BURNING MAN PROJECT

Our Case For Support

Fuel the World's Most Radical Cultural Experiment

From a rogue gathering on San Francisco's Baker Beach to a global phenomenon, Burning Man proves what is possible when human agency replaces passive consumption.

Black Rock City, Nevada



Rooted in the 10 Principles, Burning Man fosters human connection and creative agency.

Participants innovate, experiment, and solve problems together, then carry what they learn into the world to help build more thriving, creative, and connected communities.

- Radical Inclusion
- Gifting
- Decommodification
- Radical Self-reliance
- Radical Self-expression
- Communal Effort
- Civic Responsibility
- Leaving No Trace
- Participation
- Immediacy



Black Rock City, Nevada

The Problem Is Vast

In an increasingly digital and isolated world, our need to gather, co-create, and belong in person has never been greater.

Globally, one in six people experience chronic loneliness. As screens give way to AI companions, physical gathering disappears and automated interactions replace human contact, dramatically cutting meaningful face-to-face time with friends. Synthetic connection cannot satisfy our need for real-world human experience. Trust is built by authentic human interaction.

(World Health Organization, 2025; Harvard Graduate School of Education, 2024)



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A World Hungry for Real Agency

In a world of screens and turnkey entertainment, Burning Man offers another way: a fierce, participatory culture where people step off the sidelines and build everything, together.

- **The Decline of Active Creation**
  Passive consumption is replacing making, starving people of self-expression.
- **Hands-on Making**
  Makerspaces, woodshops, cocreation hubs, and repair cafés are rising, driven by a desire to craft together.
- **The Co-creation Effect**
  Research shows building or co-creating boosts dopamine, self-worth, and fulfillment more than passive consumption.
- **Citizen Science and Local Co-design**
  People crave shared agency. Given the chance to solve local problems together, engagement spikes.
- **Prescribing Connection**
  In England, doctors made 1.3 million social prescribing referrals in 2023, linking patients to arts, music, gardening, and nature walks.

Building Capacity Through Experimentation

Burning Man is a living laboratory where people collaborate, test ideas, and solve problems with limited resources. The experience strengthens creative agency and the capacity to adapt in a rapidly changing world.



Black Rock City, Nevada

Burning Man Is Uniquely Suited to Meet this Moment

Unlike conventional cultural institutions or festivals, Burning Man operates without corporate sponsorships. This commitment prioritizes human agency, participatory art, and community built through contribution.

A household name with roots in culture jamming and a prankster spirit, Burning Man evokes fierce passion, not indifference. Philanthropy lets it embrace its wild-child identity while advancing participatory culture.

A global icon, a living philosophy, and a distributed community makes Burning Man uniquely capable of turning participation into lasting civic and cultural impact.



Burning Man Official Decompression, Oakland California

Feel the Impact

More than **85% of Black Rock City participants return for the connection and belonging,** and the impact has a lasting effect.

