

# TRANSFORMUS X AFTERBURN REPORT

## CONTENTS

Introduction .....	2
Organization.....	3
Financials.....	3
Transformus 2013 Profit and Loss Statement .....	3
Breakdown of Additional Costs.....	4
Creativity.....	4
2013 Creativity Grants.....	5
Effigy.....	7
Temple.....	7
Pyre Burn .....	8
2013 Mysteria Art Development grants.....	8
Execution.....	8
Ticket Sales .....	8
Volunteer Statistics .....	9
Theme Camps .....	9
Board Liaisons.....	10
Landowner Partnership.....	11
Ignite! Town Hall Weekend.....	11
Team Breakdown - Emergency Services Department .....	11
First Aid.....	12
Mysteria Rangers .....	12
Fire Response Team .....	12
Sanctuary.....	12
Team Breakdown – Department of Public Works .....	13
Department of Mutant Transit .....	13
Moonshiners.....	13
Department of Public Works .....	14
Gate.....	14
Parking.....	14
Theme Camp & City Planning Team.....	14
Leave No Trace.....	15
Traffic .....	15
Team Breakdown – Art Department .....	15
Art Team.....	16
Fire Conclave.....	16
Department of Mutant Vehicles .....	16
Effigy Team .....	16
Temple Team .....	16
Drummer Conclave .....	17
Art Wranger.....	17
Team Breakdown - Communications Department.....	18
Logistics .....	18

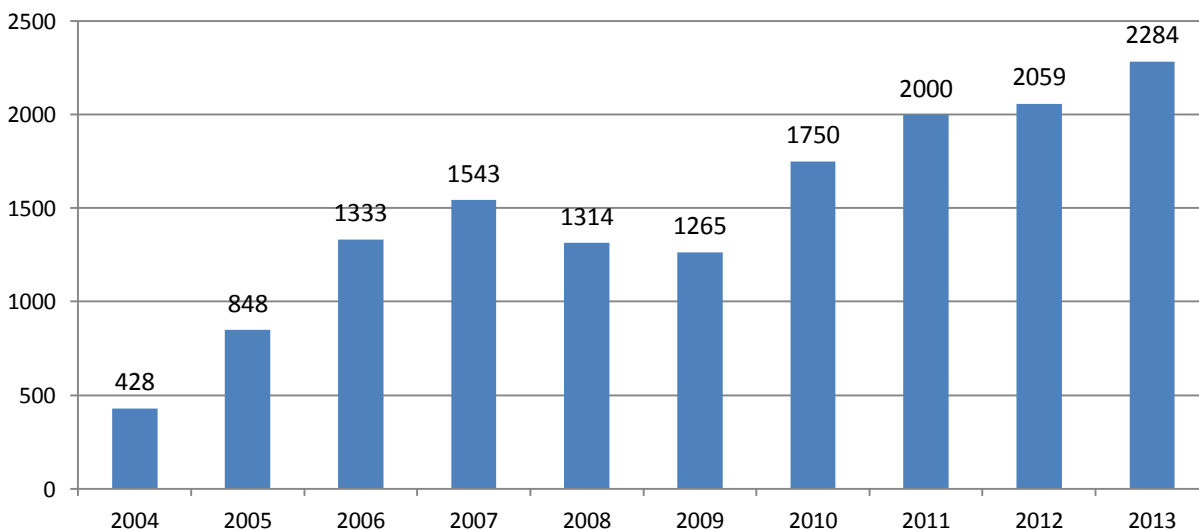
Web Team .....	19
Greeters.....	19
Signage .....	19
Transformus Information Transmission Squad.....	19
Communications Team.....	19
Effigy Burn Coordinator.....	20
Volunteer Coordination.....	20
Inventory .....	20
New Team for 2014.....	20
The Future .....	21
References.....	21

## INTRODUCTION

The tenth Transformus event, known as Transformus X, was held on the third weekend of July two-thousand thirteen. 2234 participants from 34 states gathered to form the art-city of Mysteria, transforming Deerfields into the place we call “home.” Community participation rose to record levels with 18 registered mutant vehicles, 17 Creativity Grants, 87 registered Theme Camps and 2,234 attendees on site. Out of 2,284 tickets sold, 2,234 attended – a 97.81% utilization rate. Many impressive numbers, but the most impressive is that 96.7% of all volunteer shifts were filled *before* the event started.

The tenth incarnation of Transformus came together smoothly due to our amazing Team Leads and Theme Camp Operators working past exhaustion to execute their collective vision of Mysteria. Theme Camps are the backbone of a Burn – the city’s content is created at their discretion – and their level of participation is awe-inspiring. 27 volunteer teams provided the city infrastructure, supported by a six-person board. Together, everyone’s collaborative creativity built and then deconstructed the city of Mysteria, leaving no trace afterwards.

**Total Tickets Sold During of Our Ten-Year History**



## ORGANIZATION

Transformus is a volunteer-run North Carolina Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) managed by a six-person board of directors in 2013. Working as a not-for-profit group, only several vendors receive payment – all leadership and volunteers remain unpaid. The 2013 six-member Board of Directors consists of DTR (President), Vespa (Treasurer), Midnightt (Secretary), Firefly, Treat, and sauce.

Transformus is a sanctioned [member of the Burning Man Regional Network](#). Official event information, announcements and additional transparency can be found on the event website [www.transformus.com](http://www.transformus.com).

Ensuring the leadership group of Transformus remains open to new life is important for keeping a balanced perspective and the long-term sustainability of our collective. Joining the board in October of 2013 were former liaisons JoeJoe from Charlotte, NC and Moon from Columbia, SC. At that same board retreat, former president DTR stepped down after eight years of service. We thank DTR for seeing Transformus through both rough times and good, and wish him well in the future.

In January of 2014, three experienced community leaders joined the leadership group as “board liaisons,” during which they support the board by participating in meetings and assisting with managing teams at the event. Our three new “board liaisons” are Conway Jennings from Richmond, VA, Andi D’Amico from Asheville, NC, and Kurtalicious from Philadelphia, PA.

The board provides vision, direction, management and support, but it is the 27 volunteer teams which execute the creation and deconstruction of our creative city. The Team Leads handle their tasks autonomously, with one board member serving as a point of contact and support person. Each team has a co-lead, and many have support roles as well. These volunteer leaders create Mysteria each year – as a community, we owe them a great deal of thanks.

## FINANCIALS

Transformus is volunteer run and pays very few vendors. Full financial information dating back to 2005 is available on [Transformus.com](http://Transformus.com) under the Transparency > Financials tab.

### TRANSFORMUS 2013 PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

Transformus year-to-date finances ending December 31, 2013 are below (subject to minor changes after further review).

