

# How was your night?

... but with a horrendous ending. Our room (Mirror Arch) was forcefully closed 1hr before. Tech guy & bouncers were hostile, shouting and forcing everyone out of the room. Generally, bouncers had a narrow minded and hostile attitude, long faces and unhelpful, actually pushing us out of the venue with metal bars.

Amazing .... Celtic Chaos Family Rock

Best music I've heard at a Decomp party! Outstanding DJs. The outdoor area was a revelation- absolutely fantastic.

BEST PARTY EVER!! Blown away...

But It doesn't seem organised as expected

But the way it ended was quite confusing and didn't match to the quality of the event leading up to that point. The Outside In room being closed early was a sad moment as the Fire nightclub kicked the camp out an hour before it was meant to finish. It was capitalistic society disregarding the weeks of effort put in by all the members of the camp as they were hurried out and forced to strike the room in 20 minutes. The main guy who worked his ass off for weeks and brought most of it together had his DJ performance cut off mid way in order for another party to just come in and trample over the beautiful atmosphere that was slowly coming to its conclusion. The beautiful journey of the night, set design and performances deserved a proper end to its story. But instead was treated with no regard to the time and love that the people who brought that room together put in.

Fantastic crowd, beautiful decorations and great music. Unseasonably warm weather also helped!

First burner event! Was a little nervous at first as we didn't know anyone but it got excellent.

Great music and fun night

Great music, nice to have many scenes and atmospheres, great organization, wonderful people and disguise Just a tad too many people and a lack of space to chill/sit

Great variety of room themes, music, performances, art, and gifting

Had a great time with friends old and new.

I arrived early and sober. I had a good night. Can't say it was the best night of my life, but it was solidly good!

I had a really great time. I met lots of lovely people and danced a lot!

I had an amazing night seeing all the people i know and love and interacting with them. What hampered my night was my interaction with strangers who showed a lack of understanding towards disability and felt privileged to ask personal medical questions of me as conversation starters.

i never expect that much from decomp. It was therefore slightly better than expected!

I really enjoyed volunteering for welfare and Fluffing through the afternoon up till midnight, but when I was free to look around after 12 it was pretty impossible to get through the crowds to go see something, so I left about 12:40

I think it was brilliant given the venue but would have been truly brilliant - ie without the qualification - in either a smaller or less tightly controlled space.

I'm a regular burner (100+ events) and really thought it was an unusually great event- really wanted to say well done to everyone that made it happen!

In between 'awful' and 'OK'. The venue security on the night were shockingly rude and disrespectful, and extremely inconsiderate. Ruined the experience.

It was ok because my friends were there, but I spent the majority of my time in the garden or in the Übertown booth. The afterparty was much more chill and enjoyable.

Just the right amount of everything I expected. In fact, exceeded my expectations.

Loved the decor and costumes. Staff were fine. Some great music but not that varied. Didn't really see any performances except a bit of the 'my body my choice' one, glimpses between audience heads anyway. Bar was expensive. Chips ran out just as I went to buy some! Bathrooms were pretty good. Venue was overall good. Good organisation by Decomp folk.

Music wasn't my thing though. Why is it only techno? I want dnb and psytrance!

Nice to be in what felt like liberated yet respectful space, a TAZ, a carnivalesque experience in winter, in London.

Not enough places to sit and a bit crowded

Once again I enjoyed how effective the burn spirit was carried in a nightclub venue.

One of the best decos.. thank you and well done you guys

Overall had a really lovely night! :)

Overcrowded. Nearly £8 for a beer. A CAN of beer. Security killed the vibe. Not the right venue. Costumes were magic, high effort on decor and costumes. We weren't allowed to drink the beers we bought before being told we couldn't bring them in. And we couldn't go back out and drink them. So that sucked too. Just WAY Too crowded

Really do not like the venue and the venue staff are even worse

Security are violent and rude, I will never go to Fire again

Security wouldn't let me at first as I was staggering. That's cos I had I injury

Some beautiful decor and a lot of love put into creating and curating the event - I think a lot of my experience was affected by this being my first post-Covid major club-setting event

THANK YOU. I loved the event, it reminded me of the magic that Burning Man represents. It was so well organised, the work that went into the venue was so impressive, the music was great, attendees were all kind, respectful, really lovely. There weren't constant cameras stuck in my face, I felt present and it didn't feel superficial like some of the raves I've been to recently. I felt extremely grateful to be there and for the work that went into it. I knew many people there and they all had a great time. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

The entrance change and difficult security made the beginning of the night very confusing. Security where then preventing crew from entering parts of the venue when we needed to get to different areas.

The pandemic has been rough on everyone; I think this was always going to be a factor.

The security gave me a hard time for not being able to mask - they thought I was on drugs and weren't going to let me in. I did manage to explain to them that I was sober and autistic (the irony being that I used to take drugs or drink in order to cope with getting through security at clubs) but it left me highly dysregulated and out of sorts for a couple of hours afterwards, even with lots of coregulating with lovely burners.

Though 4 friends (different groups) were not allowed to enter the venue as they didn't have a physical ID, just electronic. Very upset with that.

too crowded

Too many people. Way too crowded.

Too short!! It should start at 3pm next year!!!

Truthfully: in between amazing and okay! Amazing because: - I got to be with my community again and see so many people I haven't seen in ages. - The theme was wonderfully creative. - I had some beautiful dances and chats and an incredible massage - Loved some of the music and decor - The staff were attentive and friendly

Venue was TERRIBLE, too cramped couldn't find space to dance properly.

Very overwhelming - lots of people, labyrinthine venue, loud music everywhere. Hard to connect with new people.

Was not as colourful and creative as previously. Not many exciting things to do. My friend had problems at the door. The music was really good.

While I appreciate the effort that went into production, I didn't enjoy it. I found the sea of people moving between the corridors extremely hectic, shoving into each room. I work in events and attend a lot of music events/ club nights/gigs/ immersive experiences in London.

The venue didn't work well in my opinion and the security were over the top

# What did you think of the variety of music?

Better than most burns in terms of variety but didn't hear much tropical/worldly stuff..

Bit too much 'melodic techno' and trancey stuff. Could have been more varied in different rooms at different times (think of the variety @ past rumpus parties, boomtown).

But I only stayed in 3-4 rooms

Celtic Chaos was the best room

Celtic chaos were fucking awesome, more of them. Usually decom has shit djs but they were great.

Costume Camp had the best music (aas always)

Could have done with more bass all around!

Good mixture, didn't hear enough techno (no really I mean that!)

Great mix for the most part, at one point around 3 or 4 am I found the music a bit too samey in all the rooms and couldn't find the right music for my mood. Overall though it was really great!

Honestly the music was terrible. There only seemed to be techno. I spent pretty much my entire night in the garden because the music was so terrible. Where was the D&B, breaks, pop, dance etc??

I arrived at Postcom and instantly heard some early nineties music. That's more my thing.

I did find some great music but there could have been more variety yes.

I didn't really get to hear much, so no comment

I found it quite weird that no-one was playing D&B, bassline, garage, basshouse, jungle, or dancehall. It was house, techhouse, or progressive house, in every room! Shame, if crumpet had a dancefloor we'd have played some variety :)

I like melodic techno and there was plenty of that.

I like well known songs with words i know and can sign two, there were only two during most of the party. and then a few during strike

I really likes the music.

I think a good idea for signage would be to include types of music because I moved between Mirror Arch and Celtic chaos and didn't feel much of a difference, didn't find funk space until very late. That space (further right, can't remember the name) was SO packed that the need for such music was clear

I would have loved more eighties/nineties music.

I would have put some more hours of heavy beats (techno). But I like the house and smooth tunes. Even the last funky songs

I'd like to hear a little more psy trance

Maybe I was in the wrong rooms at the wrong times but I didn't find much I could really lose myself and dance to. Would have liked some more drum and bass and other music with more of a beat/bass

More variety is always good. Loved the Celtic Chaos crew - they were great and provided a great blend of genres.

Music was great!

Not enough Jungle but I still danced a lot and enjoyed it.

Not enough music tbh — lots of non-music stages!

One dance floor with an alternative to electronic music would be amaaazing

Outside In had the largest variety of music, which was great. Would have been good to have more world music influences such as latin, afrobeats, middle eastern...

Slightly techno-heavy. Would have liked more melodic, downtempo/organic house.

Some more cheese please..

Some stages were too loud. Others were too ethnic/drumming. Never found the right music/ didn't love the DJ's. I stayed watching a female DJ who played atmospheric music I didnt love.

The music was a little hit and miss at times - I never quite new what I'd get in each room, but I still really enjoyed a lot of the music and danced a lot.

The music was the let down of the evening - it was quite 'niche' and not in a party sort of a way. i.e. a lot of it was quite background music

The three main rooms of dance music did not show enough variation and felt too 'samey'. We walked between the rooms searching for a vibe to dance to and didn't enjoy the three of them. Where was

the 'world music'/ percussion/Latin/ethnic/tribally vibe? or disco/funky other vibe' - than generic cheese?

Though at the end of the night, as rooms closed, there was not enough variety.

Thought the music was great, had a good boogie in each space!

