

Vision and Mission Ideation / Brainstorming

Basis

The Orgasme initially came out of a need to create a non-profit to handle a single event, and through years of hard work this event ended up accruing a substantial profit. Our team had a desire to put this money to work for the community rather than seeing it sit in a bank account. This included the first foray into running a second event.

One of the things we've learned from trying to scale up our gifting to the community, is that we need a better foundation for how we handle the Orgasme's infrastructure. There have been quite a lot of growing pains and learning as we've realised that we can't deal with all events and teams in the same way. So, learning from our mistakes, we want to focus on building a system that can not only successfully deal with the two current events that we have, but can continue to scale and make this money available for a larger community in the future.

As our current team moves out of directly running events we have been able to put more energy into building a successful organization. Our desire is to put sustainable solutions in place now, so when more opportunities come along we have a foundation that our community can grow from. The following is our proposal to our members for the direction we would like to head. This is a work in progress and we desire to more deeply implicate our members in helping us decide on our upcoming direction.

Mission

The mission of the Orgasme is to support and encourage Montreal based art projects and events in the Montreal area and at Burning Man events.

The Orgasme desires to provide the support structure necessary for the creation of these projects by means of legal and financial support, as well as providing guidance to the community based on experience. A primary means of accomplishing this goal is via the disbursement of funds to local and nearby artists and events that submit proposals that meet criteria.

The art and events considered should be in alignment with the core values of the Orgasme. This includes the spirit of the 10 principles, focusing on a vision for long term sustainable community building, and encouraging social involvement in a wide audience.

Goals

- Reinvest in our community
- Make art happen that wouldn't otherwise
- Be a resource for artists to develop their art.
- Encourage local artists to be involved in a broader artist community.
- Long-term sustainable vision for community-building

Values

- Longevity
- Consensus, Fairness
- Art
- Community
- Spirit of the 10 principles
- Participation

Objectives

1 Year Goal-

The goal for the upcoming year is to build a better system for managing the Orgasme's resources. This includes building a functional system that is able to deal with our current two events in a fair and sustainable way.

5 Year Goal-

As well as supporting our current events, the goal is to have a system in place that is able to scale and take submissions from from a broader audience in a sustainable way. This would include a yearly art granting program as well as opportunities for more events and community projects to be supported.

What our proposed community program looks like

Event Type 1-

Non-profit events that are specifically linked to the Orgasme and the Burning Man Community, with no desire to become their own separate non-profit in the future.

Financial support is available to cover the cost of running their events. The Orgasme's yearly insurance will cover these events. All money that is advanced will be returned within a fraction of deficit. If the deficit is greater than a certain percentage, the board of the event is responsible for raising the replacement money within the following 6 months. All profits of these events get returned to the Orgasme to be put back into the community at large.

Event Type 2-

Non-profit events who meet our criteria, with a desire to become their own separate non-profit in the future.

Financial support is available to cover the cost of running their events. These events are responsible for their own insurance and legal protection. All money that is advanced will be returned within a fraction of deficit. If the deficit is greater than a certain percentage, the board of the event is responsible for raising the replacement money within the following 6 months. All profits (minus a certain percentage that will be gifted to the Orgasme) get returned to the Orgasme to be held earmarked for that specific event.

Questions: How do events request to become Type 2? Official proposal? When the event proves that it is a capable and legally functioning non-profit, the profit of the past 5 years(10 years?) will be released to the new non-profit. If the event does not achieve non-profit status within the first 5 years(how long?) or if there is a period longer than 3 years between events(?), all profits made will be released back into the Orgasme's general bank account.

Art Grant Type 1-

A large one time grant for non-profit art projects created by a group of artists who are directly affiliated with the Orgasme and Burning Man communities.

Grants that are available for large group projects that will be going to the big Burn or other regionals or Burner events. (eg. Fire Tetris, Portage) This one time grant will meet our granting criteria (10 principles, not paying for time, etc.), the amount will be specific to the project and will not need to be paid back.

Art Grant Type 2-

Small grants available for any local artist who is contributing to their community and meets the Orgasme's community guidelines.

Grants that are available for any local artist who meets our criteria and is showing in the the immediate area. Grants are assigned once or twice a year within a designated time frame.

Criteria for choosing artists/events

- Non-profit
- In alignment with the 10 principles
- Have social value
- Involve the community
- Feasible
- Sustainable
- Safe
- Teams/ individuals must prove a capacity to execute

Criteria for evaluating artists/events

Clear criterion would need to be systematically judged by a blind jury of diverse knowledge base.

1. Idea

- Adherence to 10 principles
- Creativity/ Originality
- Thoughtfulness
- Interactivity
- Social Value

2. Execution

- Feasibility (Planning, Budget, Timeline)
- Safety/ Responsibility
- Community Support/ Involvement
- Financial Need

Financial Sustainability

The Orgasme maintains strategies for long-term financial sustainability. A yearly budget will be created for how much can be given as grants as well as the acceptable percentage of loss from events. It strives to maintain and grow available funds for artists/events/and operations every year.

Potential income possibilities-

- Potential for full profit from Event Type 1
- Potential for percentage of profit from Event Type 1
- Donation option on the website ? (no tax receipts possible)
- Government Grants?
- Semi-yearly Org fundraisers?

Actions

Things that need to happen for the Orgasme to be a functional entity-

- The full granting/ monetary support system created in detail so that the information is clear and available for the community.
- Legal issues such as insurance and monetary support structures need to be resolved (outside counsel required).
- Website and online presence needs to be clear and accessible.
- Community engagement and education about the Org needs to happen.

- The creation of sub-committees for the achievement of certain goals (art granting, consent committee, etc...)