#### Income

Transformus Tickets	\$209,169.00
Town Hall Tickets	\$1,090.00
Gross Profit	\$210,259.00

## Expenses

Venue Rental	\$85,660.00
Team Budgets	\$21,111.67
Creativity Grants	\$14,415.14
Security Vendor	\$11,000.00
Event Costs	\$9,105.38
Federal & State Taxes	\$8,849.95
Cart Rental & Repair	\$7,996.58
Team T-Shirts	\$6,445.68
Bank Merchant Fees	\$6,125.63
Ticket Vendor Costs	\$4,434.40
Communications Rental	\$3,537.38
Travel and Retreat	\$2,617.36
Donations	\$900.00
Storage	\$864.00
Accountant	\$450.00
Office Expenses & Postage	\$417.54
Newsletter Service	\$334.24
Website	\$228.85
Volunteer Snacks	\$208.41
Secretary of State Fee	\$202.00
Conference Fees	\$200.00
Expenses Total	\$185,104.21
Net Profit	\$25,154.79

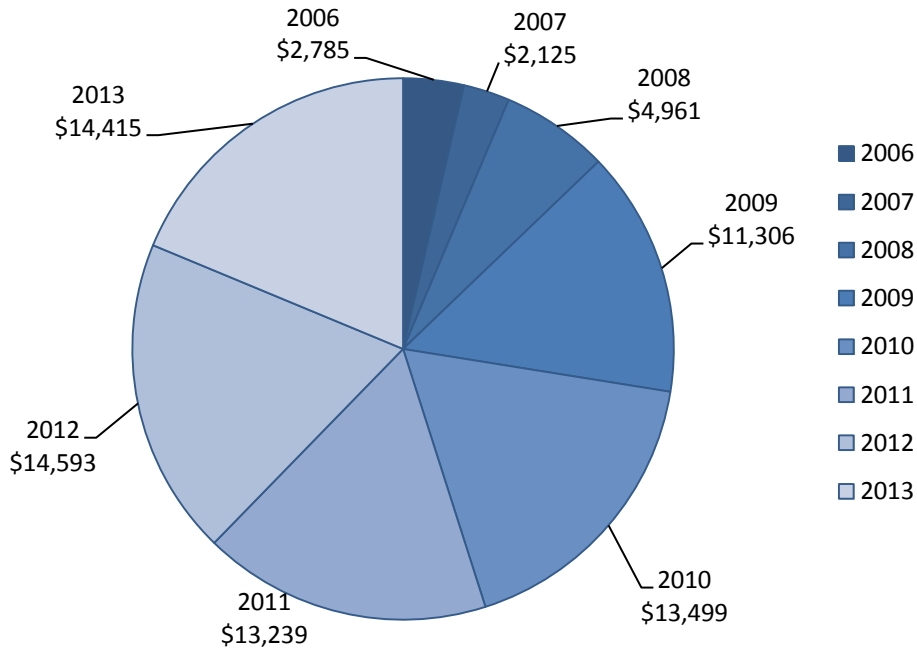
## BREAKDOWN OF ADDITIONAL COSTS

While the volunteer leadership of Transformus has remained unpaid for a decade, several vendors are paid in order to host a more responsible event and ease the burden on volunteers. In 2013, our paid vendors were: rental companies for radios, lights, and transportation; the landowners; an accountant; CPR trainer; event security; trademark lawyer; first aid services; and a ticket vendor. Donations went out to the Mills River, Rocky Point and Pleasant Garden Fire Departments and [Burners Without Borders](#).

## CREATIVITY

Sharing creative projects that are interactive and engage others is a great way to participate in our society. The city of Mysteria is a living work of art in itself, weaved together by each participant's gifts. The leadership group works hard to provide a fertile environment where each participant feels comfortable sharing their creativity.

In order to support large projects and return a portion of ticket money back to participants, the community has allocated \$76,923 towards art in the form of Creativity Grants since 2006.



**2013 CREATIVITY GRANTS**

**Transformus Postal Office** by Feonix Fawkes from Washington, DC

The world needs far more brilliant and zany love letters; this is where it starts. Mysterians can reflect, scribble, get a randomized love letter, and negotiate with one of our trained postage specialists. Come to the Transformus Post Office to volunteer for one of the most glamorous, adventure-ridden jobs in Mysteria: Postal Servant duty. Watch people perform for their mail. Anything and everything can – and does – happen at the post office. Location: near the Upper Lake next to the Volunteer tent.

**The Molly Roger** by Sneaky McFly from Asheville, NC

Set sail with our ship's captain and crew on their voyage of exploration on the waters of Mysteria. Treasure will be had. Location: Lower Lake

**Weeping Willow** by Mara & Irwin from Baltimore, MD

A custom light sculpture inspired by the willow tree, a symbol for healing, inner vision and dreams. Long narrow leaves hang from gently curved branches with hundreds of fiber optic “crystals” poking from the foliage like shining buds. Location: Eden near Magic Groove

**Flight of the Phoenix** by Ole Shi Ted from Charlottesville, VA

This year the legendary Phoenix will be brought to life in Mysteria! Its beautiful aluminum feathers will unfurl as its wings open and close in a bioluminescent dance. Watch its head move and shoot fire! Perhaps you will pull the puppet strings and muse at the mechanics of avian architecture. Location: Valhalla

**Mega Connect Four** by Tuesday from Durham, NC

A super-sized Connect Four set. Location: near Center Stage

**Fire Flower Power** by Kirk from Charlottesville, VA

A flaming plant grows anywhere from 4 to 6 ft and springs up in places where humans need to see better, most often near creeks and dark pathways throughout Mysteria. If you happen to stumble across one of these rare flame flowers, enjoy what Location: Avalon it provides us, but be cautious not to be drawn too close like a moth to the flame.

**Ceramadelics Light Sculptures** by Bree and Eric from Micaville, NC

Ceramic glowing organic forms that pulse with light will enlighten your Mysteria path in the darkness of night. Location: Shangri-La

**Magical Mushroom Faerie Ring** by Mariposah from Asheville, NC

Imagine you are strolling casually down the "streets" of Mysteria enjoying the beautiful day or reveling in the glorious night; you turn the corner, and all of sudden you see a group of giant mushrooms! Holy Amanita! What the faun...? The mushrooms are moving? And what's that you hear? Strange voices are beckoning you to come in, come in, step inside the ring. Bravely, you enter the faerie ring and take it all in. Your senses are delighted, and your perception shifts as you look up at the mushrooms, and the mushrooms look down at you. Then begins "the Dance of the Wild Mushrooms!" Location: Avalon near Zama

**Expression POD** by Mantis from Philadelphia, PA

The magic of light and sound gather for an amazing meeting place for beloved Mysterians. Location: Shangri-La near Fire Pyramid Lounge

**The Night Voices Vending Machine** by Huck Carrboro, NC

Somewhere in the woods, the Night Voices vending machine is waiting. Put your coin in the slot, receive your prize.

