

Suzie Fournier

From: Kelly Hern
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 9:44 AM
To: Suzie Fournier
Subject: FW: Winter Solstice Event for council consideration

Hello Kelly,

Regarding getting approval to have a fire related event on the evening of December 21st, in conjuncture with the winter solstice itself.

The coles notes version - a giant 3D paper phoenix bird arts installation (a minimum of 3 ft in length) would be burnt in a downtown-ish prescribed area (in a safe way of course - we'll invite the firefighters too if you like!) We'll have medical folks and musicians there - it shall be grand. And video tapped for the masses - part of a wellness project.

It will occur after dark (likely 6:30 ish for better attendance). We are hoping for access to the skateboard park (first choice) or the empty parking lot across from the firehall (also convenient for firefighters!)

Is there someone specific that is best to talk to about the alternative location on the ONR site, near the parking lot that you know the contact info for? Otherwise I shall track them down as a backup plan if the council does approve this fire project on municipal ground.

If you need more information about the project, here was my long-winded summary for the artist:

the plan of this winter solstice "healing" project is:

- 1) Have the hired artist create the base frame of a giant phoenix bird. (at least Three Feet in length - the bigger the better). The frame should be flammable. The artist can choose their flammable design and styling medium
- 2) We connect with schools, encouraging students to write on pieces of paper their fears, pain, concerns, confusions...all the things they want to let go of, in this old winter solstice tradition on the darkest day of the year." Alternatively, they will also be allowed to write the things they hope will guide them into the new year (hopes, dreams, desires, achievements).
- 3) The large pieces of paper from the class students will allow us to cover the body of the bird. Boxes will also be placed around the communities, with strips of paper, that can be attached to the base frame of the bird, like little feathers, to give it more texture. These note boxes allow adults in the community to participate too, and would be available at grocery stores and such.
- 4) We can arrange a day where people can come in to help with the crafting of the bird (could also have our Peer support worker there to help as needed, to open discussions if desired as we art together. This helps cut down the workload of the build.
- 5) Video footage of the process will be taken, so the artist has some proof of the project for posterity and for any grant writing they may do in the future.
- 6) Ideally next week, we'll connect with the newspaper to say that this is something that we're inviting all the regional communities to participate in (to encourage more participation and a togetherness feeling)
- 7) Invite people to admire the bird at the gallery, and read the anonymous notes on its body in the week leading up to the event. Leave pieces of paper available too, to add to the bird if they like.

8) We burn the bird! On the evening of solstice, Dec 21st, ideally with live music performance, and perhaps a speech from someone in mental health, or part of our regional medical health team practitioners (as a nod of the hat, because this has been a particularly difficult year.) This would happen in the parking lot. It would be live streamed, or videotaped for those to enjoy who are not there.

9) Marketing concept: When this art project is burned, the dark feelings, thoughts, and experiences will fade into the darkness, while the light thoughts will rise up into the stars to guide us into the new year. In The end, we are left with a frame, the base of who we are, ready to be filled with the wings of thought and possibility that grow each year. And like a phoenix, we each rise anew, to build ourselves up for the year ahead with the thoughts and feelings we wish to carry with us into the next year.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any help with your report.

Thanks,
Chandel

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