BWB Burners & Mutual Aid Panelists:



Ursa Lee (she/her)

Ursalee's love of storytelling, building community, and big ideas started as a child in the Pacific Northwest. Early exposure to the AntiWar coalitions after 9/11 led her to study Anthropology and International Studies, where she somehow stumbled into food activism first with Northwest Harvest and later Seattle Lifelong AIDS Alliance. She went to Costa Rica with the Peace Corps which cemented a love of community building, food, and history. That led her back to Seattle working at Teen Feed, a nonprofit serving nightly meals to youth experiencing homeless and organizing with Black Lives Matter and Seattle Black Feminists. She eventually came to Washington DC to chase the question over the existence of food deserts. Currently working for the capitalist machine, she moonlights organizing with such groups like Catharsis on the Mall and the DC Ward 6 Mutual AID group since the start of COVID-19. DC MA work has brought time to imagine new ways to build community with old ideas, present action, and future dreams.

Connect with Ursa lee:

Ursulaleewright@gmail.com

Instagram @ursalee



Joshua Carroll (he/him)

Joshua Carroll has been a core organizer and board member for Catharsis on the Mall in Washington, DC since it was founded in 2015, and served as the curator for 2016-2018. He's an active member and sometimes-project-lead for the Burners Without Borders DC Working Group. Joshua has been thinking about and practicing how burners can best show up in culturally diverse solidarity and organizing spaces for the past five years, including work at Standing Rock, Catharsis on the Mall, a variety of large and small scale local activist and organizing projects in DC, and perhaps most famously when he helped organize a massive queer dance street protest outside of

Mike Pence's house two nights before his inauguration.

Connect with Joshua:

carroll.joshk@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/ohsynap
http://joshuacarroll.xyz/



Michael Roytburd (aka Mystic, he/him)

Michael spent his first few decades in life following the "default" path: grade school, summer camp, college, study abroad, long-term relationship, corporate job. He played the part and played the game, but he always craved deeper connection and greater authenticity with himself, the people around him, and the world. As he embraced greater humanism in his world view and traversed many years of introspection through talk therapy, he also embarked on a mindfulness and meditation journey. Ultimately, all roads led to Burning Man, and he knew he was finally home.

After fooling around on the corporate ladder for 8 years, interacting directly with executives of large corporations, Michael's union with Burning Man in 2018 made clear the cracks in the system he'd been living in. He had participated in some light activism (Occupy Sandy, Women's March, etc.), but his discovery of Burning Man posed a compelling alternative to the capitalist grind. So with the determination to assert agency in his life, and to challenge the default path, Mystic quit his corporate gig in December 2019 and never looked back. He expanded his embrace of Burning Man philosophy with a thorough read of Caveat Magister's seminal "The Scene that Became Cities," and began further exploration of meaning in life by reading, writing, and many conversations. When COVID-19 arrived, Mystic knew right away that, among all the suffering that was to come, there would also be tremendous opportunity for societal and cultural change. He co-founded Sunnyside/Woodside Mutual Aid in March, and he has been focusing his energy on the work full-time ever since. The past 2 months have been a crash course for him in organizing and mutual aid, and he's learning every day. Mystic has many thoughts and even more questions about how mutual can/may/should intersect with the culture of Burning Man.

Connect with Michael:

http://mro.yt
@mroyt on all platforms (except TikTok; but screw TikTok)