**Neighborhood Solar Signage** by Scrumptious Monkey from Durham, NC

Neighborhood announcers, aka solar signs, bringing lighted embellishment and distinguishment to all our fantastic sectors. Location: Fern Gully near the Upper Lake dock

**Burning Soul** by Danimal from Winston-Salem, NC

Burning Soul is a metal man with an opened chest and a hand extended. The man will have fire in his head, hand and inside his chest. Location: Elysium Fields near The Willy Wonka Experience

**KalediCollide** by Carter from Hockessin, DE

A kaleidoscope large enough to enter and spend time in. Location: Shangri-La near The Landing Pad

**Pyramid Code Correlation** by Esiris from Asheville, NC

A 1:126 Ratio Scale Model of the 3 Great Pyramids of The Giza Necropolis inspired by many experiences in the realm of Mysteria and the "Orion Correlation Theory", a hypothesis in pyramidology which proposes that the relative positions of the 3 Great Egyptian Pyramids on the Giza plateau correlate with the relative positions of the 3 stars in the constellation of Orion. Location: near the Burn Field

**Propane Dancefloor** by Knagi from Brunswick, NC

Location: Valhalla in Mischief Village

**Fire Tuba** by RedHat from Alexandria, VA

A sousaphone that shoots up to a 20 ft flame out of the hand-crafted bell.

**Fly Away** by Tyto from Pisgah Forest, NC

A life-size birdcage for all of your perching and swinging pleasure. Location: Elysium Fields near Philospherz Stone

## EFFIGY



The Transformus X effigy was designed by Winter Sun, who has provided several stunning effigies in years past.

We are excited to have aspects of Transformus' rich 9-year history incorporated into this year's Transformus X design. As always, bamboo was incorporated in some respect, as it has in each effigy since the first "Bamboozler" was created by Bruce Bender in 2004.

The effigy was completed prior to the start of the event due to the work of Winter Sun, Starseed and their hard-working build crew.

The 2014 effigy design is open to community application. Want to see something new effigy-wise for Mysteria XI? Go for it!

## TEMPLE

With the Temple of Harmony – created by Michael and crew from Fairfax, VA – we engage ourselves and the immediate community. This work encourages the art of letting go, play and experimentation using the language of music and sound. Visually drawing on inspiration from holy buildings of all denominations across the globe, the Temple of Harmony embodies a solemn and grand aesthetic.

There are a total of 27 wooden string-instruments piercing the sky with their 8 foot-tall curved, sagittate tops. They are chromatically-tuned and playable by multiple participants. They encircle you to create a safe space to connect. Above you is a bamboo roof with a domed top adorned with colored-glass illuminating the space with the full spectrum of light. Adding over 80 bamboo chimes, gongs, and other percussive instruments, the piece became a complete symphony of music and expression. Everyone is invited to express themselves freely; yet, there is also invitation to find something inside of you that may be holding you back. Play these spires to transcend that emotion, feeling, or barrier in your life. Let go of the dissonance and move forward.

The Temple was burned and the project no longer exists as an object, but the memory and experiences survive.

## PYRE BURN

In Memory of our dear friend, and co-founder of what we lovingly know as Transformus, a new camp has been formed to honor the life and love of Sid 'Rhythm' Cullipher. "Camp Fall Risk" held a Memorial Pyre Burn on Friday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of July, 2013 around the upper lake during Transformus X.

While at Duke Hospital being diagnosed, a bright yellow FALL RISK hospital bracelet was placed on Rhythm. He thought this was hilarious. In support of Sid, his wife Noni and daughter Brittany, we also wore the bracelet. His close friends lucky enough to make the journey to be with him in his last few days at home also donned FALL RISK bracelets. Thus, Camp Fall Risk!

If you knew Sid you can see his smile and feel his warmth right now. If you did not know him personally, then please join us to commemorate someone who has had, or will have, an influence on your life through your Transformus experiences.

## 2013 MYSTERIA ART DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

### **The Light Forest** by Starseed from Charlotte, NC

From the deep roots of life to the full birth of longevity and stability The Light Forest resembles the beauty of what nature is in its true form. The Light Forest is an installation that displays the foundation of what years of growth and childhood memories offer to Mysterians. The Light Forest is a miniaturized realm of relaxation and meditation, full of light in a dark world. The trees will illuminate the spirits of all Mysterians who enter, rejuvenating their hearts and minds. Location: between Elysium Fields and Nutopia.

### **Tubes of Reubens** by CJ from Marshall, NC

Invented by German physicist Heinrich Rubens in 1905 and now coming to Mysteria at four times the awesome measurement. A quad array of separate channel fire tubes and a few more surprises at Hot Witches' Brews! Watch as sound becomes fire. Location: Elysium Fields, Hot Witches' Brews

## EXECUTION

### TICKET SALES

2013 was the largest Transformus to date. Out of 2,284 tickets sold, 2,234 attended – a 97.81% utilization rate. Tickets were sold online in two batches of 1,000, with a limit of two tickets per-person, at \$90 per ticket. 42 attendees were under 21 years of age.

In late 2013, a Ticket Committee was formed from volunteers within the community. They spent countless hours researching ticket vendors across a set of criteria, and made recommendations to the board on their findings. We thank our Ticket Committee for helping out with such important work.

One of our organizational challenges continues to be ticket sales. Unprecedented demand triggered server delays during our first round, but adjustments by our vendor Admit One greatly improved the second round with no server delays and fewer problems overall. As in 2013, each round of tickets sold out in less than one hour.



Transformus has not utilized complementary admission in its ten-year history. Everyone, from the founders to our volunteers, are each required to have a paid ticket for admission. Taking into consideration responsible growth and room for additional parking and Theme Camps, the attendance cap for Transformus in 2014 has been increased to 2500 participants.

## VOLUNTEER STATISTICS

Out of 1499 shifts listed for the event, 1404 of those were filled pre-event, **resulting in a 96.7% rate of pre-event volunteerism**. Kudos to Lizifer and the Volunteer Team for their hard work before, during and after Transformus X.

Total available shifts were 1499, or 4976 hours of scheduled shifts. To break that down even further, that adds up to 622 consecutive 8-hour work days, or *two years and four months' worth of full-time work*. That's 207 full-on 24-hour, non-stop days of work. This is just from the hours we have available for volunteering during our time in Mysteria – that doesn't include the hours contributed before and after by the board and Team Leads, or from shift leads that aren't on the schedule – only scheduled community volunteer shifts.

