



London Decompression 2023 Survey Text Replies

Foreword

Many thanks to the 204 people that completed the survey. This correlates to a response rate of 10.5% of the 1947 tickets sold which is generally in line with previous years.

It is recognised that these responses are only partially representative of the entire event experience.

Nearly all survey responses have been included in this document, 3 responses have not been included due to inappropriate content.

One response was edited due to someone being named alongside a negative comment. Names of people with positive comments have not been removed.

A response is a single person's reply which might contain references to several items both positive and negative. This document has reclassified single 'responses' into separate positive and negative 'mentions'. Where single replies have been split until multiple mentions, the grammar and punctuation may not be correct.

Spelling, grammatical and other errors have been corrected only where the correction was obvious. There has been no attempt to change the sentiment or meaning of a response.

Statistics and overview information are shown in the London Decompression 2023 Survey Responses Analysis Presentation document.

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Volunteering

Q6. Why didn't you volunteer?

31 free text responses for Another Reason

I found that you had to commit to a time slot which I find difficult because of other commitments. It would be great in the future if you had a "help here" point where people who can't be fixed to a time could volunteer at the time maybe to cover people who had t turned up etc
I'd be happy to pay more for a non-volunteer ticket
living abroad, not enough time in London
Also bust my ankle up
I'm a newbie. Maybe next time!
I flew from Switzerland and wasn't sure how I manage timewise.. also I didn't feel very confident to help 🙄 i will next time for sure ☺
I am pregnant and only stayed a few hours
I was booked to do some photography but you wanted copyright to all my images which unfortunately I could not agree to. This was disappointing as I could not offer my skills & I also felt this goes against the ethos of Burning man who are suppose to be supportative of independent artists and their work.
Too tired emotionally from creative work at my daily job. Needed a change of scene and not to stress about things
Flew in internationally and had very limited time and resources. Also contributed to post com
I was not in the UK
just didn't think about it but I think I will next year
My mental health was being crap and I couldn't figure out what I had the energy for
I stayed with friends so I had to follow their suit :)
I wasn't sure I will be coming this year
I need more notice and more detail about time commitment in order to volunteer
I performed and if I had volunteered too it would have been a very long day for me
Helped out at the last three so decided to take a year out this year, sorry
I live a long way from London and only knew if I could make it the day before.
I signed up but never was contacted to help. I didn't know where to start.
I volunteer a lot at other things and am really burnt out and this was my pure fun no responsibility time which I had promised myself
It was my first event so didn't feel like I had much to offer
I don't live in London and I was also performing at decom
I was soo keen to get involved but I think I joined the telegram a bit late and it was a bit hard to figure out how the organisation worked and how to join it.
I was sober, in hindsight I could have volunteered as a ranger
I was supposed to be helping with an art project that didn't get chosen
I found it difficult to get to and from the venue. I also didn't know anyone so felt quite shy about helping
Wanted to experience the event first before committing to volunteer. Now I have, I'm happy to do it next time
I was working (job job) both Sat & Sun so no time, and live a bit too far out of town to pop in and do stuff. But I did support a friend who did volunteer
I live in Germany and only managed to get my ticket a week before

I was unable to commit

Q9. How did you find the experience? Is there anything we could do to make it smoother / more appealing to encourage others to join in?

67 individual responses - 39 positive mentions, 46 negative mentions or suggestions

Incredible! Amazing, space! Iona is outstanding and so professional and efficient.
I loved it and I was already very keen to participate, so I'm not sure what to suggest to make it more appealing
Great!
It was amazing
It was really great this year, I much preferred this venue to fire. I feel that we still have a lot to learn about what to do with the space but am optimistic about a bigger and better next year
I love volunteering at burner events, everyone is so lovely and we all just want to make it the best we can. The food was a real bonus, thank you fluffers :D
The experience of volunteering was wonderful, friendly, we were looked after with treats and drinks. With it being my first burning experience, I went to the night feeling as though I knew a few people and felt part of it all. Such an amazing sense of community, collaboration and generosity
Great time, security this year was easy to work with, great group.
GSA more convenient and comfortable than Peckham but Peckham was good too.
Found it great
Brilliant, got to interact way more than usual
Loved it . Much better venue than last year very well run
It was great, Amy from Crumpet organised everything really well so that volunteering was stress free.
It was great and a lovely way to start the evening and meet people
AMAZING AMAZING, I've been telling everyone about it! How do more people not know about this?
was best decom ever
Amazing and wonderful.
I was happy there was an opportunity to pitch in with the strike.
Had a fantastic time, really well put together. Great that there was an outside tap for getting water without queueing at the bar.
I found it great
Incredible
It was cool
was great to be able to contribute and worked alongside some lovely people did 12 hours work on Saturday and enjoyed almost all of it immensely.
Volunteering was great, coordination was really good and overall experience as well.
pre event organisation by the leads was perfect
Good.
The build and strike were really fun. The went was cool, nice to see so many artistic ideas (either dressed up folk, or the settings).
It was ok. Good DJs... the Glory Whole tent which was epic,
Rachel and Gavin did an excellent job in communicating with our camp,
Overall, it was a great experience.
Fun! ... Everyone was nice.

loved it more than i thought i would. i came on my own and even though everyone is friendly,
...good crew new skills & knowledge
Organisation was tip top this year congratulations. I had a brilliant time thank you.
I enjoyed greeting people and the zoom meeting beforehand was useful.
Lovely experience!
Great.
The experience as an artist was smooth and easy, the placement was great.
Build was good Nice to meet people
Comms weren't that good- we would often receive information we knew was incorrect or not hear back about something for ages. It seemed like stuff was going on in the background but just not being disseminated
It was a lot more intense and my role a bit broader than expected... Back up plan if leads aren't found as quickly as hoped?
A better explanation of the structure / peoples responsibilities etc
Welfare needs more space definitely
It was very stressful for no reason, too many meetings and it didn't feel like decom was promoting cocreation.
I assume this Question is regarding volunteering: Requiring volunteers to pay for tickets is always going to be an issue compared to other nights that give free tickets and a +1. This puts a barrier to entry, especially for on-the-night shifts where people want to party. Confirming team should be done earlier, myself I was in a lead role with only 2 weeks to get everything done, while venue was changing things. And also to know who the team is, even knowing most burners I was unaware of who did what which made coordinating on the night difficult to know who to go to for x. Group chat on the night just being uber's doesn't seem effective to me, why aren't rangers on that chat?
For Decor team, starting much earlier in the year so that there is more time to make pieces and less of a mad rush in the two weeks leading up to the event. It would also give time to build bigger pieces and make more Decor as The Cause is very big, so plenty of space for more stuff!
Should have engaged with transport sooner about Decor van load (talking not via a form) Transport would have been so better on Friday night - people don't mind hanging around in the evening. Less so 5am in the morning. Strike vans should have been ready to load immediately, rather than having a holding area then on loading 1.5 hrs after load up was ready Need timed use of scissor lift. Whole decor build was delayed because previous users needed a lot more time than expected - and a lift broke down.
More comms on how Decom is a co-created event. More targeted emails with how to sign up to volunteer.
We need to fix strike. Each team should need to have a strike lead. It ideally should not be the person who did set-up as they are more likely to be fried. In the past I have been the strike lead for SLaP. I did a little of the set-up, went to the party, then was together enough to make sure strike happened well. This could work for other teams too. However it happens, we can't burn people out with a small number of zombies left at the end,

desperately trying to figure out the last bits with whatever shattered remnants of their brain that they can piece together, because if they don't, it won't happen.
It would have been nice to have the imagined design of the themed decor as a visual plan to work towards so then people could have then worked on multiple aspects of the design at the makeries
allow decisions to be made by fewer people
Shift was slightly too long
Need more people on the team and get better at managing tasks.
Okay? Disorganized? I came from out of town and signed up to volunteer for build maybe a month before hand. The one response ended up in my junk mail and said to join the telegram group (which is a medium I've never used before). No idea where I was going, couldn't find the entrance to the place and when I got inside it wasn't really clear what needed to be done. A list of tasks to choose from or a checklist of what needs doing with priorities and directions with a map would have helped.
As a first timer at London Decom, prior to the ticket sale it was not obvious that a London Decom membership was needed to buy a ticket, and on the day the platform worked poorly. Luckily got my ticket through resale, but suspect many couldn't join due to similar issues.
Encourage more volunteers because the workload was pretty mental
The space provided for Welfare was unsuitable; a step up, too small, toilet and storage unsable for most of the event, really felt like tacked on extra. Welfare needs a flat access indoor space larger than a shed in a carpark.
it was ok, my art installation was placed where it was quite cold and windy so I don't think many people visited it after midnight which was a lot of effort and costs to put up, so i found that kinda disappointing .. also i was so excited to make friends and connect with the community,, but it was hard, inside was sooo loud with music and crowded and outside was pretty cold... we really needed a heated centre camp. there was a tent out there but it needed warmth and cozy stuff .. honestly it seemed like another 'party' witch is a shame cuz i know there were stellare people there and smashing outfits to be seen
Maybe hot drink availability in the early hours of the morning
The toilet provided by the venue were in need of a deep clean.
got a bit overwhelmed by all the chats on the telegram and all the different things going on.. personally i find it easier to manage via slack or similar where things are more sorted.
Felt there was too much non burnerd kind of clubbing vibe around. People with their mobile phone filming... pushing to get see or to go through the dancefloor, men no respecting consent and asking weird questions...
Make it obligatory to cocreate in someone even if that is small
I wasn't really able to commit up front as I wasn't sure I could make the event
Maybe a couple more toilets outside but I didn't have to queue too too much.
...there were accessibility issues! If we're at the same venue next year please make ramps on the ground floor a priority. The disabled loo was up a step!!
hiring in a scissor lift which has been inspected and is safe to use, possibly two as there was a lot to be done and It didn't all get finished.
I was asked to help unload a van at the end but actually, I don't think an extra person was needed for that, some people were standing around, because the bottleneck was the number of people in a garage. So it was a bit of a waste of 2 hours. But I'm unsure if it could've been predicted, all is good.
the strike lead made rude judgemental comments about my appearance as soon as I met them which was not pleasant. perhaps a gentle reminder that is not acceptable in our community would be wise. fortunately other community members saw this happen and came and found me and made sure i was ok which was super lovely and helped me massively. i love this community!

