seems like it might be time for some personnel changes if you can't be troubled to properly staff and merch your festival. At the very least you should make merch available for set aside by ticket holders prior to the Fair and maybe for a few weeks after - especially after the amount of people disappointed by this fiasco - even doing a will-call and/or charging for shipping and handling - no one says you have to lose money. The set aside would allow you to stock more apropos.

Thank you!

It was very poor that you ran out of t shirts by 1:00 on Saturday someone should be in big trouble very poor service of you people

Hi! I will try to call when I get back, but I was overcharged when I purchased a poster and one small sticker. It should have been \$14, and he charged me \$29. I have the receipt, but I'm not attending the fair, other than on Friday. How do I get a refund for the overcharge? I am leaving the country for two weeks or I would call on Monday. Thank you!

I have been going to OCF for over 30 years. In the past 7/8 years I have always bought tickets pre-sale in bulk. My family and friends come
In from out of state, it's usually great. This year the 'free' T-shirt that was promised as a promotion wasn't available. As in I was at Fair at 12:00 on Friday and they were 'sold out'. Usually you keep a list of names that you sold tickets to and they are there for those who participated in the pre-sale event.

Set aside to follow through on what was promised and sold already.

First this is rude in the extreme. Don't promise people a promotion if you have zero intention of follow through. It's false advertising, and money grubbing. Second the people at the merch booth were so rude and condescending. I was told to 'come back tomorrow' and 'you should have been here earlier'?! What?! Every other year you offer this you keep said list to ensure that those who basically bought a shirt in advance gets the promotion.

I am Not alone I saw and heard many other guests being treated like shit about the same issue. I feel ripped off. I had a conversation with another guest who was told they could have \$25 towards other merch this felt like a ploy to unload hoodies and posters. Unacceptable.

Is this what OCF has become? A money-grubbing entity with no values. It's sad to see and worse to feel. I have never been treated so rudely at the fair before.

In summation the event was oversold, staff was condescending, and I was ripped off for my t-shirt.

Badly done. There is ZERO excuse for not handling the T-shirt issue better. What's the plan to remedy those who didn't receive a shirt?

We went to the fair on Sunday and had a great time. My only feedback request is that more posters be printed, possibly even do a second run for this year's. I talked with Shanna Trumbly and she said a lot of people were disappointed that they hadn't been able to get one.

More merch please!!! OCF logo tees always sell out so early. By opening time on Sunday there was nothing, but stickers left. Please, please, please more merchandise next year.

I was very disappointed in the amount of logo wear you had the sweatshirts I buy every year were sold out before the general public could even come in. Please make them available to purchase online. It was the biggest let down. I love going to the fair but this year you dropped the ball on the logo wear! Please contact me if there is any way I could purchase a sweatshirt or tee shirt. I went home with only a sticker. Thank you so much.

It was another great fair this year! It almost felt a bit like the fairs of the past.

Meanwhile, this was also the greatest fail so far in commemorative sales (shirts stickers, etc.). I've come to accept that failure is clearly the goal, since everything was sold before Friday at 1pm.

I've given up trying to understand why failure is the goal, but it's clearly achieved annually.

It makes donations to any of your funds unlikely from me. If you cannot show any improvement at taking my money for things I want, I can only assume that you have all the money that you need.

Only having 2 booths didn't work. We stood in line for over an hour and a half to get my free poster and purchase a 2nd one. The line we were in was moved 3 times and every time it moved people cut in. If it was located in Xavanadu or Chela Mela maybe it wouldn't interfere with other vendor booths. It was extremely irritating to have to wait that long in line. I know my sentiments were matched by all the people around us.

I had received negative feedback in regard to the merchandise store selling out Friday. This was from patrons and other staff members who were unable to get anything to commemorate this special year. I mean who didn't want to have a 50th year commemorative item? It seemed as though everyone did.

I am requesting the elders consider purchasing some shirts, tapestries, and maybe stickers and offering them for purchase again.

Also....why not OVER order.... seems we run out early every single year. Anything that doesn't sell should be offered the following year at 15\$ off or something like that.

Thank you for hearing me out. Blessed be.

Please consider a reprint of the poster. You could even take pre-orders. It was my daughter's first fair and I would appreciate another reprint. I think others would too.

Commemorative booths sold out. I was not able to get T Shirts and Posters i had hoped for. Please do a second run of posters and shirts and have them for sale online and/or at the office.

I would love to see an online store and considerably more merch for Commemorative Sales. I always do my shopping on Sunday and every year they are sold out of almost everything, especially this year for the 50th! I personally would rather purchase at the Fair and it seems there is just not enough merchandise to last through the weekend. OCF for life! 🍷🍷

The fair was a beautiful experience and I loved it. I was not able to buy as much merchandise as I would have liked, if posters were reprinted. I would buy the two I was unable to get. Thank you.

I was really disappointed by the fair commemorative products this year. Every year I get my child a shirt...BUT THIS ONE! Why would there be spending less on OCF products when there is clearly high demand for them?!? This makes no sense!! The long lines of eager buyers caused waits of over an hour, unfortunately many things sold out within the first hour of opening, and the product selection this year was beyond dismal. I was told by booth workers there that the budget was slashed for the 3rd year in a row. I am so disappointed to hear this! With such a high demand for fair products, more money should be slated for this and not less! And what's with getting rid of kid's sizes? I thought part of OCF was a focus on bringing in families with children! Apparently not. There were so many unhappy parents and kids I spoke to this year about this. I waited for over an hour at the opening of the commemorative sales booth by main stage, on day one, just to be told that there were no kids sizes and hoodie sweatshirts were only sold at one booth over in Xanadu. By the time I walked there it was a little over an hour after opening and all the hoodies were gone. Like gone, gone. I know because I did the same thing the following day just to be sure. All I want to know is who the heck is making the business decisions here? Maybe this person/committee needs some additional support in good business practices, ordering tips, and product organization in general. There's got to be a better way...LIKE ONLINE ORDERING, pre-orders, more product ordering in advance, and did I mention online ordering yet!! I was definitely not the only person who super confused and disappointed by commemorative sales this year. Thankfully I was able to find a very boring, disappointingly plain and ugly, 50th anniversary shirt elsewhere for my son but it was no commemorative OCF shirt for sure! Come on fair family, certainly we can do better than this. The artwork is just too beautiful, and people want it. Imagine how much would be sold if there was online ordering, pre fair sales, etc.?