When the online sign-up was shut down, 36.46% of our community had signed up for shifts (almost 97% of shifts filled in advance. Over 20% of ticket holders signed up for at least one shift, and just under 2.5% (2.3%, or 46 people) signed up for 13+ hours.

On site, there seemed to be a much better rate of relief for volunteers in historically difficult teams, and a much lower rate of people not showing up for shifts (roughly 1 in 4, instead of 2012's 1 in 3).

## THEME CAMPS

87 registered Theme Camps formed the city of Mysteria 2013. Built from the ground up and leaving no trace, these volunteer-run camps create the diverse neighborhoods of our art-city. Year after year, we appreciate what these groups help blossom with their effort, creativity, ingenuity and spice. Many thanks to these amazing collectives for their spirited commitment and participation, as truly, *you are Transformus*.

Listed below are the titles of the 2013 Transformus Theme Camps:

- ♥ Aloha
- ♥ Ancient Future Forever
- ♥ Arcana
- ♥ Arrr! Camp
- ♥ Bat Country
- ♥ Big Puffy Yellow
- ♥ Big Thumpy Yellow
- ♥ Camp Blue Fire
- ♥ Camp Board Games
- ♥ Camp Contact
- ♥ Camp Don't Tell Mom
- ♥ Camp Fall Risk
- ♥ Camp Lay-z-Fux
- ♥ Camp Photon
- ♥ Camp Procrastination
- ♥ Camp SCIENCE!
- ♥ Carolina Moon Cabbage Crew
- ♥ Chococalypse Now!
- ♥ Combustabubble
- ♥ Cowboy Coffee
- ♥ Cupcakes
- ♥ D.A.M.M. Camp
- ♥ D.A.M.M. Party Crashers' and Sleep Camp
- ♥ DangerUs
- ♥ Dirty Southern Burners (DSB)
- ♥ Dogs on Papasans

- ♥ F\*ck You I'm a Wizard
- ♥ Fire Pyramid Lounge
- ♥ Flesh of Beauty
- ♥ Foxfire Tea House
- ♥ Good Vibe Tribe
- ♥ Green Man Camp
- ♥ Gypsy Bar Camp
- ♥ Heathens Unplugged
- ♥ Herhissensua
- ♥ Home Sweet Home
- ♥ Hot Witches' Brews
- ♥ Hum & Hug
- ♥ IHOP: Intergalactic House of Pancakes
- ♥ In Tents
- ♥ It's the End of the World as We Know It
- ♥ Jedi Training Camp
- ♥ Jello Shot Island
- ♥ Local Fauna
- ♥ Logos
- ♥ Love Boat Camp
- ♥ Magic Groove
- ♥ Magic Love Bus Camp
- ♥ Meso Creso
- ♥ Mischief Village
- ♥ Mists of Avalon
- ♥ Mustache Theater presents: SpAcE cAmP!!!
- ♥ MustacheVille
- ♥ Neverland
- ♥ No Name
- ♥ NYAN CAT
- ♥ Party Liberation Front
- ♥ Percussion Junction
- ♥ Philadelphia Experiment (PEX)
- ♥ Philosopherz Stone
- ♥ Playland
- ♥ Pretty Titty Bang Bang
- ♥ Queer Ass Folk presents: A Sausage Fest
- ♥ Reject Hoppers
- ♥ Rootpile
- ♥ Scratch's Costume Camp
- ♥ Seratopia
- ♥ Short Bus Camp
- ♥ SparkleSpaz HoboTron
- ♥ Taint Town
- ♥ Tasty Pastie
- ♥ Thai Massage Exchange
- ♥ That Camp
- ♥ The Faerie Ring
- ♥ The Fire Triangle
- ♥ The Imaginarium
- ♥ The Landing Pad
- ♥ The Real HousePeople of Mysteria Lane
- ♥ The Senior Center
- ♥ Ultra Violet Glitter Lab
- ♥ Vulgarcadia
- ♥ WACK Radio
- ♥ WILLY WONKA Experience
- ♥ WMD
- ♥ YinMoon
- ♥ You Are Beautiful
- ♥ Zama

## BOARD LIAISONS

Ensuring the leadership group of Transformus remains open to new life is important for keeping a balanced perspective and the long-term sustainability of our collective. We work together to ensure that those who make the effort to get involved have some place in our organization to give their time and talents to.

Formally joining the board in October of 2013 were former liaisons JoeJoe from Charlotte, NC and Moon from Columbia, SC. At that same board retreat, former president DTR stepped down after nine years of service. We thank DTR for seeing Transformus through both rough times and good, and wish him well in the future.

In January of 2013, three experienced community leaders joined the leadership group as "board liaisons," during which they support the board by participating in meetings and assisting with managing teams at the event. We Welcome Conway "Mr" Jennings from Richmond VA, Andi D'Amico from Asheville, NC and Kurtalicious from Philadelphia, PA.

## LANDOWNER PARTNERSHIP

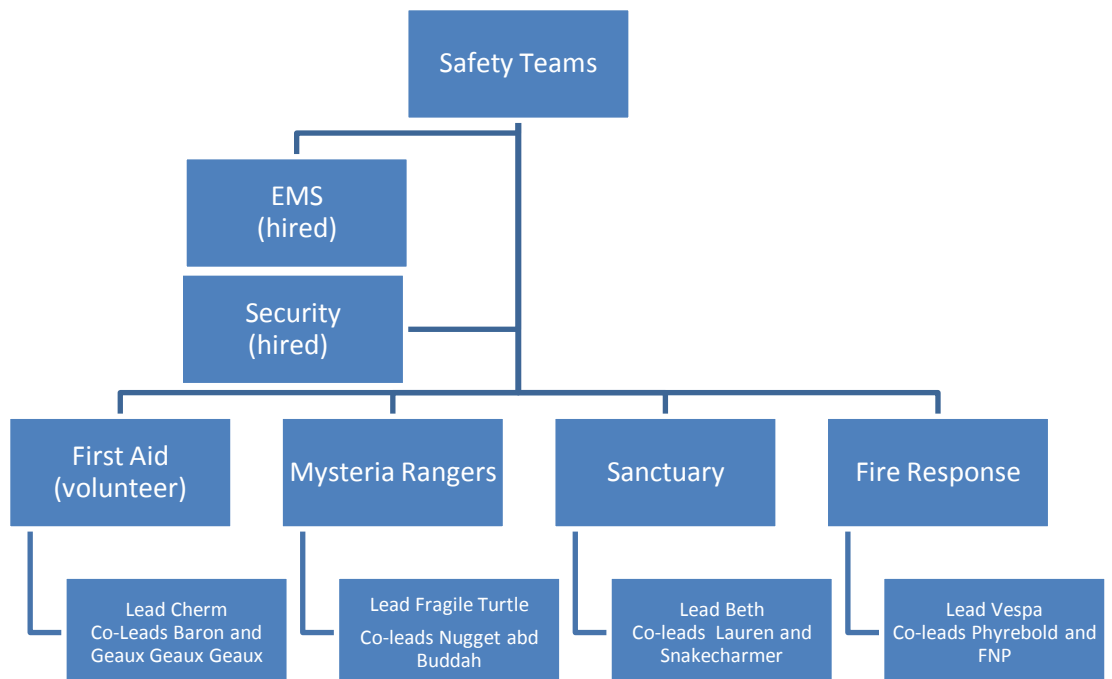
Transformus has a close partnership with the landowners of Deerfields (in Horse Shoe, NC), our site for the history of the event. Working with the Deerfields staff, our Team Leads executed a new traffic control approach that made entry and exodus easier on everyone. The land was in great shape for this year's event and extra care was given to road preparation prior to our arrival. We thank the owners and staff of Deerfields for their part in creating our home.

