

# TRANSFORMUS 2009 AFTER BURN REPORT



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# 1. INTRODUCTION

Another year, our sixth together, has come and gone and the result of everyone's collective efforts was another amazing Transformus. Both the Trillium Earthbase effigy and KAO Temple Project blazed gloriously and to our knowledge there were no problems with the authorities and everyone got home safely. 1,223 tickets were purchased by attendees from 33 states and several foreign countries. 16 Creativity Grants were awarded to a diverse range of projects and 61 theme camps combined to form the city of Mysteria. No one perished nor was anyone severely injured.

In summary, your board feels Transformus 2009 was a huge success – many have conveyed that this year's Transformus was their favorite burn – and we couldn't agree more. We sincerely hope and believe it was, for each of you, exactly what you needed it to be. The art, theme camps, burn nights and weather were spectacular. Our sincere thanks to all artists, participants, volunteers, team leads and theme camp organizers, as *you are Transformus!*

## 2. EVENT AND LEADERSHIP

Transformus is a not-for-profit Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) incorporated in the state of North Carolina. The LLC is managed by a board of directors (BOD) whose mission is to ensure the event called Transformus is executed responsibly. The BOD ensures an adequate safety infrastructure is in place and oversees policy decisions based on community input. In years past, the BOD has fluctuated in size and levels of responsibility. The current BOD is G8Kpr, Vespa, WordPlay and DTR. With the exception of outsourced legal, accounting and website work, Transformus' leadership group is comprised of unpaid volunteers.

This year, in response to the community's desire for a larger role in event planning and execution, a community planning committee (PC) was developed. PC member criteria and a request for applications were posted on the website in the fall of 2008, and from the 17 that applied, 6 were chosen. A clerk for the BOD was also found at this time. At the initial January 2009 PC/BOD meeting at Black Mountain, NC, one of those selected felt unable to accept the PC position and an alternate was selected by the BOD. The Transformus BOD would like to thank our clerk, Teresa, and all members of the PC for their hard work, dedication and commitment to this event and community.

The PC met weekly from January through July by conference call and each meeting was attended by one BOD member. Two '09 PC members had perfect attendance: BMac and WinterSun. An

agenda was distributed by the PC chair prior to each meeting and minutes were provided to the community after each call. After two resignations, four PC members remain: Big Daddy, BMac, WinterSun and sauce. The PC crafted event policy decisions in the form of recommendations to the BOD based on community input. All 2009 PC recommendations were BOD endorsed.

Moving forward we plan to have an operating agreement in place by the end of this year to address methods to rotate on and off both the BOD and PC, covering term limits, etc. We feel it's important to keep a balance of experience, new ideas and fresh energy in these leadership positions. The future of Transformus depends upon our community's continued willingness to step up and volunteer in these roles. Sincere thanks to those who have given, and those who continue to give.

### 3. 2009 FINANCIALS

The following is a detailed breakdown of Transformus LLC's 2009 fiscal year:

<b>Income</b>	
Invitations	\$97,651.43
<b>Expenses</b>	
Land rental	\$31,882.50
Road rock	\$2,577.14
Team budgets	\$6,634.87
Art grants, effigy and temple	\$11,247.00
Donations	\$250.00
Office	\$309.79
Taxes	\$1,938.30
Fees	\$140.00
Travel	\$500.00
Education and training	\$1,003.76
Rental	\$2,026.40
Equipment purchases	\$2,192.50
Insurance	\$1,215.00
Professional services	\$1,919.49
Accountant	\$425.00

Website	\$2,160.00
Security	\$6,500.00
LegalZoom	\$1,213.00
Golf Carts	\$3,576.13
Volunteer meals	\$1,529.06
Miscellaneous	\$348.45
<b>Expenses subtotal</b>	<b>\$79,588.04</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$97,651.43</b>
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$18,590.73</b>

#### BREAKDOWN OF ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

We had several additional costs this year due to heavy rain prior to the event. Transformus paid for road rock to be delivered and put on Deerfields' roads. We used satellite parking again this year, which incurred additional expenses. We had another good investment in golf cart rentals for the week as well. The golf carts were used to ferry participants to and from remote parking and helped with exodus, in addition to use by safety teams, rangers and volunteers.

