Reimagining festivals: A Manual For Regenerative Gatherings

Presented by: Jo Vávra
Artistic Director & Co-Founder
LIOS Labs
LIOS Labs Sustainable Music Event & Certification Model

→ Sharing of the Fruits Festival 2022
Błędowska Desert, Poland

→ Report:
“A Manual For Regenerative Gatherings”
At onEarth foundation, born in 2019 in Krakow, Poland, we're on a mission to magnify environmental awareness and advocate for the equity of all living beings. Our spaces are designed to ignite entanglement, nurture co-creation, and drive sustainable innovation.
LIOS Labs, a collective specializing in the arts of ecology, has been actively researching and organizing artist-in-residence programs, workshops, and festivals in Poland's Błędowska Desert since 2020. Operating across Europe, we are driven by a decentralized organizational structure and a commitment to social ecology and well-being. Our initiatives contribute to the exploration of regenerative cultural practices.
Why regenerative festivals?
Sharing of the Fruits Festival 2022

LIOS Labs’s pilot outdoor immersive exhibition, “Sharing of the Fruits” (SoTF), evolved from three rounds of artistic residencies. SoTF defied traditional festival norms, blending elements of experimental music, arts residency and community building, all with a strong emphasis on a participatory ethos, zero-waste practices, and a holocratic organisational structure. The festival aimed to foster deeper connections with nature, fellow participants, offering a unique desert setting as a platform for exploration, co-creation, and imagination.

Location: Błędowska Desert, Poland
Dates: 29 July – 1 August 2022
Agency: 130 participants
“The community living, sharing, and dreaming”

“The community nature of being in the desert, the terrain and its difficulties bringing everyone together.”

“The dancefloor female vibe in general was insanely inspiring”

“...all of the [music and DJ sets] instigating senses and playing finely with matter and ether, intangible and political. lake sun water rain rainbow glow”

“The spontaneous jam session on Saturday night. the opening set. the beautiful opening ritual. the people I got to meet. the outdoor sunset dance as a rainbow broke through a day of clouds and rain.”

“The live band experiences were a highlight for me—fits right in the desert.”

“It [motivates me] to make music to share, or just to be a sandy creature and share more harmonious moments with other people. It’s a break of civilization in a unique, different way.”

“Being able to experience my own emotions in a safe and welcoming environment.”
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Section 3: Learnings and Findings

Who took part?

*What motivated us to go?*

*How did we get there?*

Sustainability by the numbers

*Key findings*

*What we loved -*

*Biggest challenges and areas for growth*

*Impact on Participants*

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Section 4: Conclusion and Takeaways

Takeaway: Practical outdoor event sustainability checklist

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Further reading

*Acknowledgements*

*References*
onEarth foundation 2023
A MANUAL FOR REGENERATIVE GATHERINGS
Festival sustainability report and impact tracking for small scale outdoor events

THANK YOU!