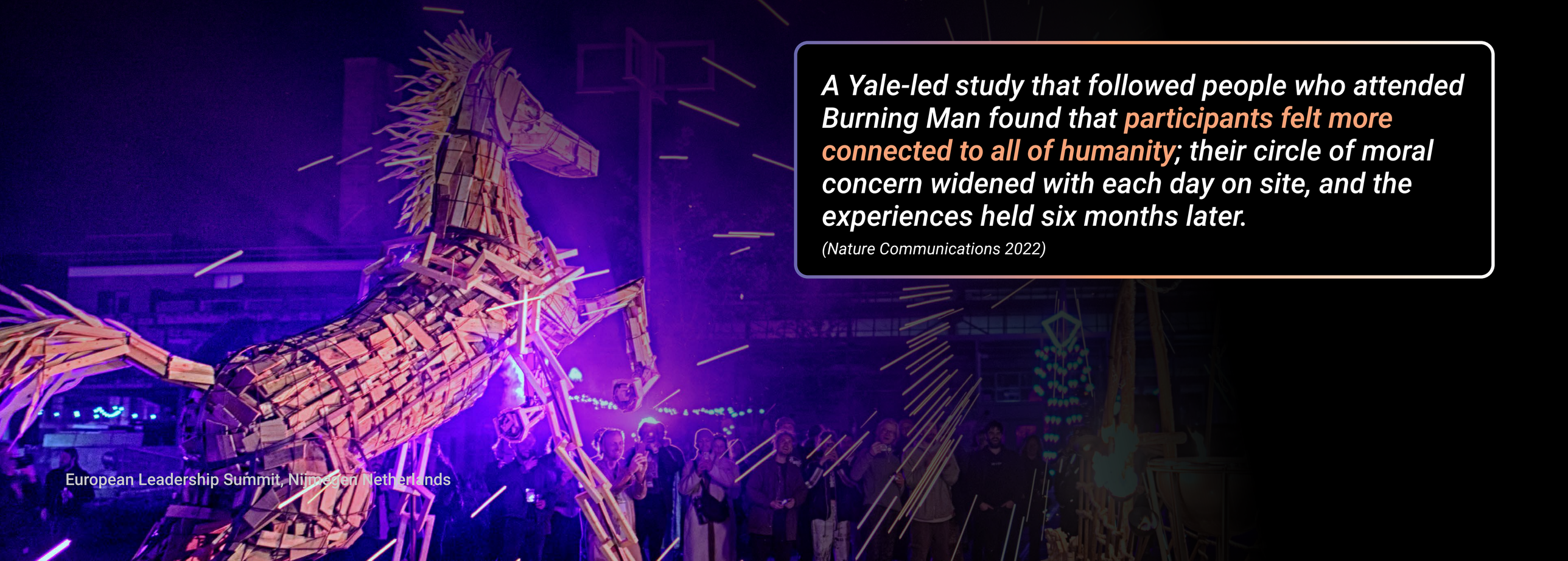
(Black Rock City 2025 Census)

Burning Man's impact begins with participatory creativity and ripples outward into the world, inspiring:

- A sense of possibility
- Shared responsibility
- Civic action

A Yale-led study that followed people who attended Burning Man found that participants felt more connected to all of humanity; their circle of moral concern widened with each day on site, and the experiences held six months later.

(Nature Communications 2022)



European Leadership Summit, Nijmegen Netherlands

A solution in action

From Temporary to Permanent, Year-round Spaces

Burning Man began as an experiment in temporary community but inspired people to build spaces for gathering and creating. Worldwide, local Burners are founding year-round spaces nurturing community. For example, Argentina's community has produced 10 editions of its Regional Event, Fuego Austral, since 2016. The nonprofit producing it also operates La Sede, a Buenos Aires makerspace where members build, gather, and learn. Organizer Ignacio Roizman explains its evolution:

"By reaching a critical mass of a hundred people, we started having different spaces in the makerspace," explained Ignacio Roizman, a former Burning Man Regional Contact in Argentina. "Every room had its own group and they started making it whatever they wanted. We began with a workshop and library. Now there's a pottery workshop, a cinema, and a living room with a social space for recurring events..."

Fuego Austral Regional Event, Argentina

Read more in the Burning Man Journal.

A solution in action

A Catalyst for Cultural Innovation

What began as a local San Francisco gathering is now a globally recognized nonprofit ecosystem, a living laboratory for civic innovation and a network of more than 100 Regional communities across six continents.

"The cultural ecosystem linking Burners worldwide can bring experiences to people in meaningful ways, engineering powerful change, and showing this community's unique capacity to ignite future cultural collaborations and co-designed art education around the world."

- *Giedrius Kavaliauskas (**Lithuania**), Jukka-Pekka Heikkilä (**Finland**), Yaroslav Mamay (**Ukraine**).*



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Read more stories in *The Dispatch.*

Fueled by Generosity

Burning Man Project turns down corporate sponsorships to protect the culture from commercial influence. At many large events, sponsors and vendor revenue share cover 20% to 30% of the budget.

Burning Man Project forgoes corporate sponsorship and vendor revenue sharing to preserve a rare space where people participate, create and connect on different terms. Philanthropic support, rather than corporate sponsorship, makes up the difference.

