

Fly Ranch Living Art Memorial
Proposed Cottonwood Tree Grove & Bone Tree Monument
Gifted by: Art for Trees & Burning Man Community
June 25, 2019

Overview:

The Grove: To improve visitor experience at Fly Ranch, support local flora and fauna, create a living memorial in honor of Larry Harvey, and as a gift to our greater & growing culture, Art for Trees proposes to facilitate planting a grove of indigenous trees along the ranch's natural water sources in synergy with the existing topography and future development plans. It will be 100% participant generated and community funded working within the parameters and recommendations of the Fly Ranch Working Group. It will be a sustainable, land-based, nurturing, educational, and artistic expression that supports our cultural movement and promotes environmental awareness and stewardship within the Black Rock Desert and beyond. It will have an ever-changing quality to it since it will be growing, transforming, and evolving annually. This living legacy project will leave a positive trace for future Fly Ranch visitors to appreciate for generations.

The Bone Tree: a perfect memorial monument sculpture in honor of Larry Harvey, Burning Man's history, and to act as a visual anchor for the grove. This heritage art installation has been a playa landmark for a dozen gatherings since its debut in 1999 and is now resting at the Black Rock Station. Artist Dana Albany is passionate about refurbishing it and donating the Bone Tree to this project. It needs a lot of work to restore it and modify it for its in-situ Fly Ranch permanent home in the tree grove. That fundraising effort will be included in my budget projections.

Selenite: In Empire, there is a gypsum mine, and Art for Trees has sourced some large pieces of selenite there. There is a beautiful example of this mineral in the center of the labyrinth at Will and Crimson's house in Gerlach. We can place this selenite at the base of the Bone Tree to further ground the stand of trees.

Background: Art for Trees is a participant-generated initiative that organically grew from the Temple 2013 build and burn. In keeping with the Temple's ethos of a supportive destination for healing and release, it followed that our community's open-heartedness and expansiveness would organically gravitate towards minimizing the Temple's carbon footprint and lessening its global environmental impact. Art for Trees began in 2013 by raising funds to replenish the wood consumed during the Temple burn, utilizing the burn as an opportunity to practice "Radical Reciprocity" towards our planet's natural resources. As we utilize the gift of wood for our artistic transformations at Burning Man, this also creates the occasion to give back to our planet by replanting trees in our forestlands so future generations can continue to create transformative burnable art. Since the Temple of Whollyness, Art for Trees has continued each year for the last six years to raise funds to replenish trees to support all the art burned on the playa. Art for

Trees, in honor of Burning Man art, has to date planted over 70,000 trees with our tree planting partners: Green Forests Work (hardwood trees in Appalachia towards coal strip mining remediation), the National Forest Foundation (replanting fire-damaged areas in California with Douglas fir), Urban Releaf (planting more mature trees in economically challenged communities), Common Vision (planting orchards at low income schools), the Chapel of Sacred Mirrors: CoSM (Alex & Allison Grey's land, planting ash trees decimated by a local blight), and For the Wild (replanting redwoods).

Purpose of the Fly Ranch Living Art Memorial:

Create a year-round oasis destination at Fly Ranch. An opportunity for immersion and interaction with the land via volunteer work sessions for site prep, planting, maintenance, and pure enjoyment. Provide another opportunity for on-site education by collaborating with Friends of High Rock-Black Rock's Nature Walks, Desert Research Group, and University of Nevada. And to plant this grove in memory of Larry Harvey, who loved nature, the local trees in the Gerlach area, and the Bone Tree.

Tree Selection:

Our goal will be to plant indigenous Cottonwood and Willow trees, working with the Desert Research Group and Fly Ranch Working Group, and determining which trees would be the most likely to survive the year-round microclimate, soil quality, and high mineral content of the available water. There are additional indigenous hardy tree varieties with low water use in the Acacia, Sumac, Eucalyptus, Mesquite, Palo Verdes, and Olive families. Shade is a main goal - canopy coverage and height are crucial - so a grove of trees that eventually grow to a 20 – 30 feet minimum height would establish an inviting place to rest, contemplate, meditate, and commune with the natural surroundings. The Cottonwood is a perfect example since it's a local riparian tree and some varieties grow between 38 - 100 feet tall and they are beautiful features in the town of Gerlach.