I know budget was cut, but I waited so long for a fair tank and they just ran out so fast, I just really want to know how to get my hands on one, all my fellow booth family got theirs though.

I received a ticket for a free 50th anniversary T-shirt when I bought my OCF weekend passes. I went Friday to receive my shirt and they said they were sold out for the day but to return Saturday morning to get one. I came back Saturday morning and they said the same and to come back Sunday. I came back Sunday and they said that they are sold out and it's my fault for not getting one Friday or Saturday morning even though I tried both Saturday and Friday morning to get one. I'm very frustrated with this because I got sent on a run around to never receive the shirt that I was given a ticket for. Some people who camped with me had a very similar experience too. I still have my ticket for a free shirt and it's just a reminder of a promise unkept now. I love fair but don't like being sent on a run around only to be told it's my fault for not receiving it after doing what I was told to receive it.

I was so disappointed after waiting in line for over an hour the first day of the fair to find there were no hoodies left and my first and second choice of T-shirt were sold out of my size. I was in line at 10 o'clock am. Left empty handed.

Please stock enough merchandise & have a way to order if you run out.

Please, please, please do another printing of the posters for this year. I really like the one with the birds. My ATM card was not working, and I missed out on a few things and buying a poster was one of them. Thank you so much. Peggy

Am extremely disappointed that the commemorative posters and T-shirts were under-produced. By Saturday afternoon, most items were already SOLD OUT. I can't believe things were not better prepared for a large event as the 50th! I even had a VOUCHER to get a complimentary item because I bought two 3-day passes well in advance and I couldn't use it!!! I really especially wanted the Clock poster :(PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, consider selling OCF commemorative items on-line. Thank you.

Waited in line for 2 hours on Friday to get an official fair t-shirt, prayer flag and posters. Prayer flag sold out. It would be nice if we get order online pre-fair. I felt really bad for the people who only came one day and weren't able to get the item they wanted.

Was so sad to have waited in line not to get a t shirt and tank top for my partner and myself. Is there any way to get a shirt online?

Is it still possible to buy fair posters?
Everything was sold out by 3 on the first day. Just so messed up
There needs to be a huge reorder of all OFC merchandise for this year's fair. It was impossible for a lot of folks to get the posters, hoodies, stickers, patches etc. that they wanted. I myself was really looking forward to purchasing all the posters, several hoodies and potentially a few other items. Each spot was sold out of everything unless you got there right when they opened. Please fix this.
Please, please, please, make more goodies and bandanas. I get my kids one every year and was not even close to being able to do so this year. I am so sad.
Hi there! I attempted to purchase a Fair poster on Saturday (Specifically the Trumbly design), but Commemorative Sales was sold out :(is it possible to produce a second run, to be available for sale at Teddy Bear Picnic or online? I was too busy helping run my booth to make it down there. Thank you!
Great 50th Fair! Thanks for the great fair, but for how many people, the commemorative merchandise booths should have had way more shirts and merchandise available. There on Friday by noon and already sold out of large and xl sizes? Aside from that, great job folks! See you next year!
Please make another run of this year's posters. Would love to especially purchase one with the two birds. It seems the posters sold out very quickly this year.
I was not able to make it to the sales booth for posters and I had a t-shirt voucher for buying my ticket early. I got the plain poster and was disappointed no t-shirts were available either. Very disappointed given it was the 50th Anniversary
we have been coming faithfully to the fair for many years. we dedicate time, money, support and love through the year and then at fair all days. We are heartbroken that we cannot add the 50th year posters to our beautiful collections which is framed and displayed proudly in our home (they all sold out first day!) please, we beg you to make additional runs of them (We did get the mandala but not the others) it has huge meaning for us and our legacy of Time with OCF. We would be willing to pay Additional fees to cover costs and support finances for fair. Please consider this. Thank you
Can we please have a huge second run of posters and shirts?? There are tons of people who want to buy, including me!! Thank you
I was disappointed in the commemorative sales this year. Was almost impossible to get any merchandise. Especially if you work fair and have shifts that make it harder to get down to buy things. I feel like it's progressively getting harder to buy keepsakes or t shirts. Please, please, make enough shirts and posters next year for EVERYONE! I mean what's the worst that can happen. you have extras? I guarantee they will sell the next year. Or maybe make an online shop.
Be good to be able to buy tee shirts for general public, before or after fair online. Standing in a big line and then the tee shirts run out is no fun. Hopefully another order can be placed. Fair is wonderful in general.
Please print more posters and set up an online shop. We wanted to purchase all three posters but had an emergency come up in the middle of our fair. By the time my husband reminded me to purchase our posters there was only one available. Honestly, I might have purchased more things too, but I have no idea what was available because it was sold out by Sunday. Thank you!
There needed to be more sweaters and t-shirts and posters! We get one every year and they were sold out before I was able to :(
I had several very disappointed booth members and public visitors that wished they had been able to purchase a 50th Anniversary Sweatshirt at the Commemorative Sales Booth; it sounds like they were sold out before the public even entered the fair on Friday morning. This is really too bad, there won't ever be another OCF 50th Anniversary.
I believe, due to my experience being the child of a commemorative sales coordinator, poster committee member, and main camp staff member, that we need to start looking at a more widespread and varied approach to the OCF merchandise we sell. Should there be limited runs of things, such as the hoodies? Yes. Absolutely. Those things are special and should remain so. But I also believe that

