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# VISION STATEMENT

*We value the transformative experience of sensual and consensual touch, play, and interaction. We believe that consent plays a vital part in our connectivity and community. Our vision is that all parties participate in a physical encounter from a place of enthusiasm and autonomy. Consent must be explicitly granted from an individual who is clearly in a state of mind to be able to grant it.*

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# ABOUT THE 11TH PRINCIPLE

The 11th Principle: Consent! was founded in early 2013 to address the issue of non-consensual encounters at burns, specifically our home burn of Transformus in North Carolina.

In late 2012, after the widely-publicized sexual assault issues at Burning Man that year, a group of North Carolina burners began to talk about how to take responsibility for our community and the issues inside of it. They identified several major aspects of consent to be addressed:

- Sexual activities
- Spankings, hugs, etc
- Photography and “creep shots”
- The gifting of substances (smelly oils, alcohol, etc)

With much support from the BOD, founding members PyroCelt, Beth, Jaime, and Lauren spearheaded a multi-faceted effort for Transformus X in 2013. They received abundant support and feedback throughout the event and continue to approach the issue in a light-hearted yet respectful manner appropriate for the burn community.

The 11th Principle differs from similar consent-oriented groups in our belief that one does not need to be 100% sober in order to consent. Rather, we know that this issue is full of gray areas and believe that there is a difference between having had a couple of drinks and being completely intoxicated. Our consent education efforts pinpoint several markers of intoxication that likely precludes one’s ability to consent.

# TRAINING CURRICULUM

## CYOA Shift Lead Training

Choose Your Own Adventure shift leads are the first contact a participant may have with our space. They are responsible for welcoming participants to the space, explaining what we're up to, and setting ground rules. After that, the volunteer will take on the primary consent education with their gift.

### *Basic Responsibilities*

- Update the front booth's chalkboard throughout your shift so participants know what's being offered. This will help attract passersby as well as inform others that there might be an activity they don't want to see.
- Welcome participants. Introduce 11th Principle, the space, and yourself. Example:  
**"Welcome to Choose Your Own Adventure, a space for consensual interaction! We're teaching about consent through participation and demonstration. Can I interest you in anything we're currently offering?"**
- Make sure everyone knows the three steps to consensual interaction: Communication, Negotiation, and Participation! The gifter will be primarily responsible for this, but you can help make sure it's being touched on.
- Use the log sheet to keep record of how many participants were served as well as what was offered, as well as make notes for the next shift lead. This will be included in our Afterburn report and help us continue to get team recognition.

### *Other Responsibilities*

- Training volunteers who did not attend the full training. (See Abridged Training, below.)
- Handing out swag, interacting with participants and answering questions.
- Overseeing the activities of the space, making sure everything is kosher.

### *Procedures for Certain Situations*

What signs do you look for when deciding someone is too intoxicated to consent?

An intoxicated person is a person who is:

- Slurring words
- Having difficulty standing upright
- Having trouble remembering things minute to minute
- Very clearly under the influence of a mind-altering substance
- Tells you they are intoxicated

Encourage these participants to come back when they're sober. You have to be at least mostly clear-headed to consent!

When do you step in to interfere with something you perceive to be not 100% consensual?

How do you spot peer pressure/a non-enthusiastic “yes”?

For the purposes of our space, a “maybe” is a No *unless the participant explicitly says they want to try*. At this moment the gifter should use their best judgment to give an introduction to the gift being given (a light spank, a gentle massage).

Trust that our volunteers are like-minded and well-versed in the consent process. Step in only if you feel the volunteer needs help.

Keep in mind that Choose Your Own Adventure is *not*:

- A Bar. At least not a typical one. If a participant wants a drink and doesn't want to go through the steps to a consensual encounter, they don't get their drink.
  - Dealing with problems: The gifter is primarily responsible for refusing service to those who do not wish to participate. A shift lead may step in if the gifter's refusal is met with more resistance. Call for Rangers if someone becomes disruptive.
- An All You Can Eat Buffet. Volunteers who bring snacks are likely bringing limited quantities and are using their gifts to educate folks about consent, not just hand out random snacks to whoever is hungry.
  - Dealing with problems: Again, remind your volunteers that if someone is not willing to participate, they don't get any food. The shift lead may step in and help if things escalate.
- A Substance Dispensary. Illegal substances are not offered here, period.
  - Dealing with problems: Any gifter offering illegal substances will be asked to leave CYOA immediately. This includes simply hanging out and sharing a joint with fellow volunteers. Not here. Let your Team Lead on Duty know if this comes up. (Not on the radio!)
- A Hook-Up Connection. Volunteers are not offering explicitly sexual encounters from our space. If you want to hook up with one of our volunteers, y'all can arrange that on your own time. (Take some swag with you!)
  - Dealing with problems: Gifters are also not to offer any explicitly sexual experience in our space.
    - Sometimes there is a fine line between kink and sex, so we need to be clear about definitions. For our purposes, explicitly sexual is defined by anything that involves direct genital stimulation, with or without intent to bring to orgasm.
    - Examples of explicitly sexual: Hitachi wands, Sybian rides, genital or anal penetration of any kind.
    - Not defined as explicitly sexual: breast fondling, nipple play, butt grabbing, spanking/flogging, nudity, and rope work. (This is an 18+ event, after all.)
- A space to process previous sexual assault or abuse. Outlining your boundaries and triggers are a part of the exchange, but we ask that folks leave details about traumatic histories of the conversation so as not to trigger other participants.

- Dealing with problems: Obviously if someone brings up a past experience, we do not want to simply shut them up. But if someone comes by looking to process a past negative experience, talk with them as much as you can and recommend the participant go up to Sanctuary (also located in Eden). The Team Lead on Duty will have a radio if needed.