I would stress the concept of one burner one shift to encourage people to join, and perhaps even if it requires more effort to coordinate I would make shifts shorter as people are more likely to volunteer if it is for 1hr as opposed to 2hrs or 1.5hrs.
the actual graters shift felt a bit redundant, there were about 8 of us and only a trickle of people so felt a bit of an overkill especially that we were asked to keep it quiet. maybe greeters should only operate at the beginning of the night when everyone is arriving and only have one or two friendly ticket people thereafter when the flow of people is very slow
space sharing between Fluffing and Welfare wasn't a good idea. Fluffers need somewhere safe to put the food reserved for strike. Also lack of obviously safe water points was tricky for both.
The music was really bad though, and the sound systems not that great (but no idea if you were limited by the licence/council). It was first decomp and tbh I expect a bit more music/sound wise.
I expected more experiential and interactive creative spaces like at a burn. Decom was basically a well decorated multi-room club. Super crowded. Love a good sound system but I don't like overcrowded dance floors.
There was a logistic issue with our CCC space that we weren't aware of until we started build (through route to CC space), but this didn't turn out to be a problem in the end.
However, communication wasn't always great. There were some responsibilities that were not originally mentioned, and not communicated particularly well. The Telegram group for Decor was extremely overwhelming (I'm not a big Telegram user though). Uber Leads were helpful, having a co-lead was great! Finding info on my own was difficult though. Some communication channels were not mentioned until very late into the planning. I think some typed up, bullet-pointed job roles would be useful in future years. Also, maybe having a central hub for information instead of Discord/many WhatsApp groups/Email/Telegram chats could be helpful.
Navigating the inside space later in the eve was tricky but that's to be expected.
it would be nice if there was an area arriving on their own to connect with other solo burners. i met some nice people but didn't want to feel like i was cramping their style in the summer would be amazing!
Stressful keeping up with problems
My only suggestion would be a -larger warm seating area. Outside was freezing inside so hot! -Have hot water available or somewhere to get a cuppa
I was a bit sad to miss the opening ceremony, and it was less fun once the music went silent at 10pm, but I'd still do that 8.30-10.30 shift again I guess. I wonder if more people might volunteer for graters if the shifts were 60 or 90 mins?
I did try to get a builder and wellness shift too but never heard back, so I just went up to lost & found on the day. Would have been nice to get contacted even if I don't get the shift :) also, maybe reduce to 90min shifts so people don't miss out on too much?
At peak hours make the volunteer slot shorter?
I wish the decisions on art grants came earlier. We got ours on 18 October. In practice, if we had waited until the application was accepted before starting to build our project, there's no way we could have finished in time. We started planning in July, and building in September. I appreciate people don't want to work on decom before BM, but it would be really great to have another month or two before the event, with a known approved budget.
Welfare space was too small and not fully prepared

Venue & Facilities

Q11. What was your overall impression? (location, layout...)

177 individual responses - 72 positive, 78 mixed, 25 negative/suggestions

176 positive mentions, 159 negative mentions or suggestions.

General

great location
All round fantastic
Good
Much better venue than Fire
Good location
Great venue! Great Location! Super Futuristic!
Wonderful, much better in the spirit of the Burn
great
Really suited to the nature of the event
It was better than the last venue.
100X better in so many ways. especially having more time to build/strike!
Pretty damn cool
Great location
The best party ever💕
Amazing venue
Excellent, loved the quirky venue.
Amazing location
I really liked that venue for Decom party
Kinda cool...
Fabulous!
I liked the new venue I think it was quite a unique fit for a Burning Man event
Good. Like the venue.
Great space for a Burner Event!
Brilliant
Much better venue
fantastic venue, lovely crowd
Amazing
Really fucking amazing. Felt much more like a Burn and the rooms were spectacular.
Otherwise, great!
I loved the venue, and the diversity of things to do away from the dancefloor.
Great venue.
Great location and really good vibe
good location

Unique, fascinating, free and other worldly.
Loved it!
Everything looked great once the lights were off and the music was on.
Worth the trip across the pond.
Much better than the last year
perfect, hadn't been before but what i heard was that it was really good in comparison to previous years
Loved the location
Amazing, loved the venue and the spaces
Loved it. Great find!
Soooo much better than Fire - we should use The Cause again, especially now having been there once I think everyone will know how to use the space even better
was cool
Decent venue.
Location is fantastic!
Great location for Decom
Great new venue - but very lucky with the venue
Location - good.
Excellent
pretty cool location
everything was great.
Location was very good. Layout was OK.
Amazing, really cool venue
The site is very cool, I enjoyed it a lot.
Great location
Location was excellent
Great location,
Great location
Fantastic! So much diversity and unusual. Perfect fit for a burn event
Perfect location
otherwise a great venue
Super cool, big! Slightly confusing
I loved it!
once we got into our groove it was good
Amazing new venue absolutely perfect
Great location
The [venue] is one of the best of the last remaining quirky venues. It's a great choice.
Amazing! Felt like a burn.
best venue for decom
I thought it was the best every decom party much larger than other years
Good

It's my first Burning event, so I was amazed by everything xx
Good venue tho
Incredible
Absolutely amazing party as always - loved the music, decor, outfits, variety of camps and activities, and vibe. ...absolutely phenomenal night as always - can't wait for the next one!
Loved the location!! Felt more like a burn than Fire Club last year
It was awesome! Location was great and diverse.
Great location
Amazing
Best event I've been to in London
Perfect for decom.
Great
Good location
Someone needs to buy them a gift of a label printer, so they can have some idea of what everything actually is.
Very bad

Physical Location

Amazing. It's easily accessible, quite central, and the scenery was excellent
Good. Easy to get to by public transport.
Really good. The cable car overhead made for a nice visual feature.
Location worked for me. Jubilee night tube from Canning Town an acceptable walk though in fact I used Elizabeth Line from Custom House.
An easy commute (very close to my house so can't complain haha)
Cool location, lovely view
Location is beautiful ...
very easy for me to get to and from my home to the venue, so can't complain about that.
[LOCATION] a bit more tricky to then travel to the postcom, I actually got there too early and went home, missing it
Location... would be better if public transport working as planned.
Location is far
Bit out of the way
Long way to the east of London (I came up from Bristol so even further)
The location was difficult to reach as the DLR was closed. Plus there were a lot of road works going on around the vicinity, which meant it was very tricky and dangerous to reach Canning town tube on foot. We managed it in the end but not without having to climb over barriers of major roads and roundabouts plus numerous bollards to find the right road, all with lots of traffic passing us at speed.
not the most convenient transport wise.
location is too remote, it was very difficult to find transport after the party.
The outside area would have been challenging for some less able people.
Was a bit out of the way, so required taxis (i.e extra cost) and a hotel room nearby as our team needed to build and strike.
The venue isn't really accessible though because of the container platform dividing the outside space.
a bit tricky to get to
the random levels with badly lit steps in and out were an accident waiting to happen tho, at pretty much every doorway. Can little rubber ramps not be laid over, in future?

The venue is hard to get to even for someone living in the East End. But the venue was better than Fire. Electrowerks was better.
Really hard to find & get to. Not good for Public Transport or Active travel or Disabled people. Only "good" if coming by motor vehicle.
...location, kinda hard to find, but was found...
The venue was awful. The location meant I couldn't get a taxi for 4 hours and had to walk to a near by hotel at 7am and wait 30 minutes alone to get picked up. Very dangerous and expensive. A real bummer to the night.
Location is a bit far, but it's a burn.....not expecting easy access. But I was disappointed about how many ubers were used (including myself) to get home. It's not the most environmentally friendly way of getting home. Could we encourage uber share? Could there be a shuttle bus? How could we encourage public transport more? Could we camp out somewhere? (I know some people who booked hotels near by, but what about options for low income earners?). It's a challenging issue, and no easy solution....
hard for some with access issues
It's a bit far out
It was a bit hard to find
Pretty inaccessible... in terms of getting there...
Not super close to stations and roadworks meant it was difficult and confusing to walk there.
wasn't too into the stairs and how much work it was to move around the building (i have no mobility issues, i just don't like pushing round people)
murder to get to
A bit of an obscure location but wasn't too hard to get a cab home.
Was a bit far, but that's okay :)
location, kinda hard to find, but was found...