there should be a wide array of items to purchase so the thousands of people who come out to live in our beautiful forest can have a small memento from us. The vendors are a part of this, but they aren't the catalyst. It should be from us. We contract extremely talented artists to create the imagery for each year. Those images live on for decades after the event. I have a storage bin of 30+ years of commemorative shirts, staff shirts, and other accoutrements that are all part of my family's legacy out there. They are a point of pride. The general public views their shirts and posters in the same way. Let's give them more than that. That being said, the only way to do that is to insure that either we have enough product on hand to sell to everyone who wants it, or to make sure that if we run out like we did this year that INSTANTLY we can point them toward some place where they can order it. Hell, put up an ordering kiosk at each history booth so they can order it right then and there once the day's inventory is gone. It doesn't have to be a long-term availability...maybe just a few months. The thing I heard the most from my friends who went out there was how awesome the 50th anniversary was, but also how disappointed they were that when they got there Saturday, they couldn't get a shirt or a piece of this commemorative year. This should be viewed as unacceptable for everyone who is involved in these decisions. This year officially marks the very first year in my 37 years of coming to the fair with my family that I do not have any commemorative item...and I work next to the commemorative sales yurt.

I know everyone has opinions on how this should work, and this next step is going to be chaotic moving forward but look at the optics from the outside. Think about that 8-year-old kid who loved Shawna Trumbly's design and wanted nothing more than a shirt with the image on it. Think about that corporate woman who can't rock a commemorative shirt at work but could have a coffee cup or water bottle on her desk. If we start looking at this angle, then the next 50 will be even more outstanding than the first...which would be a tall order.

Thank you all.

I am requesting a 2nd reprint of the 50th Anniversary posters as I did not get one and it sounds like thousands didn't get them since they sold out by Friday morning

The only major disappointment from this fair was the inability to purchase my commemorative memorabilia. Between working my shifts, getting food and hobbling around in an ankle brace it was impossible to get the memorabilia I was so very excited to go home with. I understand there is a budget for how much the fair can purchase and to predict how much may sell.... but come on it's the 50th. There should have been 4-5 times the amount of posters, hoodies, tanks etc. available. Is there a way to set up a link with all the commemorative items for sell just for staff? That way we would be paying directly for our purchases. PLEASE, PLEASE, FIX THIS! This was my 22nd fair and my fair baby that now lives in NYC was going to get a huge surprise package of love of the 50th fair from her momma.

What a sweet 50th that was! Now, a number of us staff members would love another chance to purchase the posters and other commemorative items that we were unable to get during Fair due to long lines, limited inventories, and/or shift schedules. How about a reprint in time for Teddy Bear Picnic?

Is it possible to order a 2019 OCF 50th Anniversary poster? I live in California but am from Cottage Grove and due to work and family obligations was unable to make it this year. I ADORE this year's poster and would love to put it up next to my framed 2016 poster! Any help would be greatly appreciated. xoxo -

I am requesting that another run of OCF 2019 posters be made due to them being sold out quickly. I was not able to purchase one because I was performing double duty of playing with The Fighting Instruments of Karma and also in the show at Stage Left. Thanks,

It was disheartening to have virtually all commemorative sales items totally sold out by Saturday morning. As a hard-working volunteer, I would have liked to have purchased a poster or t-shirt. Everyone knew the 50th would be a larger event, and it's unfortunate that more product wasn't ordered to make it through the weekend.

Commemorative sales were a nightmare this year. I got in line at 10:45 on Sat, only to wait close to an hour to purchase a poster, only when I got there, they were all gone. I traveled to 3 more booths before I finally found the one I wanted. If so, many people are wanting posters, shirts, etc., why is OCF not funding the purchase of this stuff pre-fair so that all who want it (esp for the 50th) are able to buy? Seems OCF lost \$\$ on this one...could have made lots more. Perhaps it would be possible to take orders online and order more to be printed?? The stuff wasn't cheap, but it sure did sell out quickly!

I bought a ticket on the internet and received a free t-shirt take it I took it to the concession stand to receive my free t-shirt and they told me that they were all sold out I was not asking to buy a shirt I was just asking to receive my free t-shirt that I had a ticket for they tried to give me a poster I told them I don't want the poster it will just get ruined I want the T-shirt and they told me to come back the next day so I did and the same thing happened I personally feel that that is false advertisement and that I should receive my merchandise that I paid for.

I love fair! It's so magical. And I plan on returning many more years! We always have such a great time. I was bummed this year that I wasn't able to redeem my T-shirt voucher because they sold out on Friday. I was told to check back on Saturday, and I did and checked again on Sunday and no luck. I understand it's hard to save the correct amount for the pre-sale because you wouldn't know sizes, and maybe there's a way on the ticket purchase to put that information so that the correct amount is saved for next time? I'm sure that everyone was quite overwhelmed with the mass amounts of people visiting this year. Everything was wonderful! Can't wait until next year.

Loved the fair, again, ... but, I feel like there was a lot of unpreparedness this year. It's all so material that I feel guilty mentioning this, but we missed our posters and t-shirts this year. They were all sold out by Saturday morning. I don't know, material things are material nothings, but it's been cool having those posters framed and put up on our walls. My kids cherish these posters and shirts from the past years, but this year will be a little empty. Maybe for the next years, allow the committee to make extras, or at least enough for everyone.

We still had a great time and know next year will be back to 'normal'. Thank you for all that you do and considering this is my only big gripe, I would take that as win. Thank you and sorry for making this about material things.

I was wondering if I could purchase a poster with the clock on it? During fair I only saw the blue background ones.