## Abridged Consent Educator Training

We may have one or more walk-up volunteers who were unable to attend training prior to their shifts. If this happens, shift leads can take a few minutes to implement an abridged training.

### Job Description Overview

Gifters for our CYOA space act as consent educators while providing what they have brought to share: gifts, skills, etc. The purpose is not only to give consensual experiences but also to provide experiential education that participants can take with them as they move around the event.

The Steps to Consensual Gifting:

1. Communicate! Introduce what you're offering, disclose details and encourage questions
2. Negotiate! Establishing boundaries and come to a mutual agreement. Check in with yourself too.
3. Participate! Gift and enjoy.
4. Debrief, may involve after care as necessary.

Checking in and reaffirming boundaries may need to happen during the exchange depending on the gift being given.

### Role Play Scenario

*CYOA volunteer as the Giver and Shift Lead as the potential recipient, using their gift as an example. Make sure you touch on all steps.*

### Final Thoughts

Remind gifters about special circumstances that may be associated with their gift.

- Food gifters: Note common allergens! Dairy, gluten, nuts, eggs. Disclose all animal ingredients and remember that some vegans don't eat honey.
- Drink gifters: Certain kinds of alcohol do not agree with some people. Disclose *all* your ingredients.
- Triggers from touch and/or words (ask before any encounter involving touch)

Overview of how we define intoxication:

- Slurring words

- Difficulty standing upright
- Having trouble remembering things minute to minute
- Very clearly under the influence of a mind-altering substance
- They tell you they are intoxicated

Lastly...

- A shift lead will be present during all hours to help introduce what you're providing. They may pause or halt any encounter at any time if something doesn't seem kosher. This is done at their discretion.
- Watch for under 21 wristbands when providing alcoholic beverages.
- Providing illegal substances is a big **no** in this space.
- Explicitly sexual acts are wonderful when consensual, but they are not permitted in this area. Please arrange those encounters on your own time.
- A shift lead reserves the right to deny experiences to anyone. You also reserve this right. If you do not want to provide something to a specific person, you are in no way obligated to do so.

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Aftercare** - Anything needed or desired after kink play to help someone “come down” or debrief. These needs are usually discussed before a scene.

**Age of consent** - The age in which someone is legally able to consent to a sexual encounter.

**Asexuality** - A sexual orientation marked by the absence of sexual desire. See also demisexual and gray-a.

**Autonomy** - The state of having freedom and choice. In consent rhetoric this refers to the absence of manipulation or fear of retribution. (Ex: A yes is not an autonomous yes if they are afraid to say no.)

**Barriers** - Anything that protects from the transmission of sexually transmitted infections. May refer to an external condom, internal condom, dental dam, or glove.

**BDSM** - Bondage, Dominance/submission, sadism, and masochism.

**Boundary** - Guidelines, rules or limits that a person creates to identify what are reasonable, safe and permissible ways for other people to behave around them.

**Buzzed** - Mildly intoxicated, or, having consumed enough of an intoxicating substance to feel it but still be mostly clear headed.

**Capacity to consent** - A legal term that refers to someone’s ability to understand and make decisions. Capacity to consent may be affected by age, language, disability, illness, or intoxicant.

**Cisgender** - A person who identifies with the gender they were assigned at birth.

**Communication** - Effectively conveying ideas, limits, restrictions, and expectations between two or more people.

**Consent** - Permission for something to happen or agreement to do something.

**Consent culture** - An idea that stresses consent as the basis for physical and emotional engagement.

**Creep shot** - Non-consensual photography, usually taken inconspicuously.

**Demisexual** - A sexual orientation marked by sexual attraction only where an emotional connection is felt.

**Disclosure** - The action of making information known. (Ex: He disclosed the presence of alcohol in the drinks he was serving.)

**Dosing** - The act of giving someone an intoxicating substance without their knowledge or consent.

**D/s relationship** - A Dominant/submissive relationship. May be limited to the bedroom and sexual activities only or lived 24/7.

**Enthusiastic consent** - Consent granted from a place autonomy and enthusiasm; stresses the importance of a “yes” instead of absence of “no.”

**Gift** - Anything given to another, be it an object, substance, or experience.

**Gray-a** - A sexual orientation marked by occasional or rare sexual desire.

**Hard limit** - A hard limit is an action or activity that one absolutely will not consent to in any situation.

**Informed consent** - Consent granted with the knowledge of possible benefits, risks, and outcomes.

**Intoxicating substance** - Any substance that can contribute to intoxication

**Mind-altering substance** - Any substance that alters one's state of mind

**Negotiation** - The act of discussing boundaries and coming to an agreement. In consent rhetoric, this does not refer to manipulation, pressure, or coercion the way it might in a salary negotiation!

**Rape culture** - Images, language, laws, and other everyday phenomena that validate and perpetuate sexual violence and coercion; makes such violence seem so normal that the surrounding culture comes to believe rape is inevitable.

**Safe word** - A pre-negotiated word or signal to indicate play should stop.

**Sex work** - Work inside the sex industry. May involve actually engaging in sex (prostitution, pornography) or working for the sexual fulfillment of others (dancing, modeling).

**Soft Limit** - A soft limit is an action or activity that has restrictions or caveats placed on it due to hesitation or mental reservation. It doesn't mean the activity is unavailable, just not readily available.

**Standing consent** - A pre-negotiated boundary where partners give consent for certain encounters at a future time. (Ex: Initiating sex while asleep, surprising a friend with a hug, takedown/capture play, etc.)

**Transgender** - A person who does not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth.

**Trauma** - A deeply distressing or disturbing experience

**Trigger** - A topic, phrase or word that sets someone off emotionally. Could refer to anger or reliving a traumatic experience.