## 4. SITE MANAGEMENT

### RECAP OF LEAVE NO TRACE

This was perhaps the best year for our Leave No Trace team (LNT). LNT did an excellent job in education of LNT ethics to participants pre-event, upon arrival as well as posting educational notices throughout event site. LNT had adequate volunteers, as the entire community in general really stepped up this year. Team had use of one golf cart which enabled them to cover more ground and had volunteers remain on-site through Tuesday afternoon to ensure the land was left better off than found, cleaning up debris left by other festivals, and covering all high-traffic land with grass seed post-event. T-shirts and laminates were provided to all LNT volunteers.

## RECAP OF DEERFIELDS SITE SETUP

Art placement, theme camps and general camping had sufficient area for their needs. Due to extensive record-setting rain in the area pre-event, some areas of the property couldn't be utilized as planned. The "mesa plateau" was off-limits due to erosion, as well as several other areas used in previous years. Real estate was again somewhat tight on Main Street. Extra attention was paid to shuttling campers in extended reaches of the property such as the area known as Valhalla. Many participants camped in remote areas this year, which is of concern to safety and fire response teams. A suggestion has been noted to limit the areas permitted for camping in the future, so as to ensure safety and fire response accessibility. Campers voiced many complaints as vehicles were not allowed in extended areas making transport of camping gear was somewhat problematic upon arrival and exodus.

Transformus LLC was requested by the property owner to provide extra gravel for road coverage to utilize entry and exodus via the one-way "back" or "upper" road. Utilizing and reversing this road for entry and exodus proved to be a successful way to allow two-way participant traffic using Deerfields' small one-lane roads. This two-road system allowed participants to drop off and pickup their gear in camp themselves, as opposed to using a mass transit shuttle system from the remote lot. Better signage for directional information is needed for a smoother entry and exodus process, especially when the roads are reversed. The one-way gravel road around the upper lake needs more volunteers during high-traffic times.

Micah and the DPW crew did another great job this year shuttling event gear to and from the storage facility in Mills River to Mysteria, in addition to setting up and taking down Mysteria's public structures. DPW T-shirts were provided to all DPW volunteers.

## PARKING

Parking was again in the remote lot on the way into Deerfields and we had great volunteers. Two large lot lights with generators were rented by Transformus LLC and used for night parking and security of vehicles after dark. A hired security officer was posted in the parking area after hours. Participants were asked to drop off their camp gear on site then return their cars to the remote lot for shuttle transport back to Mysteria. Transport services were provided by volunteers by means of four-wheelers and trailers as well as rented golf carts. Vehicle placement went well and cart usage for parking was much appreciated. Having a cart made the job a lot easier for vehicle placement. Special parking T-shirts and laminates were provided to the Parking Team volunteers for identification and in appreciation of volunteer services.

## PORT-A-JOHNS

The amount of Port-a Johns contracted was adequate. The number of units rented fluctuated throughout the event depending on the estimated number of attendees, thus keeping costs down during event prep and takedown. The units not rented were taped shut while others in the same group remained unlocked throughout the event. Units were cleaned regularly and on schedule. Saturday night into early Sunday morning several units on the Burn field were in dire need of service; Sunday servicing provided adequate.

## 5. GRANTS, EFFIGY, TEMPLE, TICKETS AND THEME CAMPS

16 Creativity Grants were awarded in 2009. Additionally, the ticket design, temple and effigy designs were open to submission by the community. For the first time, multiple artists could apply for grants to collaborate on the same project. This allowed for increased funding without having to produce and document 1099s for tax liabilities. The majority of Mysterians camped with one of 61 registered Theme Camps, each offering varied services and entertainment to all.

### CREATIVITY GRANT PROGRAM

Transformus' Creativity Grant program began in 2006 and provides grants to Mysteria community members for various creativity projects and art installations. Anyone without a conflict of interest may serve on the jury which allocates the distribution of all Creativity Grant money. The leadership is not allowed to participate in grant allocation, all moneys disbursed are at the discretion of our community. With a slight increase in ticket prices (to \$75), more monies were available and the goal to increase the number and scope of 2009 grant projects was realized.

