

# AMBER BURN 2021

## REPORT

**Amber Burn is a regional Burn event in Lithuania run entirely by volunteers following the 10 core principles of Burning Man. This year the event commenced in an abandoned quarry not far from Vievis, ~40 km away from Vilnius.**

Isn't it beautiful when people come together and build something out of this world? Something that could be the New Normal? Amber Burn city was built in one week and stood for four glorious days and three sparkling nights.

The best part about it? We all added a little piece of our hearts to make it happen – our mutual energy intertwined and magic was born. As always, there were many things we were proud of, and many things that can be improved going forward. We learn and grow together.

### FACTS:

**Date:** July 8 – 11, 2021

**Location:** Verkšionių quarry

**Tickets sold:** 500 (Blue tickets – 369,  
Yellow tickets – 76, Crew tickets – 32,  
Artist tickets – 23, Kids tickets – 27)

**Attendance:** 479, kids 14

**Theme camps:** 14

**Burnable effigies:** 5 + 1

**Mutant vehicles:** 3

**Performances and workshops:** 105!







**Communal effort:** Amber Burn wouldn't happen if it wasn't for the phenomenal burners manifesting their ideas, dedicating their time and effort. Theme camps and artists have started their preparations a few months before the event.

As we had problems with the police, all theme camps agreed to work on it together, lower down the volume at agreed time, and have one responsible person per camp who was going to deal with the police if needed.

Even though the Sacred Temple effigy burned down earlier than expected (fortunately, there were no serious injuries), the burners have united, and we saw a brand new artwork rise from the ashes just in half of the day. In a way, this was one of the most beautiful things that could have happened as it allowed us to come closer, together and arise like the phoenix.

**Covid-19:** As one of the biggest concerns to make the event happen was, of course, the Corona pandemic. We have adhered to the Lithuanian government rules which meant all of the participants had to have either a valid Possibility Passport, vaccination proof, negative antigen or negative PCR test upon entering.

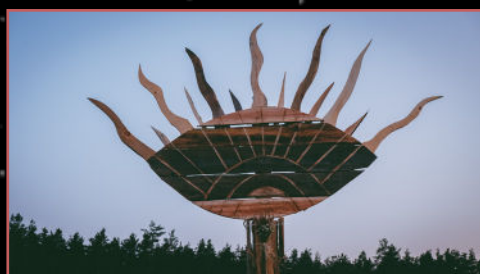
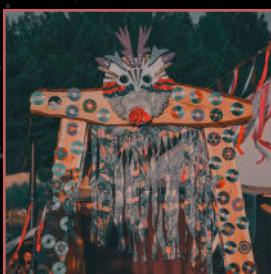
**Arts:** The remnant cash left from AB2020 funded nine different art projects, including a mutant vehicle! An overall of six effigies were built, loved and enjoyed, and finally burned. Three mutant vehicles transported burners across the city.

**Construction:** The crew arrived at a completely empty location on the 1st of July, and the last member left on the 14th of July.

Crew camp had a strong build team that built the central camp (Amber Burn Church) completely from scratch as well as other huge structures including Kids Village, Crew Kitchen, Sanctuary, Tool Bar and Medics point.

**Theme camps:** 14 theme camps have created a feel of a never-ending, full-of-fun and magnetic city. The attendees enjoyed over a hundred planned and spontaneous workshops and happenings, and, of course, beautiful music played till early morning.





## REFLECTIONS

**Music:** Even though we tried our hardest to make friends with the neighbours in advance, the music was, once again, too loud for their liking. The police were very friendly but have asked us to turn it down and finish our parties earlier than expected. Many attendees weren't happy for the music to finish at 4AM. We need to find a desert in Lithuania!

**Lesson learned:** must carry out soundcheck and warn the neighbours way prior to the gathering. Email the exact location address to all institutions with advance request to establish what region it belongs to/falls under responsibility and control.

**Communication:** Lack of communication between departments. Main tool for internal communication was Discord where some of the channels were closed to other members of the crew, this way leaving out some crucial information that would have eased up the process.

**Program:** Program created and sent to participants together with location revelation (few days before the event). The program stand in front of the central camp wasn't completed with all of the happenings. But sometimes an adventure and random findings can be better than something pre-arranged?

**Placement:** Even though placement worked very hard to clear the land, we couldn't help the bumps in some of the areas that meant camping was a little bit difficult. Due to 479 participants and 14 theme camps spread out through the location, there was a feeling of crowd scarcity.

**Radical inclusion:** In order to find a balance between radical inclusion and full understanding of the 10 principles, we have created a questionnaire to register for the tickets. However, it was easy to guess the correct answers.

**Tickets:** Lack of clear communication regarding blue (full price) and yellow (low income price) tickets before the ticket sale started. The Donation option was confusing – a few people donated the ticket price amount rather than buying the ticket itself.

**Volunteers:** Unfortunately, quite a few of the volunteers missed their shifts, not realizing that others have to cover for them and have double shifts in scorching heat. Especially in the FAST team – everyone wants to see the burns and no one wants to watch people watching the burn. We must improve the message on volunteering and how it is crucial in the burn.

**Burns:** Due to unforeseen circumstances, the burns were delayed quite a bit a few times. Better role and time management must be coordinated, so the FAST department focuses on burns only.

**Deadlines and responsibilities:** Make sure everyone adheres to deadlines. As this is a volunteer run event, life and jobs take over sometime. Communicate with each other better and share realistic expectations.