Accessibility

basically quite accessible and enjoyable though
Not accessible. Outside area with the broken concrete
Accessibility issues.
I do agree that the step outside from the main square to the inside building made it unnecessarily difficult for people with disabilities (although this didn't directly affect me)
They could do with fixing the flooring to be more even / add a ramp to the upstairs room that has a step halfway through the dancefloor
some rooms were a bit hard to access
Many issues with disabled access. Uneven surfaces, heavy doors, stairs and broken (?) lift?
Pretty inaccessible... once at the venue. Very difficult to navigate with physical disabilities
Outside... Massive puddles...
those stairs are a deal breaker.
Overall ok but would be good to add more seating spaces closer to music and not outside in the cold
Ramps should be provided for all steps on the ground floor
Lots of cracked ground, unneeded steps between rooms. Broken lift. Broken Toilet. However only 2 small rooms upstairs. We'll need to come up with some new ramping and make sure access maps etc come out earlier/are distributed more so that it offsets the venue's shortcomings. Better than Electrowerkz stairs wise though!

I found the music was often too loud, and with the crowd it was often hard to get to some spaces
A lot of trip hazards - bits sticking out of the ground that I tripped on. And I'm able bodied! I heard the disabled loos were on the first floor!
rough ground, broken floors, lots of steps and stairs, even steps to go up and down to get from outdoor space to indoor (or a long walk round the outside). None of this is a problem for me as a non-disabled person but I know a few people who found it really difficult
That platform dividing the outside space is a bottleneck and a trip hazard and not accessible.
I know this was a big issue for some.
Personally I don't need accommodation but it took minimum 1-2 steps to get in most places. There were no toilets for anyone who would need wheels. And very minimal places to sit... most outside in the cold away from everything.
Lots of stairs and steps. Not great and I had one of the Rangers leave feedback about this too.
No personal need but seemed like there were a good amount of helpers around.
Get those little rubber ramps across the un-level thresholds, and steps; and someone should be a dedicated ranger or at least have someone closely monitoring the accessible toilets so they're not abused. Perhaps long term investigation into the venue's plan/investment for the lift, too. If no lift fixing to ever happen, then perhaps we should only hire the downstairs areas and use more tents/marquees etc so there aren't places that people literally cannot access due to physical issues. Or not charge the full price ticket to those whom cannot access the upstairs.
There's already been a lot of chat about this online, it could have been better but it's a tough venue
Really poor

Building [aesthetics / conditions, not temp.]

Much better. I love the blank slate feeling.
Limited rigging points made install a bit challenging.
the room crumpet was in was full of mould which is a health and safety risk.
Crumpet and CCC space were pretty damp.
still remain a boring office block.
Camp crumpet room was really dingy and mouldy smelling - deffo didn't want to check it out
I think with a venue like that there is only do much you can do to counteract the brutalist industrial feel and get the natural burn vibe. If there again maybe leaving heavier into a psychedelic sci-fi theme will help marry the two. Cyberpunk?

Seating

I would add more seating spaced for people with reduced mobility...it was a bit difficult for my pregnant friend to find places close to the music where to sit
it was a bit difficult... to find places... to sit, which were not outside in the cold.
There wasn't a quiet indoor space to sit and take a break aside from the tiny welfare trailer.
Didn't have places to sit down inside.

Chill Space

The only thing I was missing was a chill place inside.
There should really be a chill-out space...The best part of any party is the chillout / social space, and this was sorely missed.
I wanted more chill spaces and cuddle spaces.
Could we make more of the outdoor space for people who want to talk, connect, do things and not party the night away?
...more soft spaces to chill out please!!! Perhaps a dome outdoors as a chill out space (no workshops) with calm music and options for cuddle puddles. The Cause is very harsh with no places to relax.
I would really like to see a nice indoor squidgy comfy space next time
I wish there were a warm room that could serve as chill area, with cushions, chair, and spots for resting when tired.
There should be a comfy cosy room, I think especially with having so much outside space there needs to be more of a soft chill out space
Wanted some indoor space to hang out without getting cold
we needed more indoor heated chill spots, places to chat and play and connect outside of electronic loud music bombardment.. maybe the dancing next time could be outside with heating and inside more quiet chill zones, workshops and sharing
...lacking in real burner atmosphere. It felt very commercial and performative. Lacking the creative theatrical, immersive and playfulness of previous years.
It was challenging to have nowhere to sit and take a break from the noise... I think one dancefloor could have been a chill space.
The only downside was that there weren't enough places to sit down and hang out inside and it was quite chilly outside (especially when we were all sweaty from all the dancing). Having a few places where people can chill and chat for a bit (like last year) would be great!
needed more quiet indoor spaces
Need for indoor warm chill space. Ideal for opening earlier

Entertainment [Sound / music / volume]

I thought it was cool. I liked the different rooms and music
It was an incredible evening. I loved the funky silent disco!
...were great, as was the music and the performances!
Sound systems were good as well and music was loud, but not obnoxiously loud.
I loved... the music diversity across the spaces.
I went into the cat room with my partner ...it was an extremely enjoyable experience and a new one for both of us.
We loved... the variation of activities.
lots of musical offer and choice. very good
Music was much better this year as well as entertainment and the venue!
it was too loud
There were so many dance spaces with very similar music.
I would have preferred music and activities going on forward during the night and I didn't particularly enjoyed the fact that throughout the event, everything moved from the front to the back.
inside is a bit dull
the sound system was not great in all the rooms
Too loud. There should have been one indoor room kept quiet-ish for neurodiverse burners.

There was a bit too much going on, I didn't get to see everything or check all the spaces.
I wish the outdoor area was able to host more DJ's for longer... guess you had a noise restrictions outside, but the area was very industrial so I am not sure if this could be extended
would have been great to know what electronic music genres the DJs were gonna play before hand
Sad that we couldn't have more outside music.
...the music was very similar across the board...
My only comment would be that while the music was somewhat diverse, the electronic music wasn't. Would love to hear some psytrance!
Sound system outside could definitely be improved.

Lighting

I went into the cat room with my partner and the lighting was a little on the bright side...
I guess the stairs leading to the upstairs room being so well lit killed the mood a bit

Queueing

Because we arrived at 7:30pm :)
Fire performance was excellent!
Having the greeters was lovely and the people working the queue in general were very cheery and made it all a nicer experience.
so short. easy
Really quick, friendly venue staff.
We had a smooth, fast and friendly entry
We arrived quite late so there wasn't really much of a queue.
Love the welcomers on the door!
Arrived pretty late
I had a build/strike wristband so it was queue-jumping time. However, friends of mine had a good queue-experience.
We arrived at 1am, there was no queue.
We came at 8pm and queue was small.
Graters at 10.30 onwards were amazing
Loved the hugs
Not too long when I arrived
Went through very quickly - no queue
I was grater volunteer first shift and when I did my shift almost no queue.
Did not experience it as was a Builder Bear.
No queue to come in, but had to give up using the cloakroom as the queue was way too long for the cold
I technically snuck in during Build so I didn't experience the actual queue
We arrived at 19:30.
I was there at 8:30 early and walked right in
I went in for build and stayed
I got there during the build so didn't do the whole thing.
Was already in venue from build
I was building inside, so didn't queue

Came in during build
I arrived earlier for the build
The band were in early as we did the Opening Ceremony
Arrived early to build so no queue
I came at 5pm so not an issue.
i arrived early to set up an installation , so not really a Q
I was late to the event any way, after 11pm, because of my work commitments & distance to travel
Unorganised. The queue was a mess and no one seemed to know where to stand, where to go. I stood in three different queues in order to get in. It could have been a lot more streamlined.
Just the queue for the leopard lounge was way too long and it didn't move at all

Cloakroom

It went pretty quickly and nothing got lost!
Really good
The Green room was great, well organised and spacious and heated!
I didn't use as didn't want to line up
Didn't use it
I used crew
Kept my stuff with the theme camp
Would be handy to have a separate queue for people who just want to grab something out of their bags rather than check in.
Outside? Why? So cold.
The 'main' cloakroom queue took 45 minutes, the split cloakroom situation wasn't clearly indicated, and having split queues meant you has a 50/50 chance of waiting much longer than everyone else
My coat was damaged by cloakroom
Confusing that there were 2 cloakrooms?
Queue too long so didn't use it
It was a bit slow
Started queuing roughly around 9.30pm. Abandoned queue after 30mins (as I was only going to stay for 2 hours) and instead left my bag in the corner of a dancefloor which worked fine. I was worried there would be another queue when leaving.
They definitely needed more than 1 or 2 persons staffing it!
Cloakroom on the way in wasn't great. Much better on the way out. They almost lost an item and didn't want to check the floor for it. :(
wet ground, cold, outdoors
The slowest cloakroom I ever used but at least they weren't abusive like the Fire people.
Big queues
Seemed to be very long queues long after the event started. I gave up on it.
Took ages at the end to get coats and bags back
Longest part of entry was 25 min cloak queue. Ok but cold
My full length fur coat was left in a puddle, I picked it up dripping wet from the waist down! Not even an apology from the cloakroom person - they barely acknowledged me when I tried to talk to them about it.
Long queue

my friend got her coat back from the cloakroom at the end of the night soaking wet, literally dripping
Queues were very long and it was difficult for people to get items later in the night without having to pay additionally
Was a bit busy, could have done with an extra person or 2
All our bags got soaked in water in the cloakroom
a nightmare... the outside cloakroom

