

SDCAP INFO SHEET

(For 11-4-18 Town Hall)

What is SDCAP and what the heck does it have to do with YOUtopia?

SDCAP is the San Diego Collaborative Arts Project, a 501(c)(3) organization, which means it's a tax-exempt not-for-profit bound to all the corresponding legalities in California - including rigorous accounting and tax filing, Articles of Incorporation, management by a Board of Directors (BOD), adherence to Bylaws, and remaining in compliance with all State and Federal Laws.

SDCAP's Mission is to support collaborative arts in San Diego, particularly those aligned with the 10 Principles of Burning Man. This currently includes YOUtopia, CoLab, and year-round grantmaking.

As far as the state of CA and the IRS are concerned, YOUtopia does not exist. Same goes for CoLab. SDCAP is the sole legal entity. YOUtopia and CoLab are 2 of its projects. SDCAP is 100% responsible for oversight of YOUtopia and CoLab, including the YOUtopia Budget and *anything* within operations that could create liability, detract from the organization's mission, or pose an existential threat to the event.

SDCAP Bylaws, Policies, Meeting Minutes, Budgets, and much more are all publicly viewable at <http://www.sdcap.org/> and all BOD meetings are open to the public.

How does the BOD work with YOUtopia and the Producers?

The BOD selects the YOUtopia Producers each year, then seeks to work collaboratively with them to facilitate the event. Our foremost goal is always collaboration and the Producers have a ton of discretion in what the event looks like from year to year, and yet due to the BOD's legal obligation to provide oversight, the BOD ultimately retains decision-making authority over the budget and anything related to safety, liability, or the mission of the organization.

In practice, that means most of the annual YOUtopia experience is determined by the Producers and the rest of the Production Team, while the BOD absolutely has a hand in determining budget, mandating policies for safety, and steering things like changes to Ticketing or investing in assets for fire suppression. *In 2018, all major decisions about changes to the event were made jointly between the BOD and Producers.*

What is the SDCAP BOD?

The SDCAP BOD's function is fiduciary, legal, and operational oversight.

The SDCAP BOD, per its bylaws and in accordance with the laws of CA, is comprised of anywhere from 7-15 Directors and is required to have a President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

All Directors:

- Serve a 3-year term, working year-round.
- Attend 2 BOD meetings per month, from 7-9pm on the 2nd and 4th Weds at CoLab.
- Attend 2-3 weekend retreats per year.
- Serve sober, on-call shifts at YOUtopia.
- Spend anywhere from 10 to 40+ hours per week working via email/phone/ad hoc meetings to conduct SDCAP business.
- Are volunteers.

Historically, the only perks Directors receive are Volunteer-priced tickets to YOUtopia and breakfast/lunch/coffee for our full-day retreats, and this year we also received YOUtopia hoodies.

SDCAP will be installing several new Directors for the term beginning in March 2019, with the selection process beginning in late 2018. Please see the published Job Description for full details and begin attending BOD meetings now if you would like to be considered for BOD service.

Why does the SDCAP BOD insist on micromanaging the Producers?

Call it micromanaging, if you must, but it's literally the BOD's job to provide fiduciary and operational oversight. The Producers report to the BOD - it's in the job description. We would be remiss in our responsibilities if we did not supervise and sometimes direct them (and by proxy, the whole Production Team). That's what it means to be a 501(c)(3). Maybe that's not what the founders of the non-profit intended, but here we are.

I'm angry about _____!

Yep. There are always things that go wrong with YOUtopia, and always ways we can do better. That's a big part of how YOUtopia works - we try new things every year (mainly via installing new Producers who each bring their own vision) and some are successful while others flop. We welcome community feedback and are interested in seeing YOUtopia continue to improve. Does that mean you're always going to get 100% of what you want? Nope.

Fun facts from the community feedback surveys:

- Some people said this was the best YOUtopia ever, some said it was the worst, but most just said they loved it the same way they always do.
- Some people said there were too many sound camps and they were so loud they ruined their good time, some said there wasn't enough sound, but most didn't say anything about sound camps.
- Some people loved the Production Team, some people said they were terrible, but most people were neutral or had no comment.

We share this to emphasize the thing that RUINED YOUTOPIA FOR YOU may have been what made it magical for someone else.

In your spare time, we suggest reading:
<https://journal.burningman.org/2016/10/philosophical-center/tenprinciples/a-brief-history-of-who-ruined-burning-man/>

I want to yell at the BOD in person!

BOD meetings are open to the public, from 7-9pm on the 2nd and 4th Weds at CoLab. If you want to be added to the Agenda, email BOD@SDCAP.org with your request *by the Friday prior to the next meeting*. Most requests for time on the Agenda fall under "New Business," and we usually get to them at around 8:30pm.