### 2009 CREATIVITY GRANT RECIPIENTS

Recipients from seven states (NC, GA, TX, MA, MD, OH and KY) brought provocative and beautiful works to the mountain. The 16 projects awarded Creativity Grants are as follows:

1. Blazeebo by Scot-o-Matic. Stone Mountain, GA
2. Litt Valhalla by Boarhead of Myschievia. Dallas, TX
3. Steambug art car by PyroCelt. Greensboro, NC
4. Fire-Reactive Projections (aka: Fire Chalkboard) by Intrinsic. Asheville, NC
5. Transformuscrabble by Paul Skinner – Tinderbox. Charlotte, NC

6. Letterboxing at Transformus by Amy Barker, aka Bacon Bitch. Sommerville, MA
7. Costumes! by Scratch. Columbia, MD
8. Ball Pit by Kegs. Louisville, KY
9. Love Boat by Gizmo. Mount Holly, NC
10. Whalesong by Egg Syntax. Asheville, NC
11. Glowing Tree Biscuits by Ree Ree, Charlotte, NC
12. Roving Random Chaos Unit by Michael Folliett. Asheville, NC
13. The Ohio Burn Unit by Knaga Sake. Brunswick, OH
14. Gypsy Art Bar by Sandstorm. Asheville, NC
15. Beaver Lodge by Joanne Andrews. Durham, NC
16. Plastarborea fluoroluminescens by Creatrix (Ilsa Ananda Door). Asheville, NC

## EFFIGY & TEMPLE DESIGN

This year a request for effigy designs was sent out to the community via the announce list and website. When the deadline expired with no designs submitted for the effigy or temple, the decision was made to extend the invitation to submit designs to anyone within our community, including leadership. In years past, BOD members and their families have been excluded from submitting designs for funding. Additionally, the funds allocated for both the effigy and temple were increased; again utilizing extra funds generated by the increased ticket price and in hopes of getting a larger pool of designs to choose from. The 2009 effigy and temple designs were chosen by the BOD and PC members without a conflict of interest.

## EFFIGY

In the end, the effigy "Earthbase Trillium" by WinterSun, a talented woodworker, furniture maker and carpenter, was selected from several great submissions. Much of the prefab work was done at WS Studios in Chattanooga, TN. Several trips were made to Deerfields to shoot laser elevations of the Burn field. In the final weeks before the event, the artist and some eager pyros within our community explored and tested the use of thermite in the design. Other chemicals were used to

create color effects in the flames. And while the idea of putting one silver glove on the raised hand of the effigy was bantered about, it was ultimately decided this would be far too defining a persona for what has always been a more neutral, and therefore more personal, effigy for each Mysterian's experience. The effigy was in place and was an interactive, creative salon in the days leading up to the Saturday night Burn.

The propane flame effect in the hand of the effigy was lit Friday giving a great effect on the Burn field and the Saturday Burn with Thermite went well. Safety precautions in design of the Thermite casing caused the effect to appear slightly delayed. It was a total success in execution with the reaction contained in the marked perimeter. Thanks to WinterSun and all of his Effigy Team for their labor of love and dancing flames.

## TEMPLE

Those in attendance on Sunday night's Art and Temple Burn will agree the furnace of beautiful flame provided an amazing experience for all. Congratulations and our thanks to starseed, DTR, Chip and crew, the KAO Temple Project was a superb piece of design and construction. A wonderful chill and meditative space to leave your prayers and comments in, as well as a great place to meet and greet. The KAO Temple gave Mysterians a chance to have a bird's eye view of the upper lake and enable the opportunity to both reflect and celebrate.

Once moved to the Burn field the KOA Temple had additional art added to the installation including the Tiki Head, Zama's flame effect Tusks, puzzle pieces and art from across Mysteria. The design of the Temple allowed for an amazing chimney effect during the burn and a very contemplate experience prevailed. Time-lapse footage of the KOA Temple Project being built and the amazing Sunday Burn can be seen on the front page of transformus.com.