I was REALLY disappointed. On Friday, not to have been able to find a T-Shirt! I bought tickets WAY in advance for my daughter and I (She is 38 and it was her first time)! I hope you make more available that we can buy online! Thank You so much for an otherwise great fair 🙏

Commemorative Sales this year... There should be enough for everyone to get what they want. I realize that it's part of the budgeting process, but it shouldn't be - let's make it part of the revenue stream. It's no secret how much profit there is on each sweatshirt and t shirt. That way, we can order sufficient amounts, and not feel strapped for \$\$ if we don't sell it all. Not only is it revenue, it's an excellent source of advertising. I've seen people all over the world wearing our shirts - how fantastic it would be to make that spread far and wide. Further, by adding online purchasing, we can allow people to pre-order, reduce some of our risk, and remove the stress of waiting in line, rushing to get there in the early hours so you get a sweatshirt, etc. If everyone wants one, everyone should get one. I waited in line for >1h on Friday AM before the public came in, and the phases of the peach t shirt and the sweatshirt were already long gone. More, more, more, please!

T shirts were gone super early, never got mine. Absolutely wonderful otherwise, can't wait for next year. ❤️🙏🙏

The history booth. I don't understand how they can run out of shirts within a short time after opening on Friday. Whomever is in charge of that booth and ordering for the past several years has drastically underestimated demand. Either that or the budget associated to procure is not nearly enough. Let alone setting aside stock for each day of the fair. Also, I'm not sure whether they actually did or not, but there was mention of pre-fair sales.

<p>I still want to buy a poster please. Please let everyone know on all medium very loudly when you do another run of the commemorative posters and T-shirt's. I know that you have heard this already and will more. That they were all sold out so early was a major bummer for us all at the fair. Also, I spoke with some workers at the fair merch booth and they described how hard it was for them all weekend to deal with the emotional labor of letting down so many disappointed people. Please make this right. And a kind fair friendly apology for dropping the ball and not realizing that the 50th would cause a spike in demand would go a long way to raise spirits! Thank you! Ps, I still had one of my best fair years yet. It was my 30th year in attendance!!!</p>
<p>More OCF merchandise!! Especially for such a celebratory, high-profile year, when demand is going to be extremely high. I attempted to get in line twice during the weekend, but the wait was too long, and when I did have time again, the item I wanted was sold out. Please consider a re-order and facilitating online sales now (post-event). There are volunteers (myself included!) who would be happy to help with this effort.</p>
<p>I bought pre order tickets but when I went to get my t shirt, they didn't have any and told me I was too late and out of luck.</p>
<p>We would really like to purchase fair memorabilia. You were sold out of nearly everything way too soon. Please provide online venue for purchasing this year's and previous years, posters. Thank you.</p>
<p>2nd run of posters please. Had a ticket for a free one. Went at opening on Saturday and was told they all sold out before Friday barely began!! Other than that, I saw a bunch of changes and they all seemed to improve things from the past.</p>
<p>I sure wish there had been more merchandise available for purchase this year! Due to my shift schedule, I was not able to be an early bird in line and missed being able to buy T-shirts for myself and family. This was disappointing as it is a long-standing tradition. I was not along and am hopeful there will be serious consideration for another printing with on-line ordering of t-shirts and posters.</p>
<p>Hi, I had an amazing Faire. Thank you to all. There's a rumor going on that if enough of us ask about the 50th anniversary poster that those in the know will do a reprint and make more available? I specifically mean the one with the raven and I think it was a canary? The really nice one! Best,</p>
<p>I purchased a 3-day pass and was given a ticket that I could redeem for a free OCF shirt. I went to the merchandise booths 3 or 4 times and each time I was told that they were sold out. Is there a way that I could mail my ticket in to redeem it?</p>
<p>Hello, I was just wondering when and how we should follow up to redeem our commemorative sales T-shirt's. A staff member told me to check the website a couple days after fair ended and I just wanted to make sure I don't miss it. Thanks! Fair was lovely :)</p>
<p>Please print more of the two bird's poster and the cocoo clock poster since they ran out on the first day. I would suggest these two posters be reprinted as giclee's and also some cheaper advertisement lithographs be printed also. I good way to sell these would be by "limited timed edition" They could be sold for about 5 days. After the 5 days, however many were sold would then be printed. To differentiate these from the first printed, these should be a slightly different size. These also should be signed and numbered by the artist.</p>
<p>Is there a possibility of getting a t-shirt of the bird design? thank you</p>
<p>I was told to contact here to order more OCF merchandise. I would like to buy two shirts.</p>
<p>The lines Friday (merch) and Saturday (it didn't start moving until 12:15) were horrible, I'm hoping it's just because of the 50th.</p>
<p>Thank you for another beautiful fair! I believe it was our 15th year. (*●-●*) I am hoping that you are planning on printing more tee shirts as they were sold out when we tried to buy them. Thanks again for all you do- we love OCF!!!!</p>
<p>Do you have any 50th anniversary t-shirts for purchase?</p>
<p>I would love the moon poster as a sweatshirt. We could make some good money if we had an online store. Relatively no overhead or person powers involved. Good passive income and lovely OCF into the world.</p>

We have been coming to the fair since 1980. We love the fair but miss the good old days. We came to fair on Friday, July 12th, my husband of 46 years 71st birthday. We had a free tee shirt and poster coming - but there were no large shirts to be had in the whole fair, just an hour after arriving. The booth lady gave us a medium because she said we could trade it for a large- if we could find one- no luck. Seems you guys didn't plan very well. Very sad that my beloved, who has mid stage Alzheimer's, did not get a fair celebratory tee shirt that he can wear. You have been a part of our family for such a long time - now my kids and grandkids also attend. Disappointed.

I purchased three 3-day tickets in order to receive a poster and t-shirt. However, the booth was completely out of t-shirts and only had the "peach moon phase" poster left. Totally crushed, I picked out a (2018) tote bag and was given the poster of the peaches. And to be honest that poster was my absolute last choice.

Disappointment, I decided to go to Shanna Trumbly's booth to purchase the poster I had my heart set on and the sticker for the 50th Anniversary but couldn't buy either because the rights are with OCF for the next 2 years.