Starting on Monday, November 12th, we'll be posting meeting Agendas ahead of time on our website, www.SDCAP.org.

The BOD is to blame for _____!

We've heard a lot of complaints about the BOD for things the BOD doesn't touch. Things like sound, power, camp placement, art, whether or not there's a temple, volunteer shifts, lack of communication, not enough gluten-free muffins, etc. We're not really sure how to begin to address rampant misinformation about what the BOD does and doesn't do, so for now we will simply say:

- If it's a big-picture issue that has to do with money, safety, or liability, the BOD probably had a hand in it.
- If it's an "on-the-ground" issue, it's most likely the Production Team.
- If you're not sure, you can ask us! You're always welcome to email us at BOD@sdcap.org. When we receive a question about something that's not our domain, we forward it to the appropriate Production Team.

Why won't the BOD respond to my complaints on Facebook?

Hooboy, there's a lot to unpack here! Firstly, the BOD makes decisions using a consensus-based model, meaning all of us get to weigh in and have

our voices heard before making decisions. That takes time, and in the interim, no single BOD member is authorized to speak on the BOD's behalf. This doesn't mesh well with Facebook conversations where people expect replies within hours or even minutes. Secondly, not all BOD members are Facebook users (or regular users). Thirdly, the BOD does not conduct business on social media platforms. If you get in touch with us via social media, as a matter of practice, we're going to ask you to email BOD@SDCAP.org with your concerns, and/or attend a BOD meeting.

Having said all that, we know many people prefer to communicate via Facebook and we're working on a Social Media Policy, including appointing a BOD member to manage the SDCAP account.

WTF Overworked Volunteers?!?!?

The BOD has serious concerns about too few people doing too much work. We support and encourage **all** volunteers to practice radical self-care, even (especially?) if it means taking time off, scaling back on commitments, and saying no.

We've received feedback that some departments are working longer and harder than they do on-playa, and are deeply worried. If that's happening for a 4-day event at a campground, something is seriously wrong and the ways those teams work need to be restructured. We hope community members with expertise in process improvement will assist in re-imagining those operations to provide better balance for all involved.

WTF Sound Policies?!?!?

Q: "Why can't we play as loud as we want, 24/7?!?!? Isn't this supposed to be like Burning Man?!?!?"

A: We humbly request you review: <https://burningman.org/event/black-rock-city-guide/sound-systems/>

We then humbly request you remember we are invited guests at the La Jolla Indian Campground. When we're really loud, they get upset, we receive complaints, and we risk losing the venue. So yes, YOUtopia has sound policies. Just like Burning Man.

Also worth noting: there was a comprehensive Sound Summit for all Sound Camps earlier in the year, in which Sound Policy and commensurate Art Grant Packages for Sound Camps were reviewed in depth. There were **no** surprises for any camp that applied for sound placement at YOUtopia 2018. And for those of you who've been around a long time, the 2018 Sound Policy is *almost* identical to every sound policy we've had since 2014, and y'all have been having the exact same argument about it with us since then. The main difference, as far as we can tell, is that the 2018 Production Team actually attempted to enforce consequences for violations in 2017 and 2018.

Finally: the BOD has no role in deciding sound placement. That's the Content Hub within the YOUtopia Production Team. If you didn't like your placement or restrictions, discuss it with them. (We don't like to pass the buck, but quite frankly it's ridiculous to direct anger about these issues to the BOD, although we do support the Production Team in the choices they made.)

WTF Ticketing Changes?!?!?

Like we said, each year is an opportunity to try new things at YOUtopia. Over the years, myriad changes have been made to the YOUtopia ticketing policies and prices. This year we tried multiple new things, some of which went well and some of which didn't.

Most notably, the move to a single-tier system for General Admission was generally well-received. If you're angry about the price, consider that from 2005 to 2012 (8 years), average cost per participant increased by approx. \$62. From 2012 to 2018 (7 years), average cost per participant increased by approx. \$57. In other words, cost increases to participants have remained fairly consistent over the life of the event. The annual YOUtopia Budget is posted on the SDCAP website, and you can see how our operating expenses increase concurrent to ticket prices, year over year.

Other changes, like the Volunteer Ticket price increases and the removal of the 1-ticket-per-art-grant were **cough** not popular. For what it's worth, again, those were not decisions the BOD made in a vacuum; they were decisions made in collaboration with the Producers, and they're all things we're open to changing for 2019. We're already tossing around ideas for change, and are open to your suggestions.