Toilets

Good toilets.
Definitely better than expected! Could not find mirrors though.
Fine for an Able Bodied person like me.
good use of containers
An issue with this venue is always toilets, but I noticed some additional loos have been installed.
no toilet attendants selling stuff :)
As long as you could manage steps, they were fine. The accessible loo was not accessible for wheelchairs :(
toilets outside were a nightmare
not enough toilets.
not enough female toilets
The toilet queues are always very very long as well. I think the venue needs more facilities for big events.
not enough toilets
Toilet situation was absolutely awful for a woman and there were not clear signs. Only 2 stalls upstairs and disgusting toilets / port-a-loos outside with no toilet roll.
Toilets were not pleasant.
toilets were terrible!!
Could definitely have been better
Need more
more toilet roll
Disabled toilet was broken. The downstairs toilet by celtic chaos was gated off, overall seemed toilet facilities were inferior to Fire.
Few toilets and not easily accessible (the accessible ones were mostly outside)
The toilets were adequate but very dirty in places plus cold. There was also no area to do any make-up
Quite dirty
there could be a few more toilets
Queue was very long
Did not like that there was always long queues for toilets and found it a bit weird the best ones were the portaloos!
not enough toilets
The indoor mens was the worst smelling I've experienced in a while
The ladies toilets need a lot of improvement - the cubicles are tiny, there is no mirror (!) and the floor was always wet.
Not enough toilets and some were out of action, which made the queues long
Didn't want to use the portable outdoor and the one inside was packed

Pretty terrible. The doors on the container loo cubicles swing inward - there is not enough space to actually get into the cubicle! Had to use the portaloos but there weren't enough of them and there was no hand sanitiser.
Toilet paper got sorted out eventually but not during the day when we were volunteering. Soap was in short supply.
I used the staff loos and one had to be kept closed. Mildly annoying but I only needed it once.
The queues were endless :(((
Bad
Get honey wagons instead of portaloos, they're worth the extra £
Some of the worst toilets I've ever seen in a club venue. Worse than some festivals I've been at!
Some stalls did not have a lock and in one block they were really small, but I appreciated that there was always tp and tampons
Not enough indoor loos for women.
Hard to find at first, signage was a little confusing. Felt sorry for the females, they had long waits.
There was an insane amount of... Liquid... On the bathroom floors. Not sure how that happened
Many were without loo paper
took 30 minutes to go to the ladies upstairs
Soap and paper towels had already run out ~2 hours in
They were very narrow and hard to get in and out
Ladies loo in the attic bar was too limited, MASSIVE queue!
Portaloos were dark and other loos were v busy
need more toilet rolls
It was cold queuing for the ones outside
Not enough toilets
One of the mens toilet upstairs flooded horribly. Other than that, OK!
Only venue specific toilets, Tardis toilets were good.
I fixed a toilet that was spraying water everywhere causing floods. They were pretty terrible but it really didn't bother me at all.
Long queues !
Bit dirty
Queues and not enough stalls. Very cold
More would have been better

Layout / use of space / signage / crowding

I really like the new venue. Also, the fact that it was partially inside and partially outside.
The outside space was excellent! Good size, lots of spaces. Should definitely come back.
Liked having the outdoor space.
layout was amazing
the venue was really really cool!! The space was well used
loved the big outside area
I thought it was a really good venue, lots of space and some good rooms for dancing.
The only small thing was the outside space was amazing
Well organised and laid out, easy to find areas.

Great, good layout that you could move in a big circle inside through the different spaces, didn't feel too squashed, security guards were lovely. A bit of an obscure location but wasn't too hard to get a cab home.
Outside area was festival vibes. Layout made getting to any single room really quick and easy, unlike Fire where the corridors tend to be clogged and it's a bit of a maze on the ends. the layout was good.
Nice layout...
The venue layout and setup was perfect though so worth the long journey
I like the venue especially because it was not linear and there were things "to discover". plenty of space and rooms to explore and connect with people.
I quite liked it, for one thing it was really close to where I live.
Also interesting layout, lots to explore, some areas were busier than others but it was still quite easy to find somewhere that wasn't overly crowded.
The venue was great, the layout was great... I have nothing negative to say!
Soooo much better than last year, rooms felt pleasantly busy but with enough room to dance freely, easy to navigate
Great space, lots of potential. Much better than Fire!! There was a lot more space to dance without feeling crowded and packed in. The outdoor space was great
...the size was good and spacious
Loved it. In particular the amount of outside space. Excited to see applications for 2024.
a much more interesting venue. Outdoor space meant we could do more stuff (like with fire!).
Outdoor space is much better than fire, more from and nowhere felt over crowded
Great venue, large outdoors space and the inside spacious enough with many rooms
The big outside space is generally a good idea, but you know, during the summer months.
A nice big space inside and out. I liked that there were food outlets on site.
Great spaces , easy to get around.
The venue was amazing! Inside space in all room was amazing!!!!
Great location. It felt like a maze, which gave a really great vibe
great layout
It was great...The indoor part was great
the layout was good, everything within close proximity to each other,
fairly easy to move around
Loved it! Perfect location and loved the layout.
Layout was great,
I loved the location! It fitted with the theme perfectly and it had such a variety of spaces!
We loved the location and how big it was
great size, good separation between theme camps and distinct areas. I liked it.
Loved it - awesome space. Would go again. Loved the outdoor area, the rooms, the easy access and spaciousness
The perfect mix of rough/cool/open/relaxed
Good location and a lot of space.
Loved having outdoor space where we could chat and have fire and performances and stuff.
Inside was great.
Good space. Lots of different areas. Was surprised on how much was outside
Everything was perfect, the layout, getting around etc
I really like the new venue - more space, able to escape the noise
Great venue, perfect for Decom. Good indoor and outdoor space
enough space,

I loved the outside area (even though it was very cold out). Overall I think was a cool venue to have Decom because of the multiple rooms, and very easy for me to get to and from my home to the venue, so can't complain about that.
great outdoor space
I really liked the venue, the warren of rooms was great
a big space that was made the most of,, proper Burn credentials. overall , pleasantly surprised
the only places to chill out were Crumpet (the best part of the party) but that was too busy and the queue to get in was massive...
Could be improved with more signage...
I sometimes got confused on how to get places, although to be fair I also never looked for a map or anything.
I felt as if the rooms were too spaced out and far from each other
I have been to the Cause before and find it very sweaty and hot every time. And because it was very crowded especially in the rooms that many people walk through to get to other areas of the club, it felt extra hot and cramped.
Kinda cool but too packed. Couldn't walk through rooms.
The inside area was too rammed for me to spend much time inside!
Next time, maybe post more signs with lights pointing to entrances to the room. I only figured out layout half way through the night. At the beginning, I would walk across all the rooms from the entrance next to toilets. There was a quicker way, which I had no idea about, until very late.
not enough indoor space. If felt dangerously packed at times.
Outdoor spaces could probably benefit from more signage as it felt some of these spaces were not visited that well.
Getting through the main room was impossible at times and meant a long walk around the outside. Not enough consideration given to keeping a walkway clear during performances.
I'm not sure I'd have found all the spaces if I'd just turned up as an attendee...
It was a bit of a maze to get places and wasn't really clear where workshops were.
the spacing for that [outdoor space] seemed a little large as people were squashed around art pieces trying to watch.
There were some bottlenecks (sadly the jellyfish room often felt like a corridor).
I would probably not have had the crumpet room because that meant that that room had queues all the time
Two entrances at either side to the main room lost some intimacy.
Too much walking through places
weird layout, confusing
Layout - too spread out. Didn't enjoy the big open air space as if it was raining people would have got wet trying to get to between different rooms
sometimes hard to find where things were
Perhaps the outside space could be used differently. The big white tent was not used at all (was this for the silent disco?)
...navigating them [the rooms] was difficult due to capacity. Rooms should have more of a clear path if they are a throughway.
It was hard to find things. I couldn't find a map in my emails or on site so I missed a bunch of stuff as I later found out.
Some of the areas upstairs in the outside area was not so inviting, meaning didn't notice it was there, not sure how to get up there, etc.
Crumpet corner was too congested all the time
Quite hard to navigate...
the outside space felt a bit underutilized.

it did feel a bit crowded in rooms at times.
hard to get some places without squeezing through dancefloors - some spaces were hard to find/notice.
Hectic at first...
I wish the camp areas were bigger.
play room always had a huge 1h+ queue whenever we tried - would be nice to have a bigger one
not ideal to have to walk outside in the cold to move between rooms
some of the rooms overly packed at times
Outside felt very open and empty.
not enough rooms.
[Spaces] Too dispersed.
Slightly confusing

Decor & Art

you did a great job in decorating, the outside was very cool
Very good venue, impressive set up - I worked in this venue in the past and the job the team did was so amazing that I could not recognise it! ...Other than that, all perfect!
At times it first like just an old office block but the way it was decorated created amazing atmosphere
you did amazing job to glow up the interior.
Decorations were great
I loved the decor
I thought it was great - you did a really good job of decorating a really industrial space.
It was a great space and the decorations were incredible.
very well decorated
The room dressers did an AMAZING job
wonderfully decorated!!
I preferred last year's location. It was smaller but there was more indoors space and more decor. The building with the stairs looked fairly grim and it would have been hard to put decor everywhere. More decor in less space looks better.
The indoor part... I think it could've used more art?
I do wish the decor was more prominent. I know hours were spent on the rodents but they were out of sight and not interactable. If they were closer we could see how big they are and take pics with them!
I felt that the art was hidden a little bit.
I wish there had been more art!