## TICKET DESIGN

The last two years have been very successful for our community ticket design contest. This year we had 21 amazing designs submitted for community vote. All designs were posted on the website, and a community poll/vote was set up by Census Team Lead, ParkChase. The clear winner was Scott McElroy's design based on a tree frog with the eyes incorporating the Transformus logo. The winner of the ticket design gets nothing more than community kudos for his creation. Scot-O-Matic

also created the Blazebo grant piece and volunteered on the Fire Response Team. Thanks to Scot for stepping up on so many levels!

## THEME CAMPS (TC)

AAAhhhhh the Theme Camps! The art within camps and the scope of the various activities and experiences seemed to reach a new level this year. The TCs are the pulse of the event...that thumpa thumpa...oh, and the fire...oh yes, there was fire! Not being able to place camps on the mesa plateau made it a challenge to get everyone in. To be sure, it was tight in several of the camping areas. In the spirit of "git-er-done," everyone took their belt in an extra notch and worked together to make it diverse and most memorable. A few camps combined forces and space to create super-camps which just may be the wave of the future!

Transformus' 61 registered Theme Camps were:



BambooBerry RFD	Kamp Krieg
Baron Semedi's VIP Lounge	Kasa de la Kosee
Big Puffy Yellow	Litt Valhalla
Camp Contact	La Tarpeta
Camp Love Boat	Ludo O'Dillo's Publick House
Camp Procrastination	Maybe Bacon Camp
Camp Science	Northern Lights
Camp Trunk of Emotions	Ohio Burn Unit
D.A.M.M. - Department of Alcohol	PAH Lounge
Management of Mysteria	Pair of Dice Plateau
Dirty Southern Burners	Panacea Healing Arts
EEk ArC	The Party Liberation Front
Elder's Camp	The Philadelphia Experiment
Far East of Eden	The Philosopherz Stone
Flying Ninja Kitty Camp	Pixie's Playland
FreequenSee	Pretty Titty Bang Bang
GloForYou	Puzzled
The Green Man Camp	Quantum Dot
Gypsy Bar Camp	Radical Faeries
Her/Hisensua	Ripe & Juicy Bubbles Camp
Hillbilly Hotwheels	S.P.O.R.K
Hot Witches Brews	Scattered Pilgrims
IdeaDome	Scheherazade
IHOP - Intergalactic House Of Pancakes	Scratch's Costume Camp
Ivy Hill, Organic Oasis	Share Yer Booty!
Jedi Training Camp	Shibari Monsters from Enterspace

TAINT TOWN  
Thai Water Festival  
Transformus Collective  
The Transformus Hydration Collective  
Vietnamese Coffee Camp

Whiskey and Whores  
The Willy Wonka Experience  
Wine Man  
Wondrous Temple of Boom  
Zama

## 6. COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

### WEBSITE

Our website, over the course of this year, went through its ups and downs. Our main Web Team lead, Jace Byers, did an amazing job of bringing the website back on-line after the incidents of last year. Jace made our website more user-friendly and created a community forum where Myterians could communicate and interact throughout the year. Jace resigned in the Spring and the Transformus BOD would like to personally thank him for all his efforts and the energy he devoted to bring our website back on-line and for creating the 2009 ticket infrastructure.

After much discussion, the decision was made that in the best interest of the event we should hire someone unrelated to the event to maintain and run our web services. We hired an outsider who has had no involvement with Transformus. Our new outsourced webmaster has done an excellent job of keeping the website up to date and helping to facilitate communication between organizers and Mysterians.

### TICKET PROCESSING

As always the ticket process is one task and adventure that is most challenging and fraught with emotions. This year we went back to a system used years ago in hopes of making things smoother for everyone. Special considerations were given to prior year's ticketing mishaps in design of the 2009 system. In all 1,223 tickets were sold and no complimentary passes were distributed; everyone pays the same amount to participate in Transformus.