I'm unhappy that OCF didn't account for the ticket's that were sold promising the 50th Anniversary poster and t-shirt.

If possible, I'd like to exchange the peach poster for Shanna Trumbly's poster and exchange last year's tote bag for the 50th Anniversary t-shirt. Or if that is not an option, could i purchase the poster that Shanna Trumbly created and the mini poster in sticker form?

I do not know the best, most efficient way to deal with mass amounts of people/tickets/sales, but if there are 3 posters to choose from, maybe upon filling out the form to purchase the ticket's, there could be a spot to choose which poster / t-shirt (and size) the ticket purchaser would like, then have the ticket holders name on those items for them to pick up at the booth. Or even to just have an idea of how many posters to stock up on of each design. And to account for those that were gifted to folks purchasing multiple tickets and those that would like to purchase upon arriving in fair at the booth.

I appreciate all that you do... and everyone contributing to and making OCF what it is.... I love fair and truly am amazed with all the hard work and vision that has created this beauty of a fair that magically happens every year. Thank you!! So much Gratitude!!!

Never had an opportunity to obtain a 50th poster and was there all 3 days. I have posters from every year I've attended and I'm just distraught that I missed an opportunity this year especially. A limited time rerun on posters would be great for me in a selfish way but, honestly, I believe it would make many, many souls in the family very happy as well.

Please reprint 2019 Posters and T-Shirts. There were clearly not enough for the demand.
Thank you

It would be delightful if anniversary posters were made available. It was our 10th year but we were only able to participate on Sunday. The only poster still available was the mandala. Although lovely, it really like the other 2 for our collection.

Wonderful fair as always. Was disappointed that with my purchased early bird tickets over \$200 I was supposed to get a T Shirt and a Poster but by the time I got through the line on Friday July 12th commemorative sales booths were out of stock. The next day July 13th was also out of stock. Feedback is to have enough supply for those who were guaranteed as an incentive for early bird purchases.

Why were there so few tie-dyed 50th anniversary T-Shirts?? They ran out by noon on Friday. This was my 46th fair and I wanted 3 of these shirts. So many people complained to me on my bus on Monday that they couldn't get one as they were out! Also, public complained as they wanted this item. You should have ordered and could have sold 10 or 20 times as many as you had. Leftovers (if any) would sell next year...Very disappointing!

Are the t shirts, hoodies, posters etc. created solely for the purchase by Fair VIPs? The reason I am asking in this way is that every year, the supplies run out very early in the Fair, and this year was the worst ever! I got in line at 9:30 on Friday and was told at 10:30 that the sweatshirts were sold out. Completely. None left. I do know that some members of the Fair population were provided with the opportunity to purchase these items ahead of time, so I know they existed, but not for any mere mortal.

This is very bad publicity. Visitors and Fair family were VERY upset.

So here's what I think:

This stink. We love our Fair clothing items. We treasure them from year to year. Why the heck can't this committee create and purchase enough for everyone? I've been told that they have a limited budget, or that they "don't want leftovers". Understandable, but I don't think there would be many leftovers, and if there were, they could be sold the following year.

And we know that the expenditure would be easily recouped, so the costs would not be an issue. We know that the high prices of the clothing will easily cover the costs of production.

And I also know that the Fair clothing is wonderful advertising for our event. People from all over the country are wearing these things (when they can get them!) and that means that people are paying us to advertise our event.

So I would strongly recommend that we change the policy on this issue. Create and buy enough for everyone, not just those people who have connections to order ahead of time, or who are lucky enough to get in line before 8am on Friday.

I look forward to your response, and thanks.

My dear friend and coworker on main stage lighting would have loved to have a poster from this year's fair, the one with the birds... we work from morning to night every day and barely can get away at times to make purchases beyond food. It would be the bees. knees if I could get one of these posters to him. He has been helping out for many years. Thank you for listening!

Heard from a lot of my public friends that commemorative sales were painful. After waiting in line, all shirts were gone. I know we have some limited-edition stuff, but T-shirt's shouldn't be limited. How about an online order feature? I'm sure folks would pay for shipping rather than wait in line and be disappointed.

I hope you'll go back to making the commemorative t-shirts with the beautiful designs on the FRONT of the shirt. When I buy a t-shirt like that, 90% of my delight in it is to look down and admire it as I'm wearing it. It just seems ridiculous to put the design on the back. Since this started (a couple years ago I think?) I haven't purchased any t-shirts. I know you sell out anyway so my feedback may not make any difference; but I hope you'll consider it. I've talked to several other people who feel the same way.

The Fair is amazing Thank You So Very Much for creating and keeping it going. Too little swag this and past years. I waited in lines this year from 10 am to noon to get some bandana's and the blue ones were sold out when I got to the register. Other people wanted children's t-shirts (none this year) others wanted hoodies (only at one of the three booths).

The commemorative T-shirts have the design printed on the back and I cannot enjoy looking at it while wearing it. This year there also seemed to be a huge shortage of available shirts. They sold out so fast. It almost seemed like the booths sold to staff early and by the time general public got to the booths, many things were already out of supply. How disappointing. I did buy a tank top because it had the design on front and went from a monstrous line to the much shorter Xavanadu commemorative sales booth to accomplish that. Crazy.

Poor planning for 50th year commemorative hoodie and t-shirt sales. Sold out by 11:30 on Friday.

We did not want to wait in the extremely long line to purchase a fair poster. It would be great if you could offer some online or at the Eugene physical location.

Thanks,
Richard

Commemorative sales really deserve a larger budget for merchandise. It is extremely disappointing for public and all fair family when there is never enough stock for everyone to get a piece of fair merch.

Every year there is so much excitement about getting commemorative merch, and it shouldn't have to be that people need to line up first thing in the morning to get a t shirt. The budget should be increased so everyone gets some merch! Especially since it makes money for the fair. The public really felt they were getting scammed this year with the ticket and tee shirt bundles. Let's avoid this in the years to come!

