



In response to recent concerns raised and information sent out regarding Inferknow LLC's current special event permit application process, we felt the need to clarify our intentions. First of all, the permit process, and the plan of operations, is a work in progress. We were encouraged to be non-specific at this point in order not to limit ourselves or the project. We are working on addendums and alterations in response to feedback from county and state departments, and from the community, including much more specificity regarding noise, numbers, traffic and safety. The Q&A below contains as much of the information that is being added to the Plan of Operations as we have at this point.

It is also important to point out that we cannot do anything that isn't in the plan. Many concerns have been raised about things people think we might do. We are only allowed to do exactly what is in the plan, or we lose the permits. We have no intentions of misleading anyone or misrepresenting ourselves, as it would be entirely counter-productive.

What is Inferknow?

Inferknow, LLC was organized in 2008 to support the local community of artists and musicians, to create a venue space for the showcasing of local talents and to create a space where the community can celebrate the arts. We are business owners, construction workers, parents, artists, and engineers.

What does Inferknow want to do in the Fieldbrook area?

Inferknow is proposing two overnight (ONE night) art and music events per year, and up to four smaller day-use only events (see details in next question). The two overnight events would feature local musicians and local artists performing dance, live painting, juggling, acrobatics, puppetry, and sculpture, similar to the North Country Fair, from 4pm Saturday to noon on Sunday twice per year (spring and fall).

What about the size and scope of the events?

Contrary to information currently being circulated, we do NOT plan on holding 6 multi-day events of 1000+ people. The proposed plan seeks permits to hold UP TO six events per year, 4 of which would be single day, non-camping, events such as; disc golf tournaments, weddings, fundraisers for local services, family bar-b-cues, or lawn-game tournaments from 10am to 6pm. These would potentially have live amplified music (but not necessarily – we are also big fans of acoustic) from noon to 6pm. The two overnight events are proposed for 500 participants twice per year; with growth up to 1000 in the future IF we want to (which at this point we don't), and IF we get positive reviews from the county after our first events, and IF we have proved ourselves and our events to be safe and acceptable to the local community.

Do we want to throw a mini Burning Man in Fieldbrook?

No. Inferknow is in no way affiliated with Burning Man and does not intend to replicate the size, scope or nature of that event. If there is any connection it is that some of us attend that event and are inspired annually by the art, creativity, spontaneity, and community.

What kind of fire would be present at an Inferknow event?

The 'fire art' and 'warming sculptures' are literally metal enclosures that have had designs carved into the sides, and metal sculptures rigged with standard propane gas to create an attractive small flame effect which is exactly equivalent to a propane bbq or an outdoor heater. Pictures of fire sculptures from previous gatherings were removed from our website because structures of that sort are not a part of this plan. The use of even small items will only happen after gaining approval from CDF and Fieldbrook Fire Dept. Participants will be informed ahead of time that there are to be no campfires, bbq's or other open flame under penalty of eviction from the event. This will be enforced by security crews, Inferknow staff and volunteers. We will always mow and clear away brush before an event, and routinely drench the areas surrounding these sculptures for hours prior to an event. We keep a 300 gallon brick of water next to the main event area, and have a CDF fireman on duty. An additional document including pictures and specifications of the sculptures is being developed and will be sent out in a matter of days.

What about the name 'Inferknow' (inferno)?

The name is a play on the words 'infer' and 'know', as in coming together to learn (infer) about new ideas, art, community and music to gain a higher understanding of ourselves as people and as a community. The 'inferno' refers to the fire of building community and artistic inspiration. We do not intend to create literal infernos in the middle of a forest.

What kind of noise will occur at an Inferknow event?

Inferknow proposes amplified music, sound created through the use of an electric amplifier, from 4pm to 11:59pm on two Saturdays each year. We have a professional sound engineer helping us to determine the best place and direction to position sound so that it has little or no impact on nearby residents.

We understand that noise related to gatherings, rehearsals, and events not related to Inferknow have been a concern to the neighbors. When this plan is approved, Inferknow will have authority over any events at the property and the responsibility of ensuring that they follow the regulations and guidelines set forth by the Inferknow plan of operations.

What about increased traffic and safety concerns?

Holding events up to 500 people twice a year we can expect approximately 250 vehicles to arrive at the property between noon (volunteers, vendors, musicians) and 10pm, averaging 25 vehicles per hour. We have expanded the entryway to accommodate all vehicles coming off of the main road while tickets are being processed before being directed to parking crews further onto the property to avoid any backup or traffic on Fieldbrook Rd.

We will be hiring a professional security crew to patrol the event and its perimeter, as well as a tow truck to immediately tow any vehicles parked on Fieldbrook Rd, any side-roads or driveways. Attendees will be informed ahead of time that unsafe driving and/or parking on Fieldbrook Rd. and its driveways and side-roads is unacceptable, and that perimeters will be patrolled to stop anyone attempting to sneak in. Our crews will routinely patrol Fieldbrook Rd. north and south of the event entrance on foot to further control inappropriate activity.

As for the single entrance/exit in the event of the emergency, this concern was raised by CDF and we are working on a second road on and off the property. This road will be completed and approved by CDF before any events take place.

During events, we have a CDF fire crewman on duty, as well as a registered nurse and/or EMTs to provide emergency services, should they be necessary. There is a centrally located headquarters kiosk, staffed constantly, with radio contact to staff, volunteers, and emergency personnel throughout the event.

As to the potential for impaired drivers on Fieldbrook Rd., this is exactly why we provide on-site camping. Gate crews are active throughout the event and are trained to stop anyone under the influence from leaving the event.

What benefits will these events offer the local community?

Inferknow has a history of supporting local non-profits through our events. Prior events have donated portions of proceeds and recycling money to E&O Bowl's Junior League, The Ink People, Arcata Community Recycling Center, and The Northcoast Environmental Center. Once granted the permits for events at this property, we plan to set aside one of the four smaller events as a community fundraiser to support Fieldbrook Elementary and the Fieldbrook Fire Dept, as well as continuing to support the above non-profits. We also have an agreement to involve and support the Friends of the Annie-Mary Rail Trail at future events.

These events include a vending area for vendors of food and crafts. Fees for Fieldbrook residents for vending, attending, or holding your own event will be discounted or waived.

We have already put hundreds of hours into cleaning up the property by clearing junk, mowing, pulling invasive species, and improving the look and safety of it, and plan to continue to do so. The energy created by communing with art, music, nature, and community is invigorating and infectious. If in the proximity, it may cause you to smile or dance.

What can I do if I like the idea?

Many residents of Fieldbrook consider it an honor to have these celebrations of art, music and community in their neighborhood. If you are one of them, please send letters explaining WHY to:

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Feedback or questions can be addressed to:

Brian Loose ~ loose@inferknow.org or Tisha Sloan ~ tisha@inferknow.org

For more info, visit our website at www.inferknow.org