Too many white male DJs

Usually techno dance-heavy but did not attend this year

Variety was fine but I didn't feel that it was qualitative

Variety was pretty good, but it would be nice to have some more instrumental live performances.

Wasn't really there for the music, no complaints though!

Where's the cheese....?

Where's the dnb and psytrance? The only music was techno

Would love more rock and roll..

Would've preferred more quiet spaces where conversation could be had. I expected Into the Woods to be that, but it was loud and crowded in there too. The only space I could really chat with others in was the main hall but that required standing the whole time it would've been nice to have areas with seating that were also quiet or maybe had other kinds of softer music.

# What did you think about the volume in the rooms?

(in most rooms, especially the main room - painfully loud)

Again, I didn't get to visit many rooms!

Although I think the volume would have been fine if the speakers could handle it. The sound quality was very poor in a few rooms, with the speakers sounding maxed out, making it uncomfortable.

As above, overall there wasn't a good enough quiet space, but in the dancing areas the volume of music seemed okay.

But earplugs are always a must for any nightclub for me!

But the quality of the speakers were very bad. No bass and quite harsh sounding.

Celtic chaos were fucking awesome

Couldn't really hear or feel the bass

Had to wear earplugs everywhere and the playroom was loud

I did have earplugs with me

I didn't even put in my earplugs

I found I didn't need ear plugs like usual

I have noise sensitivity and always carry earplugs. The only point when I found the volume too much (with earplugs in) was when there was what sounded like a samba band? But I was able to avoid the area so not an issue.

I suffer from tinnitus and found the levels bearable. I think ths sound dialled nicely but just a bit loud 4 my sensitive ears.

I wore ear plugs but the volume still was ok.

It varied from room to room. It was really loud in 2 of the main dance rooms.

It would have been nice to have more rooms where you could hear people talk. or more earplugs available.

It's a burn and spaces for human interactions are always nice.

Just right. Not too loud.

Like the music and volume in the chill space, but I really wanted to dance and couldn't find any music I loved.

Music is always too loud in venues, luckily I always wear earplugs - I have the bespoke moulded ones but then I am a film/TV composer so...

n/a

no comment

Some rooms better than others

Some stages more than others... earplugs were needed in all rooms.

Sometimes too quite in the spoken word room, it was off putting for the performers

Sound levels were good, apart from Into the Woods, which was too quiet: the DJ was completely overwhelmed by the nearby rooms and people shouting in the room. I would feel less bad if it was just a background music playlist.

Sound quality in one of the side room (opposite to the cuddling one) was terrible

The chill area had full volume music and I had nowhere to relax so had to leave

The levels of music was excessive and too loud. We were screaming/forcing our voices trying to speak to someone right in the ear

# What did you think of the art?

Amazing job from all the artists and decor crew!

Art? I would call it 'crafts'.

Decor was 150% fantastic

Decorations great, didn't come across much else

Didn't spend enough time to discover it all unfortunately, so not a very strict opinion on this matter

Especially Outside In ceiling

Excellent room decorations! I also very much enjoyed the interactive bit about registrations and filling out a form to get reborn with the help of the carrot, super fun!

Found it all too crowded to appreciate much in the way of art, sadly

Helped make some of decor and loved what people came up with. Missed out on a lot of the performances though. Was hard to keep track of what was happening

I did not perceive any art apart from the amazing decor. Decor was amazing this year.

I didn't experience anything terribly memorable

I didn't really see too much art that was worth engaging with, not in line of what i know at burns

I got feeling that this burner event unlike previous I've visited in Ukraine and the US was mostly focused on music. Camps and art were there but they weren't the central piece of the environment

I really enjoyed the painting thing and the decor was amazing but I didn't notice much art otherwise

I think making finding the art easier (lighting, signs etc) would help.

I was involved in decor crew and got excited pointing out the bits I had made, seeing them in place

I'm not quite sure what the distinction is between art and decor. I would normally regard art at a burn as being single standalone pieces that require thought and sometimes interaction, and although I knew such art was there I never had the time to visit it

im not sure how much I missed, but I loved what I saw :)

I'm sure in a different venue there would be more art. I didn't find there was very much at all.

Incredible decorations

It was really hard to find any! I was friends with two people who did installations and only engaged with their work. This could be included in the guide since people have to submit their pitch anyway

Lights and neon were super

Loved the decor

LOVED the main room and the neon room! They were excellent!!! :)

Maybe little bit more advertising before the event would have helped to explore everything

Nothing blew me away.

Some was amazing - although overall a mixture - everyone has different tastes though! I absolutely loved the lit up tentacle things in Eat Your Art Out. Also had lots of fun with a little interactive computer near the bar. I know comms near the event is already pushed, and maybe I missed something, but a bit more guidance towards both the timetable and a map/description of the art would have been good. Or maybe put some maps/info on the back of toilet doors? That might have inspired me to go looking more :)

The decor of each room was great!

The decor of the outside in room stood out in particular - it was fab

The decor was really beautiful. There was a lot more art than I expected, and some pieces which were very Burning Man.

There was some good art, I think I ended up having too many conversations to see it all though

Trying to move between the rooms I was constantly being shoved through the corridors with people pushing through and rushing behind me. It created a feeling that there wasn't time to check things out. I was sober and found the sea of people pushing in the tight corridors rude and unnecessary.

Underwhelming thrown together artwork

Walking into the place was fantastic.

Whatever I bumped into was amazing

# What did you think of the performances?

A mixed bag this year.

Again- wow wow wow

all the performances were at the same time as mine so i didn't see other peoples! but i understand you're a bit limited here

Didn't see much

Fire dancers! Giant Bird!

I didn't see any because in the limited amount of time I had free I couldn't get through the crowds to find them. It'd help to have a one sentence description of each performance in the programme.

I liked the film flam entrance form filling

I missed the performances because I had to perform myself but our space and time slot kept changing

I only saw two but particularly enjoyed the areal hoop.

I saw the fire which was fantastic but I did wonder about air quality as it went on for ages.

I think I only managed to catch one!

I think the introductions to performances in the main room were unnecessary.

I timorés to see the fire performance. I missed it. C'est la vie.

I was on shift from opening to 1am and then found all the performances had finished by then.

I wasn't really there for the performances so much.. the ones I saw didn't hold my attention but maybe I missed the good ones!

I would have liked to have seen more but unfortunately I missed a few. I didn't know when or where they were happening.

I would have loved to see the queerbaret, but I was on shift when it was on

I've put missed them but also amazing as I know that there were amazing things on, such as firedancers/cabaret/comedy. Some of them I missed as I was getting ready or working, or others when I came across them I was in the mood to dance. But I caught some snippets, and I also know there was great stuff out there. Again a bit more time to digest the line up/more space in comms (although to be fair I was busy organising as a Lead, maybe I just didn't have enough time myself/clock all the comms)

mixed! Loved the costume camp stuff

Mixed. Enjoyed the dancing / aerobic performances I found and the roaming art piece performances but wasn't so into the comedy things (personal pref though nothing personal)

N/a, I didn't see any

Nothing special and a bit cliché. But nice that some people at least try to make an effort.

On getting to a room that had a performance happening we were shoved from behind by a crowd and a sea of people pushing in front of us to get out of the room. The movement between these rooms was a mess and didn't allow for the enjoyment of a performance

Only could see the EAYO cabaret due to overlap.

Really enjoyed the fire dancers and the drummers. One thing I would say about the fire performance is that it went on for way too long in an indoor space with what seemed like no ventilation? After 15 minutes me and my friends were coughing from the amount of paraffin smoke in the air - this actually quite dangerous for people's health! I'm really surprised this was allowed.

Spent a lot of the night quite lost so didn't see many performances

The guys with massive green hat was great. Good cabaret stuff.

The performances I "bumped" into weren't very engaging for me. A few times I couldn't see what was happening because of the number of people in one room. But I don't know how to solve this problem so I shouldn't be criticising.

Too much talking by the intro people. Took me out of the trance of being there.

Very present and meaningful dance after the fire show



# What do you think of the Decom ticket price (£25, low income £15 + fees)?

Excellent value

Fine. Would it be more, I would probably not come anymore as the quality of the event has decreased over the last 10 years.

High earners should be content to pay more. We should protect the cost for low earners.

I appreciate the low income offers. I'd personally feel more comfortable if we could volunteer time or whatever to get an even cheaper ticket.

I was there for three hours. A bit expensive.

I would pay more for a better venue, better production and better consideration of movement between the rooms and variation in the music. This event has huge potential but had a lot of issues in my opinion which made it unenjoyable.

I'd pay more for it to never be held in Fire ever again. Where did all the money go??

It's a bargain - where else would I find some many wonderful people

Its a fair amount for a good night out. I would still pay up to £30 though.

Low income should be less expensive.

Obviously it's a balance - no-one is looking to make a profit so if we don't need to charge more we don't have to. However I'd happily pay more, so if there were good ideas we turned down as we couldn't afford them, or if paying more got us a different venue, then I would happily pay more. Some events give you the option to donate more at the start - we could explore with them how many/percentage take up that option. Or we could have tiered ticket release dates? Or just charge more. Also in terms of LBT - if we don't \*need\* more to run it, but if most people are happy to pay more, could we include as part of the run up/after survey a poll, and attendees vote from a range of charities that we could donate to? That would be nice. Could maybe shortlist a range of charities linked to the Principles.