My wife and I have been going to OCF for twenty years. I was proud to raise my hand at the Main Stage when the speaker asked for a raise of hands of 20-year attendees. I'm proud of the longevity that implies, but we were much less than pleased on Friday.

Frustration: wait 1.5 hours in line to buy a t-shirt starting at 11:30am on Friday. This includes learning after 1.5 hours that there were two other places to buy t-shirts revealing a level of administrative incompetence that I found startling.

Anger: Learning that they had sold out of all the t-shirts. Sold out by 1pm on the first day? Obviously more administrative incompetence to blame.

Why isn't there an 'express line' for those that just want to pick up their free t-shirt instead of waiting in line forever! Not very good organization this year, sorry.

I just wanted to weigh in on the t-shirt/souvenir situation. What happened? We all knew it was going to be a stellar turnout for the 50th! And not nearly enough shirts or posters! It appeared really cheap and as an afterthought. People collect them! Not this year! May I suggest that people could order online? This event has obviously grown too big for the way things were handled in the past. Maybe people could order them ahead of the event. And posters too. I was so disappointed as were many, many others. Please give this part of the event a little more attention. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Pretty disappointed I spend enough to get a voucher for a free t shirt, but they were sold out before I got there. Why wasn't a specific number of shirts held back for people like me in this exact situation? Can you print more shirts to make it up to the people that you sold their shirt right out from under them? Seems pretty unFAIR to me.

Great event as usual! My 6th year and for the last 3 I've brought my minor son with me. I would love to see you make it easier for day workers like us to get into the fair. (parking and entry) We are town runners for our booth and have 'odd' hours. We often are made to line up with general public to get in or are told we are 'late' when actually we are just trying to do our job AND get our booth to give support to our colleagues. It would be great if we were treated as equal to the others who are able to camp on site and walk in early. Thanks for all you do to make it a great experience for everyone. <3

Generally good feedback, even the lines were OK because having performers come and chat or entertain maintained the integrity of the vision of the fair. I would go to further lengths to inform them though, most of the people in costume helping had NO idea how to answer the most basic questions I heard many newer patrons ask ("How long?" "Is this the line for..." "What's taking so long?" (Obviously bag check is necessary, but I wish there was a secondary set up for the early day rush, I waited nearly 45 minutes...)

Also, I watched people blithely walk ahead and keep the line, ignoring the fair workers who were bold enough to say "Excuse me the end of the line is back here" I saw one guy wave off the young woman who stood in the heat, in a hot costume, full make up. I was more annoyed that he was so disrespectful and that there wasn't a more official person telling him to go to the back of the line. I watched a 7 or 8-year-old girl ask, "Why is he able to cut the line mom?" I wanted a better answer than "Because that's how he is".

The posters and T-shirts sold out way too early. Seems like the Fair could have invested a little more to ensure that everyone got a chance to purchase memorabilia.

Could you bring back the "Family only" Spring Fling and allow us to purchase posters a little early?

"My" early poster has served as great advertisement at work. I'll stand in line for a T-shirt, no problem, just please make sure there is enough inventory for all of us. Much love and peaches,

I think your feedback form is a tad invasive on the info collection side; I think you'd get better feedback if it was a little more anonymous.

<p>I noticed a lot of unauthorized amplified sound via Bluetooth speakers that seriously disrupted the soundscape, and the LED flashlights from phones were blinding and disruptive. Security had a lot on their plate regarding wristbands and general crowd control, but I couldn't help but think, "Who is supposed to remind folks of the guidelines?" Especially regarding the speakers.</p>
<p>It was really disappointing that the commemorative sales booth ran out of shirts and posters so quickly. It would be great if there could be a reprint and online sales or sales at the teddy bear picnic.</p>
<p>RE Hospitality and Crew Services during Fair for Yurt Village (Main Camp). There was a lack of beverages and food for those working in the Yurts. We can't always leave to go get something in the Fair.</p>
<p>The lines Friday (merch) and Saturday (it didn't start moving until 12:15) were horrible, I'm hoping it's just because of the 50th.</p>
<p>After a beautiful evening drizzle that settled the dust the muddy saturated ground finally dried out Wednesday morning, we were treated to have the water trucks drive by creating a yet another muddy mess, especially around main stage.</p>
<p>Suggestions regarding Commemoratives: If the Fair had an Etsy page it could pre-sell & ship commemoratives. People would love to buy this way so that they don't have to worry about carting posters around & damaging them. Order more hoodies!! There should be no excuse for running out the way they did on Friday (or, of anything else, really.) Also, please bring back the OCF flags. So many people see mine and tell me that they want one. They would sell really well.</p>
<p>Too little swag this and past years. I waited in lines this year from 10 am to noon to get some bandana's and the blue ones were sold out when I got to the register. Other people wanted children's t-shirts (none this year) others wanted hoodies (only at one of the three booths).</p>

50TH ANNIVERSARY AND BEYOND

Spectacular job by all parties on making the 50th memorable! Time capsules and gorgeous glass mural at the Ritz - WOW! Mildred March was fabulous. One of the best Midnight Shows ever! Thanks to Tom Noddy for 35 years of organizing that event and especially for his efforts in bringing the 4 original Flying Karamazov Brothers back, which was no easy feat. [disclaimer - okay, he's my husband, but I'd be saying this anyway.] THANK YOU for the extraordinary effort! This is a Fair that will not be forgotten.

Let's work to improve what we have, learning from our half century of experience, and not take a slide on that slope. Thanks for reading and hopefully hearing.

A delightful 50th, congrats! The food, wondrous music, carefree better natures of all those around were great.

Sadly, for the 50th things felt a bit too commercial. It didn't quite seem like Fair; things felt too rehearsed and forced. But I have faith we'll be back to our regular selves next year.

The Fair is amazing Thank You So Very Much for creating and keeping it going.

