When wandering the Deep Playa at night, there is little more satisfying than being drawn toward lights dancing in the distance and stumbling upon a glittering oasis waiting to be explored. Fueling the night the field will transform, with a manner akin to solar flares. During the night, there is little more satisfying than the wonder of enjoying something that can play with but not quite understand. People can ring the bells, press buttons, cycle from other installations. The piece should be visible from across the inky desert depths, which is exactly what the creator of The Celestial Field is hoping will happen.

The Sun Is the Star of Celestial Field

BY TRAVIS

Pleiadian Oasis Comes Alive at Night

BY INDO

Like the constellation for which it is named, Pleiadian Oasis is all but invisible during the day, coming alive at night. Just as our ancestors navigated the stars, Burners can use the Oasis to orient themselves in a tumultuous and overwhelming environment.

Nathan Starchild, a former civil engineer turned full-time artist from Sydney, Australia, created the 80-960-foot space with an array of sacred geometry, which ascribes symbolic meaning to certain shapes. It is named, Pleiadian Oasis, after a small and safe ground, participants can meet each other in a more open and connected space, express themselves freely, and can allow themselves to undergo transformation.

Peledian Oasis appears as a "shining cloud" a small cluster of coordinated lights in the Deep Playa. From the entrance 3:15 & C, the doors to the entrance Close, out of the dust appear 21 sacred geometric shapes – tetrahedrons, octahedrons, icoshedrons and more – ranging from 10 to 30 feet tall. These sacred frames, lit by flowing light patterns, are meant to create a peaceful, safe place for people in all phases of consciousness. In line with principle of Decommunication, most of the project is built from 3/4-inch EMT recycled from other installations.

Starchild described the space as a "starting point" with participants free to decide how they will use the Oasis. People can ring the bells, press buttons, enjoy the lights, music, weddings, stagings, midnight picnics, sacred ceremonies or just to sit and ponder the universe. People can play with the buttons, press to affect the lighting patterns and move the structure. But the artist said he hopes Burners will discover the installation on a more spiritual level. It will become "whatever they need the space to be at that time - since then everything, the rollercoaster crest past the highest peak and suddenly took off and now I'm just along for the ride," Starchild said.

The BRC honourarium grant is mostly intended to go to logistics, electronics and power and truck rentals. The rest of the materials, food and water for the crew, Gang Star Gazers, will be covered by the organizers. A summary of the incident in the letter addressed only procedural and code violations: lack of documentation of ketamine waste and inability to verify "transfer of care" and "proof of injection to all phases of response to care." Seven days later the Health department sent warning letters to the paramedic and her supervisor, demanding remedial training. It also recommended "a more clearly defined role and responsibilities for paramedics working as part of a law enforcement team." But less than two weeks after that, the Health department rescinded the warnings, saying the "failure of eight months made corrective actions "irrelevant." The warnings and rescission is among the FDA materia.

The Beacon spoke with Joe Pollock, an official of the Health department that oversees paramedics, who called for the reversal. "The letters came up for administration for review... and I said, 'yeah this isn't fair to the paramedic, there's no way to defend herself, too much info has elapsed.' In a further twist, critical information about the paramedic was just dropped during the incident. Pollock said when BRC médic "arrived to take control of the situation, not all the information was transferred." Rose asserted she gave "a very different account" and "they claim that never happened, so it's a he-said-she-said battle of witnesses who saw the exchange or witnessed what was said, it's really impossible to tell who's right."

"What I understand, there were no written reports, submitted to us, and the log that the Burning Man paramedics had recorded that this patient had ever had ketamine administration," Pollock said.

Continued on back
Sun Rituals

What better place for solar rituals than Black Rock City? In 2007, many Burning Men start or end their days watching the sunrise. At dawn, you’ll often hear faint cheers as the sun emerges over the horizon. One attendant makes it a point to greet the Sun the day after the Burn. Another positions herself at the Temple one day during the week. Sundown is magical; the Playa’s own dial downs to room temperature and a lot of the sun’s heat’s gone, you know, in Hell, there’s still plenty of light to see by. Have a drink, watch the stained glass colors, enjoy the vanishing warmth.

Utility Kinetic Insect

BY INGRID

Every year, rumors spread about a plague of bugs infesting Black Rock City. Some years, it is true. This is one of them. Except this time, the “bug” is the size of a small car, has a wingspan of nearly 20 feet, pulses lights and a surround sound system. Meet UKI, the Utility Kinetic Insect, art that transports you.