Timeline:

Working with Fly Ranch's ongoing project timelines, this is a 5-year commitment, with the first two years to establish the literal roots of the grove, and the last three years to continue planting and maintaining the trees:

2019: Determine grove location, tree selection, site prep work, begin Bone Tree restoration

2020: Spring planting of phase one of trees, finish restoring Bone Tree and then the permanent installation of the Bone Tree, with bone roots extending into the ground

2021: Spring planting of phase two of trees and maintenance

2022: Spring planting of phase three of trees and maintenance

2023: Spring planting of phase four of trees and maintenance

Tree Planting Budget (first year): In 2018, Art for Trees, from its 2018 donations, earmarked \$10,000 to commence the Memorial Grove, for: project development: scouting for site, securing site, site prep, seedlings and/or trees, plaque, etc. This \$10,000 constitutes our launch funds for the first year of this five year project.

Annual maintenance costs (years 2-5):

Trees, planting & maintenance - perhaps trained volunteers will be willing to plant trees or we can work with local groups. The expenses are cost of materials (trees) and tools, site prep, irrigation, maintenance, etc., which we project to be around or \$5,000 per year for the remaining four years, for a total of \$20,000.

The Bone Tree Restoration:

The Bone Tree (see photos below) is a 27' tall tree made out of steel and cattle bones that artist Dana Albany built in 1998 out of the charred remains of the Nebulous Entity by Michael Christian. It has been an admired feature at Burning Man since 1999.

In Burning Man years, the Bone Tree represents ancient history and the pioneer spirit of the early art and artists. It has deteriorated over the years, and is in pieces now at the Black Rock Station awaiting restoration, and can be revived with loving attention. The Bone Tree was an imprinted piece of playa art and is a shared experience for countless participants for 15 years. Larry Harvey loved the Bone Tree, and always parked it right outside of First Camp to have his "landmark" in place.

The Bone Tree refurbishment project would require almost a complete rebuild and some structural additions to insure the integrity and longevity of the structure: the re-welding of the entire underlying metal frame, a protective coating of paint on the metal, reattachment of the wire mesh to form the trunk shape, and removing any disintegrated bones and affixing new bones to create a new bone exoskeleton to provide "skin" for the bark and branches, and having bone roots arising from the ground to further anchor the Bone Tree. Dana Albany will oversee the overhaul and modification of her original creation.

Bone Tree Dimensions: 17 feet diameter, and 27 feet tall

Bone Tree "skeleton": steel tubing and plates (branches), steel for structural modification, metal wiring, metal cabling, permanent steel roots covered with bones

Building supplies: paint, metal wiring, bolts, cable, welding rods, 8 sheets steel mesh

Tools and equipment: welders, metal cutters, crimps and crimping tools, fine drills (for bones)

Heavy Equipment (for restoration & install): Scissor Lift and VR

Bone Tree Skin: Bones and antlers, metal wiring

Skilled welders first will finish the structural work underlying the Bone Tree. A bleached bone-colored protective paint layer will be applied to that base. We will then replace disintegrated bones, and will source more bones from local farms or Fly Ranch. We will require Heavy Equipment and transportation of metal supplies and bones to the site at different points during the build, and hope that Burning Man is able to donate those services to this effort.

Total Cost Bone Tree Restoration: \$30,000

Total Budget:

Initial tree grove planting	\$10,000
Four years planting and maintenance:	\$20,000
Bone Tree Restoration	<u>\$30,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$60,000

After year 5, the trees should be thriving and volunteers will be in place to support the Grove's continued health.

Fundraising:

Through crowdfunding and donations from generous supporters, Art for Trees will fund 100% of the costs (\$60,000) for the Fly Ranch Living Art Memorial

Photos: (below) The Bone Tree - then and now!



The Bone Tree 1999 - in all its original glory!



The Bone Tree April 2019 – 20 years later.