Temperature & Weather

large and warm space
In the dome was quite cold.
Outside area ... cold wasn't that appealing.
was too cold to stay outside and enjoy the outdoor performances
the outside was ... not enjoyable because of the time of the year.
The only small thing was the outside space was... soooooo cold we weren't outside for very long so probably didn't take full advantage of everything that was there.

the only places to chill out were... outside, and it was too cold to be comfortable out there.
 Needed to be prepped to be cold and hot. Difficult to work out exactly how to do that in advance!
 ...outdoor space... it was a bit cold to enjoy it
 Some of the rooms were way too hot so some fans or AC would be great in there.
 it's super cold at night.
 It has potential would work so much better if decom was in the more warmer months
 Outdoors especially seemed under utilised in the cold. A shame as so much effort went in to the build there and fire shows - I didn't see any.
 Big outdoor space was quite cold and the spaces felt a little disconnected
 shame it's November so way too cold to enjoy the outdoors
 Too much outdoor space- too cold!!
 too much happening outdoors on a cold night
 [TEMPERATURE] The big outside space is generally a good idea, but you know, during the summer months.
 It was really too hot inside and almost cold outside
 The venue was mostly outside, extremely cold...
 The outside space could be used a little better throughout the night - how can we make it warm? Maybe a big cuddle puddle area?
 Plus a lot of outdoors for the end of November when it's so cold, without heaters or more fire, meant that a lot of people ignored what was going out outdoors.
 Was too cold to be outside late on though, and might have been bit grim if it'd been raining.
 very cold (the fires helped)
 Although cold!
 cuddle puddle outside in the cold not ideal
 Temperature was a slight issue at times
 Outdoor is nice but with better weather conditions, it was too cold to keep enjoying outside.
 10 principles showroom was too windy and no really welcoming.
 My only concern would have been if it was raining.
 If it was raining it would have been a very different event!

Food & Drink

I liked that there were food outlets on site.
 ...keep the food open a little longer. I nearly missed it.
 the drinks selection was limited and hilariously priced, but I guess we live in london!

Security

Loved it, the venue security and staff were friendly and helpful and obviously Gary n Venessa are always 1st class.
 respectful security team.
 security guards were lovely.
 I love Black Ops, they rock!
 Security were present but didn't feel the need to impose or throw their weight around like you get at some places.

Last year security took off my chewing gum and candies (i could still purchase them inside the venue). This year security was flexible and enough for me to feel secure but not harassed over silly items
No complaints, they did their job and did not bother us.
chilled and barely noticed them
security staff were great, low-key and unintrusive, and seemed to 'get us'
pleasant and fast - but I had a build bracelet on
I walked a participant to medical. They're generally very nervous around security folks but were pleasantly surprised how polite and helpful they were. Allowed her to take her time and not hurry
Security were pleasant
Simple sign in and confirmation with wristband
OMG compared to the previous venue security was amazing. No aggression. They understood the event.
Pretty chill
Very smooth. I had some usual banter.
Friendly and chill
Easy, accommodating. Good experience.
Didn't notice, so good!
I didn't actually notice any
Didn't notice them so can't comment!
They bounce me back because I didn't have physical ID and I had to go back home to take it. It was a very frustrating experience.
security were rude and trying to rush me out of the venue when I was trying to find someone to report it [damaged coat] to.
We got escorted by about 8 of them as we left, which felt like a fanfare but otherwise they were perfectly polite and nice about everything
A little bit brutish when it came to leaving.
Let friend through at the end of the night but could not go through with her so we lost each other because she sent me out
Not unfriendly but I found it odd that security were present in the space. I had to find an AAA wristband before being let into the production container. Surely we can manage this ourselves.
One female security by the green room at time very aggressive throwing us out when trying to organize our instruments for a better space for others (just try and chill a little bit...)
A bit grumpy at 5am when trying to get back in to the building with a red wristband.

Communications

Q16. Do you have any comments on what, how, and/or when information was communicated?

Tara Beattie was excellent on Facebook
No, communication was fine
No
No not really
The information was good enough
Excellent communication.

So much better than last year space wise. Right amount of people, great layout and decoration. Thank you!!!
Really great and entertaining comms this year, loved it!
Loved the newsletters in the weeks leading up to the event.
Can't think of anything
No, there was plenty of good info
It was all very clear and the copy for the newsletter was really well written. It made me laugh several times!
Loved the visuals, structure of the emails and general information provided.
None
loved all of the humorous emails, so fun
The email newsletter was very useful, however a bit redundant during the last weeks leading to the event.
Good communication.
No
Loved the graphics and the theme with the little rodent on everything, that was funky.
All very good
I thought that was pretty well done. very attentive clear and thorough
Great comms
It was good once signed up
All great
Worked well
timely, succinct, helpful
Good job!
It was good!
seemed fine? so i guess it was good :)
Very good communication
good comms all round
Loved that you had to be a member to get key info though - kept away scammers.
Some costume inspirations
I would like the date to be published a little further in advance. More notice.
Next year we could push outside (venue) information earlier as we know what we can do.
I often found it hard to find certain info on the website
It wasn't easy to volunteer if you bought a transferred ticket.
Not having a Facebook event was frustrating as I couldn't see who of my friends were attending
Everything happened too close to the event. Would have been great for information to come out much earlier
When volunteering there are a few to many messaging sites/groups to keep up with and or re-find info
A very very minor thing but I didn't quite realise so much of the event would be outside so I didn't bring a party coat and was quite cold, being told this in big letters in an email would have been helpful but hey I am a grown up and probably should have worked it out
It felt a bit close to the event- especially the venue location
Don't ban sequins two days beforehand. Also there are many other items attached to clothes that fall off or have ethical considerations such as feathers, real leather etc
More maps on site.

It would have been better to have the full line up with workshops etc a few days earlier to plan pre drinks and arrivals and my time there. The day before didn't really give any time to discuss and plan with friends what we wanted to do. And the early 7pm start came as a surprise and meant rearranging pre's and cutting them short or some people missing them so they could get ready. I feel I missed out on workshops and some other things I would have enjoyed with the last-minuteness.
No "Login" button on website. You have to click "Join" and then a hyperlink to log back in once a member. A little strange...
It seemed a bit scattered. I didn't find out about the event until Microburn then didn't really see much info until pretty close to the event. Most of the info was really London-centric and not super friendly for people coming from other cities. Though it was LONDON Decom but would like to see things a bit more accessible for people outside the area.
Why wasn't there a Facebook event?
I desperately wanted to go the after party but didn't see emails or anything about it so failed to get a ticket
Too many emails. Could do with less communication.
Team leaders should be advised that Inappropriate and non consensual handling and touching of women should not be allowed and when someone says no it means no.
I think the info about a significant part of the event being on the outside in the cold could have been communicated way more times to make sure nobody misses it. I think it would be good to have a map of the event space ahead of time to know what to look for. I spent over an hour familiarising myself with the space and turned out I only ended up seeing half of the things.

Overall

Q17. What was your favourite thing about this year's event?

General

All of it! It was great!
Great set up and party
Seeing the sunrise and realising I'd made it through the night - Wow!
post comm
The variety,
yeah was fun 😊
All of it
Reconnecting with the burner mentality
That we did it again.
vibe

People / Community / Costumes

Creating it, seeing it come all together, and meeting amazing people.
The people
lovely to see friends
Inclusion - great community
people
The people
Meeting new people.
This was my first burn event after attempting to go to other events for a couple years and I loved it a lot! Was a very fun night and everyone I encountered was super friendly- including the venue staff and decom volunteers.
Iona!
Paige Julia
seeing friends I haven't seen since Nest,
Running into other burners I've met in the past
Also seeing CK running around handling business. He rocked it.
Always the vibe of the people
People
people
People! Always the people!
It was my first event, I loved it! It's a great community
People
And the people, all the burners are incredible
Meeting and talking to people
conversations with people and seeing so many amazing outfits and radical expressions
THE FRIENDLINESS OF EVERYONE APART FROM ONE.
The friendliness of people, the great costumes,
As always - the people
the People
Being with my friends and dressing up.
The new friends I made!
The people
the radical self expression and consent, THE EVERYTHING!
The guy in the "gold Compliments plastic ball" outfit, hilarious!
dancing with friends and feeling comfortable
How friendly, accepting and welcoming everyone was from the build crew, party people, and strike team.
The overall atmosphere and positivity of guests
friends
Meeting with the burn family
meeting excellent people old and new and the principle of radical inclusion
Costumes
I particularly enjoyed the community and the various interactions

Meeting new people during build and strike.
Spending quality time with friends
meeting burners at lost and found, then having dance on the dance floor
the costumes
People
The theme and the way how people dressed up.
The themes
I loved that so many of my wonderful friends were there looking fabulously feral.
It was my first burner event ever and it was absolutely magical. The friendliness of people, the positive energy, the inclusive environment...and an overall amazing organised party... I can't mention one favourite thing because everything was great. A week after and I'm still feeling warm and happy thinking about the evening. It was GREAT!
Meeting my friends and many new AMAZING people!
Getting involved!!!