Did you know? Sponsorship provides about half of private funding at some leading nonprofit festivals, while sponsorship and vendor revenue sharing cover 20–30% of large corporate-run event budgets.

> Burning Man Project's mission, since the nonprofit was founded in 2011
>
> ***To facilitate and extend the culture that has emerged from the Burning Man event into the larger world.***



Burning Man Official Decompression, Oakland California

Be Part of Shaping the Future through Philanthropy.

Bring it 365 & Everywhere.
Build What's Next.
Extend it Forward.



Black Rock City, Nevada

Bring It 365 & Everywhere

Every day brings a new opportunity to experience Burning Man culture. Extend Burning Man — through new and existing pathways — to inspire new participants and sustain a vibrant Black Rock City across generations.



Burning Japan Regional Event, Japan

Build What's Next

Cultural and technological innovation is what we do. Keep Black Rock City at the leading edge of participatory culture through ambitious art, regenerative infrastructure, and continued experimentation in how people gather and create together.

Black Rock City, Nevada



Extend it Forward

Invite the next generation to shape the future of Burning Man culture and carry it into their communities.



European Leadership Summit, Tallinn Estonia



The Burning Man Ripple Effect

From participation comes a spark, and from that spark, engagement that extends far beyond the gathering.

That is the Burning Man impact.

Burning Man Official Decompression, Oakland California

Powered by Participation

No spectators.

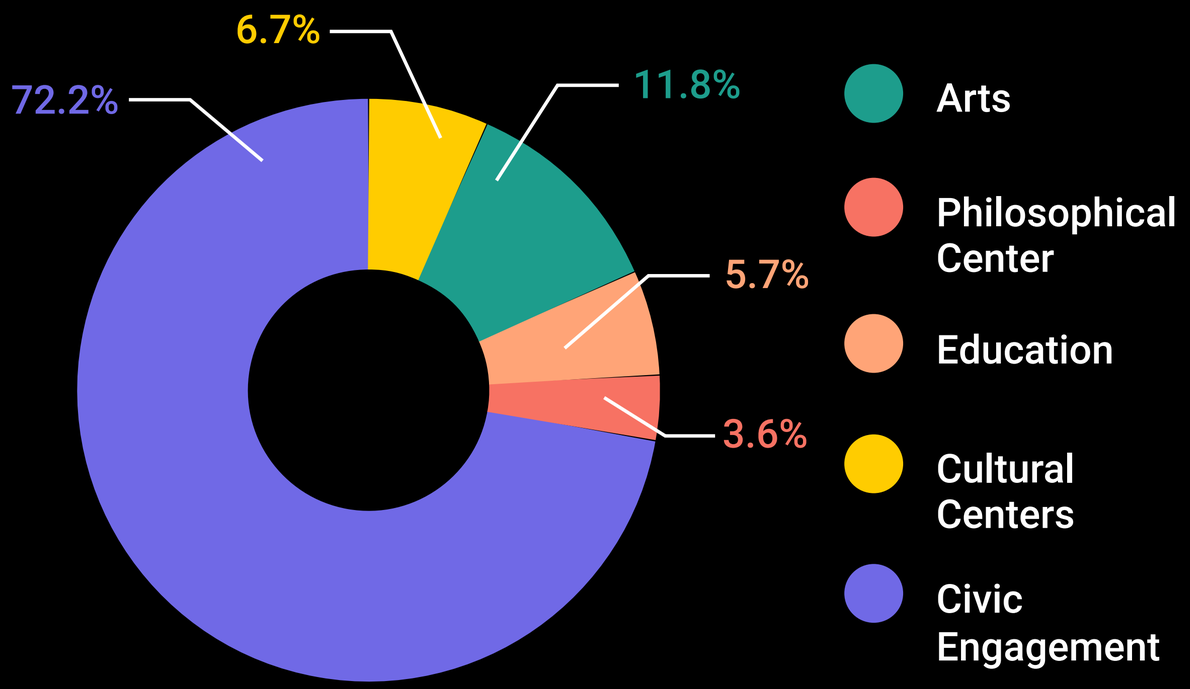
As Participants, we build the city, create art, and organize camps. We help the rocket go, too, as leaders and members of operational teams that help take responsibility for shared experiences. The same ethos animates Regional communities and civic projects worldwide.