The drinks were so expensive - £6 for a tin of poor quality larger?!? But I know that's not under Decom's control. £25 a lot when I assume it is all going to the venue as none of the performers or crew are being paid.....

This is probably impossible in London but a bigger venue would be great because so many people couldn't get tickets 0\_0

Way Too expensive when drinks were so ridiculous

Worth paying more for a better venue

Would prefer to pay more for lower capacity and smaller venue



# What was your experience of the queue to get in?

4 friends (different groups) were not allowed to enter the venue as they didn't have a physical ID, just electronic. Some of them were renewing passports or something like that so no chance to get in. That rule was completely senseless.

Acceptable waiting time, nice staff

Almost made it to the front and then the queue was moved to another door. Venue staff were a bit chaotic.

Amazing

Arrived early for build

Arrived early so wait was ok

Bit harsh being searched.

Bouncers were HORRIBLE

Build rules

But came at 9.30

Came early so it was not too bad

Chaotic, unpunctual, unfriendly / stressed

Didn't wait in a queue

Door change didn't help

Friendly. They should have been telling people about alcohol. Really massive obvious errors

Had worse.

I arrived around 12:30am and there was no queue!

I arrived before 10 pm and the queue took about 10 mins which was fine. The unnecessarily long but not particularly thorough search was the longest aspect.

I arrived very early so had no trouble queuing

I did not appreciate having to demonstrate my eye drops to get in!

I didn't enter through the queue because I was a greeter, but the security kept aggressively pushing us to move people on which was not pleasant

I skipped the queue cos I was performing - but I felt bad about that!

I was in already as a volunteer

I was volunteering so no queue for me.

It moved quickly thankfully but security were a little intense and verging on the aggressive in how they tried to get us to bunch right up, even when the person in front was just 30cm ahead. When I stopped for 30 sec to fix a clothing issue the security told me to get out of the queue and go to the back :( I do understand that they only have a small piece of pavement so need the line to move quickly and for it to be condensed but it was too tense.

It was long but we got through it

Nice to have greeters next to the queue

Not a welcoming club, heavy security and heavy searches

Queue moved fairly swiftly

Queue was long, locker room was crazy long. They needed more ppl on the lockerroom

Queuing at around 10.15pm, our section of the queue was suddenly turned around and marched onto the end of a different queue, so we all ended up further back without explanation. Plus, when waiting for security, the staff were unnecessarily aggressive. Making us move up closer when it was security holding up the queue, not us. They just seemed grumpy and trying to exert control

Right when I got to the end of the queue, we were being redirected and had to wait longer. I had to pee so badly so this was not ideal. The burners on shift by the queue were great though!

The greeters were awesome

The queue outside was long when I arrived but it moved pretty quickly and everyone was friendly in true burner style, as were the lovely volunteers who were there.

the queue was really long when i arrived round 11pm. As i was in my wheelchair security took me in through another entrance so i didnt queue

The search is extreme and they threw my chewing gum away.

The second entrance opened as we arrived so at 11 so we got in quickly. The queue was around the corner at this time and I feel bad for the people waiting for the main entrance which wasn't moving.

The staff were fast and efficient

They were late letting people in.

Trying to do greeters in the queue outside was bonkers. Not a good way to transition people into the space, not enough time to induct people, got yelled at by security

Very very long and slow!

Was nice to be met by the greeters :)

Was there early to set up so didn't see it!

weird, first time queueing, usually I'm helping setting up :)

Would have expected less for a ticketed event

Zero queue , but such heavy security into a very brightly lit uninspiring space gave a very bad first impression

# What was your experience of the venue security team?

A lot were fine, but several were aggressive/bad attitudes/weren't respectful of burn ethos or our spaces i.e invading welfare. Subsequent stories of their team assaulting members of our community are completely unacceptable (and by the sounds of it, a recurring issue)

Amazing

Horrendous conduct

Because I was in already I wasn't checked on entry (assuming this happened!). But during the afternoon I left a few times to get more food for fluffing, and security on gate were good

C'Mon... they were a bit intimidating. Really killed the vibe.

Didnt feel violated which is key

During my Ranger shifts I was near security quite a bit, they were quite harsh in dealing with people. Only saw one case where an attendee was actually provoked security and they carried that person out.

Easy and straightforward bag check. (Not like last year where I was sexually assaulted in the most physically invasive pat down of my life).

even seemed to have a sense of humoour this year

Fire/Beergarden have notoriously bad management and are as money driven as it gets. I would have preferred traveling further away to support a more likeminded venue.

Friendly staff

good personally but I heard of others treated badly they were a mixed bunch seemingly - some courteous and good others with a really bad attitude

Got the impression from a few ignorant members of the security team that there was an element of cultral sneering, contempt and disdain.

I got 0 hassle, nor did any of my friends. Which I thought was unusual for fire. Even got gum in no problem

I had all of my snacks confiscated on arrival which I didn't know would be a thing, since this is a Burn. Was told by security that it would all go in the bin and couldn't be retrieved or donated to homeless people - such a waste and completely against Burning Principles! When I was helping with Strike, I occasionally was physically blocked by security staff when trying to enter rooms to take stuff down - often was the same person who had seen my wristband multiple times.

I had no bad dealings with them but they seemed a bit macho

I saw one bouncer take a video of the madness of the dance floor!

I saw security tackle someone to the floor with what felt like very excessive force

I think it would be good to have a bit less in your face security. They were nice but it's too much esp in a community that's supposed to be self regulating ...

I was surprised how visible and active they were inside the venue

It was fire... I saw they took gum and small foods from people, that was not ok, I didn't get into trouble myself though

Let's just say their vibe didn't match that of our event.

Met the most obnoxious, gruff and rude security in all my years of clubbing, raving, partying

Mine was good. As previously explained, one of my friends had difficulties getting in although she was just as drunk as everybody else. There was nothing unusual about her behaviour.

Most were ok but there was one creepy dude that made several inappropriate comments to me and my partner asking if we were going to 'do' sex tonight... and saying he wanted to and then asked her if she wanted sex . She said no thanks and We walked off . He looked a bit intoxicated.

My experience of the venue security was OK. I had a surprisingly positive chat with a couple of security staff who I later learned were hired by decom, not the venue

None of the security knew what the names of the rooms are, location of the rooms. I appreciate they're not there to give directions but it was a little strange.

Not as bad as some people's experiences. I think I got lucky.

not the worst, but seemed pretty grumpy as default

Ok humans just missed the vibe entirely

OVER THE TOP.

Saw multiple heavy handed incidents. One person dragged out through building off floor by a whole group of security. One sober aerial performer refused because she had unlabelled vit D which they confiscated but still wouldn't let her perform. Without any doubt we can never go back to Fire with that management and security team.

Security coming in took unnecessarily long searching my bag despite not being particularly thorough (good). Throughout the night they seemed pretty aggressive and actively trying to seek conflict rather than being there for people's safety. It felt like they were all on a power trip and it made it hard to relax.

Security were aggressive right from the start in the line and then I heard several stories of them being physically aggressive with people, including an appalling story where they had their foot on someone's neck. They also quickly became aggressive if anyone wanted to exit the way we came in without giving any explanation

Seemed like a different group compared to previous years. Less aggressive and intrusive. I realize other people had issues

So my personal experience was ok. I wasn't too keen on one of them sitting outside Welfare, but they weren't being too full on. In hindsight maybe I should have asked them to move, though had the sense that they would not appreciate that request. I know there were lots of bad experiences though elsewhere. And I haven't got anything good to say about them.

SO RUDE. Not Burner friendly. Poor communication between venue security resulting in some people getting shouted at for moving to a different spot even though they'd been told to.

Some people were kind of rude. They did their job well. Better than TSA in the U.S.

Staff weren't very friendly. I didn't appreciate my mints and throat lozenges being taken away

Taking sweets /lolly pops and energy bars on entry was a bit much ! Long event these good for gifting and keeping sugar levels up

Terrible security team

The security checks were pretty quick and not too invasive but there were a lot of security people roaming around all night which gave the event a weird vibe

The security team were friendly however I was asked to show my ID 3 times which seemed a little overkill.

The security took a banana I brought to have over strike and after I explained that I'm part of the take down crew and will be here till 11am they looked me in the eye and said "nobody cares" before trashing it. They didn't explain why

The security were aggressive to a male friend of mine.

There was issues getting the radar key for the disabled toilet every time i needed it. Eventually i found out i could just get one from the welfare tent as security were always a bit clueless. But they were really friendly and tried their best to be helpful

They gave greif in the beginning, but once you explained why you were standing there/your role, they werre OK with it. Too much hassle to argue with them otherwise.

They had a very brutal approach dealing with situations (removing people from the venue) that had nothing to do with burner / party vibes. Also really uncomfortable to see them wearing cameras without knowing there would be unconsensual filming.