It was decided to increase ticket prices in order to provide Mysterians with a more enhanced event. The ticket prices went up to \$75 dollars this year for the following reasons:

1. Art Grant funding expanded
2. Effigy and Temple budgets increased
3. Legal Fees
4. Accounting Fees

## 5. Paid Website Maintenance

Another major change in the ticket purchasing this year was the one ticket per Mysterian policy. The thought process behind this was to ensure the fairest distribution of tickets and eliminate scalpers and those who buy excessive amounts of tickets. We received positive and negative related feedback that will be taken into consideration for Transformus 2010. Several core infrastructure and safety volunteers were offered a chance to purchase their \$75 ticket via Pay-Pal the week before the event. The 2009 ticket announcement follows:

### *TIER ONE*

The first 1450 Mysterians who express interest by creating a profile and checking the invite interest box on the Transformus website are granted the opportunity to purchase a single invite to this year's event. Please note that this is a deviation from years past wherein the offer was extended to purchase multiple tickets. This year, each unique individual desiring an invitation is required to register their interest through Transformus.com.

If you are among those first 1450 Mysterians, purchase information was sent shortly after March 1 to the email address you specify in your Transformus.com registration. You will be required to send a postal money order for \$75 (by mail postmarked no later than March 21) and self-addressed stamped envelope to the address specified in that email, confirming your interest in participating in this year's event. Do not send any payment to any Transformus address/representative prior to receiving a confirmation email. We will not accept any payments postmarked prior to March 1, mailed to a wrong address, or designated for anyone not confirmed as one of those 1450 Mysterians. These details will be redistributed to those able to purchase invites shortly after March 1.

### *TIER TWO*

Any invites not paid for and postmarked by March 21 will be redistributed to the next people in the queue – up to the 1450 registrant.

The queue is determined by the order of website registration. If you want any chance of purchasing an invite directly from us, you must go to [www.transformus.com](http://www.transformus.com), register as a member, and check the box indicating your interest in an invitation.

### *TIER THREE*

After all critical infrastructure needs have been met, any remaining tickets, along with any unclaimed tickets from prior tiers, will again be offered to the next people in the queue by way of registration at Transformus.com – up to this year's attendance cap of 1750 individuals.

In the end, 2,675 people joined the 2009 ticket queue, of those, 1223 purchased invites.

The overall ticket process went well compared to prior years. However, there's still room to improve and make this process easier and less stressful for everyone. We plan on making the ticket process for Transformus 2010 even better to ensure no problems prior to the event or at the gate.

### RADIO COMMUNICATION

The overall radio communication for our event was much improved from years past. This was mainly due to a new antenna and getting a piece of equipment called the "repeater" fixed. The main base for all of our radio communication was at center camp main stage. This is where we had all radio sign-in and check-out forms and chargers for the radios. The repeater was placed in a higher location which allowed for communication to take place from all areas of the event. We had a total of 30 radios working and in use during this year's event. Crucial event infrastructure participants were the main people in use of our radios. Deerfields hired security provided their own equipment and tuned in to the same frequency. We continue to look for ways to better our radio communication for 2010.

### PR, INFORMATION, AND COMMUNICATION RESOURCES

Prior to the event several community announcements were made leading up to the event that detailed everything Mysterians needed to know including gate times, the survival guide, and directions to the site. Community forums were created on our website and existing chat and announce lists were used, offering Mysterians multiple avenues of information. There were less PR issues this year for Transformus, an improvement over last year's pre-event media coverage.

One new requirement created this year to help protect the event and the organizers is the Transformus legal waiver. Created in part due to situations that occurred last year, the waiver was signed by each participant and remains on file.