**Pictures:** Too many people did not understand how to respect personal space and have been recording and taking pictures of others without their permission.

**Mental health:** Organize mental health training for the crew (esp. dep leads, co-leads), to gain additional knowledge and tools to deal with ourselves and others in overwhelming situations. Have a proper safe zone. Be open and share built up feelings, not keep them inside, as in the end it causes an explosion.

**Strike:** Have different volunteers for the build and for the strike. Let people rest, even go home, get changed and come back ready to unmoop.

**Leave no trace:** Stressing the importance of wearing clothes with no easily attachable parts: sparkles, feathers, fake flowers. Don't wear anything that could potentially become a MOOP. If you choose to do so, choose BIG decorations and make sure to attach it very sturdy.

Cigarette butts are not butts of the earth at all. Having your own carry-on ashtray will save our clean water and our strike team's backs.



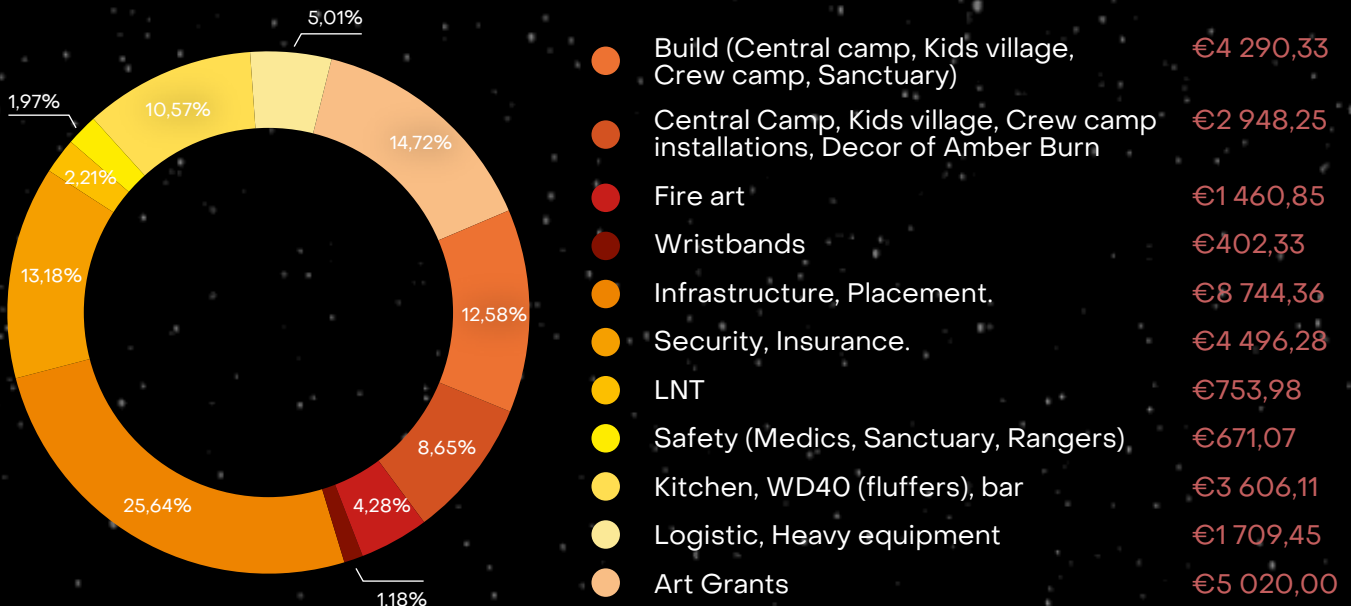
Crew Reflections meeting after AB

## BUDGET

The planned budget for 2021 Amber Burn was € 31,176.48. The total amount spent after the event was € 29,083.01. The planned budget rose sharply due to the timber prices needed to build the Amber Burn city. The remaining amount of € 3,698.63 from tickets sold will be awarded to the 2022 Amber Burn Art Grants.

One of the most important lessons we have learned is to communicate with each other between department leads, what has been purchased and what is still needed.

<b>Ticket prices</b>	Blue ticket 77 eur. Yellow ticket 47 eur. Car Vehicle Pass 5 eur. Camper, Van Vehicle Pass 30 eur.
<b>Attendance</b>	479. Cap limit: 500
<b>Amber Burn'20 balance for Art Grants</b>	5020 eur.
<b>Total income</b>	32 781,64 eur. (donation from the community 580 eur.)
<b>Total expenditures</b>	29 083,01 eur.
<b>Residue</b>	3698,63 eur.



## SUMMARY

We are tremendously proud of the growth that the community experienced throughout the years since the first official Lithuanian Burn in 2019 – it was evident that we have utilised each other's strengths and recognised weaknesses. The core of the event was the community – we materialised even the craziest dreams and hopes, we set the bar high and we jumped right over it. Even though there were less people than last year, the volunteers were much more involved and dedicated. The attendees felt the flow of the event and got involved in every way possible.

We have definitely learnt from our shortcomings and will improve in the years to come. The key to all of the reflections we have come across is COMMUNICATION! In order to grow a community that deeply cares for each other and wants to do better things, we must articulate our messages properly, make workshops, experiences, gatherings that would help us to connect better and then, consequently, improve our burn events! Setting expectations with theme camps, making them more responsible as this event is organised by all of us, not only by the crew.