Location / Venue

the location
Great new site,
Amazing outside space
Venue was great and layered
new venue
venue
The outside area, but this would have been challenging in the rain!
I liked the new venue a lot, much improved over last year's venue.
The workshop space.
Palm reader in Ubertown and variety of performances outside and inside
Please do the Decom in the same place again next year.
The new venue
The new venue made it the best Decom since I started going in 2013.
The venue was interesting but seemed derelict / haphazard in places plus obv cold in certain areas.
More relaxed venue, things worked, great venue
my pregnant friend attending with a big belly, she loved it and I'm super happy she could make it and the place felt safe and there were seats for her. amazing
The location. Feels like it made it all come together. Good outdoor space and varied indoor environments.
A much better opportunity to make the space our own than previous years! Not having to strike rooms during the event!
Much better venue
The large outside area.
a wonderfully unique venue.

Having some outdoor space and a new venue. Lots of potential!
I liked both the venue and the theme.
Large number and variety of spaces at The Cause.
The different spaces
location
security were nice and courteous and entry and exit was hassle free
The event was busy but never felt too crowded
Venue and atmosphere
That it was much bigger I thought like parts of it being outside plenty of bars overall excellent night with great effort put in to make a memorable night for all different tastes thank you
Lots of different areas to explore
Loved the venue!
Not sure how well the outside space would fare in rainy weather.
venue
bigger space than last year.
and the options of places to be/explore. I appreciated the provision of quieter places, for good conversation and rest too.
Despite being my first time attending London Decom, I found it easy to navigate and welcoming.
But if it's the venue/party itself, it was the fact it felt a lot more burnery than Fire. I didn't hate the staff. The outdoor area felt a bit like Nest.

Entertainment / Music / Theme Camps

Music and individual camps' spaces
Psychedellyfish
entertainment rocked as always,
Opening ceremony
Art!
Jellyfish room was amazing and outdoor but too cold to enjoy fully
Art and music were great! Performances were amazing too!
I just enjoyed the vibe, the samba drummers were good, so was the old school garage music and outfits etc of people there.
Leading the Jellies and DJing to an amazing crowd
Crumpet
The jellyfish and acrobats
The art
The DJs were so good this year!
Talking to genuine lovely creative people and dancing to sick drum and bass in a beautifully decorated space. Giving out stickers, looking at costumes, really enjoyed watching the silent disco as it was super wholesome and charming watching everyone dance in silence.

Dancing to great DJs!
The under the water / jellyfish convention
Church of Ubertown and the vibe
Great music. Lots of fun people.
I loooved the upside down fireplace outside
the music was especially good overall. especially 12-2am Hugo and Panther back to back was the perfect location and perfect timing. but in general everywhere I went had good music.
Silent disco
The costume camp
Fire places and outside performances. It had much more festival-y feel, than just a Fire venue.
Music in one of the rooms
Having FIRE!!
Overhead fire disk
DJs in Feral room
Playroom
Silent disco
The costumes, and the costumes available to borrow
psychejellyfish bringing the Bass
Writing workshop, opening ceremony, dance floor next to the playroom
Psychedellyfish room!
Psychejellyfish,
the other main downstairs dancefloor area (can't remember which camp it was but the performances were great)
the fires
Loved it all. The music in the ground floor rooms was excellent. And it was lovely meeting Tetris man
The variety of music and spaces to dance,
Ubertown and seeing all my friends, and seeing everyone in general having a really fun time, vibes I think all round seemed good, it was much more burnery than it has been in recent years, which was super nice
Music
entertainment
Dancing around. Music.
Loved the drumming!
The amazing DJ's.
Music in a few areas was excellent
roger wilco playing dnb outside (silent disco)
the jellyfish room was my favourite place
Celtic Chaos and Psychedellifish rooms
Ubertown
The Jellyfish room!
The music at Celtic chaos and the silent disco

Loved the cuddle area, music rooms were nice as well.
Some great performances
Dance floors!
The music,
Main dance room had great DJs,
Music was good too
Celtic chaos was the best room with the best music. The cuddle puddle by the fire was also up there.
Opening and fire and dancing
The music. The rooms.
I loved the costume camp - like literally burning man principles in action
The vibe and the music
music
The silent disco
The jellyfish camp was gorgeous, felt crowded in a cozy way, good music. Loved it and spent most of my night there.
Having the silent disco outside was a great idea and a remedy to the hot indoors dance floors.
The spinning space!
The upstairs tribal room
fire and performances outside,
Had an absolute blast dancing with friends, in particular early on in Psychedellyfish and. towards the end in the Warehouse.
The queer lap dancing at crumpet
music
music
My favourite place overall was the Glory Whole and the epic speeches. The Celtic Chaos camp and Psychedellyfish. were excellent but all were good.
Being a cat at the cat cafe!
Amazing DJs
I loved the variety of music and had a great time dancing to different things. My Favourite being the Psychedellyfish :)
The outdoors with fire was so cool
the dome!!
music on all floors
music
chilled dome space to chat
shows
I enjoyed the variety of different music going from one room to the next
incredibly good music.
The performances.
All the dance rooms.
the cabaret,

Lots of interesting things to do,
That it felt like a playa and that there was a lot to explore and it wasn't just a club.

Decor / Art

amazing decor,
The art!
I also loved the decor and how each room had a whole different feel
The decor team did an amazing job
Volunteering at the decom makeries and seeing it all come together on the night as part of a shared experience with the people I met.
the decorations
Decorations,,
art
The art.
The amazing installations
the art i loved everything ❤️
the Jelly Fish Room had awesome decor
Laser walrus
The art/decoration and
Decor
decor
the amazing decorations
The decor in the rooms were fantastic. So much effort put into making the event absolutely beautiful.
And the decor.
Everything that is wonderful about Burner events was wonderful! the decor

Q18. How do you think Decom could be improved for next year?

General

Build up community well in advance. Make it a year round thing. Collaborate with other burns?
Warmer weather so we can do more with the outdoor space.
The event could be more focused on encouraging the community to get involved.
Share ride service for after party - so many people waiting for cabs. I was leaving b myself and tried to group up but felt slightly uncomfortable with approaching people/ single man. Ended up walking all the way to cannon street. Perhaps a buddy up service to get people sharing cabs would be nice
More interactivity encouragement
Your ethos of being aware of our own personal footprint with the policy of no single use plastic (among others) is contradicted by your inclusion of a catering company who sell meat to consumers. Making Decom meat & dairy free, will align your policies & show that you are fully aware & in support of one of the largest polluting & cruel industries on the planet. I was very surprised you are not endorsing this already & would love some feedback as to why? Thanks
Bring it all together somehow?
Can't think of anything. I went to Amsterdam decom as well and the London decom was SO much better somehow. Thank you for one of the most wonderful nights of the year!
not sure
it was better next year
we'll see
There are a lot of things but top suggestions: 1) accessibility lead 2) project manager: not sure if anyone functioned in a similar role this year but this human could have a timeline for posts / emails to go out ahead of time and set some deadlines for submissions. I know it's hard with this many moving parts and volunteers...
More diversity
But all round great job team! Best decom in a good while
If it's in the same venue it will be improved. Decom always learns and does better the next year - I have faith!
In my opinion, nothing. Everything was amazing.
Not sure, for me it was a total hit!
I think we could encourage more people to get involved, maybe an active group to reach out to people about how they can bring art etc. Maybe they can fill this out when they fill out their member bio or even when they buy a ticket so we can actively outreach to those who might not have volunteered more not because they don't want to but because they didn't think they could or were good enough or just didn't think in the way of a burner
fewer tickets so it's less crushed (or explain to people how stairs work)
more education on NOT FUCKING HUGGING people without consent (or permission to pie them)

Venue

Maybe closer location or with better weather but we are in London so not sure :)
Similar style venue maybe different location?... but it wasn't that bad to get to be honest... I had a good time and I believe no matter where it is, the community really come together and make it a great night!
Hire us a bigger sound system! I jest. Just my first comment about scissor lift organisation but I will happily help with this.
Just don't come back to the Fire!
keep the venue
Better sound system
It would have been good if there were hot drinks served in more than just Camp Crumpet, I mean tea and maybe even hot ciders. Especially when it's later into the night that would be really welcome.
Music outside later than 10:00pm. More toilets.
I loved the venue, but £10 for a drink is really not affordable... Good news is, I didn't drink! But bad news is, I would have loved to.
Different venue, larger dance floors, warm/indoor space to chill/talk
Maybe one more room, I mean I don't know how big that place is? Could we have another dance room.
Keep same location
It was an excellent event and we really enjoyed. We just made the last food at around 11 or so. It could be served later as many people were looking for food later. Thank you for a great night.
Different venue
Better venue closer to central london
Cover for outside area in case it rains.
Same venue !! Wow so amazing we love the chill vibes, dystopian views, and wide open space and plenty of places to hang out
Let's go back to Fire!

Facilities & Services

Drinks were expensive
The toilets
Faster cloakroom queue.
The food offering was absolutely awful- paid £20 for two inedible chicken burgers and some chips
food options not just deep fried low quality stuff
Dimmer lights in the cat room.