## 7. HEALTH AND SAFETY

### RECAP OF INJURIES:

We had one minor burn that was treated by EMS volunteers on Saturday night in addition to several calls for dehydration, skinned knees, and one over extension/sprain of knee. EMS responded to calls via designated golf cart for EMS use. On Sunday afternoon one injury occurred when a wooden temple structure that was being moved fell onto a participant. Minor injury was experienced by the participant but to secure safety of participant, EMS was called as well as First Responders who were also members of hired Security Force. This Medical Team was called as is stated as Event Process and Procedure for any suspected or possible serious injury. Participant was checked out at site and once approved by referenced Medical Team, transported to Main Stage for further observation by Physician on EMS shift at the time incident occurred. After sufficient observation time participant was then allowed to go to personal camping area as requested by participant. Physician on duty agreed to and granted this request. Camp mate stayed with participant at camp site which was located immediately behind Main Stage and EMS location. Referenced Physician on duty made hourly checks on participant for the next several hours. First Responders with hired Security Force also made periodic checks. No further indication of any resultant problems or symptoms of injury. Follow up with participant after event via phone call by BOD President Debra (aka:g8kpr) with no further symptoms of injury reported.

### EMERGENCY SERVICES REVIEW

Basic supplies were given upon request such as bandages, suntan lotion, cotton swabs and ace bandages for sprained knees and sprained ankles. A CPR certification course was completed by 28 participants paid for by Transformus LLC at the Deerfields April Town Hall meeting prior to the event. A suggestion to present basic First Aid course pre-event to those interested in volunteering with EMS in 2010 has been noted. NOTE: No major medical services given at event per guidelines of Event Process and Procedure. However, more EMS could be utilized for extra coverage as needed. An AED defibrillator device was purchased this year by Transformus, LLC and kept on site throughout event. AED was not needed or utilized. EMS T-shirts were provided to EMS Team volunteers to enable event participants easy recognition of EMS Team members as needed.

## RANGER REVIEW

The Transformus Ranger program provided solid coverage for the duration of the event. Ranger Team Lead, Mayhem, not only presented Ranger Training specific to the event property site before the event, but also created and distributed a Ranger Manual specific to the event property site at the Deerfields April Town Hall. More Rangers are needed next year. As large as the event has become having more Rangers would be beneficial. Event was sufficiently monitored by Rangers as well as hired Security Force. Much appreciation to those Rangers who volunteered extra shifts to enable participants a safe event experience. Ranger T-shirts were provided to Ranger Team volunteers to enable event participants easy recognition of Mysteria Rangers as needed.

Weather was very agreeable with no wind or rain during the Burns. Effigy and Temple safety meetings went well. Establishing a firm plan for each Burn was beneficial. We did use a little creative leeway.

## FIRE SAFETY REVIEW

Many thanks to the Fire Safety Team as there were no major fire occurrences this year! Much research, attention to safety and perimeter for the Saturday and Sunday burn nights was given this year due to the expected brightness of thermite. Email sent to registered participants previous to event to notify brilliance of flame and sunglasses were suggested to be worn when Effigy flame burned. Some extra space with perimeter allowed in reference to safety considerations. Perimeter was secured and staked with yellow safety tape.

We did have one cooker fire Friday morning which was quickly responded to, contained and extinguished. There was a camp grass fire on Friday night in further reaches of Shangri La camping area. Quick response by Fire Team with fire being contained and extinguished. Thank you to DPW for cleanup of this fire pit, a requested by property owners at end of event.

This year a Fire Team Medic specific to Fire Team was staged on burn field within perimeter space. Said Medic was designated for monitoring of hydration and body temp checks of Fire Team regulating Effigy and Temple burn. This was a great addition to protect and provide safe care for those who protect us. Rangers & Fire conclave helped to keep the burn perimeter secured and protected. For 2010 we need to expand perimeter a couple of feet to keep volunteers from toasting.

## 8. WHAT LIES AHEAD

With the sixth year of Transformus now behind us, we can only look towards the future and what lies ahead. As each year that passes by we learn more about what Transformus is and what Transformus can be. It is such an honor to serve this community and we thank each member of the Transformus family for what they bring to the mountain each year.

As we learn from our mistakes, we grow organically to create a better environment for art and community. Looking towards 2010, we strive for more art, more involvement, and more of that community interaction we know simply as being back home in Mysteria.

We welcome the Transformus family back home next summer, as there will continue to be fire on the mountain. Remember, it's up to each of you as to what Transformus will become in 2010 and beyond, as **you are Transformus!**

Transformus BOD