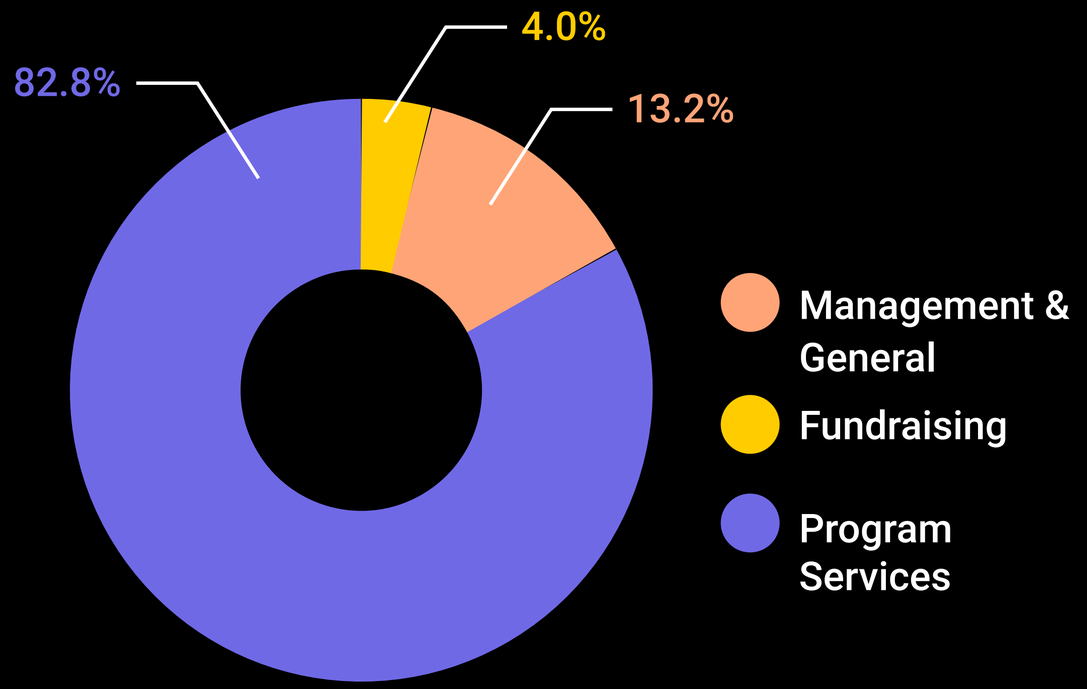
Philanthropy strengthens the infrastructure that makes this participation possible without replacing the community's role.



Black Rock City, Nevada

Use of Funds


6.7%
11.8%
72.2%
5.7%
3.6%
Arts
Philosophical Center
Education
Cultural Centers
Civic Engagement


4.0%
82.8%
13.2%
Management & General
Fundraising
Program Services

Help Build What Comes Next

Philanthropy nurtures innovation and participatory creativity, extends Burning Man 365 and everywhere, and prepares the movement for the generations ahead.

Help sustain a vibrant Black Rock City and advance a more creative, connected and participatory world.

Ignite

- **Bring It 365 & Everywhere**

Innovate

- **Build What's Next**

Invite

- **Extend It Forward**

Philanthropic investments strengthen Burning Man culture, deepen connection and participation, and help more people carry its impact into the world.



Connect With Us

Giving@burningman.org

Ways to Give

- Annual Giving
- Donor-Advised Funds
- Employer Matching Gifts
- Stocks & Securities
- Qualified Charitable Deductions (IRA)
- Major Gifts
- Planned Giving
- Cryptocurrency
- In-Kind Gifts
- Multi-Year Pledges

Make a Gift



Burning Man Official Decompression, San Francisco California