Access to hot water or somewhere to get a cuppa
Different food options - smaller snacks.
more. toilet rolls
More female toilets
first aiders available during build with a souped up kit including antibacterial cream (you technically don't get this in first aid kits but it's good)
Toilet roll

Use of Space

As I mentioned before add a nice warm chill area inside.
I turned up in time to watch the opening ceremony, but I just couldn't find anywhere to stand where I could see anything.
More quiet rooms indoors!
More room to enjoy the opening ceremony - was very tight/crowded.
It needs a big indoors chill-out space so people can relax and socialise.
It seems that a lot of effort was put into decorations that I barely even noticed. Only when striking I could see the amount of work put into it. I really think you can do less decorations. And more chill spaces.
Have spoons for coffee and tea station at strike. Welfare enough was quite intense, lighting wise.
I want more sit-and-chat spaces that are warm enough to hang out in. I was often in a space that was either too loud for me at the time or too cold for me.
More quiet spaces
Maybe less long queues to the playroom - more capacity?
I think if there is any way to improve walkways to get through the rooms onto the others, that would help a lot! Sometimes I felt a bit overwhelmed trying to get through crowds of people. (If it is in the same venue as this year that is)
The fire performers at the Opening Ceremony were a bit hard to see as the crowds blocked the view for most of the event. Overall the Opening Ceremony was just so-so I think could have been better but honestly it was a great event so I'm hesitant to even mention it
That the themed spaces incorporate some activities or different hang-out environments in addition to just DJs and dancing. More places to hang out and chat and meet people.
More soft spaces to chill out as The Cause is very harsh and I did not find any warm cozy spaces to relax and just chat. Potentially have more domes outdoors (think warm space!) with one for chilling out with calm music.
More quiet-ish warm areas to chat (like the workshop area, but without workshops!)
More outside domes for chill out and chat.
More indoor space or crowd control at each room to stop rooms getting too crowded. Need a chill out/cafe area. Why wasn't Amphibian Lounge there? Really missed their sit down and chat vibe.
We need an inside chill space. Desperately. What happened to amphibian lounge?
more spaces that aren't "LOUD MUSIC DANCE PARTY" - there's so much more to Burns

than that!
Doing the same with more knowledge and confidence on the venue will already improve it. A couple more toilets. If sound restrictions allow it would be great to have a well decorated outdoor chill dome with some unamplified live music (something I saw at Dutch decom ;)).
More chill spaces, better wayfinding
Maybe having more indoor areas to sit down and hang/eat as it was cold outside without wearing coats
More outside seating areas. More chill space. There was too much visible harris fencing. The outside space felt more like a commercial festival rather than a burn.
Little warmer:)
Workshops should be hosted in an inside venue when it's cold outside. Wasn't encouraged to attend them at the dome outside.
Comfy space inside
More places to sit...more workshops, better play room.
Just a few more chill out areas to seat inside
The outdoor space could be improved. Too big.
Also could do with more seating/chillout areas?
yeah, I'll say it again, cuz it's important,, more warm cozy spacious chill spaces
The indoor spaces became way too crowded,
More places to sit and rest.
More areas to sit that were quiet but also heated. Was a bit too cold to sit in outdoor areas
I know it's hard to find a location but that downstairs area for example where Celtic Chaos was could have been a chill space. It's a reunion where nobody can really talk :(that's why I feel every year everyone is saying they find it overwhelming.
Make more of the outdoor space and promote the workshops and smaller venues
Sofas, comfy seats for taking a rest,
If you use the same venue I did wonder about having one less dance room (a couple of them seemed quite empty quite a fair amount of the time?) and concentrating the dance energy a bit more? And I would have loved more playroom space, the queue was loooooong (but appreciate that might be capacity for consent trained stewarding not just literal space). I would have liked a big indoor soft play and cuddle and chats area if possible... but these are really minor things compared to how much I loved the main event and I am GRATEFUL for everything that was there and the huge care that went into everything
Utilizing the outside space better. Having the speakers more spread out throughout, so that the sound doesn't come from a single place at the back. Increased visibility for the performances. And potentially adding more heaters, fire, blankets etc maybe mulled drinks if it's that cold out
larger warm seating area. Outside was freezing inside so hot!
Make it warmer outside!
More heated areas outside
More social spaces ie smaller yurts to hang out in the warm. There was one we found but it was rammed so we didn't fit. I think a lot of people just want to catch-up. Also I think more outside tarps would be great as if it was raining the inside would have been even more packed. Thanks for all your work!!

Some areas that were meant to be cozy (up in the containers, the trampoline) were very windy, cold and unappealing. Good thing I was in the mood to dance!
more chill spaces - it was generally very overwhelming and intense and would have massively benefited from a comfortable lounge / social area to sit and chat with friends and catch up in a place without super loud music, or go to decompress.
more outdoor space/quiet chat space
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * bigger playroom * warmer/indoor cuddle puddle * more spacious dancefloors (e.g. upstairs got really crammed at times) * not having to walk in the cold to move between rooms * more cohesive experience between rooms (e.g. the stairs between Psychedellyfish and the upstairs bit felt a bit clinical - would've been great to maybe make them themed as well to make the transition cohesive. Just a small detail!)
Can't wait for next year!
<p>The way the venue was organized and the fact that half of it was outside with freezing weather, made to my eyes the experience less fun.</p> <p>Improve the welcome area by having a space where you can discuss with newbies. The way the queue was build and the fact it was outside was offering very little opportunity to have sharing moment with newbies.</p> <p>To me it felt too many non burners people and crowd. Felt like in a club more than in a Burn event. Too drunk and unfriendly people pushing on the dancefloor... and horny non burners male trying to hook up.... Maybe proper Burner member selection and better education of newbies.</p>
Nonetheless, big up to the team for all the work done!
<p>Welfare space needs to be bigger</p> <p>More comfy</p> <p>Needs blankets, sick bags and more water for service users</p>
there was no chill out room. I would have stayed till the end if I would have had a chance to relax in between. And I don't mean a sex positive room.
I really wanted a nice chill out room /tea/ cuddle puddle etc /warm/cozy

Event Frequency / Duration / Timing

do the full weekend instead of just one night

Doing it more often ;)
run all weekend!!!
Move it to October. Mid November weather gets really cold. It would be awesome if the event could move to Mid October, like a week before Halloween. Warmer weather and more pleasant to enjoy the party.
Hold it at a different time of the year, being outdoors, near a river, in autumn is a recipe for hypothermia.
It could be open for longer. Needs more time to really enjoy the spaces. Definitely needs a chill out space and somewhere to view all the art from the community.
in summer or a warmer month...and more parties please!
Do more events! I need more dressing up in my life.
There should be more! There's huge demand and just having one, in the colder part of the year, feels like a shame to me. Once a quarter would be great (although I appreciate this might require more volunteers)
Add more events please :)

Accessibility

Accessibility!
Accessibility and toilets
fix the holes in the floors, and fix the accessible toilet! I realise there's nothing you can do about the stairs but accessibility really wasn't great
more accessibility would be a great improvement
better accessibility
I know venues are soooooo very difficult to find and there were some good things about it, like having actual Fire and it did have the space that a central venue doesn't. I'm sure the Venue management are good people.
But it does have a lot of Access issues of all sorts. If we want to be truly inclusive, which I think is something Burns struggle with I don't think The cause is the answer.
And just to repeat, I know how hard it is to find a London venue suitable for all the needs of a Decom.
Improved accessibility and a safer venue.
Easier accessibility for those less able.
I think accessibility has been a problem for some people this year.
Better accessibility
Please just keep it the same but improve accessibility for those with needs on lower floors

Comms / Signage

Not sure, I enjoyed it.

Maybe more notice of the theme to assist with outfit preparation
Outside seemed unorganized for the opening ceremony. Also didn't know my way around the site. Maybe there were site maps but I didn't come across any.
A clearer notice on the no ID no entry policy. My good friend didn't get in because she missed the notice on the regular email among all the other info. She came from Kent for the event so couldn't just pop home for it.
Another few friends said they missed the memo on the dress up theme for the same reason, and so ended up feeling underdressed/a bit upset as they would have wanted to make more effort.
We are a mostly neurodivergent crowd - some understanding of this in the communications would be welcomed, we don't all read every email of every detail in one that's very long. A clear short checklist on the ticket where it can't be missed would have saved them all.
More maps of the site
A few large map posters around the site with "you are here".
more clear signs on where to go at the venue
I was a bit overwhelmed with the telegram messaging for the maker events so maybe could have had a clearer one channel for what was needed. I couldn't actually attend any of them unfortunately but I would have loved to contribute in some way

Ents / Decor

The music was awful this year. All the rooms played same type of music almost at all times. - we could have more variety of music
More DJs or the same ones from this year!
The music was heavily techno/house in most rooms most of the time. We need the rooms to have different music so that people can be listening to music they like, otherwise you keep looking and keep not finding it. I don't like techno/house so there wasn't much choice for me. Music at postcom was bangin' Also: psy trance!
Maybe there could be forums for each of the camps and people could chat and get to know each other beforehand.
the main room started off with good DJ, and just as people were getting in the mood, it switched to performances from 10-12, which was a bit of a disconnect. It would be better to keep the DJ going seamlessly and maybe weave the performances part of the music sets
Better music. Sorry I know that's rude and subjective but the whole time we were there we walked all rooms and nothing was danceable. Heard from many others as well. So maybe diverse music or listing genre next to all artists in artist schedule? post com the music was soo good in many rooms. Not sure why the difference but it was night and day. Would have loved that mixed into both and we would have stayed longer at decom.
some DJ sets should be longer than 1h
More music variety, and more intense dance music