They thought I was drunk but I was sober and and wouldn't listen. I went away had some food and a drink ,( Haha) and then on my second attempt they let me in

They threw away my chewing gum and breath mints claiming it was food! Never experienced that in a club in London before.

They took away my unopen mints. They kept rushing people and were rather rude

They were annoying about access to rooms and times

too intrusive. why???

Too present. One of the guys stood for hours in front of the dj. Maybe he was looking for his 15 min of glory.

Unfriendly

Very rude and threatening security man at the door. Leaving the venue was very unpleasant.

### Very shouty

VERY stressful and put me in a bad mood upon arrival. I know it's a big fancy club thing but I'd rather go somewhere more casual / less central to avoid that level of scrutiny and stress. I didn't even have anything I shouldn't have!!

### Was a bit scared to be honest

We couldn't get out! We were turned away from one exit, found another member of staff — they sent us back the same way. The bouncers would not let us out that way and threatened to arrest us, physically grabbing me and stopping me leaving. V bad!

# What was your experience of the cloakroom queue?

a bit long but ok

A bit long but we had a chat with other people and had a drink :)

Also very very long

Amazing

avoided it due to memories of last year

avoided that one!

Could be better

Didn't use it as had green room/ranger room code :) It didn't look too bad though I thought?

Didn't use it until about 3am as the queue was so long

Didn't use the cloakroom

I actively chose not to use the cloakroom since the queue was so long.

I got in really early so the queue wasn't too long but it got very long and was frustrating waiting for friends

I got my coat early to get out early and avoid it

I think i saw them giving a black dude a hard time that they weren't giving to other people.. I hope there was a reason for this and not just bias?

I was late to arrive and left before the rush so didn't need to queue

I was one of the first at the venue, so no queue, but My husband's ticket was swapped with someone else's and it was hard to get the jacket back

It could have moved faster at drop off. It seemed understaffed.

It was long but there's not much you can do about that!

It was long but to be expected

Long line, slow, and too expensive.

Long!

Made friends in the queue

On arrival, it was fine. They seemed very tired and unattentive when we were leaving.

Ridiculous

Scared me off

So. Long.

The queue was pretty long.

The queue was really long when we arrived and security pushed us and a whole lot of other people forward as we were blocking the entrance, which made it pretty unclear where the queue was.

Three people doing one item at a time together as a unit was taking forever and they weren't in a rush either...

Too long when I first went in but went back later and queue had disappeared. The venue need to add more counter space so they can add extra staff at peak times (e.g. repurpose bar staff temporarily).

Took 30min to get my bag back at 12:30 but met nice people in queue!

Very long to get in...

Very very long!

We caught it at a good moment.

We were early and it took waaaaaaay too long.

Ya... v long, I had to wait until 2am to put my stuff in there

# What was your experience of the venue toilets?

Absolutely horrendous. Felt bad for the people working in there.

Alright, but I waited quite a while each time I had to go. Not v clean but I can't really expect much more!

Amazing

Bit weird having toilet attendants.

Can we just pay off the toilet people?

Clean enough.

Every toilet I used was very dirty.

Got gross and messy, sometimes no toilet paper. Not sure what the purpose of the attendants was if not to keep the place clean - expecting tips at a decommodified event was a bit shit.

Had more toilets that i usually see at events and this actually stuck out as a positive for me

Hard to figure out where they were and if they were unisex or not. I got sent away one time as a female.

I don't know what y'all did but this was the least busy I've seen toilets at such an event ever in London, I think I never had to queue

I expect burners event to be money free. I'm fine paying higher price at the entrance or arranging my own bar but paid bars with folks asking for tips in the toilets left a bad impression

I had to pay the loo attendant to use one puff of deodorant. I thought that was stock provided by burners. Would have been great if she said before she wanted money!

I understand there isn't anything you can do about it but felt very uncomfortable with the people in there selling things. Felt very exploitative of the people doing the selling and pretty much the opposite of the Burning Man principles

I would brief the staff in the toilets to not sell stuff during the party - decommodification right? But I do understand that is the only mean of income they have when doing that night shift, a venue that promotes this is also something that I don't want to support ever...

Long queues, attendants selling all this single use glow sticks were not in accordance with LBT

Not great, but considering the number of people it could have been worse.

not too clean and the attendants were too obnoxious and not in the spirit of the burn. why do you need them there anyways?

Obviously not enough as there were such long queues to access. Wet floors and filthy and unattended/maintained assided from the pointless 'toilet lady' who sat there, giving out and shouting at another person for using a deodorant - very 'un-burning man.

Often dirty

Once i started only using the key from the welfare tent it went smoothly. However there was no bin in the disabled loo for sanitary products and that caused a lot of embarrassment leaving with a wrapped up tampon and trying to find somewhere to discreetly disposed it in a sanitary way

One set of toilets stank. Staff selling things in the toilets made it feel like we were not at a Burn at all. One staff member (who was very nice to be fair) snapped glowsticks and put on my wrist, and asked me to pay. Luckily they took no for an answer and removed them.

People seemed confused about the all genders toilets but it worked out pretty big queues but \*shrug\*

Quite smelly though

Really annoying that there was someone trying to sell stuff in the loo.

Really disgusting. I have a photo of a sanitary bin which looks like it is covered in dry semen. Urine on the floor. I admit that all might be the fault of attendees and not of the venue but it was a big downside to the night.

Scrap the gender neutral toilets please. People got annoyed at men using the urinals instead of queuing.

So they were reasonably clean, and we were enabled to make most of them gender neutral. However I really don't like having to have the attendants who try to sell you stuff - really doesn't fit with the non-commerce. I also don't want to do someone out of income, but I wondered if maybe we could



just pay them centrally from Decom? Either pay them to have the night off, or pay them to be there to clean the loos but not bring their range of stuff for sale? I bet they don't make much from a Decom night. So a relatively small fee paid direct from Decom might be a better outcome for them also.

Some toilets were unclean fairly early on, and several door locks were faulty. I know this isn't on the Decom team at all though.

some were too smelly and dirty

The lady working in the men's Jax, Debra I think was her name, what a GEM!!! Give her a raise

the people from the club were force selling us stuff, that was not cool at all. I had to pay 2£ for glow bracelets I didn't ask

The poor bird in the male toilets had to keep telling us we couldn't use the urinal for some insane reason. Was totally fucked up

The toilet attendant experience in which a woman would give glow sticks and suckers and then demand money for them is very anti burning man and was upsetting. I thought the woman doing this was simply being kind, as gifting is obviously a big part of burner ethos, but when I told her I didn't have money with me she quickly took glow sticks off my wrist. I know this is a thing that happens at clubs but I go to burns to get away from this kind of thing, and perhaps we could find a venue where this wouldn't happen or where a small amount could be paid to prevent it

The toilet attendants were rude, and it was weird that they were selling stuff outside the bathrooms - it felt uncomfortable and outside the ethos of the event.

the toilets themselves were good. Very big amount of toilets, so no waiting time and relatively clean as well. The only thing which put me off was the people offering me stuff. I didn't realise they are not part of the decom at first and when they tried to get money from me a few times it got me felt weird. Then I realised they are part of the club stuff and reminded me why I don't go to the "normal parties".

The toilets were dirty and smelly.

the toilets were not cleaned and smelly

The urinals smelled really bad

There were long lines, and I personally don't like having attendants asking for tips, but they were reasonably clean, and it was good to have them ungendered.

They stank and were often blocked.

They were dirty, and missing toilet paper, there was also a person in the toilet constantly asking for money and putting plastic stuff on people and then asking for money. They didn't do any cleaning though. Not sure what is the point of a person like that...

They were nice and clean but there was often a really long queue for the ladies.

They were overflowing and the lady said just shut the door.

They were really gross and dirty!

They weren't particularly clean, some smelled terrible, and having toilet attendants felt really awkward. Some were openly unhappy about their situation and quite rude, particularly towards the end of the night (probably rightly so)

They're never that clean by the end of the night! The toilet attendants were a pain as well - one tried to make me feel bad that I "hadn't bought anything from her all night" and also kept yelling at us to hurry up. I have a hidden disability to do with my digestion so didn't appreciate feeling like a burden.

Toilet across the "garden" from welfare seemed to be a bit derelict when I first used it

Toilet attendants provided by venue were pushy about getting tipped, offered glow sticks for £1 and I saw them attach them to people without their consent then demand money for it. Awful behaviour even without burner principles in mind.

Toilets were fine bar the mixed ones with urinals because then you smell urine as you're waiting which is abit gross.

Too few toilets for too many people

Ultimate chaos and serious poo smells. In the middle of those corridors, trapped between people moving around and people queuing...

Urinals broken ? Why in mens by the big hall. Otherwise pretty good

Very few

Why were there attendants? Just like with the security team, constantly seeing venue staff really took away from the experience we were trying to create and made it feel like just another club night.

# What if anything would you like us to consider when choosing a venue for Decom 2023?

A better map of the venue, and better map placement. Lots of maps caused traffic jams due to where they were placed x

A bigger space if possible. Willing to pay more for this.

A different venue. It's a really bad layout for a place with theme camps. Hard to walk around. Way too hot too

A venue where more than one room can stay open until close. A venue where build isn't interrupted by other events.

