

Design the Future of Fly Ranch 2020 - Re-Paiute the Playa

The Land Art Generator Initiative and Burning Man Project - LAGI 2020 Fly Ranch

Project Background:

“Solar, Wind, Biomass, Geothermal, Storage...Power. Water. Food. Shelter. Regeneration.”
“With 250+ sunny days a year, regular winds that can exceed 40mph and dozens of hot springs, Fly Ranch has vast potential for developing creative solutions for renewable power from solar, geothermal, wind, and more.” Fly Ranch, I’m not worried about your ability to harness the Burning Man community’s ingenious creativity to create a sustainable and inspiring environment “beyond the playa.” I have no doubt that what comes out of this contest in terms of architecture, sustainability, and design will be beyond anything the world has imagined into being before. I am here to remind this community of how we got here, and who is still suffering because it. I am here to remind us to share what we have and celebrate the relationships we could have. I don’t think the Fly Ranch can call itself sustainable unless it’s taking care of its neighbors. And your neighbors’ own languages are being forced off this land.

Did you know, on December 8th, 2018, [the world lost the last living Northern Lovelock Paiute \(Koopā Dicutta\) dialect speaker](#)? Her name was Helen T. Williams; [she went by Miss Helen to the children she used to tell Paiute stories to](#). 2019 was named [The International Year of Indigenous Languages by the United Nations](#) who say, “Despite their immense value, languages continue to disappear at alarming rates. Indigenous peoples use a vast majority of today’s endangered languages...In practical terms, the risk is that parents and elders can no longer pass on indigenous languages to their children and that indigenous languages fall out of daily use. The advantage in recognizing and supporting indigenous languages is to strengthen dignity, heritage, peaceful relations, and sustainable development.”

Learning about Miss Helen got me thinking. It got me thinking about the drive into Gerlach and Empire, and finally Black Rock City, and about the airwaves, and the voices on them, for miles and miles around. I began to day dream of a wind-powered radio tower that could transmit stories, conversations and songs in Paiute 24/7 to at least the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation and the The Lovelock Paiute Tribe of the “Lovelock Indian Colony” and to the national and international community of Burners coming home every year. At this point, if you’re at all technically-minded, you’ll realize the size of this venture, which is not to say that it’s not possible, but it is to say - I’m an English major, so I’ve created a new vision.

Project Vision:

I see an indigneous garden in some small corner of the Fly Ranch. It’s tucked away, and doesn’t immediately strike you with grandeur. Instead this space calls to you with its lush beauty and ripe conditions for quiet contemplation. This garden’s spirit feels familiar, like places we’ve experienced peace and a sense of the sacred before. This garden creates a feeling not unlike The Temple in Black Rock City. It’s planted with medicines like sage, chokecherry, the Three

Sisters, elderberry, wild potato and onion, nevada ephedra, yaupon, juniper, pines, and other native plants. Like a labyrinth, there is one entrance and one exit, facing East. Four concentric circles made of edible and medicinal plants create a path to the center of the garden. Each circle has an opening in one of the four directions. When you finally step through the living doorway into the center of the circle you are drawn to the middle by a clear dome suspended above. Once your curiosity pulls you beneath the dome, voices, from the past, from the present, and from the future, speak to you in Paiute. A language that doesn't sound familiar now, but which will soon become part of the consciousness of the ranch and change the very fabric of our thinking with a new old way of relating to our shared world.

This garden is a gateway for mutual cooperation and understanding. The garden will always remain open to any Paiute tribal member who wants to go and listen to their language. The garden will always remain open to any Burning Man community member who wants to open their mind to a different way of speaking, thinking, and listening to the world. The garden will draw young members of the local tribes into the Burning Man family and extend the roots of Fly Ranch into the community. The garden will be a spring, pouring the Paiute language, knowledge, and community back into the spaces from which they've been removed for so long.

Project Goal(s):

- Create a relationship with neighboring Paiute nations
 - Respect the wishes of those people and their stories and languages
 - Ask if they would like an ongoing invitation to this space at Fly Ranch to honor and share their language and stories
 - Carve a space for Paiute (the language) to live continually within the ranch
 - Build a beautiful garden to draw people, plants, and animals into communion with this language
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Project Outline:

Part 1: Reach out to the [Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe](#), the [Lovelock Paiute Tribe](#), [Christina Thomas \(UNR Graduate and Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal member\)](#), [Autumn Harry \(Pyramid Lake Paiute\)](#) & [Amara Keller \(Bishop Paiute\)](#), Birdman and Patty of Lovelock and other community members to explain the idea and see if they are interested in pursuing a relationship and project.

Part 2: Assemble, create, and house language recordings.

Part 3: Invite partner's co-creation of garden design and planting.

Resources:

- Sound dome w/SD add on, [brown innovations](#)
- Vertical axis wind turbine, [quiet revolution](#)
- Battery and inverter/power system
- Plant medicine - [yaupon tea](#), [Restoring native health and traditional foods in the Reno-Tahoe area - lists native foods](#), [quail](#), maybe [greenthread](#), [nevada ephedra](#), [california buckwheat](#), "Great Basin Desert", [pine nuts](#), [know your pine nuts](#), [nevada desert/wildflower plants](#), [indigenous seedkeepers network](#), [greasewood/tule shoots/buckberry/snakes/groundhog/groundsquirrel/sweetpotatoes/sugarcane/jackrabbits & baskets of willow](#),