Powered by batteries recycled from cell phone towers and built on a modified chassis from a four-wheeler, it uses a locomotive type “bug” engine to make good sounds. UKI can reach a speed of about 10km/h, flipping its wings and carrying three “pilots,” including one who operates the sound mixing deck. Inspired by dynamical drawings produced by project leader Callan Morgan, the roving art piece was built as a collaborative project, in Melbourne, Australia.

“UKI is a female, she is the mother insect, we have plans to build her a family,” Morgan said. “The inspiration for UKI came from nature... the vision was to create a challenging collaborative project that would be showcase the talents of the Melbourne community.”

The result of more than 3,000 hours of work from the 12-person collective Make Moh, UKI cost about AU$60,000 ($48,000) to build, and a further AU$25,000 to ship to Black Rock City.

The Make Moh’s concept “is to inspire people to create beyond what they are individually capable of” said Morgan, by giving them access to “a project platform and resources.”

An insect art insect has been built so UKI knows when to return home after roving the Playa and recharging her batteries at Illumination Village.

Following her time in Nevada, UKI will be flown home again — a little dossier and with a weary eye — where she is scheduled to take part in festivals in Australia.

Wednesday, August 29, 2007 That Burning Feeling

The Man was removed from his pedestal and sent for repair after a partially successful arrest attempt. Paul Addis was arrested and charged with third-degree arson, possession of illegal fireworks, destruction of property, and resisting a public officer.

Medabot had trouble getting off the ground, but boy was it a cool concept. A recycling plant built as a slow-moving art car in the shape of a garden slug, it was meant to turn Playa garbage into agricultural fertilizer while seeking captain dilettane and powering itself with syngas all while speeding along the sand. The technology was World War II gasification.

FOLLOW ME TO THE BLANKS

BY DURGY

Civic Response

on Twitter, @BlackRockBeacon.

We need volunteers! InDesign artists & Burningmen to meet & greet the public especially in demand.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

BY HERSCHEL STREET

If We Could Talk to the Animals

Communication through music and choreography and around the sculpture. Realise the time of the night; you are invited to clamber about the metallic body with the skeleton of a flayed flesh to play at your own mummifications and flocking behaviors beyond an crimson bud. The leather stretches nearly 49 feet with a performance platform of about 8 by 15, above, the massive avian’s fully undulated wingspan flag as high as 32 feet (directed by performers and Burners pulling on ropes). Each wing contains hundreds of smaller birds spinning in the wind, mimicking flock behavior. “People who encounter ‘Interspecies Communication’ on the Playa I hope will be inspired and filled with awe at the collaborative sculpture’s form, not only in its sculptural form but the forms found in nature that it’s inspired by,” said Lambis. It’s a center for participation, performance, spontaneity and ritual. “I hope that it provokes their curiosity such that people go up on it and figure out how to activate it and go beyond just viewing it to become engaged with it.” Visitors who figure out how to activate the sculpture fill it rewarded by the susurrations of ambient sound that can be produced by galvanized and stainless steel and aluminum — natural sounds from engineered art. With music and ample interruptions of loud banging, “Interspecies Communication” is a place for people to reflect, experiment, and discover.

Design by Lambis, engineered by RBMG, a group of builders that aids Burning Man artists — and assembled with local volunteers, “Interspecies Communication” was built on Vashon Island near Seattle. Following Burning Man, it will be displayed in Seattle’s Damien-Waterway Park on Sept. 30.

The Black Rock Beacon 10 Years Ago

Thursday, August 31

Sunset: 7:34 p.m. Twilight ends 8:02 p.m. The moon is in the sky at dusk (1.6%) Moonset: 2:56 p.m.

Friday, September 1

First light: 5:55 a.m. Sunset: 6:24 a.m.

Send us your observations and diaries both to the Beacon and to the Public Eye, both in the Black Rock City Post Office.

POSTPERSPECTIVES OF THE BLACK ROCK BEACON: Ali Baka, president, Mitchell Martin, vice president, Suzanne Zales, editors-in-chief, Christine Showen, Shannon Brundage, Melissa Fitch, editor Anne Triplett, art & photographer Shecky; camp manager Mrs. Lucy, deep thinkers, Eryk Keil, editor Larry Brew, chief confidante. Annie Zingermans, treasurer Red Niki, webmaster WeeGee, photographer on duty. Our personnel perform in information and ideas conceived in our minds, available to all who wish. This column is not about you; it is about perspectives. The Black Rock Beacon. Visit us at www.blackrockbeacon.com or follow us on twitter.com/BlackRockBeacon.