A venue with a better circulation maybe. We were a bit on top of each others when moving from room to room.

A venue with a better flow of traffic would be good. Even if Fire had the best security team in the world, there's a fundamental flow of traffic issue that makes moving between rooms stressful as fuck.

Accessibility improvements, i was the only wheelchair user and it was a struggle at times mainly because the crowd seemed shocked to me and were unaware of how to appropriately engage with a disabled person, if you had a more accessible venue, perhaps more disabled people would come so I couldn't be the only one in the village drawing attention wherever i went. For example There was no way for me to order a drink from my chair without relying on my carer as There was no way for me to visible to bar staff as the bar was so high.

Accessibility is really important for me, and a variety of different spaces so I can dance for a bit, then chill out somewhere cosy, then watch a performance or something. Not all just noisy nightclub rooms please!

An ability to BYO, doesn't have to have separate rooms but it should enable gifting and not constrain us from working towards out LBT goals

Anything but FIRE. Smaller is better than the issues we had

Avoiding the security from this event. Considering spaces in which quiet areas with seating exist

Better circulation, we stack up in the corridors just to move.

Better outside space. More interesting rooms, bigger corridors/thoroughfares

better rent a rustic warehouse with less rules and flexibility for community to create

Better security. Less of a nightclub and more of a warehouse. Smaller venue, fewer people. Decom is basically just another rumpus or fox and badge or any other london costume party. I still go because parties like that are fun, but I wouldn't volunteer at it and I don't know why anyone else does - it is not really serving a need not already met by a commercial party. It might officially be a burner event, but it doesn't feel like one. I wouldn't miss it if it stopped happening. It needs to get back to its roots and find its heart again.

Bigger rooms - fire feels very cramped

Bigger venue ? It felt difficult even to breath sometimes as we were so many

Can it be an even bigger space? Can we have more legit seating/mingling space?

Can we have our own security? And run our own bars? (And also can they not convert the green room into something else half way through the night and then I lose all my Stuff!!! Ahhhhhh.)  
different security team!

Drinks prices, they were ridiculously priced and the bar staff kept trying to over charge

Dry hire of a venue. Burner friendly security. The after party at the Queen of Hoxton had a much more burner like feel. Fire, Vauxhall, in terms of architecture is a great venue, however having to have their staff and consumerist mentality wasn't so great.

Easier to navigate between spaces, security staff and management need to be align to the possible extent with the burner / kink scene.

Electrowerks.

Electroworks is awesome.

Find a venue that understands and cares about our community or don't run it at all.

Fire has a pretty bad security team, but this time round no hassle for me/my friends. I always get off fine but I'm aware there's issues with their searching. Fire is a great venue, love the outdoor area, the number of rooms, the size. Much better sound quality than elektrowerkz too. If we could find a

warehouse and take it over, I think that's worth looking into for a slightly bigger and more controlled environment.

Fire is an old venue that has dated equipment and infrastructure. The best part about it is the layout. But it's run and maintained very poorly. They also probably breached the venue hire contract by ending a room an hour early especially when the room was full and exploding with good vibes and atmosphere. That was honestly shocking and something I'd never experienced before and am quite frankly disappointed and appalled by how it went.

For rooms to not get shut down early

Friendlier security.

Get a better venue that allows for the considered flow of people between rooms. Consider this and manage it. The sea of people rushing and shoving in the corridors and pushing into the rooms ruined the experience. On arriving at rooms, people pushed in, shoving people from behind.

Given it's in November a decent temperature makes a huge difference.

Good range of rooms and spaces, accessibility and transport. But better/less intense security. We have tried working with them to change this and it does not seem successful overall. And Welfare needs a bigger space, was too small. No toilet attendants and/or a way that they are not selling stuff.

I like Fire very much ... Sort of labyrinth

I liked this venue because of the variety it offers, it reminded me of the good old days of the Coronet (RIP).

I love the venue! Please stay here.

I loved the indoor outdoor aspect but it would be good to have some real space to have some great art.

I think it works as is. The modular rooms allow for change within a great structure

I thought it was a good venue

I'd love to see a blank-slate venue further out of London.

If we can move away from a licensed venue, that would be great. Drinks prices were horrendous (but water was always given with a smile).

If you can get a wonderful non-invasive security team like at Fire but at a larger venue with more variety I think that would be the perfect blend. The venue from a few years ago at Elephant & Castle was incredible to behold but the security were horribly aggressive and invasive.

It was disruptive that another event was taking place at the same time. Especially during build.

It would be lovely to have somewhere with exclusive use when setting up/breaking down! Transport access, disability access - the steps were a bit of a nightmare in heels

It's great when there are many rooms and nooks and crannies to explore!

It's nice to have an outdoor space where people hang out to have a chat (and not just an outdoor space for smokers)

Larger venue might work

Loved that there were bike racks nearby!

Make it less commercial, have the venue to ourselves instead of sharing it. Have some quiet rooms for quiet(er) workshops.

Maybe a different place but with sex licence still, and maybe somewhere we could stay for the after party

Maybe somewhere a bit spaced out would be great, and/or with less people...I know hard to do in London

Maybe to have a bigger chill area. To the woods got very busy very quickly so it wasn't very chill most of the time. Sometimes there is a need to sit down for a couple of minutes and gain the energy back. But I really liked the variety of rooms. It could never get boring!

More ladies toilets or unisex toilets, a warm chillout area as well as multiple dance spaces and a play area.

More outdoor space. Perhaps with some nature around.

More space, longer license. Why not make the full day (before or after). Art, talks, workshops etc. in the day. Seems a shame it's only the night.

Multiple theme camps works really well with the arches. I think the venue suits decom extremely well.

Need a bigger space, felt crowded, difficult to get to the bathrooms, the AC was not working properly (some rooms were freezing and others way too hot)

Neurodivergent friendly entry!

Never really been a fanbof railway arches tbh

New security. They were waaaaay too much.

No exploitive labour included in the party.

No stupid rules in the venue. But I am aware how difficult is to get a good venue for this event.

Not a commercial venue. It's about Burning Man community but not making money :(

not closing at 4am

Not closing rooms early, generally keep the event till later in the morning

Not Fire! Further out of town, maybe not even in London. Consider warehouse type venues up north maybe? Somewhere where a longer event might be possible. A 24 or 48 hour event would be great.

NOT Fire. I will not be attending again if it's held there. Smaller, with more variety of spaces, earlier start time so people can have some daytime vibes and actually connect with each other. Not getting harassed out of the venue/forced into early packdown.

Not south london.

Personally loved the venue

Please arrange with the venue for people to bring medication in. I have medication I need to take in the mornings and had to bring it with me as I wouldn't be able to get home before postcom.

PLEASE consider going to Electrowerkz!!!! The venue security are actually friendly and not a bunch of assholes. The venue is large and not cramped like the awful tunnels at Fire, the corridors between rooms at Electrowerkz are really wide so you never feel hemmed in or pushed about by too many people. I've been to many Burner-esque and kink-scene nights at Electrowerkz and it's always been a success thanks to the venue and staff. Was hugely disappointed by Fire.

Please, please can we have our own security. Fire security always seem so aggressive and it makes the experience so unpleasant. I don't feel like I can ever relax in case I'm caught doing or saying something they don't approve of. I've heard so many stories of their aggressive attitudes, although I've been fortunate enough to avoid them myself.

plenty of spacaes for theme things is my preference

Queues were the only big issue I think, and they tried to stack events right next to us at the end of the night which made the strike team work a bit more stressful

Security was full on and took all my sweetie gifts. Would have liked to have known that food was not permitted which I guess would have been known by organisers

Size and maybe ability to BYOB

Start event 7 or 8pm No narrow corridors to have to go through to reach different parts of the venue

Stick with Fire if you can.

That venue has great potential and the individual spaces were fab for creating many different spaces but I don't think it is worth it for a venue with so many other issues that won't be changing. I say this with no knowledge of the london club / space hire scene but surely something more chill exists?

The lighting in the main entrance was awful, security were unnecessarily and inappropriately aggressive, Decom should not be in a commercial place where you have to pay for drinks.

The sweet crumpets area got really hot and stuffy from around the midpoint of the night, it made the cuddle puddle a bit too unappealing. Is there a way to improve ventilation in that area specifically?

The venue having so many other events on at the same time, along with during strike and build was a massive pain in the arse and detracted from decom.

The venue is suitable for purpose, but the staff could be a bit more pleasant

The venue team is incredibly important - considering it's a burn, you'd want the venue team to be able to reflect these values as much as possible (within the parameters of the role) or just... to put it honestly, not be total dickheads

The venue was good , complicated to get around but that added to the experience

The venue was way too overcrowded in the first half of the night, combined with constant bottle necks to move between areas really made it unpleasant imo. The idea of multiple different rooms is exciting but if you're constantly jostling with other people to try to just move around, you can't really enjoy the space. As people left throughout the night, the density eased a bit and you could move around the venue more easily, while there still being enough people to give a good party atmosphere.