BEST FAIRE EVER!!!

So, what are we missing that we won't know about until 2020?

In the shadow background during the Faire was the future of the management structure.

Way too much energy was spent patting ourselves on the back for our 50th. Certainly not a substitute for entertainment. Having recently spent five hours at a friend's graduation from medical school, there are only so many things that can be said at a graduation or at an anniversary. Organizers should parcel them out to the different presenters so that there's more going on than as-you-just-heard or to-reiterate-what-the-last-person-said.

Also, not a huge deal but I was a little sad to hear that most of the other crews got the 50th patches at registration but we were never offered them.

But honestly this was the best year ever! Thank you all so much for what you do! I love being a part of the fair family and can't wait to come back home!

My most vivid memory is Ken Kesey at the gate with a blue Chevy '1 ton flatbed full of chickens. I hopped on the sideboard and He introduced himself and offered me some irish whiskey and tokes.....fine man gentle spirit housed by a roughish irishmans exterior.Peace Out

50TH ANNIVERSARY AND BEYOND (continued)

Well a huge milestone in my life, 50 years at the Oregon Country Fair! I'm a Fair Elder now but I was 21 in 1969 and had just arrived in Eugene. We lived on a commune and were part of the first Fair on the present site. We sold our crafts on blankets under trees or tucked into thickets for that first Fair. It was just a gathering of communes back then. Later when we lived in a bus, we parked it on the 'service road' behind Main Stage where the Ritz is now. The gathering of all the people and tipis was family for sure. It was the beginning of my spiritual life and awakening into a new way of being on this planet. The strong bond of family, brothers, sisters and all-are-one was gently and kindly brought into my heart. I am still blessed with the love and family vibe after all these years.

We were all about taking care of each other and bringing awareness to the world. Young idealists who couldn't live the "expected life" our parents wanted us to in greed and consumption. We were bound to show them how to live sustainably, peacefully and with consideration for all. The Fair was a coming together of the tribes, building community and having fun. We all lived on communes throughout Oregon and coming together in the same place for a couple of weeks each year was a time of reaffirmation and sharing. I still love the Fair for the ingenuity, art and love.....

BUT..... it's just too big. So many of the friends I started with at the first Fairs do not come any more, too many people on the path! For us that is sad that just walking around our lovely Fair has become a burden of fighting the humanity and not being able to easily stroll, going from booth to booth. A few friends who work in various capacities at the Fair stay away in their camps until after 7pm. That's sad to me but they don't want to fight the crowds.

I have written letters before about the masses traveling the path. My friends say, no one cares, it's all about making money. I don't like to speculate but it sure seems that way. You are doing a disservice to the public and the vendors by cramming in so many people. When it becomes the human conveyor belt it's hard to get across the path to a booth on the other side that looks interesting. So many visitors have complained about that when we talk at our booth. The most frequent comment is, "They shouldn't let so many people in." I know you've had this feedback before, are you listening??? It doesn't seem so.

I am also writing to give some feedback, other than the above, about my bus pass debacle which was also requested by one of your staff at the Odyssey Commemorative booth. Everyone who helped me with this issue was lovely and kind, but uninformed.

I signed up and paid for the Late-Night Trippers bus. Yay, finally a late-night bus! :) I got a confirmation email and was one of the first 100. When I got to the Fair on Thursday, I went to the booth in the parking lot to get my pass/ticket. I asked about the free poster. They knew nothing about it. Hmm. Someone at my booth later mentioned that I would get it on the bus going home. I never saw that info. They sent me to Commemorative booth by Odyssey on Friday. And by the way I couldn't take the bus out Friday or Saturday morning because the line was so long, there was no way I could stand for the hour or more in the hot sun, so I drove. By the time I got to the Fair on Friday the line at the Commemorative booth was also long and I couldn't wait as I had to get to my booth. I came back hours later, still a huge line, but I waited, 45 mins. They didn't know what to do and wouldn't give me a poster because I wasn't on their list. They sent me to the booth by the Dragon entrance. I showed them my confirmation email but couldn't download the attachment. Same situation, no one knew what to do and are you understanding at this point no one knew I was supposed to the poster on the bus?! They sent me to the booth by Hoarse Chorale and they didn't know what to do either. Finally a lovely woman walked me back to the booth by Odyssey, talked to another person there, looked at my confirmation email on my phone, still couldn't download the attachment but decided they would give me a poster. Apologized for all the running around I had to do.

I spent hours trying to figure this out and was surprised no one knew what to do plus puzzled I wasn't listed in the book. I was listed out in the parking lot where I got my ticket. Hmm.

The last lovely person I dealt with was the one who requested I tell you about this issue. She said her budget had been cut and was not happy about that. Why in the world would the booth that sells the Fair's 50th year t-shirts cut the budget??? AND so far, by Saturday late I had yet to get a t-shirt! The

lines are so long, and I can't stand for longer than a half hour or so without back issues plus Saturday you were out of t-shirts by 1:00!!

I hoped I could get one on Sunday. Guess what? Sunday you were out again. really ??? did you even think how many people would want a t-shirt? You cut the budget, really? So, no t-shirt but my poster will do. I consider myself one of the groups that founded the fair as I was friends with Bill and Cindy and am a founder of the Tofu Palace. Many of my friends have been integral in how the water system formed and were helpers in White Bird, Community Village and Energy Park, etc. I have lived this Fair for 50 years.

Dealing with all this was exasperating and unnecessary. You could have had double the amount of t-shirts and if all of the workers in the Commemorative booth been informed about the poster I wouldn't have spent hours dealing with that issue.

I'm sorry that this is so long but I do need to mention something else which speaks to years of observing how more regimented the Fair has gotten.