## IGNITE! TOWN HALL WEEKEND

Our all-ages Ignite! Town Hall weekend returned to Castle Elchenburg (in Booneville, NC) in April of 2013. This year at Ignite! we offered a Saturday night effigy Burn and something new called "Playforms." Playforms are participant-provided knowledge sharing sessions, open to anyone addressing anything. We had two days of classes on things like battery powering your camp to cooking outdoors. Other activities focused on community building and developing Transformus' greatest assets: the volunteer leaders who run our teams and manage our city. Transformus-specific Ranger Training was offered along with CPR certification. A Town Hall-style community meeting addressed current topics and open questions Saturday night, followed by a potluck meal and Effigy Burn.

Ignite! in 2014 will again be at Castle Elchenburg for a fourth year, and we invite Theme Camps to participate. We'll again have a Saturday night Effigy Burn, and base the weekend around participant-provided Playforms.

## TEAM BREAKDOWN - EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT



## MYSTERIA RANGERS

Under the leadership of Fragile Turtle, with co-leads Ranger Nugget and Buddha, the Mysteria Rangers did an excellent job keeping our city working smooth and effectively during Transformus 2013. This vital team performed up to and beyond expectations managing conflict across Mysteria. Throughout the event, all logged incidents were handled in accordance with Ranger protocol, and escalated when appropriate.

## FIRST AID

Our volunteer team, led by Team Lead Cherm and co-leads BeerBaron and Geaux Geaux Geaux, provided very basic medical services and escalated anything more serious to the local Emergency Room.

The volunteer EMS teams addressed numerous cases of dehydration, sprains, burns and insect bites – nothing outside of their normal purview. Participants with anything more serious are encouraged to seek help at the local hospital, or we call 911 in cases of emergency. Anyone who leaves for medical care is readmitted free of charge following treatment.

Transformus utilizes both volunteer and hired medical services. The paid professional EMS vendor supplements the weekend volunteer shifts Thursday through Sunday. Alternate First Aid and CPR certifications are provided to the community free of charge at the Town Hall each year.

The event saw one significant injury in 2013, and we send the injured and their family our love and ongoing prayers.

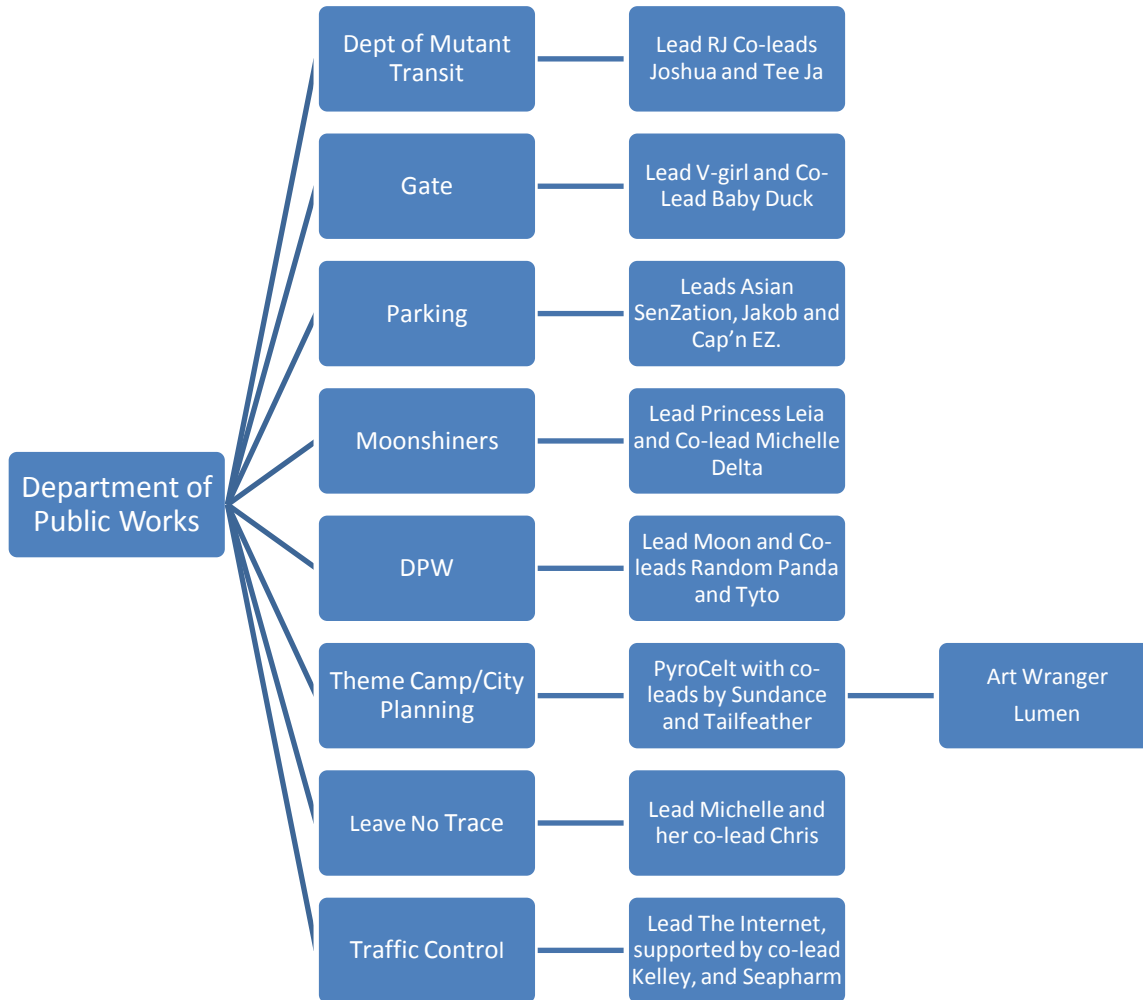
## FIRE RESPONSE TEAM

This year the Fire Response Team (FRT) was led by previous years' team lead- Vespa and co-leads FMP and Phyrebolt. FRT is instrumental in the inspection of flame effects (required before device operation) and support of responsible art burning. Once again, the team involved a close-knit group of qualified firefighters, many of whom serve together at events around the Southeast and in Black Rock City. The Effigy and Temple fires burned smoothly. Participants creating new fire pits were a minor onsite problem again this year. Safety is everyone's responsibility at Transformus, especially in a place where many of the attendees are comfortable around fire and flame effects, and we thank you for your continued community diligence.