The vibe, a big enough venue with no cramped corridors, and the no commerce aspect are essential. I know you put loads of effort into this, but the result was a weird vibe and lots of bad experiences before the night started and £8 a can? What!?! 😞

They should treat their staff better

This venue is awful. It smells, it's run down. I would consider not coming next year because of the venue. I do not think that it adds value to the event

Travel time isn't as important as amenities for an all-night event. A more spacious outdoor area may have given more room for people to meet, sit down and talk. Interiors were great.

Van access for heavy decor pieces, communicative security, very clear maps and line up sheets in many places, the play space closer to the cuddle space, more chill spaces

Variety of rooms and spaces. (Fire is perfect for that).

Welcoming security and a chill space for those who are burners not ravers

Wider space. Chill out areas with seating. Non intrusive/abusive staff. Dry bar hire area for gifting of drinks. Exclusive use for duration.

Yes change location

# Did you experience any non-consensual touch or verbal harassment from any staff, volunteers or guests at Decom?

No one seemed to pay any attention to the cameras policy. Some of us want to relax from the outside world..

A significant amount of pushing and shoving into me continuously that made the entire night unenjoyable. I attend raves, club nights and gigs all the time and have not experienced this level of rushing and shoving in a long time if ever. It felt as though people were rushing to other rooms and just didn't give a fuck who they pushed into on the way

as mentioned, the venue security grabbed me to stop me from leaving.

Had one guy slap my ass. Told him off thoroughly, he apologised.

Have remembered what triggered the security issue... they told me I had to finish my drink and throw the bottle away. They pulled me out of the queue because I wouldn't throw the bottle away. it was my drinking vessel for the night.

I experienced intrusive behaviour from community members and leads that I found to be harassment, bullying and not in line with the spirit and culture of Burning Man and radical inclusion

I felt it was a very respectful event especially on the dance floor.

I had one very aggressive man try to kiss me despite repeatedly telling him no and pushing him off. He was grabbing me and pulling me in

I think we could do a lot more to advertise this in advance, particularly for survivors to be able to find out if persons of risk are coming/what Decom can do to support them. I will put more in the leads feedback form.

I was harassed constantly with questions about my disability from strangers. One guy even asked me "can you walk?" Highly inappropriate and rude. I was approached by many cis presenting men as I was almost nude and they felt appropriate chat up to show interest was to ask ignorant and rude questions about my disability

I witnessed my partner (male) suffer at least 2 accounts of sexual harassment from guests and unnecessary aggression from security

In fact the balance of touchy feely and personal space was well observed. I found people very considerate. Because some people do dress to be and like to be touched, and others don't, and the judgement of that seemed fine.

Naively I didn't expect there to be such a big sex element - it was eye opening and I really enjoyed the experience and the approach.

Non-consensual touch (on my shoulder to feel the material of my T shirt but without asking). I had forgotten until now, no further action required.

Not other than the security staff getting annoyed at me as a greeter for holding up the line

People were respectful

security man

Security staff was verbally hostile.

See comment about venue security

Someone from the guests grabbed my ass when passing behind me

Two women decided to check out my dick without asking. I'm not bothered about that but it is against the policy.

Way too many altered people who would grab you randomly.

We as a community spend a lot of time on Consent and I think on the margin we should spend less time on it, and just exclude bad actors.

Yes, but it was minor and didn't bother me



# Did you visit Buttered Crumpets (the play space)?

A friend was volunteering in there - but was too busy to get in when we tried, then we got distracted with something else !

As a lead I think this might be being singled out to be asked about as having a play space limits venue options. If I didn't know that though, it makes me think that there were problems with Crumpet, which I don't think there were? If I was from another camp it might also make me think that the survey was not interested in more specific feedback about them, why just Crumpet?

Can we please not waste space on this completely unnecessary camp? Who in their right mind wants to have sex in a crappy club venue?? Almost nobody, that's who! In considering venues for London Decom it is absolutely ridiculous that a sex licence is a requirement. Go to a sex event if you must fuck, leave London Decom for the rest of us!

Far too small for the interest it generated. The fan had an annoying squeak. I did like the division of intimacy and sexual but they were so far away from each other.

First time in Buttered Crumpet. The volunteers at the door were very informative, going through all key points thoroughly but concisely. The floor play space was a little small - could have been a bit bigger. We went early in the night and it wasn't full but couldn't fit many more people in it. Volunteers in the space were helpful, I witnessed them checking that someone was OK, which was very reassuring.

Great space!

Heard about it but didn't find it

I couldn't find it. I did find their cuddle puddle area. The person who said they were facilitating it was not very nice. He told me to move to a different position, away from the person I was cuddling and talking to, so he could take that space for him and his friends. I told him a firm no.

I didn't play. Just chilled.

I don't think that it is required for a BM party. If I wanted to get involved in kinky experiences I would go to a dedicated event for this.

I found it but didn't go in as it's a partnered space and I wasn't with anyone. The facilitation in the other crumpet spaces was a bit non-existent / lacking in direction and vibe

I had beautiful interactions with the people I chose to enter the room with and felt safe once in the room. However whilst queuing for the room in my wheelchair people kept trying to queue jump in front of me because either they didn't see me or did see me and thought a disabled person couldn't possibly be queueing for such a room. It was incredibly frustrating and my girlfriend had to keep telling people off for doing it which was ruining the mood for us. I left my chair near the entrance and went down to a mattress to play. Unfortunately my chair was most likely in the way for other people but there was no other room for it.

I just dropped in, had the briefing, and then the people I came with weren't up for playing so we headed out. but the briefing seemed really relevant and was given well, and I liked that one could catch up on it at the door. also that I could just head out again.

I put it together

I visited the camp, but not the play section. I had an awesome time eating crumpets and getting buffed/massaged. A very positive experience.

I was aware it existed, but couldn't find it. Kept getting distracted by other lovely people and interactions when I made a concerted effort to hunt it out

I was there without my husband unfortunately ;)

I went there but the line was too long so didn't go in. Would love to otherwise

I would have liked for this room to be bigger, or have more shapes and spaces to explore within. I also found these rooms hard to find so missed the events earlier in the night

It was a bit difficult to find and a bit smaller than I'd prefer, but I was glad it was there and it was very comfortable

It was a nice experience but I think if there was sectioned off areas as well as being open to so everyone can see that would be nice too

It was full

Nor did I look for it!

Odd to have the play space so far away from the other Crumpet space



Really hard to find^^ Overheated. Missing an "in between" space between loud music/ dancing and f\*cking burners, maybe some more semi-private spaces/ nooks, chill out & cuddle area.. "Consent / rules introduction" impossible to follow and digest due to loud music. That Felt like it wasn't being taken seriously.

Sexy sexy fan noise...

The queue took too long to get in

The queue was large when we tried.

There was a queue whenever I end up there so I didn't go in, but that wasn't an issue. It's a really fun but not essential part of a burning man event for me.

There wasn't enough variety in the place space. I didn't find it a very sexual environment and was mostly turned ofd

Things to improve (in my opinion): - Much more space needed - More interesting lighting (e.g. fairy lights or coloured filters) - Larger and more organised shoe space (a shoe rack would have been good as shoes were easily lost) - Space with more air - it was very hot and stuffy up there - Maybe some more soft furnishings or textured or fluffy cushions or play things like feathers or massage tools

Was fine.

When I wanted to it was already shut down

Wish I knew it was there!!!

# Do you have any suggestions as to how we can do more to make Decom a Leave a Better Trace event?

- Have beer on tap rather than in cans - Place some recycling bins

Asking people to bring a cup to a licenced venue is ridiculous! There is zero need to bring cups to Fire, please stop asking people to bring them just so you can pretend that you are doing the right thing!

Check with theme camp that they don't use polyester and plastic to build things

Costume swap event prior to Decom.

Dry hire... LNT plans for art (there was a lot of crap left just to be thrown away).

Encourage people to make/recycle their decor rather than buying plastic crap... encourage people to public transport here? but the major thing is the flying, isn't it.

Find a venue that lets us strike in our own time without kicking us out early.

Have earlier or more costume swap / burning pub events in the leadup to Decom

Have rangers to look after it. There was lots of trave everywhere, unfortunately

I actually found the cup thing a bit of a problem in terms of hygiene, sorry!

I brought my own cup but the bar staff insisted on giving me a plastic cup for a drink anyway...

I brought my own cup but then the venue gave me drinks in their own plastic cups anyway. That feels a bit wasteful.

I suggest using the word outfit, not costume. Someone asked me what I was dressed as (like for Halloween). I said "myself".

I think knowing this was a club venue, it seemed a bit silly to be encouraged to bring your own receptacle... But had we been in an outdoor setting I would have understood

I was unaware about bringing a cup until arriving at the venue

It's a commercial space. It makes no sense to recommend a cup when cans are predominantly sold.

Incentives work well!

Inform about the resources being used up due to the event & offer options offsetting the impact.

Inform the bar staff that people have cups before they waste any

Instead of bringing our own cups we should be given reusable cups. I'd be willing to pay more for that.

It can't it's a club night the planets fucked with the PRC don't worry about it.

Let people buy Decom branded reusable cups they can take proudly to future events and/or keep them as souvenir. Profits can go to the cost of the event or give to charity.

