

## Lakes of Fire AfterBurn Report 2020



Great Lakes Experimental Arts LLC did not hold the 2020 Lakes of Fire event. To protect our community during the COVID-19 pandemic, we canceled the 12th event with the theme of Lakes in Space.

**Pre Event:** 2,161 tickets were sold. Art grants were awarded to 33 projects, and the first half of the awarded funds were sent to artists, so our community can begin making art.

**Challenges and Changes:** 2020 was fraught with challenges, to say the least. In addition to our event, many gatherings that are important to our community were canceled due to the global pandemic. During a time in which we could not gather for comfort, our community faced and is facing the reality of racial injustice and is exploring how we can be more inclusive and anti-racist.

We publicly affirmed that we unequivocally condemn police brutality, racism, and fascism. We hosted a virtual open house and actively engaged with burners who are Black, Indigenous, or people of color to learn how we can ensure our community is safe and welcoming. We continue to explore and discuss what changes we need to make to enact radical inclusion and civic responsibility.

Lakes in Space became Lakes in Place as we moved our event online. Community members shared art and supported one another. We carved out spaces to connect, even if we could not hug each other or be kept warm at 3 am by the heat of hundreds of dancing bodies.

We were resilient.

**Post Event/Throughout the Year:** With the safety of our community in mind, we made the decision to cancel the 2021 event. The Leads and Board will work throughout the year to support the future of Lakes of Fire.

The Board of Directors has continued stewardship of Lakes of Fire and our art focused mission by ensuring the financial stability of our organization in the face of a great deal of uncertainty.

We closed the books in 2020 with a surplus of \$205,066 (income from tickets minus annual expenses of \$34,892). Total revenue for 2020 was \$239,957. The surplus is the result of ticket sale income in a year with limited expenses due to no event.

In 2020, we continued our annual donation to our host community with \$2,000 to the Grant Township Fire Department, \$2,000 to Oceana County Sheriff's Office, and \$3,000 to fund New Era Elementary School's art program.

Looking forward through 2021 and into 2022: At the beginning of 2021, we had \$50,000 in emergency reserves and \$234,502 cash on hand. Prior to ticket sales in 2022, we anticipate a minimum of \$36,000 in expenses. From our cash on hand, we are providing \$196,922.25 to refund tickets; however, ticket holders can donate all or a portion of their ticket. The amount refunded and the amount donated by our community will be reflected in the 2021 year end report.