



# Questions & Answers

## **Why have you provided only for funded artists?**

Since we have no way to independently verify who is really an “art crew” and who is just a group of people looking for a meal, we have to rely on BM’s art grant vetting process to make that determination for us. That having been said, in 2009, we expanded the program to include unfunded artists that we knew or could verify, and would very much like to expand the program to include ALL artists who are building officially recognized installations

## **Will this program continue indefinitely?**

We hope so! Once the program is up and running, we expect it to become self-sustaining except for a little bit of website maintenance. If we’re successful, the BM community will embrace the program over the next two years, providing whatever continuing support is necessary, and our role will diminish to zero. At that point, we will become participants like everyone else. A few years after that, we hope that this program will have become such an ingrained part of the BM culture that no one will even remember that it all started with a deliberate, organized effort.

## **Does the program only take place during pre-week (the week before BM starts)?**

Yes...and no. While we encourage theme camps to invite artist groups for a meal any time during BM, we feel that the time the artists need it the most is during setup week when they are rushing to complete their projects, so that’s when we hold our dinners and facilitate the dinners of others. We would LOVE to see the program extend into burn week itself, but currently we don’t have the resources to provide facilitation for an extra week. If anyone is interested in helping us expand the program in this way, please let us know.

## **How can I get involved as a volunteer?**

There are four main areas where we actively recruit volunteers. The Kitchen provides all the gourmet food for the early-week food gifting and the FtA dinners (3-4) that we put on. If you want to hone your craft or learn from some of the best chef’s around, this is the place for you. Meal prep generally starts around 2pm on the dinner nights and ends after desert is served around 10pm.

The Front of the House, headed up by Steve "Ice" Berg. This group is responsible for managing all the meal service, beverage service, decorations, entertainment, sound, and lighting to insure just the right ambiance at our dinners. They have a lot of fun, but are also responsible for nightly cleanup.



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The Back of the House, affectionately known as the “Erection Crew,” is headed up by Mark “Abo” Gibson. This is FtA’s version of the DPW. They take care of all of FtA’s infrastructure needs and also plan some crazy “volunteer appreciation” events. If you have electrical, plumbing, or decorating (chill spaces and art cars) experience, we’d love to have you on this team.

The Playa Support Team, led by Colonel Angus, is the FtA’s version of the greeters, placement, and the artery, all rolled into one. This group does a lot of administrative work in the months prior to arriving on the playa, including contacting all the programs participants. Then they arrive on the playa early and perform the critical function of locating all participating artists and theme camps in advance of their scheduled dinners, checking in with them to make sure nothing that will effect the success of their dinner has changed, and providing support in case there are extenuating circumstances. It may sound easy, and delivering our special FtA medallion invitations is fun, but when the shit hits the fan and a theme camp’s kitchen blows down, or an artist group shows up with 10 more people than expected, or a theme camp isn’t located where they’re supposed to be, the PST must think on their feet and do whatever has to be done to rectify the situation. If you have time to offer in the months prior to playa arrival and if you’re outgoing, resourceful, and like to get up early and travel all over the playa all day long, this might be the team for you.

If you’re interested in working with us, contact Colonel Angus at [colonelangus@feedtheartists.net](mailto:colonelangus@feedtheartists.net) and he’ll connect you with the right people.

### **Will FtA ever be expanded beyond the Burning Man community into the default world?**

Absolutely! Our Vision has always been to engage the BM community in helping us to create something that would have many applications in the broader default world.

Once the program has been fully embraced by the BM community, we plan to use the BM regional network to spread the program around the world and to many communities in the default world.

The point of FtA is to facilitate the using of food as a form of appreciation and collaboration between groups, so whether this occurs in a disaster relief scenario (Feed the Workers) or a school (Feed the Children, Feed the Teachers) or a local community (Feed the Firemen), the concept remains the same.

In a sense, we hope that one day, FtA will become a huge gift from the BM community to the World.