A very good friend of mine who has had a booth at Fair for decades was refused entrance in his car....loaded to the gills with his booth stuff. He drives his car every year. The person who stopped him from driving in said, "We don't consider a car a full load"! They wanted him to take everything out and put it in a Gator. That would be many Gator trips and very inefficient. Someone will probably remember this encounter because he (in protest) turned off his car and unloaded all his stuff into his friend's van who was a booth neighbor and who coincidentally happened to be behind him in line. I don't see how this refusal of a fully loaded car was efficient or necessary. Why is a van OK to go in but not a car??? Where is the logic and who gets to decide that? It seems very Nazi like.

The very last thing a vendor wants to do is drive somewhere else, unload everything they have just loaded up and then make numerous trips back and forth in a smaller vehicle while the guy with the van gets waived through. Really? How is this about supporting the people? I would have been furious. Not everyone owns a van or bigger vehicle and numerous trips in a smaller Gator is a bigger foot print than him driving in once and parking.

I don't understand the present operation of the fair and it seems so far away from our way of operating the Fair back in the 70's/80's. yes, that was then, and this is now and it's a much bigger operation. But it can be a big operation and still be kind and supportive of the people who work there and the public. If you were about supporting the artists, you would never let so many people in to begin with. This Fair is ridiculous with the crowds. yes, it's the 50th and I was happy to be there to see it but you have been letting it get out of hand for a very long time.

You do have some control and I'm sorry you have let it get so bit.

May you be guided by standards other than money and think of the ease of the public as they walk the path which will be much more supportive of your vendors.

Be love, be kind, be happy and bring that to all you do.

Dear Fair Family,

First and foremost, I'd like to congratulate everyone on a successful and fantastic event for the 50th anniversary of the Oregon Country Fair. By all accounts, this event was spectacular and appropriately celebrated a major milestone in the Fair's history. Many people have commented about how meaningful this year's event was in their lives, and that is an important part of the Fair's stated mission: to create experiences that nourish the spirit, explore living artfully and authentically on earth, and transform culture in magical, joyous and healthy ways.

And yet even in the midst of such success, many of our family are acutely aware that dysfunction and inequity are woven into the fabric of this organization. As the event has grown in size and scope, as outside forces (such as County regulations) have imposed a greater need for operational scrutiny, and as division of opinion about the structure of the staffing and volunteer model have grown, the Fair Family finds itself in a quagmire of mistrust, hurt feelings, and a sense that support and resources are scarce.

The culture of the Fair as a volunteer-driven organization is one that treats all members as equals, and yet there are many volunteers who provide an extraordinary amount of time (hundreds or even thousands of hours), professional skillsets, and institutional knowledge that make their crew and operations function at a high level. These volunteers (often Coordinators and BUMs) are responsible for a significant amount of responsibility that supports all aspects of Fair operations. Without these key volunteers, the Fair could not happen.

And yet despite the fact that key volunteers are serving at such a high level, many of them feel unsupported, unappreciated, and overworked. As the event needs have grown, more crews are experiencing a higher demand for services, however the support and resources for those crews has not commensurately increased. The small professional staff works incredibly hard and provides admirable support: I am grateful beyond words for their hard work, willingness to help whenever possible, and ability to navigate through extremely challenging times with continued dedication to this organization. I believe that in order to move forward as one Family (including professional staff), our organization needs to address some significant holes of support that are long overdue to be filled.

Some of these areas include:

-Resources provided to our volunteers:

The amount of information required to successfully operate as a Coordinator at the Fair is astounding. What is equally astounding is that there is no training manual or documented process available for Coordinators to do their job. A top priority of the CRG and professional staff alike should be to create resources (beyond the .net site) that can guide Coordinators and provide consistency in their work.

-Training for our Coordinators who are managing volunteers:

Managing crews of volunteers is a very challenging job. Many Coordinators are placed in their role due to knowledge, skills, and a willingness to donate their time and energy to their position. Very few people inherently possess the ability to naturally manage, inspire and motivate their volunteer crew members, especially during the "off-season". The Fair as an organization needs to do a better job of providing training for Coordinators so they have the tools needed to manage their crew.

-Volunteer appreciation:

The lack of volunteer appreciation effort is embarrassing. Some may point to the 4th of July fireworks event or the Teddy Bear Picnic as appreciation events, but these things are limited to folks who live near the area and have access to attend. Food vouchers are not appreciation tools; the budget handbook clearly states that food vouchers are for volunteers who work from noon on Thursday through noon on Monday to have meals (though the voucher amount is only enough to purchase a few

meals) and are not "pay." All volunteers deserve to be thanked, and again, the key volunteers dedicating hundreds of hours of time year-round and specific skills/knowledge absolutely deserve to be thanked. To me, appreciating volunteers is a natural part of volunteer management and should be a significant part of any non-profit organization that relies on volunteers for success.

-Budgets that adequately support the work being done:

During Main Camp and the week of the "essential event," it is not hard to find volunteers working long days, hard jobs, and dedicating themselves through blood, sweat and tears. I am often completely amazed at the incredible effort these volunteers put in for every facet of this event's operations. All I can say to these hard-working volunteers is, "thank you. I am in awe of what you give."

The crew size and financial budgets for some areas are not adequate to continue supporting the level of performance that is demanded of crews. I urge the Budget Committee to recognize that when Coordinators make an ask for a budget increase this upcoming session; it is based on need. I do not think anyone expects we'll ever be funded to the level of a "professional" operation (though in my humble opinion there are many crews that do operate at a professional level), however working with a shoestring budget to accomplish what we do needs to be re-examined.

These areas highlight a few concerns and I am hopeful with the arrival of our new Executive Director that some of these may be addressed. I encourage you as the Fair Family to further engage at whatever level you are able: attend Board meetings (which are also available online for live streaming), contribute your time and knowledge to your crew by moving into more of a leadership position, and vote at the fall Annual Meeting.

Whatever role you play at the Oregon Country Fair, please know that YOU are appreciated, you play a critical role in the success of this organization, and that what you do does have an impact in our community and our world. Sincerely,