## SANCTUARY

Sanctuary is a giving and responsive team tending to emotional issues of Mysteria's members. The Sanctuary Team for 2013, led by and Team Lead Beth Walker and co leads Lauren Guy and Snakecharmer, was effective in achieving this goal. All incidents participants were assisted as needed. A new site placement this year created private wooded areas for recuperation and support.

## TEAM BREAKDOWN – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



### DEPARTMENT OF MUTANT TRANSIT

The Department of Mutant Transit, provides transportation shuttles for Mysteria’s residents to and from remote parking on Friday and Saturday, and shuttles participants back to parking on Sunday and Monday. Led by Team Lead RJ and co-leads Joshua and Tee Jay, this team’s hard work over seven long days is crucial to keeping Mysteria running smoothly.

### MOONSHINERS

Moonshiners ensure our city's main roads are well marked with light throughout the hours of darkness. Moonshiners light the city each night near dusk in procession and retrieve and refill the lamps each morning. They not only prepare and hang the kerosene lanterns that light Mysteria, they also place the poles that line our streets. Team Lead Princess Leia and co-lead Michelle Delta worked hard each morning and evening ensuring the city was well lit.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Department of Public Works, or DPW, is responsible for the physical setup of Mysteria's structures, assisting in land projects benefiting the community during Transformus, and repairing land damage post-event. Returning Team Lead Moon and co-leads Random Panda and Tyto were some of the first arrivals on-site and last to leave, working an additional week with volunteers to repair the land. We're very glad to have Moon returning in 2014.

## GATE

The Gate team led by returning lead V-girl and co-lead Baby Duck ensured a smooth arrival and registration for Mysteria's inhabitants. Managing the gate from Wednesday morning through Saturday afternoon, these ladies' dedication and a good volunteer turnout facilitated a smooth gate process for all. Ticket scanners were again rented through our ticket vendor. Overnight gate management was outsourced on Friday night to ensure we remained open all night, accommodating Mysteria's late arrivals from far and wide.

## PARKING

Parking was fortunate to have three amazing leaders and countless volunteers this year, which together oversaw our population's entry, parking and exodus from the remote parking lot. They were led by three returning Team Leads: Asian SenZation, Jakob and Cap'n EZ. The parking plan developed by our leads and roadwork by Deerfields worked cohesively, and volunteers were plentiful throughout peak times. Working in the hot, remote parking lot is not fun, and we thank those of you who help facilitate our arrival and departure process.

## THEME CAMP & CITY PLANNING TEAM

87 Theme Camps registered to "bring the awesome" to Mysteria again this year. Each camp brought something unique and beautiful, while still contributing to the cohesive space the neighborhoods have become. Our youngest neighborhood, Argonath, expanded in its second year of existence across the street, and continued hosting theme camps with larger vehicles that the upper city's streets cannot support.

The Theme Camp Team, led by PyroCelt with co-led by Sundance and Tailfeather, juggled and jig-sawed 87 registered Them Camps and 17 additional registered non-grant art projects into our city, taking into account location preferences, planned activities, thematic milieu and plain old aesthetics so that as you walked through the city the expected and unexpected were juxtaposed into the larger whole of "holy crap this place is awesome!" The Theme Camp team had two support positions this year, DJ 40 oz and Ranger Rack. As we continue to grow in size and scale, it is even more important that theme camps register. Theme Camp registration for Transformus 2014 will be in early spring; keep your eyes on the website and newsletter for details.

## LEAVE NO TRACE

Returning for a fifth year to lead Leave No Trace (LNT), Michelle and co-lead Chris ensured the city of Mysteria left no physical trace once the event ended.

Volunteers focused on education and posting informational signs in Mysteria's port-a-potties. Only the LNT leads stayed through Tuesday working, with DPW, to ensure we received our damage deposit back. More care needs to be taken with feathers, and camps collecting all micro-MOOP prior to departure.

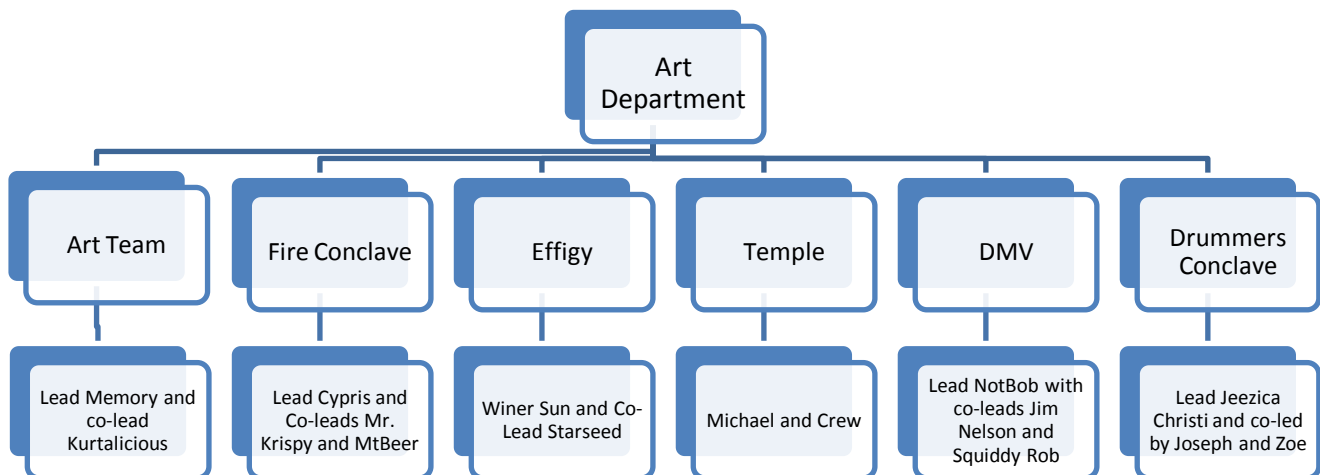
We're excited to have Michelle back for a sixth year as our leave No Trace Lead.



