

find that everyone plays the role of both teacher and student during their time in Sanctuary. So far we have only had extremely positive feedback from Sanctuary visitors on the quality of our services. MAPS would like to thank the many people who volunteered their time to work in Sanctuary, as well as those who donated money and resources to enable the MAPS staff to organize this project.

CONCLUSION

We chose Burning Man as the site of our 20th Anniversary gathering since it was a comprehensive example of MAPS in action, with lectures about our scientific research, a demonstration of our psychedelic harm reduction model at Sanctuary, the honoring of our psychedelic elders, and a community-building gathering. We're deeply grateful to everyone at Entheon Village who donated their time, resources, and sweat to bring this magnificent celebration to fruition.

Although it may seem like going to a festival in the middle of the desert with all kinds of crazy art, music, and entertainment would be like a vacation or at least a departure from our work lives, for the MAPS staff, Burning Man is one of our busiest, most productive, and exhausting work weeks of the whole year. Our schedules are full of important meetings, long shifts in Sanctuary, lectures and workshops. It's a great time to network with colleagues and people doing affiliated work, and we even used it as an opportunity to scope out potential staff members. In the midst of all the hard work, we were also able to accomplish this year's unique mission, celebrating 20 years of MAPS' existence, and bringing many of the people together who have helped to make each year even better and more productive than the last. In doing so we shared the vision, hopes and fears of a possible future where the psychedelic experience is not just legally accessible, but also re-integrated into the fabric of our local and global communities. •

Letters to MAPS

I worked as a Sanctuary volunteer this year, and offering a safe haven from the chaos abound was obscenely satisfying. Regarding said chaos, while I do enjoy having it wash over me (the frenzied intensity of it all can be quite yummy), it's hard not to succumb to over-stimulation. When substances are added to the mix, even experienced users may feel the sensory onslaught drown out notions of set and setting. There is a clear need for what Sanctuary offers; a space to integrate and transform difficult experiences into positive ones. It was at times discouraging to witness drug use reflecting the larger societal association of self-destruction, rather than self-awareness and personal growth. As the distinction there can be hazy and rather subjective, we need to acknowledge the whole spectrum of experiences and intentions that folks have.

– Ahsan
Portland, Oregon

Although I could go into great detail about all the wonderful facets of Entheon Village (such as beautiful, fresh salads every day - wow!), I believe the most important aspect was that we all came together and the experience was influential to ourselves and others on a life-changing level. My life was changed from the first moment I set foot in Black Rock seven years ago. The evolution I have seen take place and the evolution of my own personal journeying as I intersect with the pathways of others all seems to now be tangibly fitting into place like puzzle pieces. Entheon Village is a big piece of that puzzle for me. I thank everyone who was involved and hope they all know how special they are.

– Claire Lipton
Palm Desert, California

As I expected, Entheon Village felt very much like home. I commend you for all the work that obviously went into it. I'm certain that it took much more effort than even what was obvious. I so much enjoyed Rick's opening keynote which centered on the Entheon vision and the John Halpern issue. Several times during the talk and later, I was struck by the thought that indeed "this" is why I have so much respect for the MAPS organization. The integrity, the open-mindedness and honesty that you bring to face issues of this kind is inspiring and I want you to know that. I *love* the way that MAPS has directed itself to embrace the celebratory, artistic and spiritual aspects of our evolving culture when it would feel so much safer to embrace only the scientific.

Warm Regards,
Jeff Mease
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Bloomington, Indiana