Make mandatory for people to bring their cup or sell some if people did not bring one.

More LBT focus in Decor? We do make a lot new each time. More Decor storage space would help.

More recycling bins around.

Never found costume camp. Could have swapped stuff out at end? Prehaps.

None of the bartenders asked me for my cup, and very often gave me a drink in a paper cup before I said I have one on me!

outfits please, not costumes :) in costumes - we pretend to be someone outfits - are expressions of who we are

prevent the sale of and use of canned drinks, individually bottled drinks etc. People ordering chips etc should bring their own plates.

Re Q28..... because I knew I wouldn't buy a drink. I brought my own large water bottle Q29 yes absolutely, there has to be recycling for glass and plastic! VERY important

Thank you for finally getting Fire onboard with our bringing our own cups. It would have been nice to see recycling and main rubbish bins though? Not too difficult? If most people would pay more (I would), but we don't need to charge more, we could also make a donation to charity? Charity to be chosen by attendees, perhaps from a short list linked to Principles?

The bar staff didn't seem properly briefed on the "bring your own cup". They seemed to default to using their own plastic cups.

There was a lot of waste lying around the edges of the dance floors towards the end of the night. It would be great to avoid this. Would it be possible to make an arrangement with the bar that they pour the drinks from cans and bottles into people's cups and then recycle them?

Use soap bars instead of hand soap if possible

# Do you have any suggestions on how Decom could be improved for next year?

Awesome keep it up

Balkan beats room

Be nicer and more inclusive to everyone.

Better cloakroom (less queue), somehow better/more toilets?

Better venue

Better venue with better agreements

Better venue. Better consideration of how people flow and move between spaces. management of the flow of movement between rooms. Better signage. Better messaging about shoving/pushing. Volume levels managed. Music was too loud in some rooms

Bigger buttered crumpet room with more space and may sections that can be slightly more private.

I'd like to hear people but not necessarily been seen the whole time

Blank slate site away from London. Probably make it at least during the day too. Maybe have the afterparty at the same venue?

Can't say as this was my first one and I was elated

Clear box to leave borrowed costume (had to pop it to lost and found as the space had closed and box not found)

Communications: - there could have been an email outlining the art coming to decom, it would be so interesting to read what we're people bringing and stories behind it Signage: - big improvement point, I only found one map during the whole event! Music: - more variety, and including the type of music on the signage Security: - took me a long time to land and decompress after that experience different security team that is familiar with burner values

Different security team.

Different venue!!!

Different venue, better differentiation between the rooms

Don't hold it at Fire

Dry hire a venue and have burner friendly security. I appreciate this is a massive financial price and may not be feasible in reality

Find a better, kinder, more understanding venue. If that means making it smaller, that's fine.

get messages, theme, information and requests out earlier for more planning time

green room closer to the performers area and venue staff clear on not sending everyone there

have a Decom every quarter or twice a year :P

Hello Decom, I want to share my experience and feedback as a performer. I appreciate your hard work and understand the stress of organising such an event. I comprehend the scale of the organisation and the challenges it brings. Misfortune and miscommunication happen all the time; it's natural. But things were stacked up that I couldn't ignore. Unpleasant things happened that I want to highlight for your future events. \_ My name was written wrong on the maps. (not my artist name also) \_ My artist's name was not listed as a performer in the lineup in printed materials. They added it to digital documents at the last minute. From an artist's perspective, it is better to have a correct representation. Decom explained the situation as follows: they wanted to position my performance as a surprise to the audience. And an MC will present my name before my performance. It didn't happen. Also, the organisation didn't get my consent to position my performance as a surprise. In my opinion, this is more than a communication mishappening. I believe, not being listed on the lineup is not aligned with the radical inclusion principle. After the event, the only remaining thing is documentation. So people can search/reach artists with who they have an interest. It enables further interaction and communication. \_ Ten minutes before my performance, I reached the stage, set up my equipment and was just about to start; someone from the organisation (whom I had never seen before during the technical tests and meetings) said another performer was going to have the LED screens. He asked me to postpone my work for an hour. I stand my ground. I was ready and was keeping myself sober to present the best performance; I didn't want to wait another hour. Some chaos happened between stage managers, and they let me start eventually. It was an anxious moment. \_ I'm using an iPad and positioning myself in the dance crowd. That is how I do my thing.

So I don't have instant access to the stage. As I started performing, the LED screens began to go black arbitrarily. At first, I thought this was a technical issue and waited for ten minutes; Then, I left my iPad in the crowd, reached the stage and found the guy running the technical desk. I asked why the LEDs were not working correctly. And he replied, "I'm doing it on purpose; I'm making a show". I said, "This is my time slot; LED should be in my control." He got angry and shouted at me, "Look! I'm making a show here!". I was pretty upset but didn't want to cause a scene. Gone back into the crowd to my iPad. This LED misuse continued for half an hour. I was able to perform fully for the last half an hour. A technical person hijacking an artist's performance is pretty frustrating. \_\_\_\_\_ I attended the first meeting in September and wrote my name to the lists. I came for the venue scouting, tested my equipment before the event day, and helped other artists figure out their technical problems. I was present on the event day, following rules and procedures. I travelled to the venue using two means of transport a total of 3 times. I paid great effort, money and energy into adding value to the event. Overall I'm feeling neglected, discarded and under-appreciated now. I hope my experience will help you construct a better organisation for your next events. Thank you for the great party. Koffgokhan. Hold back tickets for volunteers. Have more chill out spaces. Have higher tiers for ticket prices.

Host it at electrowerks? Or even at Here at Outernet

I honestly had such a great time, I just wish I can get enough tickets for next year, as some of my friends didn't manage to make it to Decom this year

I know it's next to impossible to find suitable venues in London so this was great but hated the officious overwhelming security at the start

I love the performance at the beginning without loud music... So I would keep that way until like midnight. It was lovely lovely

I loved the promotion of the 10 principles both before and on the night. I'd love to see even more of this and the ethos of Burning Man so those who aren't yet burners learn more about this side of Burning Man. It's not just about partying!

I think it's time for a new venue, Fire are too much of a pain to deal with. But where?

I think the event would be better served by a more chill venue, if possible, but appreciate how challenging that is.

i was a greeter - we need to think how greeters can interact with the public. what i personally did was greet people in the cloakroom queue, and that worked well - but i couldn't singlehandedly greet more than a third of the queuers. other greeters joining me would have helped. and later, when the queue got very short and quick, there was no time to greet people. the fact is: we can only greet people in a place and time when they're waiting around. it's not possible to greet people for more than one second at the moment they enter the venue - they're in a hurry. we could have greeted people in the queue outside the event - maybe other greeters did this, i didn't see that. one possibility for next year is put arrivees into a holding area for a couple of minutes, long enough to greet them. this could be accompanied by some activity, eg 'ring a bell' or 'turn to a stranger in the queue, and compliment that person'

I was a greeter but it was very difficult to welcome people at the entrance as door security staff kept telling people to move along.. so we moved inside for a better spot by which time people have already come in and greetings were a little pointless.. maybe organize with the venue beforehand a specific spot for greeters or scrap that part

It would be great to have known more about what art would be there before the event! I stumbled upon lots but also missed some because I wasn't aware of it.

Keep doing what you're doing :)

Less people or bigger venue. No commerce.

Longer times

Make it easier to bring performances.

Maybe Tom Allen can have it in his warehouse as he's soon keen on it...

More big rooms playing music through to 7am - that was great. Bigger venue. SEATING IN THE SMOKING AREA PLEASE.

More burner friendly venue - especially in terms of security and decommmodification - dry hire of a venue with no venue staff present. Security that are burner friendly, more chilled out.

More chill/sitting spaces

More drum and bass! Or music with a bit more energy/beat

More of a day thing, maybe not in London, what about Bristol?

More soft seating. A lot of the chill space was taken up by couples cuddling or people sleeping so there wasn't a lot of chances to sit and chat with someone.

More varied music, more highlighted performances.

Moved from Fire venue to a venue that allows us to Burn more in line with Burner Principles

New venue better set up for theme camps..

Non commercial location. No money. The drinks were insanely expensive. Higher prices than even in some other bars in London. It's not according to burning man principles. I felt I attended a party but not a burning man event.

Not have it at Fire. Longer event.

Not in central London

Not really. I think you did an incredible job of distilling the Burner vibe into a one night event. Thank you so much, and I can't wait until next year!

Open 7 or 8pm, have longer access to the whole venue for build, different venue (yes, I know it's difficult, but reports of assault by security should totally rule out having it at Fire.

Perhaps some of the Organisers could step aside and let others join in that also know how to make parties great. They made people send their credentials in order to volunteer. New ideas were shut down and the friends of the organisers were chosen to make theme camp spaces. A friend had their art trashed by strikers and the attitudes of staff were really poor

Pick better DJs, have more varied activities

Please no paid bar, better to be in a worse venue but follow all BM principles

Please please please change venue! Organise the event earlier post BM so it can start early in the day and have a proper outdoor.