## TRAFFIC

Traffic volunteers kept the vehicles moving and the roads safe at all times before and after the event (when private vehicles were allowed access into the city). Led by Team Lead The Internet, supported by co-lead Kelley, and Seapharm, "exodus" was again smoother with traffic management, with the value of the Traffic Team is apparent to all. As we funnel 2500 people down a one lane road again in 2014, patience is required from all participants during entry and exit.

## TEAM BREAKDOWN – ART DEPARTMENT



## ART TEAM

The Art Team, led by returning Team Lead Memory and co-lead Kurtalicious, reviewed 44 grant applications. Memory led a jury of 11 volunteers through the blinded grants, as they awarded \$14,415 to [17 community projects](#). Once again, Breathe led the onsite placement team to assist grant recipients in finding their assigned locations. Mysterians were treated to a large number of propane art pieces this year (all inspected by the Fire Response Team), as well as a few more art cars on our city streets (which were inspected by DMV). The burn seemed saturated with art this year, with tons of amazing pieces and brought by both Theme Camps and individual Mysterians.

The annual Art Walk, which takes place on Friday afternoon, is a walking tour with stops at each installation, where grant recipients speak on behalf of their works. All Mysterians can include their projects in the Art Walk by contacting us. Keep your eyes on the website and the newsletter for the exact dates to be announced.

## FIRE CONCLAVE

There's more to conclave than what we see happening around the effigy on Burn night. Coordination between a number of teams including FRT, EMS, Effigy and Rangers is necessary, as is organizing enough safeties to keep a watchful eye on the performers and participants. Thanks to lead Cypris and co-leads Mr. Krispy and MtBeer for leading these efforts to make the effigy burn a beautiful and well planned night. JoeJoe devised a new pattern to organize conclave members in 2013, which allowed a high number of fire spinners to participate in conclave at an efficient rate, creating a stunning design.

## DEPARTMENT OF MUTANT VEHICLES

The department of Mutant Vehicles (DMV) was again led by NotBob, supported by co-leads Jim Nelson, Squiddy Rob and Dooka, DMV inspected each mobile art vehicle to ensure it met the safety criteria posted on our website. DMV licensed a record number of 18 vehicles at Transformus X, twice as many as the year before.

## EFFIGY TEAM

The Transformus X effigy was designed by Winter Sun, who has given us several stunning effigies in years past. We were excited to have aspects of Transformus' rich 9-year history incorporated into this year's design. Supporting Winter Sun again this year was co-lead Starseed. Check [the effigy section under the Creativity section above](#) for detailed information on the installation.

## TEMPLE TEAM

With the Temple of Harmony, created by Michael and crew from Fairfax, VA we engage ourselves and the immediate community. This work encourages the art of letting go, play and experimentation using the language of music and sound. Check the [temple section under the Creativity section above](#) for more information on the installation.



## DRUMMERS CONCLAVE

The Drummers Conclave is a growing community of Mysterian drummers ready to throw down incredible beats for both Saturday and Sunday burn nights. Newly included as a part of the Drummers Conclave is the use of a sound system to help amplify the drums and other instruments across the burn field. Led by Jeezica Christi and co-leads Joseph Locke and Zoe Jackson, over 100 drummers and musicians came together and helped set an intense tone for the Saturday Effigy, including the use of fire sticks designed by Torq, the creator of the “FWUMP” fire drum.

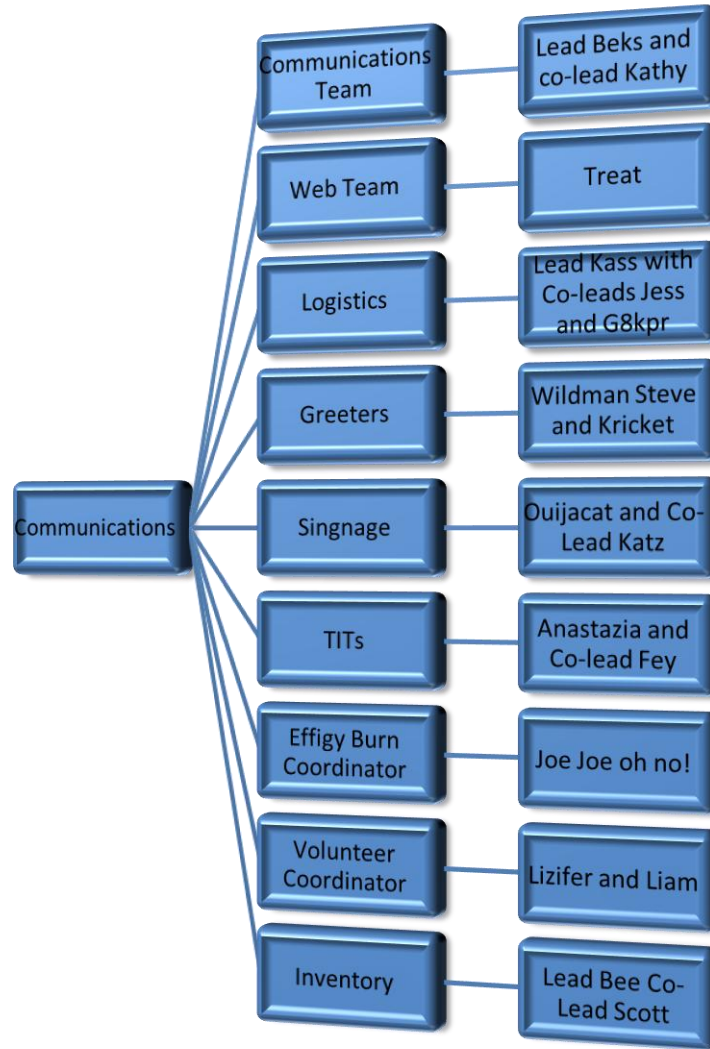
Following the community’s desire for a quiet, reflective Temple Burn in 2013, the drummers added slow, meditative beats to the evening – stopping completely once the Temple became engulfed in flames – allowing Mysterians to enjoy this reflective moment in complete silence.

## ART WRANGER

A new team for 2013 was Art Wrangler. Working with City Planning, they help register and place art pieces pre-event, so they could be placed on the city map and included in Burn this Booklet. We thank Lumen for stepping up to fill in this organizational gap.