More activities outdoors. Create the 'basement' in the new room.
Having MORE fire!!
The opening ceremony sound was confusing - looking to the stage in one direction but with the noise from behind was weird and hard to hear
Consider placement of outdoor things and when certain activities need to take place around it ... eg fire conclave. Opening ceremony was kinda fun but also tricky to figure out what was going on exactly (though that fits the burner vibe tbh).
Better weather :) If serious - amazing, add more art installations and theme camps and it would be absolutely mindblowing
you could have done with better sound for the outdoor opening ceremony
Also, would be fantastic to have more interactive art to experience / play with.
Live music please!
more varied music
The music guys, sorry but the DJs were sub par. Some songs were absolutely brilliant but overall I wasn't ever absorbed for that long because of bad, drawn-out mixing, and sets that jumped about genre and vibe wise, as if they were insecure to sit on one thing for too long. It just ended up making me feel insecure and unsettled myself. The best party in town needs to do way better! The music is the core of everything!
better props ... I'm an artist and like making stuff in metal and would be a cool place to make a big sculpture
Could not see the opening event performance. Need a stage.
i would love to have danced but i personally don't like loud electronica ravey music,, some great rock n roll , jug bands and a variety show would be great,,, explore more genres of expression and space to express
Faster music and more music rooms
perhaps drawing more people outside would be good. More fires? Performances were great, but barely visible. Is there a chance for a higher stage? And better audio outside so that what's being said on the mic is audible?
tea coffee & chai stall & a foot masseur
More diversity of the electronic music!
Maybe have a soul room
more art. The live painting was excellent
More non dj focused burn stuff
JAM AND ACOUSTIC SPACE - having instruments out for people to jam, and the space for those to dance to that music. The music was loud, overwhelming and all the same to me with no space for dancing/flowing freely. The long rectangular space could have been utilised as an extra workshop space. The workshops filled up quickly and another space for that would have been useful
greater music variety (doof please?)
Can we not have one room (and if it is just for a few hours) that plays anything (!) else but electronic music. For me it is terribly boring to listen to it all night long.
More different styles of music

Q22. Do you think you'll come next year?

41 of 173 individual responses included a free text answer to "If there's a particular reason, please do let us know". Only relevant responses included below.

if I don't come, it's because I left the UK
Too many people, I prefer smaller burn events
Gotta see the fam innit
Probably won't be in the UK
Honestly I don't know yet. I could probably be swayed with more warm cosy spaces.
Personal reason
International so likely not. Post com was soo good tho. That was one of the best events ever!!
I like to dance, it's how I connect with people, however the dancefloors and music didn't cater to this
It's not really my scene as it's more rave-y and wasn't a lot of space to chill and talk to people. Maybe if I volunteer for a bigger role but that's really hard to do if you're not living in London.
Let's us know the date a couple of months in advance please so we can arrange travel etc from out of London
Not sure
it was a lot of money and effort to find myself outside cold and finding it difficult to connect deeply with others
Unless it's in a different venue I'll never go again
Depends entirely on the venue
It's too much.
Prob out of the country
More space to get involved and make big art dreams happen
Very few quiet spaces and venue was inaccessible
bit too crowded and not my fave music
Not if it will be held in the same venue

Q23. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

70 individual responses.

Good job!
It's a bit awkward but the webmaster for postcompression really shouldn't advertise his & his friends' side projects - multiple emails used our shared Burning Man infrastructure to describe ReBurn as a Burn, but it is not a Burning Man event and it is not intended not to be open to everyone.
thank you so much for this beautiful eve - really hoping to get involved properly next year :)
An amazing party! Everyone involved in setting it up should be proud.
PLEASE have a chill-out space!
I don't think I'd be keen on volunteering anymore. It's too stressful with just few people. what about rising the price to leave some extra tickets for strike members to get extra bodies to do the work?
Thanks so much for all the effort everyone puts in to creating such a joyful and genuine space for communication and presentation.
you are amazing! x x
I want to reiterate my complaint about the music. Each room should have its own genres, not having the same 2 genres in 4 rooms at the same time.
I feel like there was a "these DJs want to play so let them" rather than a "lets look at the overall progression of music throughout the rooms/night and make it flow nicely" In comparison Postcom's music was great and varied with less rooms.
I was promised that volunteering would get me a bunch of friends, but all I got was this louzy t-shirt and a hangover (jks)
Really enjoyed the event with a lifelong friend who is an experienced burner.
Big thank you 🙌😊
I love you all - you rock. Thanks for all the hard yards and the good times. 💖💖💖
Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!
Thanks for making this happen! I had a good time most of the time :)
Nothing else - thank you for the memorable night!
thank you for a great party :)
Thanks everyone for all the effort and creation. Our trip to london was great and post com was soooooooo good!!!
Thank you for all the hard and self-less work. Love you!
The décor was beautiful Could have used more chillout space that wasn't in the cold
THANK YOU!
Remind me to have a sleep during the event next year, so I'm ready for the after party.
Well done!
you are great! <3

Thanks for putting it all together.
Massive love to the crew putting on this event. You knocked it out the park this year!
I'd get applications open earlier & ensure people in the community, who have attended UK Burns and contributed to making the UK Burner scene amazing, all get directed sale tickets. This way you can ensure that it's actually a majority of Burners at Decompression and that there is a reward for being involved in the community. Also means that when we decide we want to make/create/play something at Decom, we know there is a ticket if we have our shit together early enough :)
I had so much fun! Thank you and congratulations to all involved in pulling this together. It was a blast!
Thanks for doing a great job at a new venue! Wonderful werk, team
You are amazing!! Can't wait for next year!!
This was my 4th Decom and definitely the best one yet. Well done everyone!
We invite friends- it was their first time and now they want more and more :)
thank you for everything you do to make Decom happen <3
At around half past midnight 5 or 6 people were let into the venue without a ticket. Apparently there were on the 'owner's guestlist'. They constantly had their phones out, filming the outside area and inside theme camp rooms. Did we know this would happen and why wasn't it stopped or communicated in advance? I'm sure they enjoyed their free safari but I feel very strongly that if we can't guarantee that this won't happen again then we need to find a new venue.
The spirit of this event is so special. Thank you to everyone who makes it happen. It has changed the course of my life for the better.
You're all awesome for putting this together! It was a huge undertaking, especially for volunteers and really appreciate all you did. Thank you for being you!
The cross-comms with PostCom were helpful as I was planning to go to both
Thanks for all the effort!
Thank you for all the work and effort put into Decom!
We've not yet reached the sweet-spot in the ratio of number of volunteers to tickets sold. It still feels like, for the almost-majority thousands of attendees we get: the notion of getting involved is an afterthought, or a novel tiny effort. Are we missing an opportunity to communicate somewhere, or are yet more people still inherently super-consumers? Eurgh, indeed, it is complicated.
For example, it doesn't seem at all right that Riley literally worked for 24 hours, or thereabouts without rest, because there was either no one else willing, or not enough other skilled supporters available to help carry their specialist event production workload. How can that be prevented next time? It's simply not safe, fair, or acceptable.
I don't know Riley personally, nor had an opportunity to introduce myself properly at the event, but I felt that they were utterly run-ragged, throughout the event; and just wished I had any applicable skills to be able to help them.
It appeared a somewhat similar situation for Tashka and all the complex requirements of

lighting etc, in the main Get Feral room.

I'm not versed in these particular, technical aspects of event production, so I may be misunderstanding things...

But, if what I think was happening, was actually happening: can we/the venue work into whatever the hire fees are, in future, a much stronger technical support team...so that Riley and Tashka don't die, please?

Makery leads Karinne and Madge were very friendly which was nice.

Thank you all so much for all your hard work!!!

You're all awesome! But please better music

Keep up the good work and thank you so much for putting all the effort in to create this!!

Thankyou

Thank you so much, Decompression is always the highlight of my year. Love you guys.

Thanks for all the work, so often unseen, that goes into making this happen. I thank everyone, every Burner who made this happen, I do appreciate all of the work that goes into a Decom.

I would love a full daytime program, that's more my jam.

No but thank you for organising a wonderful night.

Thanks for this amazing party and the good energy, it takes some energy to organise something like that

I like the party and seeing friends and the music is fun

Love you all

Stay awesome

You're all fabulous, thank you x

Loved it, keep the great work up :)

Thank you! Xxx

I loved it, I want to contribute more!!!

You are all great - thank you for the amazing event and for welcoming us to it

Love you

)'('

Thanks for all your hard work!! ❤️

I would like to thank all the people who made it happen the creative and hard work that people put in I spoke to people at decom from all over the world and everybody was having a fantastic time well done lived every minute of it

I would come to more burn events but I'm a teacher - we can only attend decom and microburn :(

Thank you so much to the leads and organisers. Amazing party this year, great communication.

See you at Nest xx

i think i worked in my whining at the appropriate points
but the stage managers and performance leads were gems. actually all volunteers are great. that's just official. particularly Johanna and Rosa and Riley, although now i feel bad

for other people I didn't mention.
I've organised many and been to even more parties in my life. This was without doubt the best party I have ever been to and I'm so grateful to have experienced it
I said my overall night was just 'ok' but the reason it wasn't more was all me and not you. Needed to unwind and decom helped with that indeed!
You should do socials
I liked the attitude & creativity of Camp Costume. If practical, I would be happy to volunteer and contribute to them in the future. How can I do that?
Thank you guys for all you have done :) Still conscious that such event is huge effort and commitment. Thank you for bringing the community together ❤️
THANK YOU