Please, don't have it at Fire again. Anything but Fire. I didn't come last time because Fire was so unpleasant and overwhelming the first time. I'm so sad that things haven't improved since then. The afterparty was incredible. A no-commerce venue would be incredible.

Psytrance. DnB. Free tickets for volunteers. If we can get own warehouse space that would be sweet but potentially risk/pricy. Really like QoH for afters but felt the capacity was significantly lower than it needed to be, it was not full at all. As was the mixed messaging on tickets being available on door, where some ppl could get them on door and others couldn't. veggie options at postcom were weak. I ended up having chocolate toast.

Remind me to stay sober please

See 29

see my earlier post. I think decom is just another london costume party in its current state. could take it or leave it. I think some kind of warehouse party vibe, smaller, more burner-y in vibe, maybe something we all have to work for a little more, would be more interesting.

Slightly better ventilation, more non-dance events later in the night (if any camps are willing to volunteer for it). Otherwise it was fantastic and I loved it!!!

Smaller venue, used for multiple days. Option to either get a ticket for one day or all three, for example. Have one single (massive) decor team and have themecamps be in charge of programming particular stages at particular times, rather than spreading everyone super thin making their own space's decor

So it seems some people get paid for attending decom now. How is this community? We never paid anyone before, why now? And why don't volunteers get gifted a ticket? We either reward all the people who make the event, or none. These two tiered system is an insult

Speakers improved. More art. More music variety. Better integrated bar staff. And I'd pay £40 to support the improvements

Start SO much further in advance. Especially as it will be a new venue.

Starting the planning earlier Having a Town Hall type event early on Better advertising of Consent team, and what they can do, particularly in enabling survivors to attend safely. More information about each of the theme camps More time to digest the line up, and the range of art to seek out The emails were hard to see on both my phone and my laptop? Not sure if that is because I don't use the 'dark screen' options that lots tend to use these days? It would obviously be interesting to see the answers from attendees, but I think we know enough already to know we need another venue if possible. More room for Welfare

Take it to Electrowerkz and have some more variety in music

The bar staff had no idea what room they were working in and of any arrangements for the room. I think it might be a good idea to brief them next year. I would also suggest printed maps at the bars to help people navigate their way around

The email communications were repetitive and could benefit from being streamlined.

The google sheet for finding hosts didn't work out, barely anyone used it.

The only thing which could have been better is the sound system. Other than that it was an incredible night.

The pre-decom organisation felt a little more disorganised this year, however I didn't have the capacity as I have done in previous years to be fully up to speed with everything, so that may have contributed to my feelings of mis-communication within the teams.

There was a lack of clear storage space for the theme camps which had early strike. This final strike lacked clarity on where to put stuff outside and get transport.

Venue is good. Though it was always an issue the brainless gorillas at the entrance and even inside venue. They think that we are terrorists or something like that. Not sure it's something we can improve tbh.

Well done the organizers, thank you for the effort. I am happy to Vol if and when practical.

What would make it amazing for me is if it started earlier in the day. More time for more workshops and a chance to meet people who aren't too drunk or high yet. As mentioned before: more variety of music, more distinguishable themes (mainly decor), more outdoor space, cleaner toilets, more recycle bins. More events throughout the year! To help build the London burner community more.

Yes!! It really has to start at 3 pm next year!! It's way too short!!! I'm sure everyone would love the idea!!

You guys rock and thank you for everything

# Last words

Amazing night. Well done and thank you All

Appreciate all the work that goes into Decom - thank you.

Daithi K in Celtic Chaos played the best set

Decom seems to be trying to serve 3 distinct groups: burn curious/non-burners; people who only do BM; and people who do regionals. These have different and arguably conflicting needs but one thing that would tie them all together is spaces/pretexts for interacting with new people so the newbies get inducted into the culture. Fire isn't the right venue to allow this.

Fantastic job to the team, my entire time at the venue and party was great!

Fire sucks.

Fuck your burn x

Great team, lots of work put in.

Great work... had an amazing time.

Hopefully you guys got some actually useful feedback after all your hard work. You don't get appreciated enough

How do we find more events like this? I know decom is one of a kind, but is there anything similar in London? I had the best time, and crave more Burner magic in my life. How do we find it in London?

I did see how much stress and upset the issues with the venue put onto others which was sad to witness and hear about. Despite this I did really enjoy my night and am impressed by the efforts everyone made to co-create a wonderful event.

I really enjoyed it.

I think lower ticket prices for build/strike/theme camp teams would be good, we build the event and often spend a lot out of our own pocket to make it happen - and then pay the same for tickets as everyone else. I say keep the current prices for theme camp/build/strike/teams and increase the ticket prices for everyone else!

I think you're all awesome and do appreciate this is not an easy task

I'd love to see a UK Decom North. Liverpool would be perfect.

I'm glad it stayed burn-like instead of reverting to just being a club night.

In my experience of looking to be proactively anti-racist/discriminatory action, it is good practice to include an optional section for people to self-identify along the various dimensions, with an explanation that we know that certain groups within our community, particularly the global majority, are under-represented, and to best seek to hear and include them, we need to identify marginalised voices and seek to amplify them. From this survey we cannot explore if our Black, female, minority, etc attendees had any different views or any different experiences / make sure to amplify their voices. I think that is really important if we want to reach a position of being more inclusive.

Is it still a burn if it is held at a commercial venue?

It was amazing <3

It was an epic evening. A big thank you to everyone involved in making it possible.

It was an epic night! Huge kudos to all the volunteers who put in so many hours to make it a success

It was great to see Welfare enough!!

It was great!!!

It would be great to find a way around the ticket scammers. I have no answers for this unfortunately, but know of a few people who had scammers try their luck.

LOVED it!! The people were so friendly and I felt so safe. I'd had a negative experience a few weeks before at a Fox and Badge event and was a bit anxious it would be the same but felt utterly comfortable and welcomed.

No

Overall it was epic. Honestly I can't get over the love, the creativity, the imagination, dedication and general AWESOMENESS of this community. At one moment I was dancing and I felt I was peaking at life - surrounded by the best people, music, performers, decor, light show- it was intensely incredible. Maybe the party was TOO GOOD my brain couldn't comprehend, waaaaaaahhhh. Well done to everyone 🙌 impressed to the max.

Seating in the smoking area is essential, and just more in general.



Some of the notices, such as room events, I can not read without my glasses

Still thoroughly enjoyed it and being part of it!

Thank you 4 hard work

Thank you all you wonderful vols who made it happen - especially Decor!

Thank you for all your efforts. Despite a shitty venue efforts to make the place pretty was noticed.

Thank you for all your hard work. I so appreciate this event and the community that creates it.

thank you for organising!!!

Thank you for putting on an amazing party, it was so good to be back <3 <3 <3

Thank you so much <3 I felt super safe and respected, really comfortable and free to be myself, and had a really beautiful night full of connection and happy times with beautiful people. Thanks for all your efforts!!

Thank you so much for organizing!

Thank you so much for such an awesome party. "Sharing is caring" is a perfect motto to sum up this night of fun and care we got from everyone

thank you team, after the covid it was an amazing experience to back in the community

Thank you to all. You are one of the most beautiful things I've come across in my whole life

Thank you! It was wonderful

THANK YOU!!!

Thanks everyone!

Thanks for everything

The website felt needlessly exclusive to anyone who didn't share the political leanings of the organiser? Might be better to keep it apolitical.

There are so many venues in London. I really believe a far more interesting and better venue for this could be found. Shoving a super creative event into a nightclub that didn't work for it is disappointing.

Volunteers: There was obviously an issue with finding enough volunteers this year, especially for strike. We really need to revisit this no incentive for volunteers nonsense. Burning Man gives volunteers free or discounted tickets, the DPW gets paid, but apparently London Decom needs to be burnier than Burning Man. If it's not working, it's okay to find a better way. Theme camps: Many theme camps were asking for last minute volunteers and performers. If these camps did not have the capacity to do what they committed to, they should not have been placed. Perhaps this is something to check during the placement process. Photo consent: The current requirements for official photographers are basically absurd. The written consent form is outdated, unusable and also unnecessary. A) I would argue that official photographers getting written consent from each and every person is unnecessary, especially when people have paid to enter a commercial venue and everyone is using their phones anyway, and B) There could be better ways to do this using an app or even an online form. Maybe if photo consent is so non negotiable it might be better not to have official photographers. What are we doing with the photos anyway? Also, coming back to Burning Man, one of my good friends is a photographer on the media team, and this is not something they need to deal with.

Was a good event, enjoyed volunteering and greeting, that was great, as were the greeter leads!

Was great fun. Wish I could have afforded the after party as this would have been better as an opportunity to talk to people properly. Drinks were a shocking price sadly

Way to go team! Despite the issues have total respect for the volunteers. Was an amazing night

We need more parties

Well done everyone , great event ! Loved it

Well done!!!

Well done, guys. Any constructive criticism is just making the best night of the year even better! You guys are doing an INCREDIBLE job!

Wish there were more events per year!

you all worked really hard and the issues were just to do with teh venue, which is really limited by what's available in London. So you really did a great job under the circumstances :)

You are all wonderful Thank you sooo much for all the work and hours put in to make this event happen