## TEAM BREAKDOWN - COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



## LOGISTICS

Although Logistics was a new team developed for the 2012 burn, several Team Leads commented that Logistics' work is now instrumental to the efficient functioning of their own teams. Logistics centralizes many of the tedious tasks involving overlapping supplies for multiple teams. Team Lead Kass invested thought and time into creating systems to effectively manage the checkout and tracking of transportation shuttles and over 100 rental radios. Kass had a well-organized approach to this daunting task and maintained commanding leadership throughout the event. Kass was assisted by co-leads Jess and G8kpr. We are pleased that this team has flourished and risen to fill the need for important support across the entire event.

## WEB TEAM

The 2013 Web Team was managed by returning Lead Treat, who is also one of our board members. Utilizing a custom designed, developed and coded event website ([www.Transformus.com](http://www.Transformus.com)) and volunteer registration system, our web team manages the distribution of official even information. Our online volunteer registration is a self-service system, administrated by each individual Team Lead. A [volunteer statistics page](#), displays pre-event volunteer information in real time. Our website remains the one place for up-to-date event information.

## GREETERS

The enthusiastic leadership of returning Team Lead Wildman Steve and co-lead Cricket led the Mysteria Greeters in ensuring all of Mysteria's arrivals were greeted properly – especially the event virgins. Everyone saw joy on the faces as people arrived into Mysteria, a joy made even more intense by the fantastic welcome extended by all of our wonderful Greeter volunteers. This is a team that seldom has problems filling their shifts, as everyone loves to be a greeter. Wonderfully effective innovations this year were signs that explained the ten principles of a Burn. The signs were spaced-out along the entry road, then magically migrated to the burn field once the gates were closed. This year, more emphasis was placed on educating virgins on our 10 Principles. Our hats go off, again, to a well-run team.

## SIGNAGE

From leading Mysterians to art projects and Theme Camps to helping us find our way home after a long adventure, the Signage Team created and posted hundreds of beautiful signs to help us find our way through the city of Mysteria. Signage designs and prints the neighborhood banners, large-scale maps of Mysteria, Theme Camp and art grant placement placards, cart license plates, and our ever-beloved volunteer swag and badges. The Signage Team Lead Oujicat created the graphics with the support of Co-Lead Katz.

## TRANSFORMUS INFORMATION TRANSMISSION SQUAD

Team Lead in Anastazia and co-lead Fey headed the Transformus Information Transmission Squad (TITS) in 2013. The TITS team shared information and posted announcements, events and other relevant information for the city of Mysteria. TITS assisted with the recruitment of on-site volunteers for the Volunteer Coordinator, as needed. The TITS booth, located near the burn field, provided copies of important resources and BurnThisBooklet for community access.

## COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Team Lead Beks and co-lead Kathy led the Communications Team as it completed its tasks prior to the event, assisting with preparation and content for the official email newsletter *Mysterian Musings* and the creation of BurnThisBooklet. Team Lead Beks and co-lead Kathy worked closely with Midnightt to edit the newsletter to better inform the extended community throughout the year.

The other focus of the Communications Team was Burn This Booklet (BtB) 2013. This informative book has developed into an official comprehensive guide to Transformus on-site. Since the online event schedule has become more utilized by the community prior to the burn, the printed event schedule includes a diverse

selection of Theme Camp offerings and other gatherings. BtB was printed for each team and Theme Camp, and for general distribution at TITS and the Volunteer Coordination booths. The book included maps of each neighborhood with art and camps, theme camp information and extended descriptions, art grant descriptions and locations, an event schedule, team descriptions and team leads list, and featured art from the community ticket design contest.

## EFFIGY BURN COORDINATOR

The Effigy Burn Coordination Team was again led by Joe Joe, one of our newest board members. This team was created to bring all aspects of our two Burn nights together in hopes of producing two well-choreographed events. Our lead did a great job in bringing this task to life, as usual.

## VOLUNTEER COORDINATION

An effective approach was presented this year in filling Transformus' numerous volunteer shifts, utilizing an online system pre-event combined with strong on-site leadership in Mysteria. Volunteer Coordinators worked with team leads to find out when and where volunteers were needed throughout the event. They centralized this information in two places: the entry gate and the bend in the road near the burn field. The Volunteer Coordination booth provided an accessible location for Mysterians to check their shifts, sign up for new volunteer shifts and find out where to meet their team.

Co-leads Lizifer and Liam helped the Volunteer Coordination Team operate throughout the burn to cover peak volunteer times and keep Mysteria running smoothly. For more information and detailed statistics check the [Volunteer Statistics](#) section.

## INVENTORY

New Team Lead "Bee" stepped up to manage the new Inventory team with co-lead Scott, helping to manage the team distribution and re-collection of Transformus' physical assets. Bee developed a stencil set to help properly label and organize, and Lizifer was a big help in 2013. Co-lead Scott is returning in 2014 to lead the Inventory team.

## NEW TEAM FOR 2014

One of the most difficult parts of Transformus is getting all 2500 people into and out of a remote mountain holler on two single-lane dirt roads. A new team – yet to be named – has been enabled to help get the citizens of Mysteria in and out of our fair city. Powerhouse volunteer Tee Jay has agreed to develop this team in tandem with the board and we'll be looking towards our community to help staff it.

## THE FUTURE

The first Transformus was held in July of 2004, when 428 people gathered “on the mountain to Burn the Bamboozler.” Transformus X celebrates the tenth anniversary of that inaugural event with 2234 participants on-site. This milestone invites reflection on our history, our founders and ourselves.

Transformus X broke every record with art more grants, Theme Camps, participants and better volunteer rates than ever in our ten year history.

Vespa has been elected as our new Board President, with Treat supporting him as Vice President. Midnight continues as Secretary, and our new treasurer is FireFly. We now have three new liaisons supporting a seven-person board, as we help our amazing Team Leads create the city of Mysteria. We thank all our volunteer leaders, past and present.

As a board, we take our mission of hosting and organizing a responsible event very seriously. We give our devoted time and energy to creating the space upon which everyone’s combined creative expression builds Mysteria and its year round community – but it’s **you** who create Transformus.

What will our city look like in another ten years? With your help, we’ll continue to exceed expectations and evolve collectively as a community.

In gratitude,  
Transformus Board of Directors  
[bod@transformus.com](mailto:bod@transformus.com)

## REFERENCES

- ♥ The only source for official event information is our website: [www.transformus.com](http://www.transformus.com).
- ♥ Transformus was a 2013 [sanctioned member of the Burning Man Regional Network](#).
- ♥ Transformus’ “[In & Out Guide](#)” helps to set participant expectations with a difficult entry and exit process.
- ♥ [2013 Survival Guide](#) helps indoctrinate participants and update the community on event policies.
- ♥ The new Facebook page [www.facebook.com/TransformusBurn](http://www.facebook.com/TransformusBurn) functions as a social media outlet for announcements and community input.